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President 2014 – 2016
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
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Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

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Dear Zontians,

As you have likely seen and heard in the news media lately, there is an Ebola outbreak in four countries in West Africa, including Liberia – the site of the Zonta-supported Liberia Fistula Project. UNFPA, Zonta's partner in Liberia, recently provided us with an update on the situation in Liberia and its impact on the fistula patients and medical staff at the fistula treatment and rehabilitation centers supported by Zonta and UNFPA.

As of 18 July, the fistula rehabilitation center at Phebe Hospital in Bong County has been temporarily closed. Due to the high risk of exposure to Ebola in Bong County, the 34 fistula survivors that were at the rehabilitation center were sent back to their counties of origin with the help of UNFPA and the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare.

Planned activities for the Liberia Fistula project have slowed significantly at this time, as the President of Liberia has declared a state of emergency and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has asked all partners to suspend other activities to support the national response plan to the Ebola outbreak. Once the crisis has passed, the plan is to reopen the fistula rehabilitation center at Phebe Hospital to continue to empower fistula survivors.

Our thoughts are with the fistula survivors, medical staff and all other Liberians affected by the current crisis. We will continue to keep you updated on the status of the Liberia Fistula Project as we receive information from UNFPA.

Warm regards,

Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard
Zonta International President
Zonta International Foundation President

