



SAIDU FOFANAH

CHAMPS Community-Led Approach Helps Local Communities Undertake Initiatives to Address Child Deaths

Saidu Fofanah is the local chief of Mayanka-2 community in Bombali district, northern Sierra Leone. Reflecting on the influence of CHAMPS activities in his community, Saidu revealed that before CHAMPS, pregnant women and children relied on traditional herbal medicines when sick. He said, they believed that witches were responsible for the deaths of their children.

According to Saidu, this perception changed with the introduction of CHAMPS activities in their community. They immediately joined to raise awareness on the importance of attending regular antenatal clinics during pregnancy, and exclusive breastfeeding for six months.

Saidu disclosed that his community has introduced byelaws to discourage use of traditional herbs, ensure early referrals of critical cases to clinics or hospitals especially for lactating mothers.



ABOUT CHAMPS

CHAMPS [Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance] is a global network that aims to provide timely and accurate tracking of infectious and preventable causes of stillbirths and under-five deaths. CHAMPS uses minimally-invasive tissue sampling [MITS], advanced laboratory testing, verbal autopsy and clinical records abstractions for the Determination of the Causes of Death [DeCoDe] through a local and international panel of experts.

DATA TO ACTION

CHAMPS Data to Action is an innovative community- and facility-driven strategy that CHAMPS employs to reduce stillbirths and under-five deaths. CHAMPS transforms data into action and ensures sustainable changes in policies, and health interventions to accelerate improvements in child health at local, national, and international levels.



“ They have done this through acquiring knowledge in training and workshops about basic public health messages on the immediate and underlying causes of deaths in children.

Saidu Fofanah



CHAMPS SIERRA LEONE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



CHAMPS

Volume 1 No. 3 - 10/05/2024

MAJOR CAUSES OF STILLBIRTHS & UNDER-FIVE DEATHS

Causes of **Perinatal** Deaths

- Perinatal Asphyxia/Hypoxia
- Neonatal Preterm Birth Complications
- Neonatal Sepsis
- Congenital Birth Defects
- Congenital Infections
- Meningitis/Encephalitis

Causes of **Under-Five** Deaths

- Malaria
- Malnutrition
- Anaemia
- Sepsis
- Lower Respiratory Infections
- HIV

Maternal Causes of Stillbirths & Neonatal Deaths

- Placental Complications
- Maternal Hypertension
- Obstructed Labor and Foetal Malpresentation
- Multiple Gestation

CHAMPS HOTLINES



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