

EBOLA TRANSMISSION PREVENTION AND SURVIVOR SERVICES PROGRAM OVERVIEW: LIBERIA

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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 funding from USAID's Ebola Response and Preparedness funds 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 Liberia, the ETP&SS program works to mitigate the risk of resurgence of the Ebola virus. Survivors experience psychological complications that require specialized medical attention, such as anxiety disorders, depression and posttraumatic stress disorder. The program aims to ensure the effective delivery of

health care and psychosocial support services in response to survivor needs. Survivors have expressed experiencing difficulty accessing routine and specialized medical services due to stigma and discrimination and a lack of properly trained health care providers. The ETP&SS program supports the strengthening of critical health services used by survivors through direct assistance to health facilities.

The ETP&SS program focuses its health interventions on four high-priority counties in Liberia: Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, and Lofa. In total, 11 counties that were affected by the EVD will receive clinical, mental and psychosocial support. A critical component of the program is to work closely with the Ministry of Health in Liberia and USAID partners to support the implementation of the Ebola Survivor Care and Support Policy, which addresses many of the challenges Ebola survivors face in accessing health services.

Furthermore, the ETP&SS program supports the establishment and institutionalization of the National Ebola Survivor Secretariat, and engages with the National Ebola Survivor's Network to strengthen its capacity to effectively coordinate and disseminate information to the EVD survivor population. The program will also collaborate with partners to develop a referral pathway framework to facilitate health service delivery. Other primary activities will include carrying out survivor population and services mapping exercises; supporting training and mentoring of medical students, residents, and mid-level health workers; and carrying out renovations at target health facilities.

CORE OBJECTIVES

- ▶ **Strengthen coordination** and management of activities for Ebola survivors through the National Ebola Survivor Secretariat and the National Ebola Survivor's Network.
- ▶ **Improve access** for Ebola survivors to health services through health facilities that care for survivors; and combat stigma and discrimination among providers.
- ▶ **Build health system capacity** to provide necessary, specialized health services to care for common complications.

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