

# NATIONAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES AGENCY (NMSA)



January to March 2026

Vol.4



## FIRST DISTRIBUTION PLANING MEETING

The National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) convened its first distribution planning meeting for 2026 in early January, aimed at ensuring the timely and efficient delivery of drugs and medical supplies to health facilities nationwide.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders involved in the distribution process, including the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services (DPS), the Integrated Health Projects Administration Unit (IHPAU), and development partners such as World Vision and UNICEF.

Discussions focused on developing a coordinated quarterly distribution plan for both the Free Healthcare Initiative and integrated distributions implemented by NMSA and its partners. The plan will serve as a practical guide for executing distribution activities throughout the year, with the goal of improving commodity availability at service delivery points across the country.

The meeting also addressed critical operational issues, including adjustments required in response to the changing funding landscape, pipeline alignment, prioritization of commodities, and the need for timely and efficient delivery to all districts. Participants reviewed distribution timelines and agreed on key milestones to



guide implementation. Additionally, the engagement provided an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned from the previous distribution cycle, identify operational challenges, and agree on improvements to strengthen planning, coordination, and on-time delivery of essential medicines and medical supplies nationwide.

### ► Mission Statement

To increase access to affordable, effective, safe, and high quality health commodities to enhance health service delivery in Sierra Leone

### ► Vision Statement

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

## TOP NEWS

**NMSA ENGAGES DISTRICT STRUCTURES**

**NMSA ZERO-TOLARANCE OF DRUG MISMANAGEMENT**

# NMSA ENGAGES DISTRICT STRUCTURES



The NMSA's nationwide engagement across the country in collaboration with the Ministry of Health's Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services was led by the Managing Director Madam Jatu Josephine Abdulai.

The engagement covered key hospitals and district health management teams across the country including tertiary and secondary hospitals in the western area and other parts of the country.

These engagements form part of ongoing efforts to strengthen pharmaceutical governance and improving the efficiency of supply chain systems at the district level.

The discussions focused on reinforcing operational structures, establishing District Supply Chain Mechanisms, Technical Working Groups, and the reintroduction of Cost-Recovery Scheme.



The initiative is designed to improve accountability to improve accountability, promote sustainability, and ensure the consistent availability of quality medicines across health facilities.

The high-level consultations were held in district health management teams across all districts and hospital leadership, with the aim to generate strategic input to support the successful rollout of the Cost-Recovery Scheme in June 2026.



Feedback from stakeholders were overwhelmingly positive, with strong endorsement of the initiative's objectives to enhance access to safe, effective and quality-assured medicines at the facility level. The engagement covered the following districts western area urban and rural, Bo, Bonthe, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bombali, Karene, Portloko, Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Kambia, Falaba, Kono, Kenema and Kailahun. The implementation strategy will be carried out in consultation with DHMTs and leadership of hospitals.



# NMSA MD EXPRESSES ZERO TOLERANCE FOR DRUG PILFERAGE AND THEFT



The Managing Director of the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA), Madam Jatu Josephine Abdulai, has expressed in the strongest terms the Agency's zero-tolerance stance towards corruption, theft, and the mismanagement of medical supplies.

She made this statement while addressing journalists during a press briefing on the ongoing investigation into the disappearance of several portable ultrasound machines, an incident that has raised concerns about its impact on healthcare delivery across the country.

Speaking at the briefing, Madam Abdulai emphasized that the matter is being treated with urgency due to its implications for access to critical diagnostic services in health facilities.

She disclosed that the Agency is working closely with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to thoroughly investigate the incident. According to the Managing Director, all staff involved in the supply and distribution chain during the period under review have been made available to assist in the investigation. "The Agency is fully cooperating with the ACC

to ensure a comprehensive, transparent, and credible process," Madam Abdulai stated.

The Managing Director reaffirmed the Agency's firm stance against malpractice, reiterating its zero-tolerance policy on corruption, theft, and mismanagement of medical supplies. She warned that any individual found culpable would face the full force of the law, noting that such actions not only erode public trust but also undermine the delivery of essential healthcare services to citizens.

In response to the incident, the Agency has announced a series of corrective measures aimed at preventing future occurrences. These include strengthening internal control systems, enhancing security at the central warehouse and district distribution points, and intensifying collaboration with the ACC to address systemic gaps.

Additionally, the NMSA is working with the Ministry of Health to roll out a nationwide campaign against drug and medical supply pilferage.

Madam Abdulai also assured the public that every effort is being made to recover the missing ultrasound machines and ensure accountability.

"Our priority is to ensure that these life-saving machines reach the health facilities and communities for which they were intended," she stressed.

She reaffirmed the Agency's commitment to transparency, accountability, and the effective delivery of safe and essential medical supplies nationwide.



# TRANSFORMING SIERRA LEONE'S HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN: THE IMPACT OF NMSA'S REFORM AGENDA



In recent years, Sierra Leone's healthcare system has faced persistent challenges in ensuring the timely availability of essential medicines and medical supplies. At the center of efforts to address these challenges is the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA), which, under the leadership of its Managing Director, Madam Jatu Josephine Abdulai, is driving a series of reforms aimed at strengthening the country's health supply chain.

Over the past two years, the Agency has implemented strategic initiatives designed to improve efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness within the system. As the lead institution for logistics and emergency supply chain management, NMSA plays a critical role in ensuring that life-saving medicines reach health facilities across Sierra Leone.

One of the key reforms has been the revitalization of the Supply Chain Technical Working Group (SCTWG), a platform that brings together stakeholders to identify challenges and propose solutions. While the national-level group meets twice a year, similar structures have been replicated at the district level, where they meet quarterly to address localized supply chain issues. This coordinated approach is helping to bridge gaps between policy and implementation.

Another significant milestone is the review and update of the Emergency Supply Chain Playbook, a critical tool for responding to public health emergencies. The revised playbook incorporates lessons learned from recent crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, flooding, and disease outbreaks such as anthrax and avian influenza in neighboring Guinea.

In 2025, with support from the Global Fund, NMSA convened a two-day workshop in Bo to further strengthen the playbook, integrating new response measures for Mpox and other emerging threats. Beyond policy reforms, the Agency has intensified engagement with frontline health actors. Regular review meetings with District Medical Officers, logistics officers, pharmacists, and hospital administrators are helping to clarify roles, improve coordination, and address bottlenecks—particularly at the district level,

where much of the supply chain implementation occurs. NMSA's reform agenda is also gaining regional and international recognition. In 2025, Madam Abdulai represented Sierra Leone at the Global Health Supply Chain Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, where she highlighted the country's progress in using procurement reforms to improve access to essential medicines, particularly for maternal, neonatal, and child health.

A major pillar of the Agency's transformation is digitalization. The rollout of the electronic Logistics Management Information System (e-LMIS) is improving data accuracy, timeliness, and decision-making across the supply chain. The deployment of mSupply systems in central and district medical stores, hospitals, and peripheral health units is enabling better tracking of commodities and more efficient distribution.

Efforts to modernize the system have also extended to international partnerships. In 2025, NMSA undertook a high-level technical mission to Rwanda Medical Supply Ltd, engaging with innovative logistics partners such as Zipline and Kasha. The visit focused on improving last-mile delivery and exploring sustainable models to ensure consistent access to medicines, even in hard-to-reach areas.

Back home, investments in infrastructure are beginning to yield results. The acquisition of forklifts and modern warehouse equipment is enhancing operational efficiency, enabling faster loading and distribution of supplies nationwide.

In early 2026, the Agency, working with key partners including the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services and the Ministry of Finance, launched regional engagements across all sixteen districts. These engagements are focused on strengthening human resources, improving operational systems, and rolling out the Ministry of Health's Cost-Recovery Scheme to expand access to quality medicines.

Madam Abdulai has also demonstrated a firm commitment to zero tolerance for theft and corruption, while continuously working with staff to strengthen accountability and drive effective change management across all levels of the supply chain. She has supported capacity building at senior, middle, and operational levels to ensure that personnel are well-equipped to manage supply chain functions effectively. For many observers, these cumulative efforts signal a shift toward a more resilient and responsive health supply chain system in Sierra Leone. While challenges remain, the ongoing reforms at NMSA reflect a clear commitment to ensuring that essential medicines reach those who need them most.

As the country continues to strengthen its healthcare system, the work of NMSA stands as a critical pillar in improving health outcomes and building public confidence in the delivery of medical supplies nationwide.

## NMSA MD VISITS A PIH-SUPPORTED WAREHOUSE IN KONO



As part of efforts to build an ultra-modern pharmaceutical grid warehouse in the country, the Managing Director of the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA), Madam Jatu Abdulai, together with members of the senior management team, paid a visit to a similar facility being constructed by Partners In Health (PIH) in Kono District.

The inspection visit to the modern warehousing facility aimed to appreciate the support provided by PIH to Sierra Leone's health sector. While commending PIH for the over 70% completed construction work, Madam Abdulai underscored the importance of such infrastructure at the local level. She noted that the warehouse will provide significant support not only to Kono District but also to surrounding districts, considering its size and advanced facilities.



The NMSA Managing Director further highlighted that the presence of such infrastructure in Kono is a major boost to the storage and management of medical supplies, thereby enhancing efficiency and effectiveness. She disclosed that NMSA will soon commence construction of its ultra-modern pharmaceutical grid warehouse in Kerry Town, which is expected to be larger than the one currently being built in Kono by PIH.



Madam Abdulai added that funding has already been secured, and the Agency is currently in the process of identifying a credible construction company to undertake the project. She emphasized that, upon completion, the ultra-modern pharmaceutical grid warehouse will rank among the best in the sub-region.



# NMSA MD ENGAGES MEDIA IN FIRST QUARTER OUTREACH



In March, the Managing Director of the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA), Madam Jatu Abdulai, embarked on a media tour on SLIK TV and Afriradio to discuss ongoing efforts toward building a stronger and more accountable health sector.

During the discussions, the Managing Director highlighted key reforms and actions undertaken by NMSA. These include intensified engagement with frontline health actors, the rollout of the Electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMIS), the deployment of mSupply systems at central and district medical stores, the establishment of a Commodity Security Taskforce, and the reintroduction of the Cost-Recovery Scheme. She also emphasized the Agency's continued distribution activities, which are aimed at improving the efficiency and reliability of the national medical supply chain.

