

Evaluation of the Project  
“Improvement of Mother and Child Health in Serabu Community Hospital,  
Catholic Diocese Bo- Sierra Leone – 2015-2017”  
Financed by Kindermissionswerk, Aachen



Mrs Kadiatu James, Supervisor of the Serabu Community Hospital  
Dr Eva Grabosch, Paediatric, and Public Health Consultant

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## Summary

An evaluation of the performance and outcome of the project of Serabu Community Hospital “**Improvement of Mother and Child Health in Serabu Community Hospital, Catholic Diocese Bo - Sierra Leone**” was carried out between 18.7.2017 - 5.8.2017. The project is financed by *Kindermissionswerk* (KMW) and implemented through the hospital in cooperation with *German Doctors* since 2014.

The hospital supervisor Mrs Kadiatu James agreed to be co-evaluator.

A mix of methods was applied: Document, material and equipment review, questionnaires, field visits to the communities, visits to other hospitals and the District Office, focus group discussions as well as key informant interviews.

The evaluation results confirm that the hospital is well functioning and serving the local population. Increasing utilisation rates are a consequence. Community members and patients praise the good services for mothers and children.

Training of Community Health Officers (CHOs) by specialists from *German Doctors* is highly appreciated by the hospital management and the community. There are now the first trained CHOs in surgery and anaesthetics who take over full responsibility for their respective subjects. Other staff members trained are nurses, nursing aids, midwives, and health workers from peripheral health units.

While the quality of care in respect to clinical service is high, there are still big challenges concerning the logistics of the hospital. Lack of a central storing place leads to material scattered everywhere which is making effective cleaning very difficult. Severe hygiene problems are resulting in the paediatric ward especially in the raining season, when the ward regularly is overcrowded.

The objective of strengthening preventive activities for mothers and children was achieved only partly: As planned the staff of 60 Primary Health Units, PHUs was invited for several trainings. The referral system from PHUs to the hospital for delivery service in emergencies was strengthened and functions well. Community talks were given by radio.

However, the Under 5 unit (U5), a governmental PHU in the hospital compound, could not be reached sufficiently with supervisory activities due to resistance of some staff members. A number of deficiencies were detected not only in this unit but also during the outreach activities performed by the same team.

Sierra Leone is and will remain for quite some time “a donor driven country”, as one of the CHOs said. For Serabu Hospital, first steps are made to become “the driver”. The hospital has a motivated management and some very experienced specialised CHOs. The management will try to find and employ a local doctor as Superintendent and it is going to develop a strategy for the future without foreign participation.

Financially, however, they remain dependent on foreign resources as long as the church is not considered as a cost-sharing partner of the government. The restructuring of CHASL as well as the intention to form a catholic health association may improve the position of the church in this respect.

At present, however, it is recommended to *Kindermissionswerk* (KMW) to continue financing the running costs and the training activities of Serabu Community Hospital. Additional support by the government and/or donors is necessary for urgently needed investments: rehabilitation of the whole hospital as well as building extensions for paediatrics, newborns and labour ward.

Possibilities for a broader training approach (training of CHOs in paediatrics) will be evaluated in cooperation with the bishop’s conference and the government of Sierra Leone. *German Doctors* could send one paediatrician with one-year contract, who – as *German Doctors’* coordinator – could assist in such negotiations. At the same time, he/she could help the hospital management to reorganize the U5 clinic and the community work.