

## HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF GOD PARTICIPATES IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION WORKSHOP

The United Nations Office of Drug crime, co-partnering with ECOWAS organized a training workshop for Civil Society Organisations in West Africa and Mauritania to build their capacities on the technicalities involved in confronting prevention activities for substance abuse in the sub-region.

This is in line with the formulated fourth Thematic Areas of the 2008-2014 ECOWAS Drug Action Plan as the Expected Outcomes for the 2016-2020 ECOWAS Regional Action Plan. ***“Reduced drug demand through effective, sustainable prevention of drug use, treatment of substance use disorders, sustainable alternative development, increased access and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes”.***

This is also in line with SDG target 3.5: ***“Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol”.***

The conference took place in Abuja, Nigeria from February 7-9, 2018. Br. Michael M. Koroma, participated in this training on behalf of the Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone (CHASL) who has won a grant from the European Union through UNODC to embark on substance abuse prevention sensitization and training in three (3) regions in Sierra Leone. Br. Michael Koroma shall supervise the implementation of this project worth \$ 42,274.

The workshop focused on giving all the participants the requisite skills in implementing quality projects related to substance abuse prevention activities and creating a network of Civil society Organisations in the subregion to have a voice in the ECOWAS headquarter. The network was officially created with the name “ West African Civil Society Organisation Substance Abuse Network(WACSAN)

