

NIHR Research Unit on Health in Fragility



Queen Margaret University

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT

In collaboration with



The RUHF Newsletter - Issue 2 / August 2018

Quarterly news on NCDs and MHPSS healthcare in fragile settings

Video Release

Living with chronic diseases: accessing healthcare in El Salvador



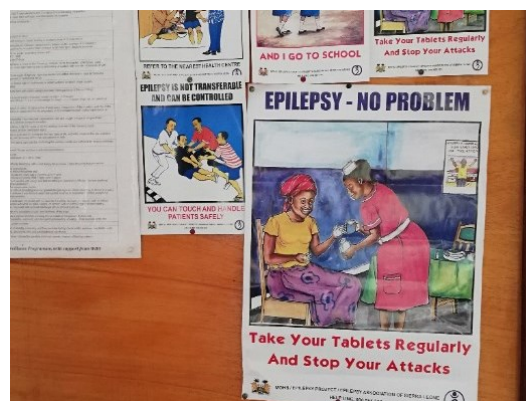
Cardiovascular disease, diabetes and kidney diseases are the most prevalent non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among the Salvadorian adult population. The burden of these chronic conditions is contributing to fragility of health service

they go for help to cope and prevent the symptoms. Researchers from [RUHF](#) have carried out this pilot investigation in collaboration with civil society movements and the Ministry of Health. Authors: RUHF / Rene Dominguez Posada

[Download the slides with the fieldwork details in El Salvador here](#)

Preliminary findings

Open Access Scoping Reviews on NCDs and MHPSS in Sierra Leone



A great number of key documents has been reviewed by researchers from [QMU](#) and [COMAHS](#) to complete the scoping reviews on NCDs and MHPSS in Sierra Leone. The preliminary findings on these two studies provide interesting insights into the increasing burden of NCDs and the mental health gap treatment in Sierra Leone. The studies also offer a deep analysis on the facilitators and barriers for accessing healthcare services to prevent and treat the mentioned conditions, such as issues related to health-seeking behaviour and challenges in implementing policies.

The [NIHR Research Unit on Health in Fragility \(RUHF\)](#), at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, has culminated the Scoping phase with the completion of these and three more scoping studies: four reviews are focused on NCDs and MHPSS literature respectively in Sierra Leone and Lebanon, and a fifth scoping paper addressing a structure literature review of concepts of fragility and health. The [preliminary findings of the studies on NCDs and MHPSS in Lebanon](#) were presented to key stakeholders in Beirut last March and the initial findings of the scoping studies in Sierra Leone will be debriefed to key stakeholders in a **two-day meeting in Sierra Leone on the 30th and 31st August 2018**.

[Read the whole scoping studies here](#)

Research Fieldwork

Exploring community dynamics and healthcare access in Sierra Leone



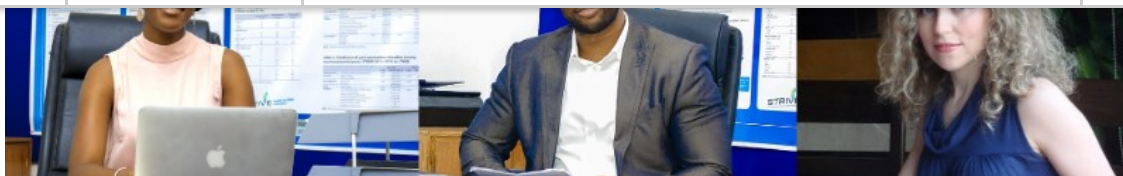
[QMU](#) and [COMAHS](#) research teams are exploring together community-based system dynamics and how these influence access to healthcare services to treat and prevent mental health and psychosocial support problems (MHPSS) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes and hypertension.

The RUHF researchers began the research fieldwork in Sierra Leone last April, including key stakeholder interviews and other qualitative research exercises, such as group model building (GMB) workshops in the rural district of Bombali, Makeni, and urban areas of Sierra Leone. The aim of this pilot fieldwork is to identify priority research studies that will be carried out during the second phase of the [NIHR Unit's programme](#). In September, four more group model building workshops will be conducted in Sierra Leone.

[Learn more about Group Model Building method here](#)

Doctoral students

RUHF welcomes three new PhD students in September

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Zeina Mohamad Ziad Jamal (Tripoli, Lebanon, 1982), Ayesha Satta Koker-Idriss (Kenema, Sierra Leone, 1981) and Abdulai Jawo Bah (Freetown, 1980) will join the NIHR Research Unit on Health in Fragility, at Queen Margaret University, in Edinburgh, next 24th September 2018. Zeina and Jawo's studies will be focused on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) service delivery in Lebanon and Sierra Leone, respectively, and Ayesha will evaluate provision of health services to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Sierra Leone. These three students will join the doctoral candidate [Ibrahim Bou Orm](#), who joined the Unit last January.

[Find out the background of the RUHF PhD candidates here](#)



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