



SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2024

# NATIONAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES AGENCY



## NMSA RECEIVES HERO'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

The Nutrition Directorate of the Ministry of Health in September presented the Hero's Award for the week of September 9th to the National Medical Supplies Agency in recognition of the Agency's work towards improving health service delivery in the country. The Hero's Award is an initiative of the Minister of Health Dr. Austine Demby that is geared towards motivating performing agencies, directorates and departments under the Ministry on a weekly basis. The National Medical Supplies Agency was acknowledged for its prompt response in the delivery of drugs and medical supplies across the country.



## NMSA Strengthens its Human Resources

In a determined move to ensure the National Medical Supplies Agency delivers on its mandates, the agency has ended three days induction exercise for eight new recruits. The eight added to the human resource of the Agency includes; a Human Resource Officer, Procurement officer, Accountant, Public Relations Officer, Central Receiving Bay Officer, Data Information Officer and two Finance assistants.

Welcoming the new recruits, Acting Managing Director of the National Medical Supplies Agency Jatu Abdulai expressed optimism of the value the added human resources bring to the Agency. Informing them about the mandate of the Agency, the Acting Managing Director noted the work of the Agency is to make available quality medical supplies in health facilities across the country, stressing the Agency's work includes; procurement, warehousing and distribution of medical supplies.



# World Bank Mission- Mid Term Review

The National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) earlier today hosted a team from the World Bank together with other partners investing in supply chain initiatives as part of the World Bank Mission- Mid Term Review.

The discussions centered on coordinating and consolidating procurement of essential medicines and medical equipment, harmonizing supply chain and improving Visibility of commodity management at the last mile.



**Jatu Abdulai (Acting Managing Director)**



The National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) has delivered two trucks of drugs and medical supplies to the 34 Military Hospital in Freetown. The supply is part of the Agency's quarter 3 and 4 distribution of Free Healthcare commodities to Government health institutions across the country. These commodities will benefit Pregnant women, lactating mothers, children under-five, Ebola and Covid 19 survivors and persons living with disabilities. The commodities are expected to serve the hospital till the end of January next year. This is part of the government of Sierra Leone strides to improving quality health service delivery across the country.



According to the Acting Managing Director of NMSA Jatu Abdulai, the Agency has so far developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for each process in the supply chain, that directs how each process should be rolled out. In the area of improving inventory management, M-supply tool has been rolled out to all hospitals and District Medical stores to capture drug management.

The mid-term review of QHESSSP project also examines the status of implementation, alignment of the design to the intended impact.

This Supply Chain discussion seeks to harmonize effort within the supply chain for a coordinated process among all stakeholders.



## NMSA ENGAGES LOCAL COUNCILS ON STREAMLINING PROCUREMENT OF DRUGS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA), the agency charged with the mandate of procuring, warehousing and distribution of drugs and medical supplies late this year concluded regional engagements with local councils in the East South, North and North-west regions of the country, with the aim of establishing an understanding on the procurement mandate of the Agency. The engagement started in the Eastern Region District Headquarter town of Kenema bringing together council representatives including Chief Administrators, District Medical Officials, District procurement officers and representatives from the Ministries of Finance, local Government and the Decentralization Secretariat. As the Agency with the exclusive right of procuring drugs and medical supplies, the Acting Managing Director of NMSA Jatu Abdulai noted, the engagement was to help stakeholders understand the importance of streamlining the procurement of drugs and medical supplies to the National Medical Supplies Agency, as mandated by the Agency's Act of 2017, which aims at providing supplies of quality drugs to health facilities for patients use.

Before this time the procurement of drugs and medical supplies at district level was done by local councils. NMSA is now positioning itself in the Management of drugs and medical supplies hence, adding value to the country's health systems in ensuring that procurements are done in a transparent and cost-effective manner, while increasing the bargaining power to drive the economies of scales in ensuring quality and affordable medicine are made available to Sierra Leoneans. These engagements provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to have clearly defined roles and responsibilities thus, prioritizing inclusivity.



The Acting Managing Director discloses that the ultimate goal is to develop a procurement process of drugs and medical supplies that will enhance quality and efficiency, while streamlining the procurement of drugs and medical supplies into one body thus, creating a seamless way of managing drug supplies in the health infrastructure of the country.



Welcoming the engagement, stakeholders from the different regions lauded the move by the National Medical Supplies Agency describing it as one that is long overdue. They however, called for continue engagement so as to better understand what their roles will be, in the drug and medical supplies procurement process design, NMSA intends to develop.

As the 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 country, this is a milestone marker for improved health service delivery in Sierra Leone.

## KENEMA DISTRICT RECEIVES NINE TRUCKS OF DRUGS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES FROM NMSA

The National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) has handed over nine trucks fully loaded with Free Healthcare drugs and medical supplies to Kenema District. This consignment of drugs and medical supplies is part of the Free Healthcare drug and medical distribution the Agency is currently embarking on.

As the Agency charged with the mandate for procuring, warehousing and distribution of drugs and medical supplies to all Government health institutions in the country, NMSA conducts four quarterly distributions across the country every year, targeting Government Hospitals and Primary Health Unit (PHUs) in all sixteen districts of Sierra Leone.

In fulfillment of its quarter three and four distribution for 2024, the Agency a week ago began the movement of drugs and medical supplies from its warehouses in Freetown to different hospitals in the Western Area as well as the provinces. The latest district to benefit from this distribution is Kenema in the Eastern region of the country. The district on Thursday 14th November 2024 received nine trucks of fully loaded drugs and medical supplies that are expected to serve the district till the end of March 2025. The nine trucks were distributed among the Kenema Government Hospital receiving two trucks, the District Medical store receiving six its Primary Health Units (PHUs) and the Panguma Hospital receiving one truck.

The handing over of this medical consignment was done by NMSA's Director of Human Resources Robert Dixon in the presence of a Member of Parliament, the Anti-corruption Commission, Civil Society Representatives, the media and some beneficiary groups of pregnant women and lactating mothers at the Kenema Government hospital. The Director of Human resources while handing over the drugs, commended the support of Government and other partners for making available the drugs and medical supplies that are meant to benefit; pregnant women, lactating mothers, children under-five, Ebola and COVID19 survivors and persons living with disabilities. He however appealed to healthcare workers to ensure that the drugs reach the intended categories of beneficiaries thus, calling on the Anti-corruption, Civil Society and the media to help in monitoring the utilization of these drugs in the district.



Receiving the items, the District Pharmacist of Kenema Cyril Caulker underscored the timeliness of the delivery, assuring that the drugs and medical supplies will reach the intended beneficiaries. He appealed to nurses and other healthcare workers within the district to ensure they make good use of these commodities to benefit patients thereby, enhancing quality health service delivery in the district.



Stressing on the need for monitoring, Member of parliament representing the Committee of health Hon. Mariama Ella Goba noted, even though the drugs and medical supplies are free for beneficiaries, they are not free for the Government. She noted the procurement of such quantity, cost Government huge sums of money thus, appealing to the District Health Management Team (DHMT) for proper utilization to beneficiaries.

Investigations Officer of the Anti-Corruption Commission in Kenema Andrew Komeh, while commending NMSA for the delivery, reminded patients of their right to receive the drugs free of cost. He further encouraged patients to report any healthcare worker who request money from them in accessing these drugs, assuring that ACC will protect their identity and prosecute those health workers. In collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone the following partners; FDCO, UNICEF and Ellen Kella International supported the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) in the procurement and delivery of these drugs and medical supplies.

# 2024 Management Retreat

In review of 2024 and planning for 2025, the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) has ended five-days Senior Management retreat on the theme: "Sustainable and Resilience Supply Chain for Equitable Access to Quality Healthcare".

The retreat which brought together heads of departments and units, provided a platform for reflection while planning towards measurable deliverables for 2025.



**Jatu Abdulai - Managing Director**



Addressing Management and heads of unit, Managing Director of NMSA Jatu Abdulai entreated them to think of adaptable measures to the new realities of innovation in ensuring the Agency fulfills its mandates of procurement, warehousing and distribution of drugs and medical supplies to all public health institutions across the country.



The focus for 2025 according to the Managing Director is Acceleration; thus, stressing key expected words which includes competency, timeliness, communication, effectiveness, performance and chain work.

The five days retreat hosted at the Agency's office at Murray town was a platform to review challenges, celebrate successes, identify opportunities while strategizing to enhance service delivery in 2025



# BO District Receives Nine Trucks of Free Healthcare Drugs

By NMSA Public Relations

As part of its quarter three and four of 2024 Free Healthcare Distribution, the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) has handed over nine trucks fully loaded with Free Healthcare drugs, and medical supplies to Bo District. This consignment is expected to serve the district till the end of March 2025.

Presenting the consignment of drugs and medical supplies to the District Health Management Team of Bo, the Managing Director of the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) Jatu Abdulai noted, the nine trucks will be distributed among the Government Hospital and the District Medical store receiving on behalf of the Primary Health Units (PHUs). These drugs she disclosed, are intended for beneficiaries that includes pregnant women, lactating mothers, children under-five, Ebola and COVID 19 survivors and persons living with disabilities, thus stressing it is free of cost.

The procurement of these drugs the Managing Director Jatu Abdulai says, is done by the Government of Sierra Leone with support from partners like LAD, FCDO, UNICEF and USAID. Hence, she appealed to healthcare workers in the district to ensure that the drugs are utilize to the benefit of the intended recipients mention earlier.



The Deputy Chief Medical Officer noted that the supplies of the drugs demonstrate Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Health commitments to the Free Healthcare initiative and quality health service delivery to the district and other parts of the country. He lauded the support of Partners in ensuring government priority in health delivery is assured.



The handing over of the trucks was done by the Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mustapha Kabba in the presence of, the Anti-corruption Commission, Civil Society Representatives, the media and beneficiaries who are expected to monitor the utilization of the drugs and medical supplies in the district.



The items were received by the District Health Management Team together with other local authorities who applauded the work of NMSA in realizing the vision of the Ministry and the government to improve health outcomes. They however, promised strict supervision to ensure that the drugs and medical supplies benefit the targeted groups of pregnant women, lactating mothers, children under-five, Ebola and COVID 19 survivors and persons living with disabilities. The public is reminded that these medicines are not for sale and the law will fall heavily on those caught doing so.

# Our Warehousing Facilities



# Who we are

NMSA is established as 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 through out Sierra Leone

## VISION

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

## KEY OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES

- Supply chain management control
- Improve procurement processes
- Standard Storage capacity and quality
- Distribution expertise and fleet management
- Quality assurance, auditing and data accuracy
- Continuous quality improvement

