



## Measles Partnership Ends Advocacy Mission to Mobilize Local Resources



The First Lady (left) and the team



WHO Representative & the Mission



MOHS Officials led by Chief Medical Officer

The World Health Organization and the United Nations Foundation undertook a joint mission to Sierra Leone as part of the measles partnership advocacy. The objectives of the mission were to raise awareness among local authorities and partners on the Measles Initiative and the current challenges for achieving the measles pre-elimination goal in Africa by 2012, assess preparedness for the campaign and make recommendations for acceleration of activities and support local resource mobilization to finance part of the operational costs of the campaign. The team comprised of the Executive Director of the UN Foundation and the Measles focal point at the WHO Inter-country Support Team in W/Africa.

The team held briefing sessions with the senior management of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the First Lady of Sierra Leone and representatives of development partners, the private sector and civil society organizations. The team had a fruitful discussion and has achieved its objective of raising the awareness of local partners and their commitments. They have expressed that the country's preparation is on track although much more need to be done to ensure success. The campaign is scheduled for 25-30 May 2012, targeting children 9-59 months in Sierra Leone and would be integrated with the maternal and child health week. The goal is to immunize at least 95% of the target age group.

It is to be recalled that Sierra Leone has successfully conducted a catch up campaign in 2003 and two follow-up campaigns in 2006 and 2009. The global measles partnership will fully cover cost of vaccines and contributes half of the operational cost of the campaign. The remaining half will be funded from locally generated resources.



MoHS and the team with representative of a Private sector