



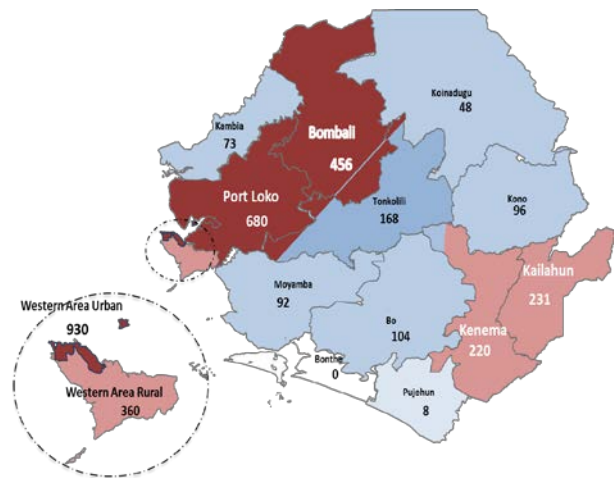
Advancing Partners & Communities, Sierra Leone Ebola Transmission Prevention and Survivor Services

Advancing Partners & Communities is a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded project implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) and FHI 360. In Sierra Leone, the project has received USAID Global Health Ebola Team funding to implement the Ebola Transmission Prevention & Survivor Services project in support of the Comprehensive Program for Ebola Survivors (CPES), jointly led by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs.

Goal and Strategic Approach

The project seeks to prevent further Ebola virus disease (EVD) transmission and reduce the risk of resurgence from Ebola viral persistence in EVD survivors (EVDS). The project’s overarching approaches are two-fold:

- 1) Improve access to good-quality health services for EVDS by strengthening the health system’s ability to provide specialized services through training and mentorship and by defining clear referral pathways.
- 2) Reduce stigma and other barriers that prevent EVDS from accessing health care and social services by strengthening the capacity of the Sierra Leone Association of Ebola Survivors (SLAES), the MOHS, and CPES stakeholders to identify and meet EVDS’ needs.



USAID priority districts (in red and pink) and number of EVDS.

JSI provides technical assistance (TA) to CPES and collaborates with a variety of partners at the national and district levels, with focus on the six districts with the highest number of EVDS: Bombali, Kailahun, Kenema, Port Loko, Western Area Rural, and Western Area Urban. These six districts are home to 2,877 EVDS—83 percent of the total EVDS population.

Implementation Highlights

Objective 1: Build capacity on specialty and sub-specialty services for Ebola survivors across the continuum of care.

Lead partners: Kings Sierra Leone Partnership, Save the Children, World Health Organization, War Trauma Foundation

The project helps MOHS meet EVDS’ needs—particularly in mental health and neurology—by providing clinical support at the various care levels, and TA to improve the availability of commodities for Ebola survivors as part of the Free Health Care Initiative (FHCI).

This is done by:

- Mapping existing and planned health services and forecasting specialty health commodities for EVDS.



Mental health nurses at Connaught Hospital.

- Adapting and disseminating clinical guidelines for detection, management, and treatment of EVD-related conditions, including mental health, neurology, rheumatology, and eye care.
- Building health care worker capacity to care for EVDS.
- Developing supportive operational strategies such as a national mental health policy and strategic plan for EVDS.
- Reducing stigma and facilitating integration.



Community healing dialogue in Kenema.

Objective 2: Support CPES implementation to address the special health needs and challenges of women and child survivors and to connect survivors to available social services.

Lead partners: Partners in Health (PIH); SLAES; Save the Children; DFID-funded, GOAL-led Ebola Survivor Care Consortium

The project works with the CPES governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders, SLAES, and UN agencies within the framework of the President of Sierra Leone Recovery Priorities for Health to enhance the referral pathways from primary to secondary to tertiary levels of care. This is done by:

- Helping clinical training officers strengthen mentorship skills on maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, etc.
- Analyzing and adapting practices to strengthen the capacities of referral coordinators and health care workers in diagnosis and referral systems.
- Identifying social services for EVDS.

Objective 3: Strengthen key platforms to prevent future Ebola transmission by EVDS in a manner that protects their human rights and dignity.

Lead partners: PIH, SLAES, GOAL

The project is building the capacities of the MOHS CPES Program Implementation Unit (PIU) and SLAES in operations management, policy, and use of data for better planning and advocacy so they can develop, implement, evaluate, and advocate survivor care-related activities. This is done by:

- Supporting CPES PIU to advocate for a policy that includes EVDS as an FHCI-eligible group, and to design data recording systems to capture EVDS access to primary, secondary, and tertiary health care.
- Building SLAES capacity through training and TA in priority areas for organizational development (e.g., strategic planning and governance, resource mobilization and financial systems, operational policies and procedures) and supporting on-the-job training for SLAES leadership.
- Facilitating transition of community health activities for EVDS to the community health worker scope of work within the FHCI framework.
- Supporting the semen testing clinic at 34 Military Hospital in Western Area Urban to ensure that MOHS maintains collection and testing capacities in the long term.