

Ministry of Health and Sanitation Conducts Stakeholders Workshop to Validate Integrated National Waste Management Policy, Strategic Plan & Guidelines



The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) with technical and financial support of WHO and other partners on Thursday 27 October 2011 commenced a two day stakeholders meeting to validate Integrated National Waste Management Policy (INWMP) and Integrated National Waste Management Strategic Plan (INWMSP) for Sierra Leone developed as part of the implementation of the National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2010-2015 and government's "Agenda for Change". Participants including government ministries, departments and agencies, UN and other international agencies, the civil society, local councils, traditional and religious leaders and private sector partners, reviewed, deliberated and gave inputs to improve the draft policy and plan. The Integrated National Waste Management Strategic Plan (2012-2016) is being developed to provide a common strategic framework for the plan period covering 2012 to 2016 to guide interventions of government and stakeholders in Sierra Leone towards achieving sustainable management of healthcare, industrial and municipal solid wastes. This is the first Waste Management Policy and Strategic Plan being developed by the country.

The meeting was formally opened by the Senior Permanent Secretary (PS) of the MoHS, Mr Joseph T. Kanu on behalf of the Hon Minister of Health and Sanitation. Delivering the opening statement, the PS said that the policy, strategic plan and technical guidelines will inform the government's planning and budgeting focusing on the identified key areas. He also noted challenges that exist in tackling ill health relating from poor waste management. In response to these challenges MoHS which is the main coordinating institution on waste management is also responsible for provision of policy direction for waste management.

Dr Wondimagegnehu Alemu WHO Representative said while delivering his statement that WHO is honoured to have jointly, with other partners, collaborated with MoHS in seeking solutions to waste management issues in an attempt to minimize the burden of communicable diseases like malaria, cholera and diarrhea, which claim large numbers of lives in Sierra Leone. He said there is much scope for improving the real value of current and future investments in the formal and informal waste management sectors. *"Encouraging and supportive policies from central governments would assist the efforts of both the formal and the informal solid waste management sectors"*. He further said that *"economic, institutional, and legislative elements are required for*



sound and successful waste management policies. Accountability, optimization of available resources, fiscal commitment, and unambiguous jurisdiction are important tools for “Keeping Sierra Leone Clean” he added. He assured the participants of WHO’s commitment to support the development of the national policy and implementation of the agreed strategies. He concluded his statement by saying that *“the Integrated National Policy on Waste Management will guide Sierra Leone to create friendly environment that is free from biological, chemical and physical hazards posed by waste generated from communities, health facilities, industries and other sources.*



Several UN agencies are contributing to the management of solid waste in some districts. UNICEF has procured 14 incinerators and conducted training for their installation in healthcare facilities to manage healthcare waste. The World Bank has been involved in a variety of infrastructural development projects for solid waste management such as the establishment of the Freetown Waste Management Company.



***For More Information contact:
World Health Organization,
21 A and B Riverside Drive, off King Harman Road, Freetown
Phone : 232-22-233565 , +232-76-777878;
e-mail: whosl@sl.afro.who.int,
Website www.whosierraleone.org***