

Building a **RESILIENT** Sierra Leone

JSI STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS

Even before Ebola ravaged Sierra Leone in 2014, the country had some of the world’s poorest health outcomes, especially in the areas of maternal and child health. Since 2000, JSI has leveraged its commitment and expertise in public health to assist the Sierra Leone government in strengthening the health system and meeting people’s needs. With deep understanding of the issues and flexible approaches, JSI has been responding effectively to realities on the ground as well as emerging public health needs.

JSI works collaboratively with the country’s government and educational institutions, private sector partners, and non-governmental organizations to develop and implement sustainable solutions that improve public health. JSI contributes to the strengthening of the country’s health supply chains, has rehabilitated health facilities to improve quality of care and strengthen demand, improved data systems, built capacity at all levels of the health system, and engaged communities to become part of the solution.



Health workers in Sierra Leone are now better prepared to serve people’s needs—and protect themselves and their clients from infectious diseases.

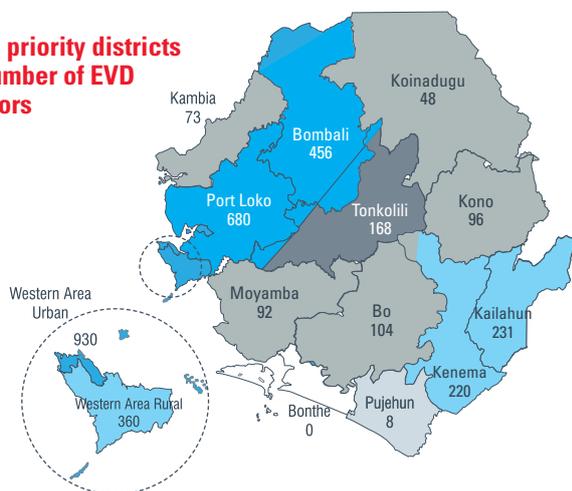
Strengthening Service Delivery for EVD Survivors

The USAID-funded Strengthening Health Services Post-Ebola focuses on improving access to health services for survivors of the Ebola virus disease (EVD). JSI helps develop and implement policies, systems, and tools that promote evidence-based quality health services using sustainable approaches. JSI supports and strengthens government, local partners such as the Sierra Leone Association of Ebola Survivors, and communities’ ability to implement activities that meet people’s needs and promote healthy behaviors and resiliency.

Delivering Life-saving Health Commodities

To help ensure timely delivery of essential health commodities for children, pregnant and lactating women, and Ebola survivors, JSI supports the supply chain that brings essential medicines to over 1,200 health facilities across the country. The Distribution of Free Health Care Supplies project, funded by the UK Department for International Development, is building the capacity of central, district, and primary health facilities to manage their health supplies. JSI has also worked with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to assess the family planning supply chain and provided TA to improve the availability of health products.

USAID priority districts and number of EVD Survivors



Rebuilding Community Trust in Health Services

The Post-Ebola Recovery of Health Services project supported the Ministry of Health and Sanitation's (MOHS) Health Sector Recovery Plan by strengthening critical community-based maternal and child health services. This USAID-funded project interventions included renovating 305 peripheral health units (PHUs) with new wells and solar power systems, improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), including waste management, for improved infection prevention and control (IPC); training more than 900 health professionals and almost 1,500 community health workers, and reactivating 214 facility management committees to strengthen community engagement in the service delivery. The project has also worked on the revision of the government's CHW policy, adoption of WASH/IPC standards, and FMC guidelines.



305 REVITALIZED peripheral health units (PHUs) in five districts, improving health care for **2 MILLION SIERRA LEONEANS**

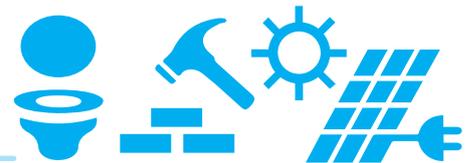


Health Care Worker at PHU logging in patient data on the ledger

Building Capacity of Medical Training Institutions

High-quality education, skills, and organizational capacity are paramount to building strong, sustainable health systems. The U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)-funded Resilient and Responsive Health Organizations project builds capacity and improves the quality of education for health professionals. The project aims to strengthen the ability of nursing and midwifery school partners in Sierra Leone and three other countries to become self-learning organizations that are interdependent and can promote South-to-South engagement with the goal of contributing to U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) human resources for health strategy.

110 PHUs in five districts strengthened through infrastructure renovation, improved WASH, IPC, and solar systems



Innovating for Essential Newborn Care

Through the Innovations for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) Initiative, funded by Gates Foundation through Concern Worldwide, JSI used design thinking—a human-centered approach to innovation—in the Essential Newborn Care Corps pilot project that aimed to transform the role of traditional birth attendants in Bo District from community midwives to maternal newborn health promoters and test

their potential to improve coverage of essential care for mothers and young children.

Improving Data Collection and Use

With funding from the Global Fund, in cooperation with WHO, UNICEF, and GAVI, JSI supported the MOHS to implement the 2017 Service Availability and Readiness Assessment Plus (SARA+), a national census undertaken nationwide in 1,284 public and private health facilities.

The goal of SARA+ was to determine the availability, capacity, and readiness to offer specific health services at various level of care and assess the performance of the health programs in terms of quality of care. SARA+ aims at providing a baseline for key health programs, such as maternal and child health, HIV, TB or malaria; as well as evidence for the annual joint health sector review meetings. Using preliminary data from SARA+ field work, JSI supported data managers from DHMTs to address challenges in routine data collection and encourage innovations in data use.

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