

Medical Personnel (1991-2009)

CADRE	1991	2003	2006	2008	2009	Gap
Medical Officers	207	71	88	78	75	459
Paediatricians	16	4	3	2	1	53
Dentists	15	6	8	8	5	47
Obstetricians and gynaecologists	23	6	7	8	5	49
Public Health Sp.	33	18	22	23	24	6
Surgeons	13	7	8	5	5	49
Sp. Physicians	17	6	5	3	3	7
Midwives	132	111	57	71	95	205
Psychiatrists	0	1	1	1	0	7
MCH Aides	0	530	980	1,500	825	1,175
SR Nurses	625	266	202	2355	685	701
Pharmacists	23	13	14	17	17	13

Key health indicators (2005-2008)

Indicator	2005	2008
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000)	170	89
Under-five Mortality rate (per 1,000)	286	140
Maternal Mortality ratio (per 100,000)	1300	857
Under 5s sleeping under treated bed nets (%)	5	25.8
Institutional delivery (%)	19	25
Underweight prevalence (%)	31	21

Ministry of Health and Sanitation has collaborated closely with partners in the development of the Health Sector Strategic Plan and would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the following donors for their work in Sierra Leone including, but not limited to Global Fund, JICA, GAVI, DFID, World Bank, Africa Development Bank, Irish Aid, EC, Cordaid and all UN agencies.

In addition we would like to extend our thanks to all NGOs operational in Sierra Leone for their efforts which have contributed to the current trend in reduction of maternal and child mortality.



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Government of Sierra Leone

HEALTH



Sector Overview

- Health is a major priority of the government due to the extremely high maternal and child mortality figures. Development is only possible when the people are healthy and the current situation must improve.
- Health care costs remain very high in Sierra Leone which provides a barrier to accessing health care, resulting in poor utilization (on average 0.5 visits per person per year). The government wants to ensure equity of access to cost effective and quality health care by all persons resident in Sierra Leone
- In recent years significant progress has been made. Completion of a major building programme of new healthcare facilities including rehabilitation and construction of some 500 health facilities and increased coverage of cost effective interventions which has contributed to the reduction of maternal and child mortality rates.
- In spite of the above progress the mortality rates remain high as a large proportion of the population are living below the poverty line and therefore cannot afford the cost of health care services. This results in a poor utilisation of services, prohibiting any major improvement in health outcome of the population.

Additional challenges currently facing the sector

- Chronic shortages of drugs, equipment and essential supplies and logistics.
- Problems with quality and distribution of health professionals, challenges of low staff remuneration and shortage of

Sector Priorities

- Reducing the high maternal and under-five mortality rates.
- Reducing the spread and mitigating the impact of communicable diseases including malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.
- Addressing the high incidence of non-communicable diseases including hypertension, diabetes, sickle-cell and mental health.
- Improving the access to improved sanitation and increased access to population to safe drinking water.

Sector Strategies 2009 - 2011

The GoSL has recently launched its National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2010-2015 which includes the following sub sector strategies;

Integrated reproductive and child health services:

- Ensure the comprehensive implementation of the Basic Package of Essential Health Services (BPEHS) at all levels. This includes a set of interventions which are known to improve the populations health with a particular emphasis on maternal and child mortality.

Human Resources development:

- Build the skills for a whole range of personnel to enhance work performance and quality service provision and establish a health services commission to improve human resources management of health workers.

Strengthening Health Systems Financing:

- Develop a National Social Health Insurance Scheme to ensure access and affordability of quality health care services to all Sierra Leoneans.
- Implement policy for the provision of free health care for pregnant women and children under five.

Malaria Control:

- Focus on preventive services provision e.g. Insecticide Treated bed nets (ITNs), Intermittent Preventive Treatments (IPTs), and promotion of environmental sanitation.
- Guarantee access to prompt ACT and quinine treatment.

STIs/HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis:

- Focus on prevention of new infections including treatment of sexually transmitted infections, condom promotion and distribution, and Prevention Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT).
- Provide care, treatment and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Guarantee access to Directly Observed Treatment (DOTS) services for TB patients.

Non-Communicable diseases and mental health:

- Provide screening services at health facilities for the identification of these conditions and strengthen community based rehabilitation services to address mental health.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion:

- Sensitise mothers and caretakers of children on the importance of general hygiene practices and promote Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and house hold storage and treatment of drinking water.

Rehabilitation and equipping of health facilities:

- Upgrade the infrastructural and logistical capacities of health facilities in order to improve the infant and maternal mortality rates.

Health Information System:

- Strengthen Health Information systems, monitor health care provi-

Opportunities for investment and Public-Private Partnerships

Support to Abolish User Fees

- The MoHS is seeking funds to abolish user fees for pregnant women and under five children. This will increase utilisation of essential healthcare services and enable Sierra Leone to meet her MDGs. Immediate support for a one-year emergency Programme will therefore ensure that the MoHS can abolish user fees for these vulnerable groups in 2010.
- Funding is also sought to provide universal access to free quality health care for all vulnerable groups through the delivery of a five year programme of work. This programme will deliver the new National Health Sector Strategic Plan. This will ensure there is additional capacity for the delivery of essential drugs and supplies, as well as an increased number of critical, qualified health workers in the system to absorb the predicted increase in demand.
- Components of the National Health Sector Strategic Plan can also be separately funded by interested donors to further enhance delivery. The Ministry will coordinate all support around one comprehensive programme of work which ensures the most effective use of all resources that are complimenting those from the Government of Sierra Leone.

Human Resources for Health

- Investment is required in health worker motivation schemes, including defined career paths and incentive packages including specific rural incentive packages to ensure equitable distribution. Investment funds are being sought for pre service and postgraduate health studies.

Basic Package Essential Health Services

- Investment is required to ensure there is available Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care in all Maternal and Child Health Post Community Health Centres and hospitals and there is an effective referral system to reach this care.
- Investment in hospital management is required to ensure that the facilities are appropriately run and managed. Investment in hospital facilities such as laboratories is also required.

Control and Manage Communicable Diseases

- This includes a number of projects requiring investment in combating and treating malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS. The funding will provide of drugs and preventive materials.

Health Information Systems

- Funding and support is required to build competencies in monitoring and evaluation, to build capacity of the system and to roll out across the districts the system and competencies.