



United States Mission Sierra Leone
Public Affairs Office

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**United States Government Donates
Specialty Medicines to Strengthen Health Services for Ebola Survivors**

On June 28th, 2018, U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone Maria E. Brewer gave opening remarks during a hand-over ceremony of 19 categories of specialized medicines worth \$ 215,000 to support the emerging needs and medical care for Ebola survivors. These medicines are a donation from the United States government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The ceremony took place at the University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospital Complex – Connaught Hospital (USLTHC) and underscored the United States government’s support for the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) health system strengthening efforts during the post-Ebola recovery period.

The United States Government donation of medicines to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation is a symbol of our greater commitment to promoting and supporting the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA). GHSA provides an innovative, pro-active approach to prevent, detect and respond to future disease outbreaks.

The medicines will be available in 20 hospitals nationwide to populations covered under the Sierra Leone government Free Health Care Initiative. These medicines will help treat a number of medical conditions experienced by Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) survivors, which are also common among the general Sierra Leone population, such as: eye care, mental health and neurology, ear, nose and throat conditions, and joint pain.

Overall U.S. government investments in the health sector, contribute directly to the new Government of Sierra Leone priorities as outlined in the New Direction – One Country, One People with a focus on Strengthening Service Delivery and Expanding and Improving Free Health Care to vulnerable populations. More specifically, by making these specialty medicines available, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation can improve access to specialized care at the national and district levels, which is expected, in the long-term, to strengthen the referral system between primary health care and hospitals.

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