

EBOLA TRANSMISSION PREVENTION AND SURVIVOR SERVICES PROGRAM OVERVIEW: GUINEA



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Advancing Partners & Communities (APC) is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded project implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. and partner FHI 360. The project supports community programs to improve the overall health of individuals and communities and to strengthen health-related indicators.

APC received USAID Ebola Response and Preparedness funding to address the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa. The Ebola Transmission Prevention and Survivor Services (ETP&SS) program operates under the umbrella of priorities set by USAID's Global Health Ebola Team. The program works with ministries of health and nongovernmental organizations in the three countries that were most affected by the Ebola outbreak: Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea.

In Guinea, the ETP&SS program works with the National Agency for Health Security, in collaboration with international organizations and other stakeholders, to implement the Ministry

of Health's national plan for survivors (SA-Ceint) to mitigate the risk of resurgence of the Ebola virus, support clinical care, and reduce stigma and other barriers for survivors to access needed health care.

Survivors experience complications that require specialized medical attention, such as joint pain, blurred vision, hearing loss, and neurological abnormalities, as well as psychological consequences. Stigma, discrimination, and a lack of properly trained health care providers mean that survivors have difficulty accessing routine and specialized medical services.

The ETP&SS program strengthens critical health services for survivors through direct assistance to a limited number of public health facilities that serve a high volume of survivors. The facilities will receive training for health workers as well as clinical equipment, while some facilities will also be renovated to improve working conditions and strengthen the quality of care.

The ETP&SS program's health interventions focus mostly on the country's three most affected regions: N'zérékoré, Kindia, and Conakry, with national coverage for selected activities. A critical component of the program is community-based surveillance, which monitors survivors and their close contacts to track their health status, to ensure access to services, and to make sure that early signs of EVD are detected and action taken to prevent or mitigate a new outbreak. The community-based surveillance is implemented using sentinel sites in the 21 prefectures and 5 urban settings with the largest number of survivors.

Furthermore, the ETP&SS program supports the National Ebola Survivors' Network (RENASEG) by strengthening its capacity to effectively meet its members' needs and to take part in the implementation of program components, such as community-based surveillance, semen testing for eligible males, and activities related to stigma reduction.

GOAL

To reduce or eliminate the risk of Ebola transmission from survivors to others, and to ensure that survivors have access to health care and psychosocial services.

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ **Strengthen national and subnational coordination** and assist with the roll-out of the Ministry of Health's national plan for survivors.
- ▶ **Strengthen longitudinal care and monitoring of survivors** and their immediate contacts to ensure that needed services are provided and illnesses and deaths are rapidly recognized, treated, and noted.
- ▶ **Build health care workers' and community leaders' skills and knowledge** related to the health care needs of survivors, infection prevention, and stigma reduction, enabling survivors to access appropriate care.

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