



Name: Public Health Initiative Liberia

Acronym : PHIL

Address: RIA Highway, VoA Junction, Gbengbar Town, Paynesville

Contact No: + 231775171586, WhatsApp +231886499203

Contact Person: Joyce Laykah Kilikpo

Contact Email:joyce_kilikpo@yahoo.com

Organizational Email:phealthliberia@gmail.com

Website:www.philiberia.org/ Facebook/Twitter/Instagram

Why We Exist

Every aspect of society is dependent upon the health of its population. Health is essential to an individual's well-being, quality of life, and ability to participate in society. Yet the healthcare sector, even at its optimal level of functioning, cannot improve the health of the population without addressing the root causes of poor health. Critical gaps exist in the availability of essential drugs, equipment, and medical supplies. According to the Ministry of Health out-of-pocket expenditure on health is (51%) of total health expenditure which limits access to health services and expose the population to the risk of impoverishment. Further access to health is hindered by low service quality and inequitable distribution of health facilities. This shows that the health of approximately 5million Liberians, most of whom are women, youth, and children from low-income households, are threatened by economic, societal, cultural, environmental, and social conditions as well as continuous lack of investment by its government.

Poor health in any population group affects everyone, leading to higher crime rates, negative economic impacts, increased healthcare costs, and other devastating consequences. Despite this fact, efforts to improve health in Liberia are impeded by inequitable social structures, stereotypes, legal systems, and regulatory schemes, limited or non-investment

by Liberian government that impacting health of its overall population. As a result, a large segment of the population is continually denied the opportunity to live long, productive lives and to exercise their rights under democratic principles. Health, equity, and justice make up the keystone of a functional, thriving society. These principles are unsatisfied when they do not apply equally to all members of society. It is against this background that Public Health Initiative Liberia (PHIL) was founded with the mission to promote and enhance the quality of health care delivery in Liberia through leadership, Partnership, innovation, capacity building and advocacy.

Our Approach

We believe that health inequalities exists at the intersection of health and justice and that health is a basic is a human right whereby all people should be able to access life-saving medicines and services when they need them. As such we take a human rights approach to our work grounded in community mobilization, community engagement and community empowerment

Community Mobilization -PHIL uses this approach with communities to identify common health problems or goals, mobilizes resources and in order ways develop and work with communities to identify strategies for improving health outcomes in their communities

Community Engagement - PHIL remains intimately connected with communities, families, mothers, and children, thereby bringing local experience and lesson towards improving health outcomes in Liberia

Community Empowerment – PHIL uses this approach to address the social, cultural, political, and economic determinants that underpin health, and seeks to build partnerships with other sectors in finding solutions.

Core Values

Transparency: PHIL widely and openly shares information and resources, encouraging constructive dialogue and exchanges among all partners to continually refine state-of-the-art knowledge and best practices.

Community-Focused: PHIL remains intimately connected with communities, families, mothers and children and caregivers thereby bringing local experiences and lessons to the policy table. PHIL builds partnerships and strategies that empower families, communities local and national governments to participate in health decision- making. Hence our moto: Empowering communities to save lives as inscribed in our logo

Accountability for Impact: PHIL values accountability and monitors its work to ensure a improve health outcomes at the community, county, and national levels.

Leadership: We strive to show leadership and excellence in our core areas of work, by drawing attention to health injustices and amplifying the voices of people and communities towards addressing health inequalities.

Innovation: We value our shared experience, but are equally committed to finding innovative, lasting solutions to new problems that threaten Liberians health

Our programs:

Our interventions are designed to contribute towards the achievement of the Government of Liberia National Health policy and 10 years health plan (2011-2021) as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6).

Main Programs

Integrated Community Based Health Service Delivery- , under this program PHIL works with formal and informal community structures (Community Health Committees -CHC, and women network called mothers club) by empowering them with skills and information to improve health of their communities with emphasis on promoting routine immunization, antenatal visits and facility based delivery for pregnant women, family planning services uptake , prevention of malnutrition through community based weight monitoring, malaria, HIV and TB prevention among others. Through this PHIL works to support health system strengthening with focused on the primary health care (communities) levels in an effort towards empowering communities to save lives.

Accountability in Health Care – PHIL uses social accountability tool called community score card towards improving coverage, access, quality, and equity of health services throughout the community and the health system that influence service delivery and utilization. This is done using women network (Mothers Club and community health committees/ Health facility Development Committee) as well as through the Liberia Health CSOs Network (LiHCON)

Water, Hygiene & Sanitation Promotion – focuses on promoting awareness and advocacy for Water Sanitation and Hygiene in communities , households and public places (schools , markets, health facilities etc.) through the lens of addressing Menstrual Health and Hygiene needs for women and girls while at the same breaking silence around menstruation and advocating for collaborative effort to improve public policies and programs to address WASH needs comprehensively towards equitable access to WASH services and facilities across Liberia

Research and Advocacy – PHIL uses research towards influencing policies through amplifying community voices using human right based approach to health

Sexual and Reproductive Health programs for youth (Youth Choice Initiative: Y-Choice)- Flagship Program to promote access to sexual and reproductive health education, information and services as well as prevention and reduction of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in and out of Schools and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in communities .

Non- Communicable Diseases prevention (Hypertension, Diabetes, Cervical and Breast Cancers)- create awareness and screening services with focus on prevention of Non- Communicable Diseases as well as link communities and people to care and treatment.

Our Work

Since its inception, PHIL has implemented projects with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Action Aid Liberia (AAL), Open Society Initiative For West Africa (OSIWA), and Mercy Corps (MC- Liberia), We Care Solar Suitcase, Spanish City of Valladolid, NIYEL, Bank Information Center(BIC), Population Action International (PAI), Orange Foundation, Liberia Cancer Society, Merck ,Africa Health Budget Network (AHBN) along with other private donors. PHIL started with budget of 5,000 and now has an annual budget of little over 400,000 USD.

PHIL has three field offices (Rivercess, Margibi, and Bassa) along with its head office in City of Paynesville in Montserrado County. The institution has 18 full time staffs and 28 professional volunteers covering all of its intervention communities in Bomi, Nimba, Bassa, Rivercess, Bong and Margibi counties.

The institution has contributed and supported national efforts in improving community health service delivery and accountability with focus on immunization promotion, hygiene promotion, antenatal and facility-based delivery, family planning, STIs, HIV, Malaria and TB prevention and screening for Cervical cancer thereby reaching over approximately 250,082 populations across 580 communities across namely in;

Bomi, Margibi, Rivercess, Nimba and Bong counties through the following structures.

-100 community health committees

- 120 health accountability committees

-80 mothers club network comprising of 2,500 women who meet on a bi-weekly basis

-30 Family Clubs network Comprising of 860 men and 1,320 women on Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development

-45 youth peer education clubs in and out of schools comprising of 360 young people

-500 community volunteers

Subsequently, during the Ebola & ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, PHIL used it networks in these counties to mobilize community volunteers (youth and women) to provide MoH approved EVD, COVID-19 prevention messages and vaccination while at the same time and strengthening the Health Facility Development Committees (HFDC) and Community Health Committees to improve community health governance for improve health outcomes .

Current Counties of Our Work

Bassa, Rivercess, and Margibi, Cape Mount and Montserrado

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