

NMDHR Trains 40 Community Monitors on FHC Monitoring With support from OSIWA

The Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) with support from Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) over the weekend concluded a two – day training for 40 community monitors in Kailahun district for the free healthcare programme.

Monitors during the two day training

The monitoring and evaluation officer of NMDHR, Nabieu Kamara said the aim of the training was to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of the free healthcare scheme in Kissi Tongi, Kissi Teng, Kissi Kama and Luawa chiefdoms in Kailahun district. He said the FHC policy was implemented in a bid to abolish user fees in the health facilities across the country, especially for children under-five, lactating mothers, and pregnant women. Kamara said the training was geared towards increasing community participation in the implementation of the free healthcare and to ensure a better collaboration between the health sector and communities.

He further urged communities to be watchdog in the implementation of the FHC because any irregularities in the Free Healthcare programme would affect the targeted beneficiaries.

Kamara said that the 40 community monitors trained would monitor 28 peripheral Health Units (PHUs) in their four operational areas.

The chairman of people with disability in Kailahun District, Sellu Njiawa said approximately 2,000 disable persons across the district have been denied access to the FHC programme in the district. He said last year the minister of Health and Sanitation, Dr Abubakarr Fofanah, visited the district and showed the new policy that incorporated people living with disability into the free healthcare programme. He said that it was heart rending for them to visit health facilities and be told that there are no drugs at the PHUs across the

district. "We have been marginalized as the ministry has failed to keep to their words" he said. The chairman urged the ministry to look into their issues. Njiawa said that the skills they have acquired during the training would be passed on to other members