

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

### Top stories



Health Minister Wows Global Health Leaders at UNGA 2022



MoHS unveils 100 COVID-19 Vaccination Champions



Health Education Division Reviews Vaccination Engagement Strategy

### Health Minister Wows Global Health Leaders at UNGA



Minister of Health and Sanitation, Dr. Austin Demby, has through several fora at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York expounded on using the Life Stages

Approach to significantly reduce maternal mortality and transform healthcare delivery towards Universal Health Coverage.

In an UNGA Partnership event with Devex, the Minister, during a One-on-one interview, relayed numerous investments the health ministry has made in ensuring a downward maternal mortality trend from 717 to less than 300 per 100,000 live births in 3 years.

Furthermore, the Minister stretched his engagements to national advocacy with global health leaders in securing human and material resources as well as co-designing African Leadership and direction programs for the health sector. As a result, during the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) meeting, Amref Health Africa in the US (AMREFUSA) and Seed Global Health committed \$100 Million to support Sierra Leone, Malawi, Zambia and Uganda to transform health systems with specific targets on swiftly solidifying health workforce.

On Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, through the Extended Programme on Immunization (EPI), recognised the country's 100 COVID-19 Vaccination Champions.

The selection was based on individuals (Paramount Chiefs, religious & women's leaders, health workers, entertainers etc.) who have, since the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccination, contributed immensely to vaccine education and acceptance within their various communities. A total of 80 Vaccination Champions were fairly selected from all districts and the remaining 20 are inclusive of entertainers and other influential personalities within the capital. Use of the community led approach to vaccination has proved very vital in the success attained so far in the level of vaccination and the fight against COVID-19 in general

### MoHS unveils 100 COVID-19 Vaccination Champions



## Weekly Activity Bulletin

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

### Health Education Division Reviews Vaccination Engagement Strategy



The Health Education Division of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation conducted a Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy review workshop on COVID-19 Vaccination from 21-23 September 2022.

Globally, vaccination has become the ultimate tool in the fight against COVID-19. It is therefore important, as demonstrated by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, to routinely review engagement strategies in ensuring that there is high vaccination uptake and education.

In a recent engagement with AU, UN and IOM on increased vaccination uptake in West and Central Africa, Minister Demby registered Sierra Leone's commitment to a 24% increase in the vaccination rate by December 2022. Hence, MoHS has remodeled its approach in order to meet the target.

With support from UNICEF, the workshop assembled key officials including health workers, partners, line ministries, community stakeholders etc. who contributed their expertise and made active commitments to implementing the revised Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy

With support from UNICEF, the workshop assembled key officials including health workers, partners, line ministries, community stakeholders etc. who contributed their expertise and made active commitments to implementing the revised Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy

Early this year, the Directorate of Food and Nutrition, in collaboration with its partners, launched a campaign **Stronger with Breast Milk Only (SWBO) – No Water from 0-6 Months of the Child.**

### Directorate of Food and Nutrition Intensifies Stronger with Breastmilk Only Campaign

The main objective is to emphasize the importance of Exclusive Breastfeeding from 0-6 months of the child and that even water or liquid should not be given to the child during this period.

To facilitate awareness-raising on the SWBO Campaign, District Health Education Officers, District Nutritionists and radio station managers from all 16 districts were orientated on the importance of the campaign. One key approach currently in progress in all districts is the use of Interactive Radio Programmes geared towards giving more voices to communities, especially women and vulnerable groups on the knowledge, attitude and practices of exclusive breastfeeding and challenges.



**T**he MoHS Weekly Activity Bulletin summarizes key activities, including meetings of the preceding week carried out by the Offices of the Minister and Chief Medical Officer, Directorates, Programmers, and Agencies of the Ministry.

### National School of Midwifery Graduates 136 Midwives



**T**he National School of Midwifery, under the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, has on Saturday, 24th September 2022, issued certificates to 136 Midwifery graduates at City Hall, Freetown.

Graduate training of healthcare workers holds a significant position in transforming the health sector towards attaining universal health coverage.

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation National Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan 2019-2023 specifies the urgent need to increase the skills and quantity of nurses and midwives who currently constitute over 50% of the health care

workforce in Sierra Leone and provides care at all levels of service delivery. To meet this need, and to tackle the discouraging rate of maternal mortality, it is but relevant that there is substantial investment in health workforce capacitation

**T**he Directorate of Environmental Health and Sanitation has conducted training in WASH-FIT for focal persons in 13 healthcare facilities across the Western Area Urban.

### Directorate of Environmental Health and Sanitation Conducts WASHFIT Training

The rationale for implementing this activity is to prevent transmission of Healthcare-Acquired Infections (HAIs) coupled with promoting quality of care and services provided to our targeted population.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Improvement Tool (WASH-FIT) for healthcare facilities is a guiding tool and an approach designed by WHO/UNICEF with comprehensive skills, techniques, and information use to identify challenges on sanitation, hygiene, healthcare waste and other aspects of environmental health and facility management issues at health facility level. WASH-FIT is significant for improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in health care facilities in order to ensure clean, safe, and well-managed facilities for staff, visitors, and patients.



## Weekly Activity Bulletin

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

### National School of Midwifery Graduates 136 Midwives



The National School of Midwifery, under the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, has on Saturday, 24th September 2022, issued certificates to 136 Midwifery graduates at City Hall, Freetown.

Graduate training of healthcare workers holds a significant position in transforming the health sector towards attaining universal health coverage. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation, through the Directorate of Policy Planning and Information (DPPI), with funding support from the Global Fund, has completed a five-day training in the use of the District Health Information System version 2 (DHIS2) Data Entry and

Analysis for Community Health Centre Chiefdom Supervisors in each district from 13th- 23rd September 2022, in Makeni.

This training was led and facilitated by the MoHS Senior Health Information Officer, Regina Samuels, with the aim of training all 250 CHCs who were provided with laptops and modems procured by the Global Fund as the first step to the digitization process. These laptops have been provided to all Community Health Center in-charges (CHC). This is to facilitate data entry and analysis at chiefdom level for the Chiefdom Supervisors to be able to review the data for all PHUs within their chiefdom, and also check them for inconsistent and outlier variables.

DHIS2 is a tool to collect, store, validate, analyse, and present aggregate and patient-based statistical data, tailored to integrate health information management activities.

Programme Manager, Health Systems Strengthening, Dr. Dennis Marke, together with representative from UNICEF, has on Friday, 23 September 2022 ended a three-day test run of three oxygen plants in Bo, Kenema and Bombali District.

### 3 New Oxygen Plants Set for Commissioning

The visit was predicated by the need to test the level of preparedness for the imminent commissioning, assess the level of functionality of the Oxygen Plants as well as communicating challenges to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation for immediate intervention.

Access to oxygen can go a long way in saving lives of babies, people with severe respiratory conditions, COVID-19 patients and other health emergencies that may surface. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation and its health development partners have recently made significant investments in the installation of oxygen plants at various health facilities across the districts.



## Weekly Activity Bulletin

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

### PiH & CUAMM Present PEN-Plus NCD Model Project Brief to MoHS



Partners in Health, together with CUAMM have on Monday, 19 September 2022 presented a project brief on PEN-plus Non-Communicable Diseases Project at the Ministry's conference room.

The project will establish 'model sites' for NCD care in remote areas of Sierra Leone for not only service delivery but also training of healthcare workers, supporting national scale-up, and providing information for developing policies and strengthening partnerships in expanding the model to other rural sites by 2024.

With funds from the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, this three-year project (2022-2024) will be implemented in the Kono and Pujehun districts by PIH and CUAMM respectively in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

Programme Manager, Health Systems Strengthening, Dr. Dennis Marke, together with representative from UNICEF, has on Friday, 23 September 2022 ended a three-day test run of three oxygen plants in Bo, Kenema and Bombali District.

The visit was predicated by the need to test the level of preparedness for the imminent commissioning, assess

the level of functionality of the Oxygen Plants as well as communicating challenges to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation for immediate intervention.

Access to oxygen can go a long way in saving lives of babies, people with severe respiratory conditions, COVID-19 patients and other health emergencies that may surface. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation and its health development partners have recently made significant investments in the installation of oxygen plants at various health facilities across the districts.

### 3 New Oxygen Plants Set for Commissioning in 3 Districts

