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HEALTH - Thousands of volunteers are training in Sierra Leone ahead of a door to door health campaign to be held from September 18 to 21, said to MISNA Father Joseph Turay, rector of the University of Makeni and member of a panel of experts for the fight against the Ebola epidemic.

“It is a very difficult and even controversial attempt, due to the inadequacy of the national health system and in particular the lack of qualified personnel”, warned Fr. Turay. For the campaign, which aims to individuate and hospitalize people infected by the virus who have not received medical care, the government of Sierra Leone will mobilize thousands of doctors and nurses.

According to Fr. Turay, head of a committee that is monitoring the evolution of the epidemic in the northern Makeni district, the region counts some 60,000 people, but only three qualified doctors. “The other serious problem is the lack of medical equipment for the doctors and volunteers to prevent new cases among the medical personnel”, added the rector.

According to the WHO (World Health Organization), since March Ebola has left at least 2,105 dead in West Africa. The confirmed victims are 1,089 in Liberia, 517 in Guinea, 491 in Sierra Leone and 8 in Nigeria.

Source: Missionary International Service News Agency, September 8, 2014