



## Briefing Paper/Policy Brief

On financing, visioning and governance of RMNCH, SRHR and other health sector areas in Liberia developed with funding support from AmplifyChange, a British Charity.

### Purpose and Scope

This briefing paper/policy brief on financing RMNCH, SRHR and other relevant health sector areas in Liberia show that health financing in Liberia and among the population need serious review if healthcare delivery, care and rights must be sustainable, effective, efficient and impactful. The paper seeks to influence trigger down effect of national health financing framework as the surest way to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Global and National Health Development Goals. The paper documents national health financing targets, commitments and how its trigger down to health service financing at community level.

### Health Financing

The National Health and Social Welfare Financing Policy and Plan (NHSWFPP) 2011-2021 was developed with the goal of ensuring:

- Affordable health services and preventing catastrophic household costs
- Proposes a mix of health funding including sustainable government financing
- Predictable donor support
- Affordable user fees for selected services

### Needed Resources and Funds

Plan Resource needs for the EPHS implementation requires:

- an estimated amount of USD 2.8 billion over the period 2015 to 2021,
- The total projected GOL allocation based on current levels is estimated at USD 416.9 million, leaving a gap of USD 2.4 billion over the same period.
- The Investment Plan seeks an estimated USD 1.7 billion over the same period.
- If the Investment Plan is fully funded, it will narrow the funding gap for implementation of the EPHS to an estimated USD 1.1 billion.
- The coasted Health Sector Investment Plan includes activities in the Education and Public Works sectors, at USD 114.8 million and USD 18.5 million respectively for the period April FY 14/15 until June FY 21/22
- The NHSWFPP outlined a cost of USD 72.3 million in 2013 increasing to USD 129.9 million in 2021 for the management and provision of health services (not accounting inflation)

### Successes in Health Financing

- Total per capita health expenditure has increased rapidly in Liberia to USD 65 (2011/12) and is now slightly higher than the average for West and Central African countries.
- The appropriation to the health sector from the Government of Liberia (GoL) more than tripled from USD 18.7 million in FY 2007/08 to USD 63 million in FY 2014/15.
- Liberia has yet to meet the Abuja target of “allocating at least 15% of National Budget to health
- GOL most recently allocated its highest share of the budget towards the health sector at 12.36% (MFDP, 2015)

### Financing Target and Allocated

The following amount is available for health funding:

#### National Health Financing Targets

1.21 billion Targeted to finance healthcare from 2017-2022 (Health System Investment Plan)

489 million earmarked to finance healthcare from 2011 to 2016/17 (Health System Investment Plan)

#### Financing Distribution:

Activities related to Human Resources account for 36% of total finance cost

Capital Investment 21%

Medical Supplies and Logistics 19%

Service Delivery Systems 18%

- An estimated USD 551.8 million from existing/probable donor resources has been identified to date; this is in addition to an estimate investment by the Government of Liberia of USD 56-60 million into the health sector each fiscal year, based on historical trends.
- Gap Analysis From an estimated amount of USD 1.7 billion for the total Investment Plan (Best Case scenario) from FY 14/15 Q4 until FY 21/22, available resources include USD 551.8 million from donating partners
- GOL projected allocation of USD 416.9 million towards the health sector
- Based on the latest fiscal space analysis there is an estimated funding gap of USD 735 million for the seven years.

## Global and Sub Regional Targets:

### Global

- ✓ SDGs 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices such as early and force child marriage and female Genital Mutilation.
- ✓ UN Adopted Resolution: Reaffirming commitment to Zero Tolerance on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse on September 15, 2018.

### Sub Regional

- ✓ Maputo Protocol Article 5, Elimination of harmful practices: Obligates countries to take necessary legislative and other measures to ensure that FGM is eliminated. The UN Convention to eliminate all forms of Discriminations Against Women-CEDAW adopted 1979.
- ✓ Maputo Protocol Article 5, Elimination of harmful practices: Commits to work to accelerate Universal access to safe abortion care center on three principals-right-base, reproductive justice and gender transformative

## Recommendations

1. There's a serious need to renew the National Investment Case for Maternal, sexual, reproductive, newborn health that ended 2021 and the roadmap which ended 2015.
2. There is a need for the Government of Liberia to increase the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Budget on RNMCH and SRHR in other to meet Policy targets by 2023 and beyond
3. There is a serious need for the creation of clear and disaggregated budget for RMNCH and SRHR activities and programs to meet various targeted goals, to create means of measuring progress and evaluation
4. Educational programs, particularly vocational education should be provided to women and girls in the rural parts of Liberia.

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### Some Health Target:

Reduce mortality and stunting by 25% and increase immunization coverage by 25% for under 5 population (AfT)

Reduce maternal mortality rate from 770/100,000 to 25% (AfT)

Overall objective: "to reduce by 2021 maternal mortality from 770 to 497/100,000 (roadmap)

To reduce by 2021 newborn mortality from 38/1000 to 19/1000 (Roadmap 2011-2015)

Increase by 50% the number of skilled attendants for Reproductive Health Services at all levels of Health Care Delivery System (Roadmap 2011-2015)

Increase access to and utilization of Family planning services (Roadmap 2011-2015)

Strengthen Community Participation for maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent care (Roadmap 2011-2015)