

NATIONAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES AGENCY (NMSA)

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Top News

7 trucks of Free Healthcare drugs and medical supplies delivered to Kenema DHMT

Update of the Emergency Supply Chain Playbook on Mpox

300,000 vials of heat-stable Carbetocin received to combat maternal mortality

WHO WE ARE

NMSA is a public service Agency responsible for the procurement, warehousing, and distribution of drugs and medical supplies in a transparent and cost-effective manner for and on behalf of all public institutions throughout Sierra Leone.

OUR VISION

To be the sustainable and reliable public-sector health supply chain service provider for Sierra Leone



Distribution Activities

NMSA at 2025 National Health Summit



The National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA), a strong pillar in the Ministry of Health, was in full attendance at the three-day National Health Summit convened by the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Health from May 15 to 17, 2025, at the Bintumani Conference Center in Freetown. The summit's theme was "Improving Health Outcomes: Every Sierra Leonean Life Matters." The three-day event brought together high-level government officials, health professionals, civil society, academia, and development partners to assess sector performance, showcase innovations, and chart a unified course toward people-centered, equitable, and resilient healthcare.

Showcasing its work toward improving health outcomes throughout the country, NMSA had a joint booth with the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services and the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone. On day two of the conference, the Managing Director Madam Jatu Abdulai delivered a presentation on "Digital Innovation and Last Mile Assurance: What's Working and What's Not Working" at a breakout session. Speaking on what is working, Madam Abdulai highlighted the district piloting of the e-LMIS (Logistics Management



Information System), which aims to improve data accuracy, timeliness, and integrity for effective decision-making, commodity flow prediction, and procurement of health commodities across the supply chain landscape in Sierra Leone.

As part of strides to digitize the Health Supply Chain, Madam Jatu Abdulai also highlighted the deployment of Msupply desktop in four Central Medical Stores, sixteen District Medical Stores, and fifteen hospitals. Additionally, she



noted the piloting of Msupply mobile at twenty-five health facilities in three districts (Kailahun, Western Area Rural, and Western Area Urban) and the district piloting of Msupply in 103 Peripheral Health Units (PHUs) in Pujehun district.

As part of the call to action, Madam Jatu Abdulai stressed the need to build a resilient, transparent, and equitable supply chain for all, as well as mapping out the donor landscape for health products to align resources and guide coordinated procurement and supply.





7 trucks of Free Healthcare drugs and medical supplies delivered to Kenema DHMT

The National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) on May 23, 2025, handed over seven trucks fully loaded with Free Healthcare drugs and medical supplies to the Kenema District Health Management Team.

The handover ceremony was attended by the Medical Superintendent of Kenema Government Hospital, civil society representatives, local authorities, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and beneficiaries. This distribution is part of the Agency's quarterly supply of drugs and medical supplies to support the Government of Sierra Leone's Free Healthcare scheme, funded by UNICEF and FCDO. The drugs are intended to benefit pregnant women, lactating mothers, children under five, persons living with disabilities, and Ebola and COVID-19 survivors.

During the handing-over, Robert Dixon, Director of Human Resources at NMSA, reminded district health officials and healthcare workers of the

government's efforts to ensure the availability and proper administration of these drugs.

He emphasized the need to provide these drugs to beneficiaries free of charge. However, he noted reports of theft and smuggling of Free Healthcare drugs in some districts, including Kenema and Pujehun, which are currently under investigation. Dixon appealed to local authorities and the Anti-Corruption Commission to monitor the drugs and ensure their judicious use.



Receiving the drugs, Dr. Abdulai Tejan Jalloh, Medical Superintendent of Kenema Government Hospital, thanked the government and NMSA for the supply. He assured that the drugs would be properly utilized for their intended purpose and appealed to the Anti-Corruption Commission, police, civil society, and local authorities to continue monitoring their use.



300,000 vials of heat-stable Carbetocin received to combat maternal mortality



In a significant stride toward reducing maternal mortality in Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Health—through the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) on the 29th May 2025, received a consignment of 300,000 vials of heat-stable Carbetocin. This “life-saving” medication was supplied by Cotton Tree Medical Group, with funding provided by the Large Anonymous Donor (LAD).

Heat-stable Carbetocin is a critical drug used in the prevention and treatment of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), a leading cause of maternal deaths, particularly in low-income countries. Its heat stability makes it especially suitable for use in areas with limited cold-chain storage. The procurement was facilitated by the NMSA in collaboration with the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services.

Speaking at the handover event, Deputy Minister of Health I, Professor Charles Senessie, emphasized the government’s ongoing commitment to improving health outcomes for women and newborns. “The introduction of heat-stable Carbetocin is a game changer,” Professor Senessie said. “This delivery marks another milestone in our journey to reduce maternal mortality and enhance maternal care nationwide.”

Dr. Mustapha Kabba, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Clinical Services, underscored the drug’s importance, noting that heat-stable Carbetocin has demonstrated effectiveness in reducing maternal deaths, especially in settings where storage infrastructure is limited. This medication is not just essential; it is lifesaving,” Dr. Kabba stated. “But our efforts go beyond drug procurement.

We are also focused on strengthening infrastructure, human resources, and the availability of essential medical equipment.” Dr. Kabba praised the NMSA and the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services for their successful handling of the procurement process and the timely delivery of the drugs.

Assuring stakeholders of efficient distribution, the Chief Pharmacist and Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Dr. Moses Batema, speaking on behalf of his colleague the MD of NMSA, Md. Jatu Abdulai, pledged close coordination with the Directorate of Reproductive and Child Health to ensure that the medication reaches service delivery points across the country. He also promised to implement a robust monitoring framework to ensure the drugs are used effectively and for their intended purpose.



This initiative marks a significant step in Sierra Leone’s broader strategy to achieve sustainable improvements in maternal health and reduce preventable deaths among women during childbirth.



Rollout of NMSA HR Manual



The Director of Human Resources at the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) Robert Dixon, has completed a two-day rollout of the approved Human Resource Manual.

The newly approved HR Manual according to the Director of Human Resources, is designed to acquaint employees of NMSA with the rules, standards, practices, expectations relating to employees, their relationship with the Agency and interactions in the workplace.

This Manual serves as a guide of conduct and activities to facilitate the implementation of fair and consistent employment practices within the Agency thus, facilitating the creation of an equitable and transparent work environment.

This HR Manual according to Director Dixon, comprises policies that are based on the principles of which the success of the Agency is primarily dependent. These policies prioritize the quality and performance of the Agency's human assets. It also seeks to develop highly motivated, dedicated and skilled employees that can effectively mobilize, manage and administer the

Agency's resources that are paramount to the achievement of set goals and objectives. As custodian of the HR Policy Manual, the Director noted that it is his department's responsibility to ensure implementation and enforcement. "This can only be achieved with better understanding from you the employees" the director stressed. The rollout of the HR Manual is expected to help NMSA attract, develop, motivate and retain employees with the requisite skills and competencies, and strives to create and maintain a work environment that fosters optimal performance as well as job satisfaction.



NMSA and Partners Review Emergency Supply Chain Playbook



As the logistics pillar lead in emergency supply chain management in the country, the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) with support from the Global Fund has together with other key partners ended a two-day review and update workshop on the Emergency Supply Chain Playbook on Mpox. The Emergency Supply Chain Playbook was developed few years ago as a vital component of public health emergency preparedness and response, to serve as a guide in responding to health emergencies in Sierra Leone.

Since it was developed, the Emergency Supply Chain Playbook has been updated to reflect past emergencies that included; COVID 19, burn injuries, flooding, the Anthrax outbreak in Northern Sierra Leone and the Avian Flu in neighboring Guinea.

The current Mpox outbreak has ignited the critical need to review the Emergency Supply Chain Playbook to incorporate specific response strategies and strengthen Sierra Leone's national preparedness. The two-day review and update engagement in Bo Southern Sierra Leone, focused on lessons learnt from previous emergencies, and the integration of Mpox-specific response measures into the playbook.

Discussions from the engagement were centered on Coordination and Governance, Logistics and Distribution (pre-positioning of supplies), Data and Information Systems, Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and Case Management Integration, local capacity building (gap identification) and the enhancement of community engagement in distribution insights.

It is the believe that an effective emergency supply chain playbook is not only a vital tool for public health emergency preparedness and response, but serves as an investment in a robust supply chain system that not only save lives but also reduces the financial burden during public health emergencies.



The update and review of this playbook will be followed by a simulation of the updated work in the next few weeks to ascertain it application to current realities.



NMSA Internal Audit Manager Promoted to Director



In recognition and reward of his good performance as Internal Audit Manager, Ibrahim A Kamara has been promoted by the Board and Management of the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) to the position of Director.

Ibrahim joined National Medical Supplies Agency on the 8th of July 2022, as Internal Audit Manager; a position where he has excelled by demonstrating commitment, exceptional service delivery and professionalism that has earned him the recognition from the Board and Management.

As an experienced finance professional with a career spanning over a decade in auditing and financial management, Mr. Kamara as part of his duties at NMSA, formulates and implements comprehensive internal audit plans and strategies aligned with the agency's objectives and risk profile.

He also Conducts risk assessments to identify potential areas of risk within the agency's operations thus, safeguarding NMSA's work.

He has been instrumental in ensuring the agency's operations adhere to relevant laws, regulations and industry standards hence, positioning NMSA to meeting international standards in the health supply chain industry.

Mr. Kamara's promotion to the position of Director of Internal Audit is a news celebrated by staff as well-deserved, based on his track record and work output.

NMSA and DPS take a Strong Stance on Drug Mismanagement

Pharmaceutical Services, Dr. Moses Batema, three cases of drug theft are currently under investigation in Pujehun, Kambia, and the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital in Freetown. He noted that, with the strong supervision of the Ministry of Health, the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services, and the National Medical Supplies Agency, they are going after anyone caught with strong actions.

Dr. Batema further disclosed that the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services has recommended the suspension of the professional licenses of three pharmacist personnel from the three facilities in Kambia, Pujehun, and PCMH as they face investigation. He continued that his Directorate is closely working with the Sierra Leone Police, Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU), and the Anti-Corruption Commission to get to the bottom of these cases.



In a bold step to address the challenge of drug mismanagement and theft, the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA), together with the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services (DPS), supervised by the Ministry of Health, on 14th July 2025, engaged the media on steps to address this menace and actions against those found wanting.

As the Agency charged with the mandate of procuring, warehousing, and distributing drugs for and on behalf of all public health institutions throughout the country, the Managing Director of the National Medical Supplies Agency, Jatu Abdulai, said the Agency remains committed to ensuring the timely delivery of drugs on a quarterly basis to health facilities.

However, she noted that mismanagement and theft of drugs are major challenges, especially at the district level. Thus, reiterating that drugs being distributed are not for sale but rather should be administered free of cost under the Free Healthcare Scheme.

Madam Abdulai continued that, in curbing this challenge, NMSA has deployed the Msupply tool, which helps track drugs at facilities, hence boosting control in the system. She therefore appealed that monitoring of drugs must be a collective effort at all levels, noting that NMSA will continue to collaborate with local authorities, especially at the district level, to enforce control in the management of drugs and enhance quality health service delivery.

According to the Chief Pharmacist and Director of



Stressing the Ministry of Health's commitment to quality health service delivery, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sartie Kanneh noted that the government, together with partners, spends millions to ensure drugs are made available.

He warned that the Ministry will not take it lightly with anyone who undermines the process by mismanaging and stealing drugs. He therefore charged leaders within the health sector, including District Medical Officers, Hospital Superintendents, and Hospital Secretaries, to enhance monitoring when these drugs reach their facilities.

As part of preventive measures, NMSA, together with DPS, will continue to strengthen the supply chain system by solidifying supervision and monitoring in hospitals and district medical stores, improving digital tracking of commodities, conducting refresher training on ethics and accountability, among others.

Validation of Sierra Leone's Revised National Guidelines for the Donation of Medicines and Medical Devices



In 2004, the Ministry of Health established the National Guidelines for the Donation of Medicines and Medical Devices, a document that provided direction on the donation of health products to the country's health sector. Over twenty years since the guideline on donation was established, it now seems obsolete in meeting current trends. Hence, the review of the guideline aims to address gaps and incorporate global best practices and evolving national policies.

Following a series of consultations and stakeholders' engagements, a revised guideline has been developed that seeks to address current realities, challenges, and opportunities. This revised guideline on the donation of health products—including medicines, medical devices, and supplies—aims to ensure alignment with national priorities, improve transparency and accountability, and maximize public health impact.

Furthermore, the revised guidelines on donation aim to maximize the value of donations to recipients, promote responsible, needs-based, and quality-assured donations, prevent risks such as expired or unsuitable items.



This guideline applies to all donors and recipients, including government agencies, NGOs, private sector partners, and individuals, engaged in donating or receiving health commodities in both emergency and non-emergency settings. The revised guidelines also emphasize: recipient needs first, quality assurance, transparency and accountability, sustainability, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders,



including the Ministry of Health, Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone, District and Hospital Teams, Donors, and Storage/Distribution Entities.



12,400 m² total NMSA warehouse storage space

The National Medical Supplies Agency has a total storage space covering an area of 12,400 square meters, providing sufficient space for the storage and management of various commodities.

NMSA Warehouse consists of nine stores located in two main areas:

New England Stores:

- FHC Store
- Store 1
- Store 4
- Malaria Store

Fawaz Compound Stores:

- Store A
- Store B
- Store C
- Store D
- Store E
- Hastings Store

Each store plays a critical role in the supply chain, ensuring that essential medical and healthcare supplies reach the right destinations.

