

KAMBIA HEALTH NEWS LETTER

Volume 2

(January.- June 2009)

KAMBIA HEALTH DAY CELEBRATION



*March Pass
by more than 200 people*

Institution of Kambia Health Day celebration in the activities of the DHMT in collaboration with JICA gives opportunity to the people of Kambia District to access health information, understand the activities of the Government Hospital and to take a look at the available health facilities of their District. Kambia Health Day is now annually celebrated; this year it was held on the 28th February and involved all stakeholders in the District. The opening remarks were made by Hon. Ibrahim Sorie Member of Parliament for Constituency 37 and District *A.P.C Chairman* who served as chairman of the occasion.

During the celebrations there was a march pass, statements were made by Mr. Ibrahim Fofanah/Asst. Donor/NGO Liaison Officer MOHS, Councilor Foday Morray Bangura/Deputy Chairman Kambia District Council, Ms. Eriko Kobayashi /Head of JICA Sierra Leone Field Office, Dr. Ismalia Nuhu Maksha / UNICEF, Mr. Mohamed F. Kamara /ABC Development representing the NGOs in Kambia, Sister Gladys Yavana on behalf of the DMO while the closing remarks were made by Paramount Chief/ Bai Kelfa Sankoh of Masumgala Chiefdom.



Traditional Healers Booth

Eleven different booths; Malaria and Onchocerciasis, HIV/AIDS, TB/Leprosy, Environmental Health, Ambulance Service and Referrals, EPI, Traditional Healers, Reproductive Health, Blood Donors, Civil Society and NGOs/Stakeholders exhibited the services they are rendering in the District and encouraged people to be making use of these services.

The audience was entertained by three drama groups performance on health issues relating to prevention, control and care of HIV/AIDS, Diarrhoea and the importance of Blood Donation



*Welcome song
by Oja Drama Group*

6 PHUs were awarded prizes for best practices among 57 PHUs in Kambia District: *Kania Maternal and Child Health Post of Masumgbala, Kanku Brimaia Maternal and Child Health Post of Brimaia, Romando Maternal and Child Health Post of Mambolo and Rosinor Community Health Post, Kychom Community Health Centre and Kassirie Community Health Post* all of Samu Chiefdom.



One of 6 PHUs which received awards



Comedian group demonstrating HIV/AIDS prevention



Erika Drama group demonstrating how diarrhoea is contacted

OTHER MAIN ACTIVITIES WITHIN 6 MONTHS

Mami En Pikin Welbodi Week in Kambia May 29th - JUNE 1st 2009

The maternal and child health week targets Children aged 0-59 months with different interventions. However, this round does not cover Yellow Fever in Kambia District. Before the campaign, the training was conducted to capacitate vaccinators, supervisors and other health workers involved in the campaign to implement and supervise the activities well

The campaign lasted for 4 days (29th May-1st June

2009) covering the entire district. At the end of the exercise the district was able to achieve over 90% of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) coverage. The National supervisors and the DHMT decided that a two day mopping up exercise be conducted in chiefdoms with low coverage as a result of the trade fair that is usually held in Barmoi. At the end of the exercise the coverage increased to 97%.

Team supervisors were assigned to teams while zonal supervisors were assigned to zones. Coverage achieved for the interventions are as follows:
OPV(97.4%) Vitamin A (97.1%) Mebendazole

(96.9%)
The number of children under five years from Guinea (Cross Boarder) is as follows.
OPV (895) VitaminA(811) Mebendazole (736)



Training of supervisor for Mami En Pikin Welbodi Week



Health Care Providers give polio vaccine to a child during Mami En Pikin Welbodi Week

Capacity Development of DHMT

Ms.Ohno a Japanese short term Expert from JICA was dispatched from November 2008 to March 2009 for strengthening District Health Planning and Health Management Information System

Ms.Tsuruta a Japanese short term Expert from JICA was dispatched on April 2009 and worked with DHMT on how we can strengthen the linkage between PHUs and Communities through the focus group discussions and workshops



Training on Health Planning



Focus Group Discussion at Rokupr Community Health Centre

INTRODUCTION OF HOSPITAL STAFF

INTERVIEW WITH MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. David Fatta Sesay
Medical Superintendent

Qu 2. *Now in Kambia what are some of the major differences you have observed between Kambia Government Hospital and the places you have worked so far?*

Ans: Freetown and Kenema are bigger places with more qualified health personnel; more Doctors, trained nurses, better medical equipments and better electricity supply. The attitude of patient towards treatment is also positive in these areas as in Kambia. Medical personnel have a free will to carry out their duties without much or undue interference.

Qu 3. *What major challenges are you facing? And what mechanism have you put in place to address some of these challenges?*

Ans: The Hospital is faced with the lack of sufficiently trained and qualified staff. To address this problem I am appealing to the MOHS to send more trained and qualified staff, and for the Hospital Board to be holding regular meetings to address the issues affecting the Hospital.

Qu 1. *Before your transfer to Kambia, where have you worked since you graduated as a medical Officer?*

Ans: I have worked at Connaught, Cottage and Kenema Government Hospitals

Qu 4. *Is the Hospital getting any other assistance from other agencies or NGOs rather than MOHS?*

Ans: UNICEF supports the Therapeutic Feeding Center, WFP provides food support and Kambia Appeal assist patients with operations, medical Experts from UK, provides medical equipments and trainings for Traditional Birth Attendants.

Qu 5. *How is the patient turn out since your arrival?*

Ans: The patient turn out was not initially encouraging but now it is improving.

Qu 6. *How is your relationship with the Kambia community?*

Ans: My relationship with the community is very cordially, but I would like to encourage the people to feel free to come to the hospital and ask whatever they are in doubt of for first hand information. I am advising the people of this district to make good use of the medical facilities and report all cases to the Hospital before they get worse.