

Sierra Leone Prepares for First Round 2012 Polio National Immunization Days Campaign



Orientation of civil members

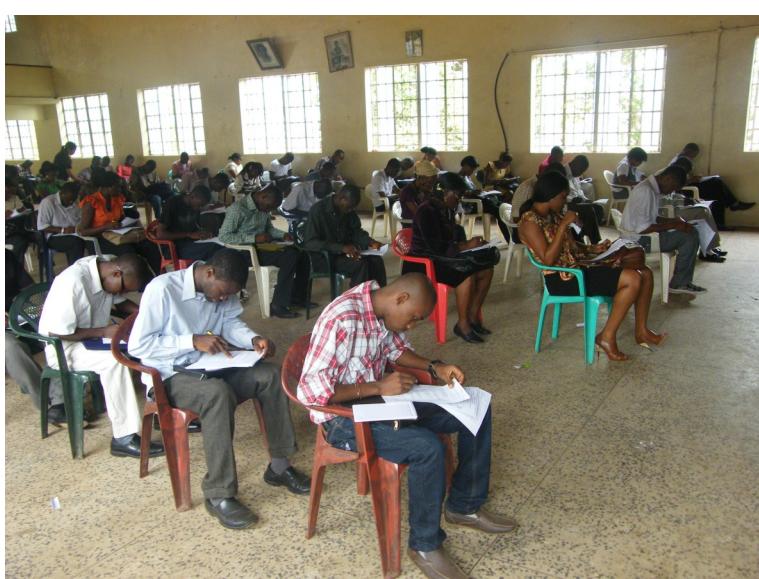


National supervisor orientation

Preparation leading to the implementation of the first round of 2012 polio National Immunisation Days (NIDs) Campaign are on-going in Sierra Leone. Chiefdom level micro-plannings have been completed and compiled at district and national levels; and orientation of civil society groups, training of National Supervisors, Independent Monitors and the media have been done. The trainings would be rolled out to the districts and chiefdom levels with the objective to ensure quality training of vaccinators and to increase participation of community stakeholders. Social mobilisation activities are also underway at different levels to improve the awareness of parents and care givers about the upcoming campaign.

It is to be recalled that the WHO Executive Board declared polio as a global health emergency during its January 2012 meeting and requested countries to do what it takes to get the job of eradication done by interrupting polio transmission. As part of that effort, Sierra Leone will conduct the first round of NIDs from 23-26 March 2012. The campaign will be synchronised with other countries in the West African Sub-region. The country is targeting to protect an estimated 1.3 million children across the nationwide during this campaign. A house-to-house strategy will be used by vaccinators to administer the oral polio vaccine.

WHO and UNICEF together with other partners are supporting the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) to coordinate the campaign. WHO and UNICEF have also made available the vaccine and other necessary logistics to MoHS for effective implementation of the campaign.



Pre-test at Independent Monitors training



Media briefing