

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



CoVDP & UNICEF Enhance MoHS' Routine Immunization



Health Ministry Signs Contract to Protect Land for Construction of Ultramodern Healthcare Facilities



MoHS and Partners Draft the National Digital Health Roadmap in Bo.

CoVDP & UNICEF Enhance MoHS' Routine Immunization Efforts



The COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership (CoVDP), through UNICEF, on Wednesday, 25th January 2023 donated vehicles, motorbikes and other equipment and supplies to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

The support will help expand routine immunization, including COVID-19 and Human Papilloma Virus Vaccinations across the length and breadth of the nation. The Ministry, under the leadership of Dr. Austin Demby, has scored excellent vaccination points (73% COVID-19 vaccination coverage and over 182,000 girls vaccinated against Cervical Cancer)

and with this additional support, the ministry is set to do more.

These donated items precisely make up of two vehicles, 250 motorbikes, six computers, and 300 digital tablets with power banks. Furthermore, 15 Peripheral Health Units (PHU) and four district vaccination stores will be connected to solar systems.

Health Minister, Dr. Austin Demby has signed a contract with Interlinks Investment Limited on Wednesday, 25th January 2023 for the construction of a perimeter fence at Kerry Town.

The 300-acre land will be utilized for the construction of a one-stop-multi-purpose health village made up of a Cancer Diagnostic Centre, Cardiac Centre, National Public Health Agency, training institutions, warehouse, etc. Representatives from the security sector were also present at the ceremony and will guarantee continued protection of the premise against squatters or land-grabbers.

Health Ministry Signs Contract to Protect Land for Construction of Ultramodern Healthcare Facilities



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MoHS and Partners Draft the National Digital Health Roadmap in Bo.



The Ministry of Health and Sanitation, through the Directorate of Policy, Planning, and Information and with support from UNICEF and Digital Square-USAID organised a two-day meeting on the 26th - 27th of January 2023, in Bo, to draft a National Digital Health Roadmap.

The central objective of the engagement revolves around establishing an effective and efficient ICT - enabled system that supports the delivery of accessible and timely healthcare services and moves Sierra Leone closer to achieving Universal Health Coverage. This document will serve as the framework to operationalize the Digital Health Strategy that is in accordance with the government's priorities in digital health towards achieving universal Health Coverage by 2030.

This meeting convened MDAs, funding agencies and partners operating in the digital health landscape to discuss findings from the digital health landscape assessment conducted through Desk Reviews, Focus Group Discussions, and Key Informant Interviews.

The Directorate of Policy, Planning, and Information (DPPI), together with local and international partners, held a validation meeting on the Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Bill on Thursday, 26th January 2023.

The Minister of Health and Sanitation, Dr. Austin Demby has declared maternal mortality a public health emergency. Through the Life Stages Approach, deliberate efforts are being concentrated towards reducing maternal mortality from 717/100,000 deaths (2019) to 300 by 2025. A pivotal branch includes developing a Bill that will cater for the overall well-being, rights, and safety of women.

A critical component of the validation meeting allowed for sharing of the draft Bill and soliciting critical comments and recommendations from multiple stakeholders including civil society organizations, media, parliamentarians, local and international health partners.

Health Minister, Dr. Austin Demby emphasized that all contributions made towards the development of the bill must be reflective of saving women's lives and ensuring that they thrive before, during and after pregnancy.

Health Ministry Holds Validation Meeting on Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Bill



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MoHS Commemorates World NTD Day.



The Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Public Health, Dr. Alie Wurie, joins Hellen Keller International and other partners in a 2.5-kilometer walk in Makeni to commemorate World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day.

NTDs are popularly known as diseases of poverty and they are an umbrella of 20 communicable diseases that causes devastating and disproportionate suffering to the world's poorest - particularly women and children who also often lack access to basic health care services.

This year's theme "Act Now. Act Together. Invest in NTDs" is symbolic of global efforts to tackle diseases affecting challenged nations. Dr. Wurie

reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to ensuring no one is left behind in taking the necessary actions needed to end Neglected Tropical Diseases; Sierra Leone is on the verge of eliminating elephantiasis as transmission remains in only one of the country's 16 districts (Bombali).

In celebrating another milestone of partnership in the fight against the scourge of Malaria in Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, in collaboration with China CDC, on 27th January 2023 launched the pilot project on building the capacity of Molecular Laboratory Epidemiology Network in Sierra Leone. The Ag. Malaria Control Programme Manager, Dr. Dennis Marke, highlighted that the 2021 World Malaria Report positions malaria as the second biggest killer in Africa, accounting for over 600,000 deaths. He added that the pilot project is of critical importance because, in addition to building the capacity of lab staff in molecular lab techniques, it will provide the Ministry with locally generated evidence-based molecular surveillance data to inform its public health policy and strategies to reduce the burden of malaria and ultimately eliminate it.

MoHS and China CDC Capacitate Molecular Laboratory Epidemiology Network



Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sartie Kenneh, stated that the project will train health lab staff on mosquito sample collection and proper packaging for transportation as well as skills in molecular lab techniques including the preparation of reagents and procedures for Whole Blood DNA extraction.