



## MSM - H.E.L.P Team Collaboration in Senegal Trip Report

MSM Delegation: Kofi Kondwani, PhD - Arletha Lizana, PhD - Virginia Floyd, MD

MSM Departments-Offices: MBI Natural Products Research Center – Office of Global Health Equity – Family Medicine Department – Community Health & Preventive Medicine Department

**December 6-7, 2022 Meetings & Discussions with the H.E.L.P Team (Healing Every Living Person)** <https://www.thehelpteam.org.uk> – discussions of potential MSM CHW training, student/faculty exchanges, technical assistance. A collaboration to develop models of sustainable healthcare for the 1.9 billion population of the continent of Africa.

- Virtual meetings with Mr. Ola Johnson, Chairman of the H.E.L.P. team and Madame Lennox Joseph H.E.L.P. Team CEO (London) Prior to the trip and on 12/6.
  - To discuss the above approach in general and working with the maternal health clinic in Doumga Loa specifically. Believes the H.E.L.P Team/MSM Collaboration could be a model for improving health all over Africa. The H.E.L.P team set up strategic meetings with three key people to discuss opportunities.
- Meeting with Mayor of Doumga Lao Mr. Ibrahima Gaye



- Discussions of the Doumga Loa Maternal health clinic and the possibility of leveraging Project Echo and the MSM Maternal Health Navigators training curriculum
- Meeting with Dr. Papa Seck, Counsel of President Macky Sall, Republic of Senegal (President Macky Sall current African Union chair <https://au.int>)



- Dr. Papa Seck emphasized One Health as the focal point for all efforts across the African Union. <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/one-health>
- The One Health concept involves working with communities to solve local problems. “local problems have a local solution”.
- MSM discussed current MSM Global Health initiatives, Project ECHO and CHW training trainer models
- Dr. Papa Seck spoke about MSM collaboration in Kaolack )- located past Fatick and explained how the Senegalese government works by providing land, or personnel. The Mayors can ask for assistance directly.
- Dr. Papa Seck believes Project ECHO is needed as well as more CHWs, the current CHWs mostly work in HIV or Maternal Health. CHWs could educate people about what to do about snake bites. Anti-venom is available but most don’t know this. Also to talk to the people about their needs and culturally adapt our MSM training curriculum
- Dr. Seck shared the example of a program that uses drones to drop medicines.
- Meeting with Ambassador Idrissa Embaló & team, Guinea-Bissau (ECOWAS Current Chairman <https://ecowas.int>)



- In Guinea-Bissau has lots of hospitals but not enough trained personnel.
- The University <https://uac.gw> doesn't have a partnership with a bigger University- opportunity for MSM.
- GB has more than 100 Islands where people speak a variety of languages. Local CHWs are needed- opportunity
- Should work with Local NGOs and the Minister of Health (MOH)

### Recommendations:

- Mayor of Doumga Lao Mr. Ibrahima Gaye is interested in Project Echo and Maternal health navigators. H.E.L.P Team to collaborate with MSM on grant funding applications to support training. A MOU should be developed between the H.E.L.P team and MSM (Dr. Omole/Family Medicine) to develop joint grant funding applications asap. (Project Echo & Maternal Health Navigators training)
  - Mackenzie Bezos' recent giving to Africa for Project Echo Covid-19 response <https://hsc.unm.edu/echo/>
- Dr. Papa Seck suggested meeting with the new minister of maternal health- Dr. Njaye. The MSM team recommends the H.E.L.P Team meet with minister.
- Ambassador Idrissa Embaló believes MSM should meet with representatives of the University of Amilcar Cabral and the Federation of Local Workers in Guinea-Bissau. The MSM team believes that we should focus on strengthening current MSM collaborations in Ghana, Senegal, Zambia, Malawi and Benin before adding Guinea-Bissau