

## **NMDHR LAUNCHING BASELINE LINE REPORT IN KAILAHUN DISTRICT**

The Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) through support from Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) has over the weekend launched a baseline survey report on the implementation of the project title; **community monitoring for accountable and effective service delivery in the health sector** in the following four chiefdoms Luawa, Kissi Tongi, Kissi Teng, and Kissi Kama in Kailahun District. The report was launched and shared with cross section of healthcare personnel at the District Health Management Team (DHMT), councillors, paramount chief representatives, section chiefs and social mobilizers, World health Organization (WHO) representative and members of the civil societies within the scope of the project.

The National Coordinator for the Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) **Mr. Abdul Karim Habib**, said the study was conducted in December 2016 in four chiefdoms i.e. Luawa, Kissi Teng, Kissi Tongi and Kissi Kama chiefdoms under OSIWA supported grant; “Community Monitoring for Accountable and Effective Service Delivery in the Health Sector”. He said one of the key project objectives is to improve the quality of public service in the health sector, i.e. to ensure that communities hold duty holders to account for their actions and inactions, and increase communities active participation in public health service delivery. The project is focuses on the Free Health Care Initiative (FHCI) implemented by the Government of Sierra Leone in conjunction with donor partners. He further stated one of the components of the project is the conduction of a baseline assessment that will result in the development of baseline data that will give an insight into the status quo with regards the FHCI implementation in the project communities. Having pictured the situation of (FHCI) in the project locations NMDHR hope to share findings with stakeholders and help identify shortfalls for prescription of measures that will lead to an improvement in the healthcare situation of the communities, and in particular the socio-economic situation of rural women in the project communities. The specific objectives of the survey were: **to generate information on knowledge of FHCI; access to FHCI; barriers toward accessing FHCI; ways to effectively monitor the initiative, and generate statistics that can serve as a baseline to measure progress in the project communities.**

The survey was conducted in four chiefdoms (Kissi Teng, Kissi Kama, Kissi Tongi and Luawa) of Kailahun district in Sierra Leone. The survey population consisted of beneficiaries of the FHCI, TBAs (Traditional Births Attendants), CHOs (Community Health Officers), Traditional Leaders and local council authorities. A descriptive design and quantitative research methods were used to conduct the study. Multi-stage random sampling was used for the study and the sample size was 200. Each village accounted for 10 respondents making up 50 respondents per

chiefdom. Primary data was sourced directly from respondents using a structured questionnaire and secondary was sourced from the FHCI policy and publications of stakeholders.

The sister for the District Health Management Team (DHMT) **Sister Sylvia Khobbie** applauded the Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) for their resilient effort by conducting a study in such a critical sector in the country. She emphasized that the health sector is such important sector which needs quality partners with pro efficient track records that will add value to the implementation of national health policies in the district and she also urged NMDHR to strive hard to scale up their operations in the district as the district is made up of fourteen chiefdoms and NMDHR is only targeting four out of the fourteen chiefdoms in the district, she therefore said, she wished to see a situation where NMDHR will at least cover up to 90 percent of the chiefdoms in the district which will make a very big impact in the district regarding the Free Healthcare Initiative in the district. She finally said the baseline report among other things done by NMDHR has given them a very big boost to work with them and the DHMT will ensure that they have a better working relationship with NMDHR in order to reach out to healthcare beneficiaries in the Kailahun District.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Manager of the DHMT **Mr. Morlai Kamara**, said the M&E unit will work with the monitors across the four chiefdoms to ensure that they have access to information that will give them whatever result they would want in the future as he said the key objective of the project implementation is to see facilitate the monitoring aspect of the free healthcare drug distribution. He said as partners are coming onboard to help the DHMT in the implementation of national policies in the health sector their responsibility as stakeholders in the district is to see that the right thing is done as he said there are numerous challenges in the implementation of the free healthcare implementation. He further alleged that as he speaks there are a lot of expired drugs at the logistic officer due to late arrival of drugs to the district but if partners are coming to do advocacy on the issue of drug distributions we believe it will be impacted positively in the district and the country as a whole he said.