

## 1. Story of Change

Provide one significant story of change, using the template below. More information on how to complete the template can be found in Annex 1.

### **Introduction**

The problem of moving from one health facility to the another to preserve the vaccine for the immunization of the under-five children in Gbeika CHC in ward 23 was addressed by providing a freezer to the facility by The DHMT in Kailahun district through the collective effort of the ward development committee members, the facility management committee, the councillor, the health in charges and some local authorities.

### **The challenge**

The Gbeika CHC staff used to move to another Health facility to preserve the vaccines for the immunization of the under five children which was a challenge to both the Health staff and the facility management committee. This posed a serious challenge to service providers because they cover a long distance to preserve the vaccines in another health center. The centre does not have mobility to transport the vaccines to the health centre, so they pay high cost of transport fair for vaccines to be kept and sometimes they walk on foot which reduces the efficiency of labour of health workers during community outreach.

### **The intervention**

Participants in the development of the ward action plan identified the lack of no freezer at the Gbeika CHC. this was captured in the ward action plan for ward 23. During Restless Development engagement on action plans development. Communities within ward 23 pointed out that the health facility does not have a freezer to preserve the vaccines for immunization against polio and other dreadful diseases. SEND-SL SABI staff guided and supported the WDCs, FMCs, health incharges, and key ward stakeholders during the ward action plan development to map out government pathways for sustainable solution. The action plan development meeting enabled the ward stakeholders to change their mindset for collective development. To ensure that all hands are on deck, they agreed that service providers and ward/chiefdom stakeholders should meet quarterly/monthly to discuss the challenges the service providers faced on service delivery and discussed the action points implementation so that progress or challenges could be tracked and plan for the next steps. The mentorship and coordination of responsible persons to engage

the duty bearers at ward and district levels led to the intervention of the district medical health team (DHMT). They sent the needs assessment team to Gbeika CHC and Bandajuma Kpolihun CHP. The assessment feedback to DHMT resulted to the provision of a freezer to the Gbeka CHP to boost service delivery in the ward.

### **The wider context**

The DHMT and the council find it difficult to allocate and distribute the limited resources available especially in an environment where there is high level of awareness for and increased in demand for basic services. The Freezer being a composite that enhanced effective and efficient service delivery system is limited in supply which makes service delivery system challenging at Gbeika. The population statistics 2019 for Gbeika CHC is 6,567, 70% of the population are women and children coupled with high birth rate amplified the challenges faced by service providers which urged the WDCs and other ward stakeholders to report to the DHMT and the district council about the lack of a freezer to preserve the vaccine at the Gbeika CHC. The worked closely with the DHMT to ensure that they respond to this pressing issue, several government pathways were identified by the WDCs and other participants during the development of the ward action plan. The WDCs and other responsible persons engaged the local authorities together with the health in charge for collective implementation of the action points. They also initiated the idea for the health in charge, the WDCs and local authorities to meet every quarter to discuss the problems affecting service delivery system in the ward and identified ways to overcome them. In addition, the WDCs and other responsible persons engaged the councillor to discuss the implications of the problem and craved for his support and engagement at district level. They also engaged the chieftom health supervisor for him to capture that in the monthly reports and appeal to DHMT for their intervention. Also the councillor dialogue with the DHMT and the district council during the district monthly council meetings which involves all local and international development partners operating within Kailahun district. According to the councillor Sannoh, DHMT and council responded that resources were not available prior at that time, but they assured that the problem will be addressed when resources are available. According to the WDC Henry Luseni of Gbeika community, during the WDCs monthly meetings, they also included the problem in their report and submitted to the councillor for onward submission to the district council. Being that the health incharges were part of the responsible person to ensure that DHMT and council provide a

freezer for the health center. They were charged with the responsibility of reporting every month in DHMT reporting form.

### **The change (result)**

As a result of the continuous follow up visit and engagement with the DHMT and the district council by the WDCs and the ward stakeholders on the lack of a freezer at the Gbeika CHC ward 23 in Jahn Chiefdom The DHMT sent an assessment team to capture the reality on the ground and later provided the center with a freezer to preserve the vaccines for Gbeika and the catchment communities, the health workers no longer cover the mileage they used to for vaccines to be kept in another health center. They now reserve their labour to reach out to more pregnant women, lactating mothers and under-five's.

There is an increase in the rate of the ANC attendance from 74 in July to 93 in August (Gbeika CHC ANC visit chat, 2019), because the vaccines are kept in the hospitals and they can be administered at any given time needed. The money used to transport vaccines can be used to address other issues or saved to improve on the service delivery concerns of the people.



Gbeika hospital incharge Isata Vandy during follow up visit to track progress on action plan implementation on 16th September 2019.

## Conclusions

The level of awareness on SABI concepts and mentorship of WDCs and other responsible persons on action plan follow up and implementation has made a significant improvement in addressing problems in ward 23. The fact that the WDCs and other structures are now working collectively with service providers and also dialoguing with public service providers for basic service delivery packages shows that there is prospect for WDCS and other entities to continue using SABI concepts to model and solve problems on health education and social protection even when SABI shall have ended.

## Looking forward

Staff will continue to monitor and track progress on the action and will encourage the WDCs and ward/chiefdom stakeholders to model SABI ideas to embark on other development.

## References

The following actors ensured that the action points were implemented in accordance with SABI concepts: Isata Vandy Gbeika hospital incharge, WDC henry Luseni, Councillor Bockarie Sannoh of ward 23, PWD Hawah Gbongboteh, WDC Christpher Kovoma etc