

FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT ON PORT LOKO DISTRICT HEALTH MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Executive Summary

Sierra Leone has one of the poorest, vulnerable and excluded communities that have little or no access to medical healthcare. The cost to access medical healthcare is huge thus, posed barriers for these communities to access health services especially when most of the health facilities located in a very far distance (mostly 10 kilometers to access health facility).



Medical IMPACT has been contributing significantly on healthcare system in countries around the world. Its intervention towards healthcare system is unique and has the tendency to transform any country's national health system which is why Sierra Leone is requesting for intervention of Medical IMPACT.

In an effort to provide quality coverage and support Port Loko DHMT, improve the health service provided the principal actor, which has been with huge challenges. Medical Impact Sierra Leone is currently working hard to initiate, implementing a comprehensive and quality health deliver services on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. Medical Impact S/L has selected Port Loko District and Kambia District in the North-West region to enhance the effective and efficient health response to preventive and promotive and curative needs of the population.

Benefits will reach DHMT, the population of Port Loko District and improve on the overall health of the state.

The study will last for a day. In the initial stage planning meetings and arrangement for the study was made with the DMO and team. Subsequently discussions with individuals and team are done not extending 3 hours. Analysis and recommendations are made.

Introduction

It is important to depend our understanding of the motives different actors not excluding Medical Impact Sierra Leone (MISL) bring to the Health sector. It is accepted that the principal provider of health care service is the state through the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS). The MOHS taking the lead has made progress in health care delivery which is decentralized regions and Districts. However, there remain flourishing evidence that public Health system face several hurdles in meeting the health needs of the population particularly Port Loko District, Kambia District.

- Prevention of endemic diseases
- Proper Nutrition
- Maternal and child Health care
- Provision of essential drugs to name but a few

It is from this purview that MISL as an actor in provision of free health delivery service in support of the Government of Sierra Leone reasonably select the district mentioned.

FRAME WORK

In a bid to actualize Free and accessible public health delivery in Port Loko as first District Health Management Team (DHMT) to contact, MISL had a communiqué that spelt out the purpose of the visit. Permission was granted and MISL held a review meeting where framework of the feasibility study was set and logistics provided before heading to meet with the DHMT Port Loko which duration last for two days, Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20st 2023.

- MISL met with the Port Loko DHMT on Wednesday 20th December 2023 in a session that last over two hours
- The District Medical Officer (DMO) was represented by the District Health Sister II (DHS II) and the heads of units present include:
 - The Administrative Secretary DHMT
 - The Nutrition unit
 - Training of Traditional Birth Attendance (TBA)
 - Traditional heads

The Focal persons of the MISL three motive thematic killer diseases: HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), and Malaria

Observations and evidence of observed items/activities

- Accommodation was ideal and appreciable
- The DHMT members present were approachable and accommodating. The reception was good
- Respondents were willing, open up and actively participated in the process
- Questions and doubts were clarified by both the MISL and the DHMT except where answers are required from higher authority, and then referrals are made which were few.
- Data collected. Snapshots were made on discussion and buildings.

OUTCOME

- That Port Loko DHMT comprise of 13 chiefdoms of coverage
- One NGO JIPADI is the only organization working on HIV/AIDS
- 65 out of 118 facilities have HIV test structures/units though not readily supplied with test kits and personnel.
- Targeted health personnel with health facts were in attendance not excluding:
 - The District Health Sister (DHS)
 - The Administrative Secretary DHMT
 - The Head of Nutrition Unit DHMT
 - The Malaria Focal Person
 - The HIV/AIDS focal personnel
 - The Tuberculosis (TB) Focal personnel
 - Others

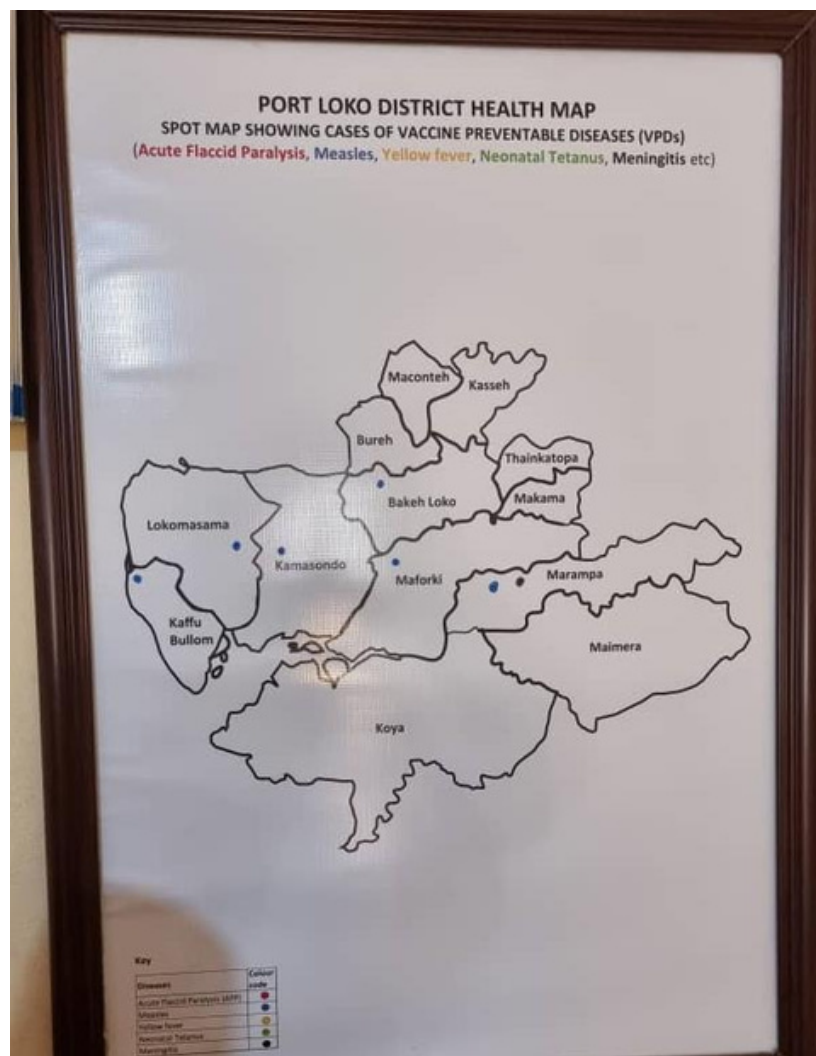
Analysis

- About 118 Peripheral Health Units (PHUs) out of which 65 are scantily equipped with HIV/AIDS Test kits.
- Test kits are not always readily available
- Inadequate PHUs personnel couple with inexperience and lack of expertise in both HIV/AIDS and Malaria test procedures
- Provision of food to client utilizing the health related commodities of TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria is not available.
- It was revealed that supply of food for the clients/patients is key motivating factor to facility user friendly
- Very limited NGOs on health and health related issues/problems that are in operation and only one typically NGO focus their activities on HIV/AIDS. It is limited to testing and supply of drugs in about 65 health facilities.
- One on TB (Leprosy and Tuberculosis program) which limit its activities on testing and drugs supply. Covering, monitoring and follow-up is low.
- Poor data collection on HIV/AIDS
- High rate of denial for HIV/AIDS prevalence still exist.

Recommendations/Predictions

- Actual health survey needed to asses in depth on the current health needs of the Port Loko DHMT
- Challenges and Successes on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria intervention e.g Inadequate bed net supply couple with low and inappropriate use of bed net by the population
- Expand coverage on HIV/AIDS and TB testing and supply of drugs which case recruitment and training of medical Volunteers put on remunerations is required

- Supply of food items/stuff for HIV/AIDS Clients needed as motivator to boost compliance with medication
- Interventions on mass and intensive mobilization, sensitization campaign required urgently.





MEDICAL IMPACT SIERRA LEONE MISL SENSITIZES 50

MEDICAL IMPACT SIERRA LEONE MISL with the motto “ Impacting Live, Prescribing Hope with support from Medical Impact International on Wednesday 13th December, 2023 organized a day’s engagement session with over 50 participants drawn from various civil society organizations, media, schools and institutions in the country. Sheikh Kandeh Kargbo and Sheikh Arun Tarawallie assured participants that they would benefit from the engagement and urged

them to be attentive, participatory and ask questions. Medical Impact Sierra Leone is working in Sierra Leone to address TB, HIV/AIDS and MALARIA. The Chairman of the occasion Mr. Arun Amin Tarawallie in his brief opening statement revealed there are 76,000 people infected with HIV/AIDS in Sierra Leone, highlighted other sickness like hepatitis and appealed to participants to use their smartphones positively to educate themselves underscoring that they would support MISL to actualize its objectives as well as complement the efforts of the Ministry of Health in communities citing malaria and typhoid that are rampant in the country. He furthered that the interactive session is a wakeup call for participants to prioritize health issues, appealed to them to make MISL their business and entreated participants to discuss and proffer local solutions to the prevention and treatment of malaria he concluded that one-hour free airtime would be allocated to MISL to sensitize the people on health related matters reiterating that they would also advocate to government to provide medical services for the people.

Alieu Badara Sesay Country Director of MISL revealed that the organization's headquarter is in Mexico and is operating in other countries worldwide, observed that the health system in Sierra Leone is challenging, the reason for MISL's intervention to advocate for the improved healthcare services and that they are creating the platform for such an opportunity by inviting experts to talk to participants on various health issues as well as train Health Ambassador to sensitize communities about various illnesses and even health policies that must be popularized as well as monitoring the Free healthcare system. He recalled that the Ebola and Covid-19 outbreaks exposed the country's weak healthcare system, quoted the World Malaria Report 2020 as stating that 2,615 people were affected with 6,824 deaths in Sierra Leone and encouraged all to regularly do medical checks and keep their environment clean to prevent malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other illnesses before Medical Impact comes into the country. He furthered pointed out that some people immune to malaria drugs, that South Africa has the highest cases of HIV/AIDS in Africa, underlined that health is wealth. In his conclusion, the Director MISL said the Health Ambassadors would also sensitize communities how to use mosquito bed nets pointing out that

sanitation is poor in most communities, assured that the mission of the organization is to impact the lives of marginalized, forgotten and/or unprotected communities.

Abu Bakarr Koroma Esq., the Information, Education and Communication Officer at the National HIV/AIDS Secretariat revealed that out of every 10 people infected with HIV/AIDS between 8-9 is through sexual intercourse, that other modes of transmission are through blood transfusion, mother-to-child transmission, unprotected sex while the systems are similar to those of malaria and typhoid fever stressing that the best option is to take an HIV/AIDS test which is free in all government hospitals throughout the country. He also informed that there is no cure for HIV/AIDS but that if one takes his/her medications correctly, he/she would live a healthy and long life. MISL's vision underscores the importance of advocacy and education to raise awareness about health issues, empower citizens with knowledge about their rights and the available health services and encourage them to demand improved healthcare quality and accessibility. Also, effective sensitization revolves around the importance of promoting social accountability as a key component of an effective healthcare system as community involvement and awareness are crucial for building a resilient and responsive health infrastructure by fostering social accountability. The organization aims to create a sense of shared responsibility among citizen, healthcare providers and policymakers.

Outcome/Recommendations of Public Engagement

- To continue the engagement and regular campaign on Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and Malaria
- Training of Trainers (TOT) for more public engagement and supports.
- To have Medical Brigades across the country
- Weekly or monthly media programmes
- To have Medical Impact hour on both TV and radio as panel of discussion
- To launch MISL in Sierra Leone
- Establish Medical Impact in learning institutions
- More communities' awareness raising
- Medical Impact Sierra Leone should bring Medical Impact International MII to training and support more health personnel especially on the three areas.
- Capacity Building





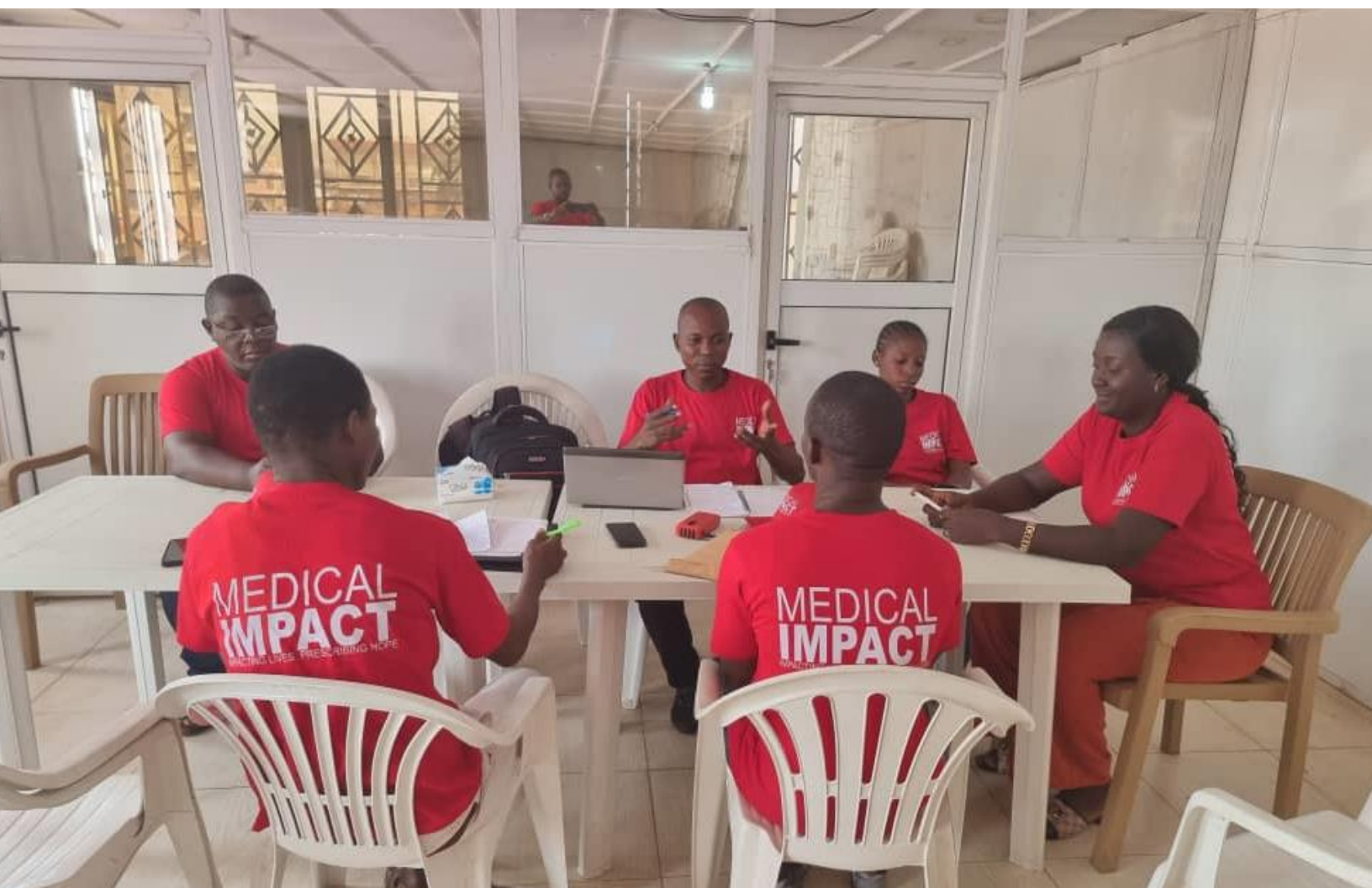
















THE LATE DR. VICTOR MATT LEBBIE
MEMORIAL COMPLEX
KAMARANKA DHMT PORT LOKO

