

Ministry of Health Commences Training of Districts Rapid Response Teams



Dr Jambai delivering statement opening of the training



Manager of Nat Disease Surveillance making a presentation



Participants taking pretest



Group photo of participants and MoHS and WHO officials

The Directorate of Disease Prevention and Control (DPC) of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation conducted a 3 day training of the first set of district level Rapid Response Teams from 12-14 December 2012 in Freetown. The training targeted health workers from Kambia, Port Loko Districts and the Western Area. The cadre of the participants included medical doctors and nurses, national and district disease surveillance officers, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, M&E and health education officers as well as sector partners such as the Office of National Security.

Dr Amara Jambai, Director of DPC said at the opening of the training that while cholera has been the main disease outbreak in the country in recent years, the training is a critical component of preparedness and response plans for all health emergencies.

The main objectives of the training include the strengthening of the capacity of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to enhance coordination and operational mechanisms for timely outbreak detection, investigation and management of emergencies at all levels of response. Areas of focus included orientation of the participants on common outbreaks in Sierra Leone, disaster management concepts, complex health emergencies, logistics and supplies management, infection control, advocacy, resource and social mobilisation as well as coordination between MoHS and partners during response to disease outbreaks. The sessions included group works and plenary discussions.

Three other sets of trainings are scheduled to be conducted simultaneously from 17-19 December at regional levels targeting the remaining districts to comprehensively prepare the Ministry to prevent and/or adequately respond to outbreaks.

A national level Rapid Response Team was trained in December 2011. The process is being facilitated with technical and financial support of WHO.



Plenary Discussions