



# ONE HEALTH NEWSLETTER

*“Improving Quality of Life through One Health”*

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## Message from the Executive Director National Public Health Agency

### IN THIS EDITION



Prof. Foday Sahr, Executive Director NPHA



### Embracing a Healthier Future in Sierra Leone

Fellow Sierra Leoneans,

As we embark on the promising journey of 2024, I extend my heartfelt greetings to each one of you. Let us bid farewell to the challenges of the past and welcome the myriad opportunities that lie ahead. Together, as a united country, we possess the collective power to envision a Sierra Leone that is not only healthier but also resilient—a nation where public health thrives, and society flourishes, even in the face of adversities.

Our shared aspiration is to position Sierra Leone as a pioneering hub for public health, ensuring the safety and well-being of all its citizens. In the upcoming year, I warmly invite everyone, including our dedicated ministries, various departments and agencies, invaluable partners, communities, and the media, to come together in the noble pursuit of a healthier Sierra Leone. Let us collaboratively construct a robust and inclusive healthcare system, leaving no one behind.

Your unwavering support, active engagement, and steadfast commitment to prioritizing health will serve as the driving force propelling us towards success.

Together, let us embrace unity, resilience, and compassion as we navigate this transformative journey. May the New Year usher in a wave of good health, joy, and prosperity for you and your loved ones.

Wishing you all a joyful New Year!

With warm regards,

Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr

Executive Director, National Public Health Agency, Sierra Leone

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## President Bio Launches the National Public Health Agency

His Excellency President Brigadier Rtd Dr. Julius Maada Bio officially inaugurated the National Public Health Agency (NPHA) for Sierra Leone on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Freetown International Conference Centre (Bintumani Hotel). The ceremony brought together notable figures such as the First Lady, Chief Minister, Senior Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Heads of UN Agencies, Health Department partners, Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs), Civil Society Organizations, and community representatives.

Delivering the keynote address, President Bio emphasized the pivotal role played by the NPHA in fortifying healthcare infrastructure, ensuring universal access to high-quality services, and effectively addressing public health crises. He stressed the importance of collaborative efforts between the government and partners to advocate for preventive measures against diseases, ultimately aiming to improve public health outcomes. The President underscored the agency's commitment to "HEALTH FOR ALL," marking a significant achievement in enhancing emergency preparedness and response for the well-being of the population.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), in a video message relayed during the launch, congratulated President Bio, the Minister of Health, and the people of Sierra Leone for establishing this foundational institution. Dr. Tedros highlighted the agency's role in providing science-based leadership, expertise, and coordination for public health, building on existing support through the WHO Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Flagship program.



High Delegation witness the launching ceremony of NPHA



President Bio launches NPHA

The Minister of Health, Dr. Austin Demby, expressed gratitude to President Bio, the government, and health development partners for their unwavering support. He reiterated the ministry's commitment to collaborating with development partners to ensure the NPHA's success in detecting, preventing, and responding to health emergencies. Dr. Demby emphasized a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, aligning with a client-centered life stages approach to universal healthcare.

Representing the UN Resident Coordinator, Dr. Innocent Nuwagira, the WHO Representative commended the high-level political will and commitment demonstrated by President Bio and his government. Dr. Nuwagira reaffirmed the UN family's dedication to supporting the NPHA in becoming a fit-for-purpose and accountable institution, contributing significantly to emergency preparedness and response at various levels.

Professor Foday Sahr, the Executive Director of the NPHA in his statement highlighted the agency's strategic role of the NPHA in managing public health emergencies. He expressed gratitude to the Minister of Health Dr. Austin Demby and the Ministry of Health senior leadership, emphasizing the NPHA's multi sectorial collaborative approach. Prof. Sahr outlined the agency's engagement with various government ministries, departments, agencies, development partners, and civil society organizations, ending that the NPHA is well-equipped to address the nation's public health challenges.



# VP Launches the Sierra Leone Personnel Deployment Plan and Mechanisms for Surge Development



VP Launches the Sierra Leone Personnel Deployment Plan and Mechanisms for Surge Development

The Honourable Vice President Dr. Juldeh Jalloh officially launched the Sierra Leone Personnel Deployment Plan and Mechanism for Surge Deployment on the 28th of July 2023 at the EOC Building, Wilkinson Road, Cockerill, Freetown. The launch marked the beginning of a new era in preparedness and response to public health emergencies. Delivering the keynote address, Honourable Vice President Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh emphasized the plan's alignment with the nation's strategic vision and its crucial role in enhancing preparedness and response capabilities. The plan symbolizes a significant leap forward in safeguarding the health and well-being of the population.

Dr. Mohamed Alex Vandi, Director of the Directorate of Health Security and Emergencies (DHSE), delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Sierra Leone Personnel Deployment Plan, emphasizing its key objectives and its critical role in addressing the shortage of surge capacity witnessed during the 2014 Ebola outbreak and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Initiated in 2021, the plan aimed to establish well-trained and readily deployable health emergency teams at national and sub-national levels, fostering enhanced coordination among stakeholders.

The event celebrated a significant milestone achieved through collaborative efforts, showcasing the Personnel Deployment Plan with structured mechanisms for international, national, and sub-national deployment. Dr. Vandi highlighted the technical expertise and capacity of the newly established web-based platform, facilitating the timely deployment of trained personnel during emergencies. He highlighted some of the achievements, which includes the validation of the surge personnel deployment plan, the development of a user-friendly web-based platform for tracking and identifying responders, and the formation of a multidisciplinary Surge Deployment Steering Committee.

In his remarks, US Ambassador to Sierra Leone Bryan David Hunt reaffirmed the enduring commitment of the US government to support Sierra Leone's healthcare initiatives. The Surge Steering Committee, comprised of senior officials from various MDAs, was introduced and entrusted with providing strategic guidance for personnel deployments during public health emergencies.

Acting Minister of Health, Professor Charles Senesie, expressed gratitude to all attendees and commended the government's dedication to providing accessible and quality healthcare services. He acknowledged the unwavering support of development partners.

The event concluded with a recognition of the resilience and dedication of healthcare personnel in times of emergency and underscored the importance of securing emergency funding for the sustained implementation of the plan in Sierra Leone



The Minister of the Environment and Climate Change  
Jiwoh Emmanuel Abdulai

History was made on January 31, 2024, when our Transformation Strategy, developed wholly by the Agency's staff through an Outcome Mapping process, was launched. The Transformation Strategy, which spans from 2024 to 2030, will serve as a road map for achieving our ambitious goals, which are consistent with the government's national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Jiwoh Abdulai, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change launched the Strategic Plan at the Sierra Palm Hotel, Freetown which was attended by government officials, mission diplomats, donor agencies, non-governmental organization heads, journalists, and academic partners. Lovetta Juanah, the EPA Director for Program Development and Performance, indicated that before moving on to the pillars and impacts, an intervention summit was held to deliberate and share views on the work's performance of the agency. This achievement was followed by another collaborative engagement with boundary partners, during which the need to improve flexibility, strengthen climate resilience, and manage natural resources was discussed to sustain firm economic growth and environmental protection. In his keynote address, the Executive Chairman, Dr. Abu-Bakar Massaquoi, commended his colleagues and stakeholders for their commitment to owning the entire process. He explained that the agency plays an important role in addressing climate change, managing natural resources to improve human health, and working diligently to phase down chemical consumption, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and that the goal is to position the agency as a catalyst for environmental innovation, solutions, and talent generation by 2030.

All critical voices such as civil society organizations, the private sectors, and development partners, were heard in developing this strategic document', he added. Dr. Massaquoi went on to say that the document recognized the interconnectedness of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, and that evaluation was conducted to feed into the now integrated approach, which leverages partnership and cross-sectoral initiatives to accelerate and scale up transformational shifts in environmental management.



Executive Chairman - EPA-SL  
Dr. Abu-Bakar Massaquoi

On this note, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Jiwoh Abdulai stated that, the Transformation Strategy reflects his Ministry's mandate to address climate change issues and environmental problems in systematic ways, and he committed that the government, through his Ministry's policy leadership, will successfully implement the strategy for the betterment of Sierra Leone. Dr. Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella, Chairman of the Presidential Initiative on Climate Change and Renewable Energy, reaffirmed the government's concern for the environment and emphasized the importance of collaboration among relevant ministries, departments, and agencies and other stakeholders, in providing sustainable solutions to climate change impacts. Distinguished speakers from international agencies commended the Transformation Strategy's bold ambitions, offering to strengthen relationships for its execution and impact. Parliamentary Committee on the Environment and Climate Change, Yusuf Mackery commended the vibrant compilation of the document and assured of legislative support to make it more visible in the implementation of its functions. The launching was climaxed with a display of videos and photographs.

In a workshop organized by the Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone (EPA) on the 19th of December 2023 at the Atlantic Hotel in Lumley, Freetown, the Transformation Strategy was reviewed and endorsed by over a hundred of national and international stakeholders. The Agency's 2024-2030 strategic plans would serve as the guiding document to achieve its ambitious priorities that align with the Government's development plans. The Executive Chairman, Dr. Abu-Bakar Massaquoi was thrilled to welcome stakeholders to the EPA's seven-year transformation strategy validation workshop and solicited their review and strategic inputs to the plan. He mentioned that, their contributions would be aligned with the strategic national priorities and international obligations for the sustainable management of the environment which will be achieved in the next seven years, to improve and restore our environment through regulations, scientific knowledge, and collaboration. Dr. Abu-Bakar Massaquoi maintained that sustained and focused action is needed to achieve sustainability not only across sectors such as agriculture, energy, transport, and industry but across the whole of society. He spoke strongly about the need for greater awareness of the positive benefits of the green environment for both health and our well-being, stating, reflect our three core values as an environmental regulator, a key source of scientific evidence and knowledge, and a voice for environmental leadership and advocacy and our commitment to collaborating and partnering with others to leave a better environmental output.



EPA Executive Chairman  
Dr. Abu-Bakar Massaquoi

Dr. Massaquoi continued that the Agency's vision for Sierra Leone is ambitious but reflects the transformation needed to live sustainably and have an environment that supports our health and well-being, with actions on the part of government, households, business sectors, and communities. International partners such as the United States Agency for International Aid (USAID) representative, Paul McDermott applauded the Agency's leadership for a restructuring of its transformation strategy for effective implementation, and reminded the review team of USAID's priority along with other international organizations, including UNICEF, on preventing lead poisoning in children around the world. He further called for collaboration between the two institutions to continue striving for the protection of the environment. The Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on the Environment and Climate Change, Yusuf Mackery commended the vibrant compilation of the document and assured them of legislative support to make it more visible in the implementation of its functions. Other speakers also made their contributions in validating the strategic plan as a working document. In conclusion, the EPA Director of Program Development and Performance Lovetta Juanah expressed her gratitude to the participants for their invaluable contributions and assured all that their comments would be taken into consideration and incorporated into the document's final draft.



Group Photo of participants.

# The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change launches the “Support to Sustainable Forestry in Sierra Leone Project”

The launch of the 'Support to Sustainable Forestry in Sierra Leone' project is a significant step toward addressing the challenges faced in the effective management of forests and land cover monitoring in the country. The collaborative effort between the Sierra Leone Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the European Union (EU), and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) demonstrates a commitment to environmental sustainability.

The event, held on November 21st, 2023, at the New Brookfield's Hotel in Freetown, brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), donor partners, Parliamentarians, Paramount Chiefs, Civil Society Activists, and others. This broad representation highlights the importance and complexity of the issues related to sustainable forestry in Sierra Leone.

During the launching ceremony, Minister Jiwoh E. Abdulai emphasized the significance of Sierra Leone's forests as a major natural asset that requires careful management. He outlined key dynamics, such as the valuable data the ministry aims to obtain from the project, the need for legal reforms, the existing biodiversity, and the overarching goals for the initiative.

Minister Abdulai highlighted the collaboration between the Ministry of the Environment and client ministries involved in environmental sustainability. This collaborative approach aims to boost ecotourism, protect water catchments, enhance agricultural production, and safeguard marine environments to benefit the fishing sector.

The Minister underscored the crucial role of stakeholders in reversing the damage inflicted on the forests over past decades. He urged all involved parties to recognize the risks associated with forest degradation and emphasized the importance of mitigating these risks.

In conclusion, Minister Abdulai stressed the importance of capacity building for the Ministry and its supervising agencies to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project. He expressed gratitude to the European Union and the Food and Agricultural Organization for their support in launching the "Support to Sustainable Forestry in Sierra Leone" initiative. The success of this project relies on the collective efforts of all stakeholders and their commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable forestry practices in Sierra Leone.



Group Photo of Participants.

*The integration of One Health principles into plant protection practices is crucial for optimizing benefits while minimizing negative impacts on people, animals, and ecosystems. This opinion piece, based on a webinar of the same name, highlights the importance of a One Health perspective in achieving food security and nutrition gains. The roles of Plant Health in promoting One Health globally are outlined as follows:*

**Increasing Crop Yields:** Producing healthy plants is essential for boosting crop yields, and contributing to food security for a growing global population.

**2. Efficient Use of Inputs:** Plant Health practices enhance the efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides, promoting sustainable agriculture.

**3. Composting and Anaerobic Digestion:** These practices reduce pathogen prevalence and the risk of antimicrobial resistance while improving the effectiveness of manure as a fertilizer.

**4. Preventing Contamination:** Strong plant health prevents crop contamination with fungal species that produce harmful mycotoxins, ensuring food safety.

**5. Soil Amendment:** Promoting the amendment of soils with organic matter, known for its beneficial impact on plant health, can reduce the uptake of heavy metals by plants.

**6. Policy Options:** Developing policy options, such as restricting access to inputs that pose One Health risks, rewarding value chain actors for responsible practices, and participating in the design and enforcement of appropriate environmental and food safety regulations.

**In Sierra Leone, the roles of Plant Health in promoting One Health are evident through collaborative efforts among various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies:**

**1. Collaboration:** One Health in Sierra Leone involves collaboration and coordination among the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (Environmental Protection Agency), Office of National Security, and Nuclear Safety & Radiation Agency.



**2. Point of Entries (POEs):** Plant Health officers conduct joint border surveillance on food items through inspection controls to ensure food safety.

**3. Harmonization:** Food safety officers work alongside Plant Health Officers to harmonize inspection tools, food-borne surveillance protocols, and case investigations.

**4. Chemical Events:** Plant Health Officers collaborate with the Environmental Protection Agency and other stakeholders in the Joint Extension Evaluation (JEE) and State Party Self-Assessment Annual Report Tool (SPAR).

**5. Policy Development:** Collaboration extends to policy development and legal frameworks to create an enabling environment for the use and management of chemicals, ensuring the protection of human, animal, and environmental health.

**6. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):** In addressing AMR, Plant Health conducts research and publications while engaging in ongoing stakeholder engagement and sensitization on AMR issues.

These collaborative efforts in Sierra Leone demonstrate a commitment to the principles of One Health, emphasizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health in the context of plant protection.





Sierra Leone delegation

Sierra Leone's active participation in the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) reflects its commitment to addressing the global issue of plastic pollution, especially in marine environments, in line with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14. The meeting, hosted by the Government of Kenya at the United Nations Headquarters in Nairobi from November 13th to 19th, 2023, focused on developing an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution.

The Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone (EPA-SL) and other delegates from the country contributed significantly to discussions during the INC-3. Key environmental issues discussed included the implementation of binding measures throughout the life cycle of plastics, the elimination of problematic plastics and avoidable products, and the promotion of circularity. Deliberations also revolved around strategies to eliminate harmful chemicals and polymers, phase down problematic plastic products, and emphasize capacity building, technical assistance, and technology transfer.

The global community, represented by member states, expressed unanimous support for intercessional work on design criteria and relevant sectors subject to treaty requirements. High-level speeches underscored the urgent need to address the existential threats posed by plastic pollution. The committee's mission was to create a treaty that eliminates high-risk plastics while ensuring sustainable production, consumption, and management of remaining plastics.

On the sidelines of the main negotiations, the Sierra Leone delegation engaged in various bilateral and side events, showcasing a comprehensive approach to addressing plastic pollution:

- 1. Round Table Participation:** The delegation participated in a round table hosted by the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance, focusing on collaborative efforts to combat plastic pollution.
- 2. Skill Enhancement Discussions:** The delegation engaged in discussions with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Grid Adrenal to enhance negotiation skills and collaborate on plastic-related research.
- 3. Meetings with Key Stakeholders:** Meetings with key stakeholders, including the Regional Director and Representative of the Regional Office for Africa, Madam Rose Mwebaza, aimed at fostering partnerships and securing support for Sierra Leone's environmental initiatives.
- 4. Engagement with NORAD:** The delegation met with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to discuss capacity building for the global plastics treaty in Africa and address Sierra Leone's specific needs regarding the plastic treaty and litter assessment.

The involvement of Sierra Leone's High Commissioner to Kenya, Md. Zainab Hawa Bangura, emphasized the importance of technical expertise based in Nairobi to attract funding and support from UN offices.

This comprehensive engagement demonstrates Sierra Leone's dedication to addressing plastic pollution through international collaboration, capacity building, and strategic partnerships, contributing to global efforts for a sustainable and plastic-free future. The description highlights the complex interplay between human activities and environmental degradation in Sierra Leone, emphasizing the profound impacts on public health and the country's ecosystems.

# The Deputy Minister of the Environment and Climate Change launches the 'Sustainable and Integrated Inception Management' of The Western Area Peninsular Project for Sierra Leone



Deputy Minister MoECC - Mima Y.M Sobba-Stephens

On the 19th of December, 2023, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change hosted the launch of the 'Sustainable and Integrated Inception Management of the Western Area Peninsular (WAP) Project for Sierra Leone' at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Freetown. This gathering brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), Implementing Partners, Civil Societies, Community Stakeholders, and the media.

Providing a comprehensive overview of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Hon. Mima Y.M Sobba-Stephens, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change, highlighted the GEF's presence in Sierra Leone since 1996. She recounted the project's initial entry, 'Enabling Sierra Leone to prepare its First National Communication,' launched in response to communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Hon. Sobba-Stephens emphasized that due to the disruption caused by the civil war, GEF projects were temporarily halted, only resuming and being implemented between 2001 and 2008 after the conflict.

The Deputy Minister stressed that GEF support facilitated the development of consolidated national environment strategies and plans, fulfilling Sierra Leone's obligations to international conventions. She also highlighted the positive impact of these projects on Sierra Leone's ability to address environmental challenges.

Fredrick Ampiah, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, commended the inception meeting as the foundational step for the project's successful implementation. He revealed that the 6-year initiative, initiated by the government and UNDP through the Environment Protection Agency (EPA-SL), aimed to address climate change challenges. The project's focus on the WAP was crucial for climate change mitigation, including studies to structure the WAP project addressing key challenges.

Expressing optimism about the project rollout, Mr. Ampiah outlined its objectives, such as ensuring continuous water supply to Freetown, biodiversity conservation, carbon storage, and land reclamation. He called for the collective support of MDAs, civil societies, the media, and other relevant partners to assist the government in addressing critical environmental issues, particularly those related to the WAP project..



Group Photo of participants.

Hon. Yusuf Mackery, Chairman of the Oversight Committee on Environment and Climate Change in Parliament highlighted the concerns raised by communities along the Western Area Peninsular regarding land degradation, unlawful deforestation, and encroachment into the greenbelt zone. Stressing the importance of community involvement, he advocated for community stakeholders to serve as ambassadors in the project rollout.



Human activities, including overpopulation, pollution, fossil fuel consumption, and deforestation, continue to exert profound impacts on Sierra Leone's physical environment. These changes contribute to climate change, soil erosion, poor air quality, and contaminated water sources, leading to health issues such as respiratory diseases and cancer. A recent UNEP Report 2016, "Healthy Environment, Healthy People," reveals that environmental degradation is responsible for a quarter of the world's illness burden, emphasizing the interconnectedness of air, food, water, and ecosystems in shaping public health. While activities like mining offer economic opportunities, they also pose significant environmental challenges, such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, and pollution. As a response to these challenges, the Government of Sierra Leone in 2008 took deliberate action to enact the Environment Protection Agency Act, which established the Agency, charged with the responsibility to protect and sustainably manage the environment in Sierra Leone.



To address challenges in mining, the EPA-SL collaborates with the police for enforcement and established a Land and Environment Division of the High Court of Sierra Leone, which specifically handles land-related issues and environmental cases. Public awareness campaigns through media platforms and school nature clubs are pivotal in fostering environmental consciousness. Climate change and biodiversity loss exacerbate environmental issues, necessitating global cooperation. Sierra Leone represented by President Bio at the UNFCCC in Glasgow 2021, reaffirmed its commitment to international agreements and outlined strategies for climate resilience. In September 2023, EPA-SL collaborates with the University of Makeni for a tree planting project, aligning with World Ozone Day activities. The initiative aims to address climate change impacts and comply with the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. While the EPA's efforts, including the National Tree Planting Project, demonstrate progress, the challenges persist. A collective, national, and international effort is crucial to ensuring the sustainable use of Sierra Leone's natural resources.



**Harold Thomas - Health Education Programme Manager / GoSL RCCE Lead Presenting RCCE Achievements and Challenges**

The Sierra Leone National One Health Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) 4eprogram has concluded a four-day annual retreat for staff and partners from December 6th to 9th, 2023, at the De Wizzard Hall on Dambala Road in Bo District, Sierra Leone. The strategic initiative aimed not only to celebrate collective achievements but also to strengthen the commitment to the principles of One Health, recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. The Health Promotion Programme fostered a shared vision and deepened understanding of challenges, emphasizing collaborative strategies to address them.

The retreat brought together a multidisciplinary team of professionals carefully selected from line ministries, including the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Environmental Protection Agency/Ministry of Environment, and Office of National Security (ONS). Additionally, participants included One Health RCCE Actors from Breakthrough ACTION SL, WHO, GOAL, and UNICEF as RCCE Partners.

During the retreat, the team focused on key achievements and challenges of Social and Behavior Change (SBC) and RCCE interventions in 2023. This included discussions on what worked well, enabling factors, impacts on interventions, what didn't work well, limiting factors, and impacts on interventions. Recommendations were presented by a few District Social Mobilization Coordinators (DSMCs).

Presentations were made on important topics, such as the highlights of the revised Health Promotion Policy by Dr. Ade Renner (RCCE HPP Consultant), research and documentation in health promotion by Dr. Jia Kangbai, and an overview of accomplishments over the past years and the way forward for 2024 by Harold Thomas (Health Education Program Manager). A group discussion followed, leading to the identification of six thematic roadmaps for the 2024 RCCE intervention. These included Innovation and Research, Workforce and Capacity Building, Monitoring and Evaluation, Funding, Internal and External Communication, and Coordination and Community Engagement.

The retreat also featured an interactive radio panel discussion session aimed at enhancing the capacity of RCCE actors. The primary focus was on the role of RCCE in improving human and animal surveillance systems, routine immunization, and enhancing routine immunization through SBC and RCCE activities.

**Participants During Group Discussion**



This comprehensive and collaborative approach undertaken during the Annual Staff Retreat reflects the commitment of the Sierra Leone National One Health RCCE to fostering innovation, teamwork, and collective growth in addressing public health challenges.

# ONE HEALTH NEWS BRIEF



## FETP Graduates Cohort 15

In a bid to ensure a well-functioning public health surveillance system for effective disease detection, control, and prevention, the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health (MoH), in collaboration with the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Global Fund, and the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), conducted a presentation and graduation of the Field Epidemiology Special Frontline Cohort 15 Final. The event showcased the achievements and skills acquired by the cohort during their training, highlighting their readiness to contribute to disease surveillance and response efforts in Sierra Leone.



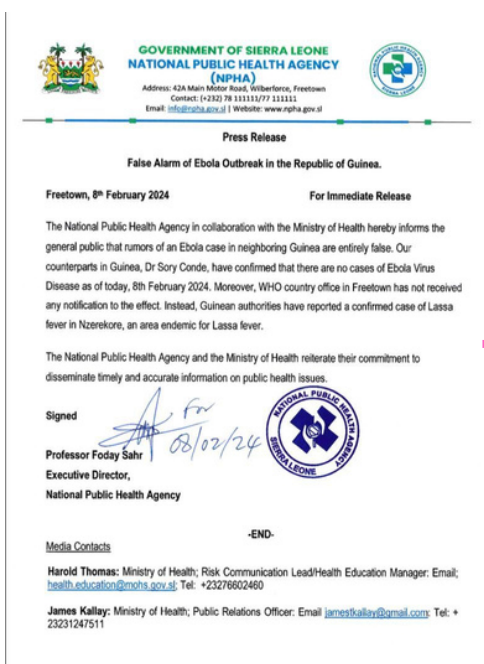
## Salone One Health Platform Celebrates World Rabies Day

In commemoration of the World Rabies Day on the 17 September 2023, the One Health platform led a national campaign on the menace of dog bites and rabies in Sierra Leone. The commemoration was marked by community mobilization activities at high-risk districts and communities, radio and television discussions, jingle hearing on national and community radio stations, and a national symposium aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of rabies to the Sierra Leonean society. Rabies is the 3rd priority zoonotic disease in Sierra Leone. "Rabies has a high fatality rate and if not quickly treated, can lead to death", James Fofanah, the Chief of Party, Breakthrough ACTION said, nothing that all what the county needed was a collective effort to stop dog bites.

## Salone Debunks False Alarm of Ebola Outbreak in Neighbouring Guinea.

The government of Sierra Leone through the National Public Health Agency has debunked a rumour of an Ebola case in neighbouring Guinea in a press release dated 8 February. "Our counterparts in Guinea, Dr. Sory Conde, confirmed that there are no cases of Ebola Virus Disease as of the 8th February 2024. Moreover, WHO country office in Freetown has not received any notification to the effect. Instead, Guinean authorities reported a confirmed case of Lassa Fever in Nzerekore, an area endemic for Lassa Fever", the release ended.

NPHA and MoH reiterate their commitment to disseminate timely and accurate information on public health issues



Every One Who Sleeps Inside A Treated Mosquito Net  
Will Be Safe From Malaria



## The Editorial Team

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**The One Health Platform  
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Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change  
Environment Protection Agency**

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