



MoHS Weekly Activity Bulletin

27 June-2 July, 2022.

The MoHS Weekly Activity Bulletin summarises key activities, including meetings, of the preceding week carried out by the Offices of the Minister and Chief Medical Officer, Directorates, Programmes, and Agencies of the Ministry.

Office of the Minister of Health and Sanitation



The Minister of Health and Sanitation, Dr. Austin Demby, on Thursday, 30th June 2022, chaired an esteemed meeting hosted by First Lady, Dr. Fatima Bio at the Lagoonda Complex, Freetown.

The meeting brought together distinguished personalities including Her Excellency, Chief Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor, Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, and Senator Dr. Rasha Kelej, Chief Executive Officer for Merck Foundation, and women in diverse occupations to have candid deliberations on women's bodily autonomy, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health education and other peculiar issues

bordering around women's right and empowerment.

Office of the Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation

The Government of Germany, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Wednesday, 29th June 2022 officially handed over Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to reinforce infection prevention and control (IPC) for health service delivery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies in Sierra Leone.

The Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation, Mrs. Princess Dugba, upon receiving these items valued at US\$ 500,000, rendered her appreciation to the benefactors and emphasized the timeliness of the donated equipment which will continue to bolster efforts toward the prevention of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in the country.



This support from the German Government is part of a US\$26million Grant to meant support 49 countries to enhance Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) of health service delivery, especially for COVID-19 vaccination, routine immunizations, and primary healthcare during the pandemic.

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Directorate of Nursing and Midwifery

Seed Global Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, through the Directorate of Nursing and Midwifery Services, on Monday, 27th June 2022, launched the “Midwifery Clinical Training in Sierra Leone Handbook”.

The document aims to improve understanding of the needs and gaps in midwifery clinical training at health facilities in Sierra Leone from various stakeholders’ perspectives and meet these needs by addressing the rates of maternal and newborn deaths through fundamental investment in expanding and strengthening midwifery education.

Seed Global Health has committed to working with the MoHS authorities at both national and district levels. This is in a bid to improve midwifery skills and competencies, protocols, and record-keeping, as well as to intervene in addressing other related challenging areas including inadequate consumables, drugs and medical supplies, management of postpartum haemorrhage in clinical settings, and promoting teaching and mentorship at the faculty level.



Directorate of Environmental Health and Sanitation

With support from Sight Savers SL, the WASH Programme within the Directorate of Environmental Health and Sanitation, in collaboration with the Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Programme, has commenced a five-day Entomological Surveillance training at the NTD office, Masuba, Makeni City on Monday, 27th June 2022.

The rationale for the training is to strengthen support of Onchocerciasis monitoring and elimination by 2030. Onchocerciasis or river blindness is a neglected tropical disease (NTD) caused by the parasitic worm *Onchocerca volvulus*. The disease is spread by repeated bites from infected black flies and is most common in those who live in remote villages.



Directorate of Food and Nutrition

The Directorate of Food and Nutrition, in an enforced bid to promote breastfeeding, on Friday 1st July 2022, held a national stakeholder engagement meeting at Radisson Blu Hotel, Freetown with the theme “Stronger with Breastmilk Only; No Water for the First Six Months of Life and Recognition Ceremony of Nutrition Champions in Sierra Leone”.

The engagement fundamentally sought to increase knowledge and participation in exclusive breastfeeding, increase uptake of exclusive breastfeeding among community members and generate



evidence on the effectiveness of stronger-with-breastfeeding-only communication materials and engagement for the first year of the campaign in order to support improvements and resource mobilization scale up.

The recognition ceremony acknowledges pertinent stakeholders in diverse fields who have contributed immensely to the promotion of breastfeeding and they range from Parliamentarians, health officials, and partners to religious leaders, civil society activists and district representatives.

Office of the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Clinicals

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation, in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, from the 27th of June to the 1st of July 2022 provided medical services to delegates at the African Conference on Sexual Health and Rights (ACSHR) 2022 International Conference using the Mobile Health Clinic at Bintumani Conference Centre in Freetown.

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer - Clinicals, Dr Mustapha Kabba, put together a team of two doctors and a nurse with ancillary staff to provide round-the-clock care and within two days, the team was able to set up an effective and adaptable SoP and administered effective healthcare delivery to 22 delegates with varying health conditions ranging from high fever, headaches, diarrhoea, vomiting to difficulty in breathing.

