

**Embracing a Healthier Future in Sierra Leone
Fellow Sierra Leoneans,**

As we embark on the promising journey of 2024, I extend my heartfelt greetings to each one of you.

Let us bid farewell to the challenges of the past and welcome the myriad opportunities that lie ahead. Together, as a united country, we possess the collective power to envision a Sierra Leone that is not only healthier but also resilient a nation where public health thrives, and society flourishes, even in the face of adversities.

Our shared aspiration is to position Sierra Leone as a pioneering hub for public health, ensuring the safety and well-being of all its citizens. In the upcoming year, I warmly invite everyone, including our dedicated ministries, various departments and agencies, invaluable partners, communities, and the media, to come together in the noble pursuit of a healthier Sierra Leone. Let us collaboratively construct a robust and inclusive healthcare system, leaving no one behind.

Your unwavering support, active engagement, and steadfast commitment to prioritizing health will serve as the driving force propelling us towards success.

Together, let us embrace unity, resilience, and compassion as we navigate this transformative journey. May the New Year usher in a wave of good health, joy, and prosperity for you and your loved ones.

Wishing you all a joyful New Year!
With warm regards,
Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr
Executive Director,
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Health for All!



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**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY
(NPHA)**



HAND BOOK



Cross Section of NPHA Board Members and Leadership

20th February, 2024

National Public Health Agency

12.(1) The former Directorate of Health Securities and Emergency in the Ministry Public, Health shall be a body Corporate which to be known as the National Public Agency Health Agency (hereinafter referred to as NPHA).

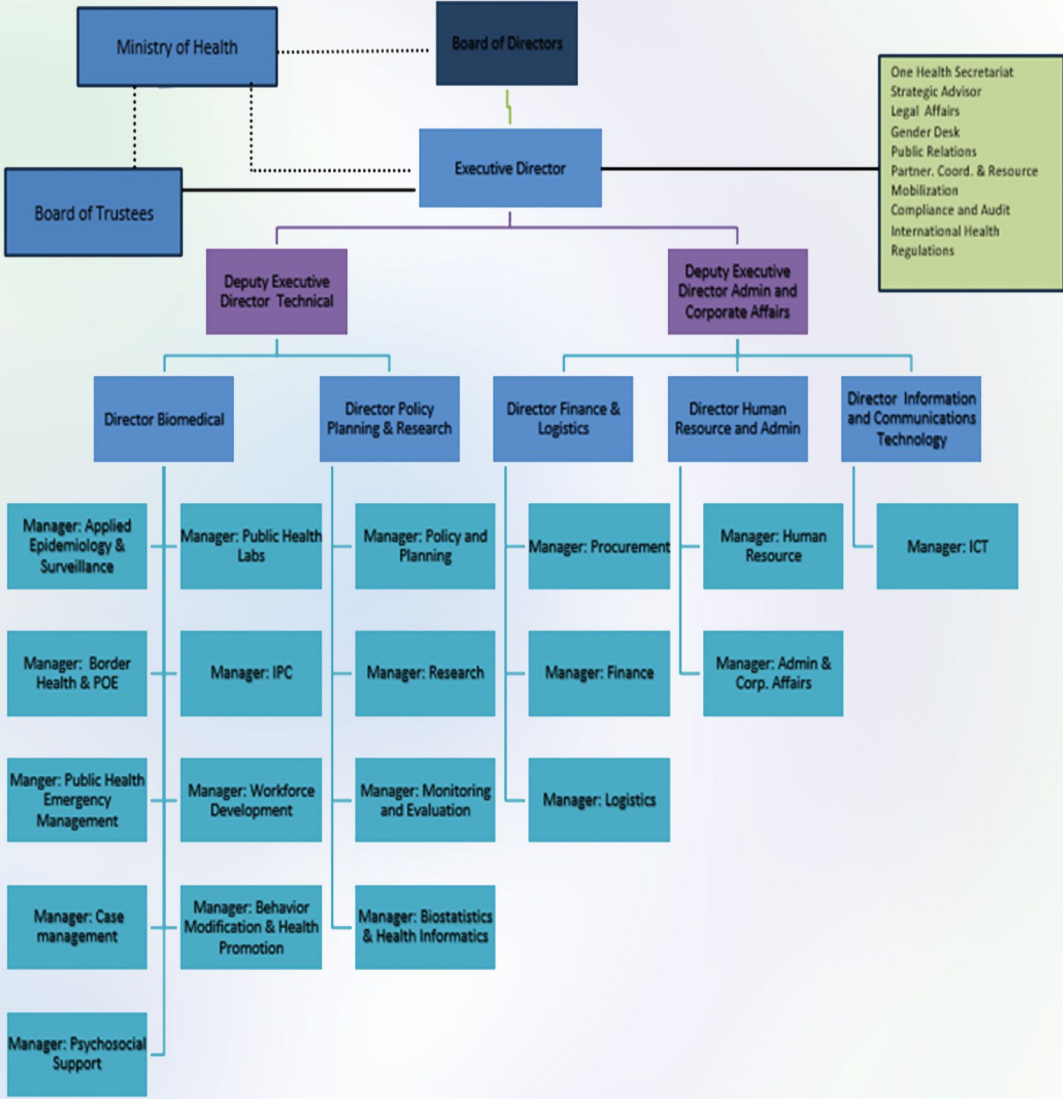
(2) The National Public Health Agency shall be governed by a Board consisting of a Chairman, appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Minister, from among persons of the highest calibre of personal integrity and demonstrated professional knowledge and experience in public health and matters related to the functions of the Agency, subject to the approval of Parliament and the following other members -

- (a) the Chief Medical Officer;
- (b) the Permanent Secretary;
- (c) the Financial Secretary;
- (d) 4 persons with professional knowledge and each having not less than 10 years' experience respectively in –
 - (i) pandemic preparedness and response;
 - (ii) veterinary, wildlife and livestock;
 - (iii) environment
 - (iv) finance and administration; and
 - (v) human resource management.
- (e) the Executive Director of the Agency who will serve as Secretary to the Board and a nonvoting member.

(3) The Agency shall be responsible to –

- (a) predict, plan for and prevent endemic public health problems;
- (b) prepare and respond to public health emergencies;
- (c) predict, prevent, detect, respond and control disease in a timely manner;
- (d) strengthen and upgrade the public health system at national, regional and local government level;

National Public Health Agency Structure



- (c) preventing the spread of infection by means of a vessel, aircraft or vehicle leaving Sierra Leone, so far as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of carrying out a treaty, convention, arrangement or engagement with any other country; and
- (d) the vaccination and immunization of persons against epidemic, endemic or infectious diseases and for the proper regulation and control of vaccination and immunization
- (e) signals to be displayed by vessel, aircraft or vehicle having on board a case of epidemic, endemic, or infectious disease;
- (f) questions to be answered by masters, pilots, and other persons on board a vessel, aircraft to vehicle as to cases of such disease on board during the voyage or journey or on arrival
- (g) detention of a vessel, aircraft or vehicle and of persons on board thereof;
- (h) duties to be performed in cases of epidemic, endemic, or infectious disease by masters, pilots and other persons on board vessels aircraft or vehicles;
 - (i) charges to be made in respect of service rendered under these rules and the recovery and disposal of such charges;
 - (j) penalties for infringement of these rules

Transitional Provisions

111. (1) Upon the date of coming into operation of this Act the former Emergency Operation Centre shall be dissolved and –

- (a) all assets and liabilities, including agreements and to which the former Emergency Operation Centre was a party shall be transferred to and vest in the Agency without further assurance and the Agency shall have all powers necessary to take possession of, recover and deal with such assets and discharge such liabilities;

- (e) conduct research, collect, collate and analyse data to better public health challenges and come up with answers to public health problems;
- (f) direct and coordinate all groups of actors in a public health emergency; and
- (g) ensure that Sierra Leone is compliant with the International Health Regulations.

(4) The Agency shall have an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the President on recommendation of the Minister subject to approval by Parliament from amongst persons of high integrity having qualifications not below a Master's Degree in Public Health and at least 10 years' experience in senior management position in the public health

(5) The Agency shall establish such departments or Divisions headed by a Director appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Executive Director, as maybe necessary for the effective performance of its functions including, a Technical and Operational Services Department, Planning, Policy and Research Department, Finance and Administration Department and Internal Audit Department.

(6) The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Board for –

- (a) the day-to-day administration and management of the Agency;
- (b) Overseeing the activities of the Departments or Divisions of the Agency;
- (c) the formulation and execution of operational policies, programmes and plans relating to the functions of the Agency as may be approved by the Board;
- (d) the supervision and discipline of other employees of the Agency;
- (e) preparing and submitting operational reports and plans;
- (f) preparing the annual budget and the timely submission of financial reports;

- (g) preparing the agenda, recording and maintaining minutes of the meetings of the Board;
- (h) performing such other duties as the Board may determine.

(7) The Board shall, on the recommendation of the Executive Director, -

- (a) appoint such other staff of the Agency, as maybe necessary for the performance of the functions of the Agency, on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine;
- (b) engage the services of professionals, consultants or advisers as may be necessary for the performance of the functions of the Agency;

(8) Public Officers may, at the instance of the Agency, be seconded or otherwise render assistance to the Authority but the Agency may request the withdrawal of seconded staff unable to carry out assigned functions in a manner satisfactory to the Agency.

(9) The activities of the Agency shall be financed by funds consisting of -

- (a) monies appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of the Agency;
and
- (b) grants, gifts or donations from persons or organizations for the purposes of the Agency.
- (c) The management of the funds is within the ambit of the The National Public Health Agency Board provided for in Sub-section (1) of this Section.

Public Health Emergency Response Fund

13.(1) There is hereby established, a fund to be known as the Public Health Emergency Response Fund shall be financed by subventions from Government; gifts, donations and grants from persons or organisation for the purposes of the fund and shall be applied exclusively for addressing public emergency response.

(2) The management of the Fund will be entrusted in a Board of Trustees which shall have powers to –

- (a) maintain, manage or invest monies in the Fund;
- (b) act as trustees of monies or other property vested in the Fund.

(3) The Board of Trustees shall comprise of the Chairman of the Board, the Financial Secretary, the Chief Medical Officer, the Executive Director and one other member of the National Public Health Agency Board

(4) The exercise of the powers of the Board of Trustees under paragraph (2) shall be regulated and supervised by the Minister and for that purpose the Executive Director shall submit a plan of proposed activities for the approval of the Minister.

Minister may Appoint Health Authorities

15. (1) The Minister may, on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer, appoint a person or body of persons to be the Health Authority for a health Area: Provided that the National Public Health Agency shall be the Health Authorities Authority for a Port Health Area

Regulations.

109. (1) The Minister may by statutory instrument make Regulations as it considers necessary or expedient for giving effect to this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding the generality of subsection the Minister may, make Regulations for the whole or any part of Sierra Leone for all or any of the following purposes –

- (a) the treatment of persons affected with an epidemic, endemic or infectious disease and for preventing the spread of such diseases;
- (b) preventing danger to public health from a vessel, aircraft or vehicle arriving in Sierra Leone