NUPHA AND WORLD VISION TRAINS 50 ON DISASTER SURVEILLANCE

A five-day disaster surveillance and environmental emergency management training of trainers (ToT) workshop jointly organized by the Njala University Public Health Association (NUPHA) and World Vision-Bo Base has commenced at the School of Community Health Sciences, Njala University in Bo. The workshop which targeted senior level personnel from both the private and public sectors saw more than fifty participants being taught in key areas such as the conceptual causes, effects, types and phases of disasters, disaster and public health risk assessment, field investigation of epidemic outbreak, climate change and its human impact, Environmental, Social, and Health Impact Assessment, Emerging Diseases and Tropical Infections, and Disaster Preparedness and Planning.

According to the Chairman of the workshop Dr. Bashiru M Koroma who is the Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences Njala University the workshop is very timely considering the rapid occurrences of both natural and man-made disasters in the world these days. Dr. Koroma noted that it is always better to plan for a disaster than to wait until it occur and then put in place mitigating measures. The Dean stressed the need for disaster risk mapping in Sierra Leone but lamented the lack of data relating to disasters in the country.

Presenting his statement the Base Manager World Vision Bo-Base, Mr Mattia Koi Demoh lauded the effort of NUPHA for hosting the workshop and noted that disaster surveillance and environmental emergencies are issues taking very serious in World Vision. Mr Koi Demoh said World Vision is always pleased to partner with NUPHA and to fund the association’s projects. He urged the workshop participants to transmit the information and message they will get from the workshop. Dr Alabi who represented the Head of Department of Environmental Health Sciences told the participants that the frequent occurrence of disasters these days is a cause for concern while opining that as a public health-oriented academic association NUPHA should continue to sensitize and raise the awareness of community members on issues relating to disaster surveillance and environmental emergency management.

In his vote of thanks, the Special Director of NUPHA, Mr. Jia Kangbai told the gathering that the workshop is a product of long collaborative effort between the association and environmental experts in World Vision-Bo base. Kangbai thanked World Vision for providing the funds for the training and urged other local partners to follow the example of World Vision. Statements were also made by the Focal Person of the National AIDS Secretariat in Bo Mr. Thaim Kargbo and Mrs. Susan Manyeh who was representing Restless Development.
NUPHA Executive President Mrs Isata Mando delivering a lecture on disaster management

A female Sierra Leone Police officer asking a question on emerging diseases
Mr Gabriel Gbani-HoD Dept of Nursing Njala University delivering a lecture on emerging and tropical infection

Power point come by Mr Abubakra Kamara during his come on public health officers roles during disaster