



SUCCEED

INCLUSIVE MENTAL HEALTH
RESEARCH & CARE IN AFRICA



UNIVERSITY OF MAKENI, MAKENI, SIERRA LEONE

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR DR. REBECCA ESLIKER

Dear Friends,

SUCCEED is a 6-year research project. SUCCEED means Support Comprehensive Care and Empowerment for People with Psychosocial Disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa. Two years ago, SUCCEED Sierra Leone became part of five countries and five Universities consortium (4 in Africa and one in the UK) These countries in Africa are Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Malawi and Zimbabwe and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medication UK.

However, SUCCEED Sierra Leone like other countries have three work streams, these includes Communication and Uptake, Research, and Capacity building. All these work streams collaborate to achieve results (To achieve the aims and objectives of SUCCEED Project.)

This report covers a range of activities from the operational years 2021 and 2022. In this report you will find links and photos explaining what was achieved/done in the years under review.

SUCCEED SL participated in the webinar on the 10th October 2021 . The outcome was positive as the team were over excited to join the world to celebrate such a global event.

In the year 2021 SUCCEED held 2 radio discussion programs at Hope FM 93.3 in Makeni. Over the course of the 6 years, SUCCEED Africa aims to understand the holistic needs of persons living with psychosis (not just health care needs), to develop a package of interventions, and to evaluate their impact. If such interventions are effective, we hope to share our findings with local services and governments with the hopes of implementing such interventions in the future.

Dr. Rebecca Esliker, Principal Investigator, SUCCEED Sierra Leone

NEWSLETTER

April 2021 -JULY 2022

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[2C4ZSng&s=08](https://twitter.com/SUCCEEDAfrika/status/15247356927785524736?t=_UTXqtpYUnz64Cx2Cx2C4ZSng&s=08)

THE SUCCEED LAUNCH

On the 8th of April 2021 SUCCEED Sierra Leone was officially launched. The launching ceremony took place at the University of Makeni, SUCCEED Office. LAG members across the country attended the launch. Senior staff of the University of Makeni attended the official launching ceremony too. SUCCEED Official launching ceremony was covered by the Awoko Newspaper.(Link: <https://awokonewspaper.sl/university-of-makeni-unimak-launches-succeed-Sierra-Leone-project>)



THE SECOND LAG MEETING

The second LAG meeting was held on 10th September 2021 six months after the first LAG meeting. LAG members comprised of people from different institutions across the country relating to the project. 20 LAG members and senior staff of the University attended the meeting. All work streams participated in the meeting.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The principal investigator, Dr. Rebecca Esliker won an award, she is one of the awardees for the 50 most influential women in leadership award in Sierra Leone. Dr. Esliker is the current Principal Investigator in SUCCEED Sierra Leone. She is also the current Head of Department for Clinical Psychology. She dedicated her entire life in Mental Health in Sierra Leone.



MEETING WITH THE VICE CHANCELLOR



On the 21st March 2022 a team from Nigeria and UK paid a courtesy call to the senior Officials of the University of Makeni. The team comprise of professor Olayinka of Ibadan University, Dr. Raheem Abdulrahman from Ibadan Nigeria and Rachael Green from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The team from Sierra Leone includes the Vice Chancellor of Unimak Professor Joseph Turay, Director of Academic Affairs Rev. Fr. Dr. George Gbamanja, Director of Finance and Administration

Rev. Fr. Benjamin Sesay ,Head of International and Project Office Mercy Mwaura, SUCCEED Project Manager and grant manager catholic diocese of Makeni Shaza Dous and SUCCEED PI Dr. Rebecca Esliker. The team was there to update the senior Management of UNIMAK on the purpose of their visit to SUCCEED Sierra Leone and explore the possibility of further collaboration

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The communication and work stream engaged the communities within SUCCEED project operation areas. The programs were hosted on Hope Radio FM 93.3 IN Makeni. All work streams were present in each radio discussion program, in order to enhance

contributions of other work streams in the Project. The first radio discussion was held on the 7th of July 2021. The second radio discussion program was held on the 9th September 2021 marking the commemoration of the World Mental Health Day. All work streams showed the of level commitment. Professor Olayinka, Esther Moses Kamara and Rachael Green interviewed the National Mental Health Coordinator Mrs. Kadiatu Savage in Freetown.



This is a cross border activity. The interview focus was on Mental Health Policy Makers in Sierra Leone for the formative research on Psychosis . This is a co-production exercise including care givers, lived experience and policy Makers in Makeni and Freetown. The Sierra Leone Country Team worked closely with the Nigerian and UK counterpart to facilitate the co-production. The team arrived in Sierra Leone on the 20th March 2022 and depart on the 25th March 2022.

This is the first time such an innovation is taking place in Sierra Leone. The total involvement of commitment in psychosocial disability campaigns in the Country. This is a stakeholders engagement exercise with people with Psychosis, family members, policy makers in Health, traditional healers, education professionals, service providers and OPDs. This is a focus group discussion involving the mentioned stakeholders. This is also a co-production exercise. Consent forms were given to each participant.



In 2021 SUCCEED Sierra Leone saw the need for constant engagement, on the 10th Sptember 2021, SUCCEED Sierra Leone country team joined the rest of the world to commemorate the World Mental Health Day.

The country team raised awareness among Senior

