ADVANCING PARTNERS & COMMUNITIES, SIERRA LEONE
Understanding the Challenges of Delivering Community Maternal and Child Health Services in a Post-Ebola Context

Following the Ebola epidemic, Sierra Leone faces challenges to rebuilding its community health system.

A baseline assessment of the current situation was conducted in February 2016 in 5 PROJECT DISTRICTS. The assessment covered 78% OF PERIPHERAL HEALTH UNITS in those districts.

The assessment helped us understand the health system challenges in Sierra Leone, including:

1. **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Appropriate sanitation and hygiene amenities are lacking.

   - 14% (1 of 8) facilities have NO TOILET.
   - 55% of facilities have NO FUNCTIONAL WATER SOURCE.
   - 64% of facilities with toilets need repairs.
   - Many facilities are in DISREPAIR.

   
   - In Bombali and Tonkolili Districts, only 1 of 10 FACILITIES have power (90% do not).
   - In Port Loko, 3 of 4 FACILITIES need building rehabilitation.

2. **DRUGS, SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT:** Fewer than half of facilities have functional RNMCH equipment.

   - NO FACILITY has a FULLY FUNCTIONING DELIVERY KIT (though most have a few functional pieces of equipment.)
   - Stockout levels are high: 
     - 15% for IPT for pregnant women
     - 13% for magnesium sulfate
     - 37% for iron folic acid
   - Where supplies are on hand, they AREN'T ALWAYS STORED PROPERLY.

   
   - ONLY 17% OF OXYTOCIN SUPPLIES are stored in a cold box or refrigerator.
While knowledge assessment scores for newborn health are high, 7 of 10 (71%) of health workers lack proficient knowledge in child health.

50% STAFF TRAINED in Essential Nutrition Actions & IMCI

Even areas where STAFF TRAINING COVERAGE IS HIGH, staff identified GAPS in knowledge. IPC, focused antenatal care, and labor and delivery knowledge.

ON AVERAGE, BOTH MCHPS AND CHPS FALL SHORT OF THEIR STAFFING TARGETS, EVEN WHEN TAKING VOLUNTEERS INTO ACCOUNT.

MCHP Clinical Staff (MCH Aids only)

CHP Clinical Staff (MCH Aids, SECHNs, Midwives, and CHAs)

3 of 4 FACILITIES RECEIVE SUPPORT for CHWs from district health management teams or NGOs.

75% OF FACILITIES meet with the facility management committee every three months.

CBOs HELP REFER PATIENTS TO MORE THAN HALF OF THE LOCAL HEALTH FACILITIES

How we’ll use this information...

Provide EVIDENCE of the status and condition of facilities at the community level in the project districts.

RECOMMEND INTERVENTIONS to be implemented in the project areas.

ASSESS SUCCESS at the end of the project by comparing to endline findings.