**TRANSCRIPT**

On-screen graphic: Map of globe with a pinpoint on Sierra Leone; screenshots of the four speakers in the video.

On-screen text: Reflections on CDC’s Historic Ebola Response in Sierra Leone (video title)

**Foday Sahr, MBChB, MSc, DSc, FWACP**

**Executive Director, National Public Health Agency, Sierra Leone**

When it began, we were overwhelmed, we did not know what to do. And at the end of the day you

see loved ones passing away, people that you think you want to help, you want to save, and

you cannot do anything, so it's really, it was really heartrending.

**Austin Demby, PhD, MSc, BSc**

**Minister of Health - Sierra Leone, and Former CDC leader**

I’d been working for CDC for about 20 years. I was born in Sierra Leone. I grew up in Sierra Leone. And so when you had this outbreak start in Guinea and it was inching its way into Sierra Leone, I was very concerned. I was calling home to my parents and my siblings, and everybody was really concerned, and I thought, this is something I could help with because I've worked on Lassa fever in Sierra Leone, and the pathway of Ebola looks very similar to the pathway of Lassa fever that I've been working on. I knew the culture. I knew the people.

**Monique Foster, MD, MPH**

**Deputy Director of Programs, CDC Sierra Leone**

CDC has prepared Sierra Leone to become better at responding to outbreaks when they occur by

strengthening their surveillance systems, building their laboratory capacity, and really establishing emergency response through an emergency operations center and rapid response teams. We can't do our work alone. Our number one partner is Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health particularly, and the newly established National Public Health Agency.

**Chinyere Ekechi, JD**

**Deputy Country Director, CDC Sierra Leone**

We had so many deployers come to each of the countries, both Guinea Conakry, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. And through that work and through those systems that were built, we're able now to have country offices that continue to support governments and ministries and make sure that we're protecting people worldwide. I came to Sierra Leone in March of 2020, and we had our first case of COVID March 31st of 2020. And it was really interesting to watch and see that, you know, ten years prior, we had this Ebola outbreak when we had 700 CDC staff who helped to support the response

and stand up the EOC. During the COVID response, I could see that every pillar lead, every directorate lead was a Sierra Leonean. Every responder was a Sierra Leonean, every lead for the incident response was a Sierra Leonean. So to know that that capacity had been built over that ten year period was amazing.  And that's the work that we're supposed to do.

**Foday Sahr**

When Ebola struck, when COVID came, temporary structures were built so that they can respond

to these outbreaks.  But now with the National Public Health Agency, it is a body that is there to respond to emergencies. And, I think that is what we are doing to make sure that we are ready for the next pandemic.

**Chinyere Ekechi**

CDC’s legacy in Sierra Leone is really that of partnership. We hope, and we pray that there is never

another Ebola outbreak. But we also know that outbreaks occur, and our legacy is that countries can provide support to themselves, that countries can respond quickly, that countries can respond effectively, that lives can be saved, and that CDC can remain a trusted partner to all the countries and the places in which we work.

On-screen text and graphics:

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Blue CDC logo.