

SIERRA LEONE COMMITMENT SELF-REPORTING QUESTIONNAIRE 2018



Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

The Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) Secretariat surveys all FP2020 commitment makers to gather updates on overall progress, major activities, and key areas of challenge in fulfilling commitments. We use these responses to support information and knowledge sharing and transparency among FP2020 commitment makers and the broader family planning community.

We look forward to publishing your response on your country's dedicated country webpage—<http://www.familyplanning2020.org/sierraleone>—on FP2020's website. We request that you submit your response by **Friday, June 8, 2018**.

Please complete the attached Word document and submit to Martyn Smith on msmith@familyplanning2020.org with a copy to Holley Stewart on hstewart@familyplanning2002.org.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Holley Stewart on hstewart@familyplanning2020.org OR Kelli Schmitz on kschmitz@familyplanning2020.org.

Thank you again for your commitment to improve the lives of women and girls through greater access to voluntary family planning. We look forward to your response.

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This year we have modified the questionnaire to include 1) the 2017 commitment and elements of Sierra Leone's original commitment that still stand, and 2) three standard questions we're requesting of all FP2020 commitment-making countries.

As you provide your updates below on each element of your commitment, kindly focus on progress made, any major challenges or barriers you faced, and share information on any key upcoming commitment-related milestones. **Please provide updates that reflect the July 2017- May 2018 period only.**

UPDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

COMMITMENT OVERVIEW

The 2017 Sierra Leone's FP2020 commitments are aimed at addressing strategic gaps in family planning (FP) programming that have hindered the accelerated increase in access to quality FP to the majority of its population. Through these commitments, the country hopes to increase the number of women reached with FP services annually to over 755,939 by 2022 and increasing its modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR) to 33.7% in the same year. Achieving these will require drastic reductions in the stock out rates which currently stand at over 85% and the targeting of adolescents and young people who constitute about 33% of the population.

Sierra Leone is therefore committed to reposition family planning and improve access to quality family planning services through a comprehensive approach addressed in the 3 outlined commitments. The three commitments address themes of financing, the supply chain, and adolescent health, and together they ensure that access to family planning is increased for women and girls in Sierra Leone. The first commitment focuses on the diversification of the family planning resource base, the second emphasizes improving access to family planning commodities through supply chain reforms and improved data visibility, while the third prioritizes improving adolescent health and reducing teenage pregnancy. The government of Sierra Leone, with the support of its family planning partners, is committed to ensuring that the actions proposed to meet these goals are sustainable and have a long-term positive impact on the people of Sierra Leone.

1. **COMMITMENT:** The Government of Sierra Leone will diversify the family planning resource base through sustainable financing by year 2020.

- 1.1. Finalize and launch the FP CIP, determining resource needs and gaps, for use for resource mobilization – Government – August 2017
- 1.2. Enhance coordination for resource mobilization through the national Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) stakeholders' forum - Government and Partners – quarterly forum
- 1.3. Engage with Parliamentary Committee on Health to sensitize on previous government commitments to Family Planning and advocate for appropriate resource allocation for family planning – ahead of the 2018 budget
- 1.4. Finalize RMNCAH strategy to be used for making the GFF case - Government and partners – validation by August 2017
- 1.5. Accelerate the finalization of the GFF Investment Case- Government and partners – December 2017
- 1.6. Request for financial and Technical support from regional organizations like West African Health Organization(WAHO)

In the space below, please provide an update on activities undertaken in 2017-2018 in support of these elements of your commitment:

The Family Planning (FP) Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) was developed and now has to be validated and launched in July 2018. The launching will attract key stakeholders in Family Planning and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) at large. The RMNCAH Strategy has been developed, printed and programmatic actions for dissemination are in progress. The process of developing the RMNCAH Strategy was consultative and inclusive. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) is currently undertaking a programme mapping exercise with donors, partners, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to galvanize support for implementation of the RMNCAH Strategy.

The Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL) and partners through the MOHS, in partnership with the World Bank accelerated finalization of the Global Financing Framework (GFF) Investment Case with focus on strengthening the health systems. Accordingly, the MOHS has taken the policy decision to use the RMNCAH Strategy for the Global Financing Framework (GFF) investment case for Sierra Leone.

The Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) stakeholders' forum is active and the quarterly meetings are ongoing and with strong involvement of Civil Society Organizations. The RHCS stakeholders also participate in the MOHS Supply Chain Technical Working Group (TWG) and other adjunct RHCS related structures at national level.

Strong collaboration has enhanced partnerships and networking with increase in FP partners at national and district levels; and the MOHS is in the process of signing a contract with the West African Health Organization (WAHO) for WAHO/REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV PREVENTION IN THE ECOWAS REGION, with the strategic objective to improve access and quality of family planning services in Sierra Leone in order to achieve 33.7% Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR) for all women by 2022.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is supporting GOSL with engagements of Parliamentary Committee on Health to sensitize members on government's commitment to Family Planning and with advocacy for appropriate resource allocations for Family Planning. The process of engagement and advocacy is in progress and the momentum will peak for the newly elected Members of Parliament (MPs) between July – August 2018.

2. **COMMITMENT:** The Government of Sierra Leone is committed to improve access to family planning commodities through supply chain reforms and improved data visibility by year 2020.

- 2.1. Advocate for the integration of the RH supply chain with the national supply chain management system – Partners (DFID, UNFPA, MSSSL, PPSL) CSOs and Partners – Sept 2017

- 2.2. Act of Parliament to gain approval for the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) - Government and partners – June 2017
- 2.3. Government and its partners commit to mobilize donors and domestic financing resources to fund focused and more efficient last mile deliveries – June- Dec 2017
- 2.4. Introduction of a new e-LMIS- Government and partners – Jan 2018

In the space below, please provide an update on activities undertaken in 2017-2018 in support of these elements of your commitment:

The United Nations Population Fund, RH/FP Programme and partners successfully advocated for the integration of the RH Supply Chain with the national supply chain management and RH commodities have been included in the Supply Chain for the Free Health Care Initiative up to the last mile, Service Delivery Points (SDPs). Further discussions are in progress to pool resources to support national integrated supply chain.

The Act of Parliament has been passed for the National Medical Supplies Agency (NMSA) by the previous Parliament. Discussions are in the pipeline with the new government to institute, provide and establish provisions for staffing, structures, processes and procedures as per provisions of the Act of Parliament.

The Government and partners are still committed to mobilize additional resources to fund a more efficient last mile supply chain delivery system with the involvement of the District Health Management Team (DHMT) structures.

The United Nations Population Fund and partners are working to support MOHS with possible interphase of the current e-LMIS as provided in the Pharmaceutical Dashboard and link it with the CHANNEL system being used for inventory management. The National Supply Chain Technical Working Group is driving the introduction of the new e-LMIS and monthly meetings are underway since January 2018.

3. **COMMITMENT:** The government commits to reduce the unmet need for FP to adolescents (aged 10-19 years) from about 30% in 2013 to 20% in 2021 and reduce adolescent birth rates from 125.1/1000 (2013) to 74/1000 in 2021.
 - 3.1. Advocacy with key political, community and policy level stakeholders in the Ministries of Health; Education; Youth and Finance - CSO, donors and partners – June- Dec 2017
 - 3.2. Support development of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) policy, strategy, and curriculum - Government and partners- Sept 2017 – March 2018
 - 3.3. Pilot innovative products like Sayana Press - Government, UNFPA, WAHO and partners – Jan-Dec 2018
 - 3.4. Support Innovative approaches to deepen reach through use of data for demand creation and targeting – MOHS and CSOs (MSSL, PPASL) Sept 2017- Dec 2018
 - 3.5. Support outreaches to get services to the hard-to-reach areas for scale up and impact -MOHS and CSOs (MSSL, PPASL) Sept 2017- Dec 2018
 - 3.6. Train healthcare providers in technical competencies for adolescent health, contraceptive methods, and to respect, protect, and fulfill adolescent's rights to information, privacy, confidentiality, non-discrimination, respect, and choice. July 2017- Dec 2018
 - 3.7. Implement the Adolescent Youth Friendly Health Services Standards and Invest in Adolescent and Youth Friendly health facilities to ensure a clean, welcoming, private, and confidential environment with the right equipment, medicines, supplies and technology. Government and partners July 2017- Dec 2018
 - 3.8. Ensure that adolescents can access a full range of contraceptive methods by ensuring that providers have been trained, commodities are available, and demand generation- Government and partners July 2017 and continuous

In the space below, please provide an update on activities undertaken in 2017-2018 in support of these elements of your commitment:

The United Nations Population Fund supported the GOSL through the Ministry of Education in the development and inclusion of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in to the Education Sector Plan (2018-2020). Additionally, the CSE was included in the revised National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage. UNFPA will support the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to convene a National Stakeholders Workshop on CSE on the 15th and 16th of August 2018. A key outcome of the workshop will be the establishment of a technical working group to coordinate the process of developing materials, teacher training and advocacy.

The United Nations Population Fund is working with government and other stakeholders to introduce Sayana Press. Presently, the first batch of 10,000 pieces of the commodity is being expected in the country and an introduction plan developed with multi-stakeholders' support. Training is expected by September 2018.

Both PPASL and MSSL have continued to support outreaches to get services to adolescents and young women, especially in hard-to-reach areas. Presently, these interventions cover a total of 9 districts (56%) out of the 16 districts in the country. In terms of results, between January - March 2018, the SRH-FP outreaches succeeded in reaching 126,337 clients, out of which 53,938 were adolescents. A total of 90,184 new acceptors were reached including 15,408 adolescent new acceptors. A CYP of 132,922 was generated.

The Government of Sierra Leone and partners have trained nearly 15,000 Community Health Workers (CHWs) in all districts. Module 3 of the CHWs training has provision for the training of CHWs to provide FP services as per MOHS Basic Package of Essential Health Services Standard. The use of CHWs to deliver and provide community-based FP services has been piloted in two districts. Community family planning data collections tools have been developed and is being piloted in these two districts with hard-to-reach communities.

Civil Society Organizations are currently involved in community engagement, mobilization, sanitization of communities and monitoring of reproductive health commodity security at community level.

In 2017, UNFPA procured commodities worth USD2.9 million. This have been delivered and distributed to health facilities in the country. In 2018, to assure commodity security especially for adolescents and young women, UNFPA has placed orders for commodities worth about USD1.9 million. The consignments are currently being expected.

The United Nations Population Fund supported the upgrade, renovation and supply of equipment to 30 Youth Friendly Health facilities. These facilities are now benefitting from a quality improvement programme for ASRH services.

Specifically, to improve the quality of Adolescents and Young People's Friendly health services, UNFPA supported the process of quality improvement in two health facilities located in the Western Urban and Rural Districts.

With DFID funding, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to train 420 health care providers on the provision of quality and non-judgmental adolescent and youth friendly services. Among the participants were nurses and midwives. Topics covered in the training included family planning, sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancy, drug abuse and HIV.

In 2017 and 2018, UNFPA and other partners have supported technical competency training of healthcare service provides on short- and long-term contraceptives methods and emergency obstetric and newborn care with focus on meeting adolescents and young peoples sexual reproductive health needs and rights.

The Government's New Direction has promulgated to "launch a National Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health for adolescents to reduce teenage pregnancy and the alarming maternal mortality". The "Government will initiate discussions towards the re-introduction of Family Life Education in schools".

Please respond to all parts of the following 3 questions:

1. How has the government engaged civil society organizations, young people, and marginalized women and girls in decision-making about national family planning programs and policies?

The Government has engaged the civil society organization Health for All Coalition to provide data to inform the family planning programme, specifically data on Family Planning services uptake, stock-out and human resources are being monitored by the CSOs. Specifically, the independent monitoring conducted on the supply chain and the stock status data generated is being used for management decision making. Presently, this support is being provided in 4 districts. This data also informs programming for capacity building for healthcare workers who need to be trained in long-term and short-term family planning methods and the types of commodities that are required in specific health facilities.

Health for All Coalition also works on advocacy and uses the generated data to advocate for more resources, procurement of commodities and trainings on family planning.

The Government of Sierra Leone through MOHS consistently use policies and implementation plans to engage and support CSOs and the private sector for provision of family planning services to reach hard-to-reach communities, adolescents, youths, disadvantaged and marginalized populations.

In April 2017, the former President of Sierra Leone, launched the Demographic Dividend with UNFPA. The launch, which took place during National Youth Development Week, involved youths and attracted a large number of government ministers, diplomats, media representatives and members of the public. The launch provided a platform for UNFPA and development partners to advocate for improved engagement with young people regardless of gender, religion, demographics, and differing abilities, to empower them to contribute significantly to society. One of the key pillars of health and wellbeing and a core strategy to improving health and wellbeing is improving access to sexual and reproductive health services including family planning.

As part of the process for the celebration of the 2018 World Population Day programme, with the theme - 'Family planning is a human right', UNFPA is engaging youth advocates to carry out FP awareness creation and sensitization activities. Family Planning services will also be provided for adolescents and young persons during outreaches planned for the period of the celebrations of the World Population Day.

UNFPA and partners supported the Government of Sierra Leone to develop the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage. Young people were involved at every stage from the review of the previous strategy to the validation of the new strategy. One of the intervention areas is to ensure all PHUs and hospitals can provide a minimum package of Adolescent and Young People Friendly health care services, including family planning and outreach services. Another intervention area that is being prioritized and will be supported in the next quarter is to ensure that all primary, Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) and Senior Secondary Schools (SSS) provide age-appropriate CSE, using culturally relevant approaches.

a. What challenges have you faced in working with these groups? (please give examples)

Presently, UNFPA is the only organization supporting CSO monitoring of stocks and due to limited funding only 4 districts (25%) out of the 16 are being covered by this exercise.

b. How has this engagement supported reaching your FP2020 commitment?

- The involvement of CSO has improved monitoring and tracking of product availability as well as the provision of family planning services in the districts. The CSO provides independent and timely data, thus resulting in improved availability of data that has helped to target resources and led to better informed decisions
- The advocacy by CSO has helped to ensure that key challenges of FP are being brought to the fore and addressed and also facilitates addressing the gaps of young girls and women being unable to access FP
- Youth involvement in the development of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy led to a better understanding of the issues affecting young people and better informed and targeted package of planned interventions.

c. Please share successes and/or lessons learned from these engagements.

1 – Through civil society organization Health for All Coalition’s advocacy efforts, some of the District Health Management Teams have allocated a specific budget for transporting of FP commodities to facilities at the district level.

2- Through the generation of accurate data by Health for All Coalition, data is now being used by DHMTs and national level for monitoring, planning and decision-making.

2. How is the Government integrating family planning into universal health coverage (UHC)-oriented schemes and what is/are the mechanism(s) being used or considered?

Presently, family planning services are provided free to all citizens of the country in public health facilities. Government is committed to continue the free provision of services to cover 100 percent of the population. There is presently no wide spread health insurance scheme in the country and government is committed to include family planning services in the package of services whenever the health insurance scheme picks up in the country. Family Planning is included in the Free Health Care Initiative. Government (MOHS) and World Bank are piloting Performance Based Financing (PBF) mechanism for Family Planning services in Koinadugu and Kailahun Districts. Family Planning services are provided at all levels of the healthcare service delivery system with specific focus on community level service delivery and targeting adolescents.

3. Did the FP2020 focal points participate in Sierra Leone’s 2018 FP data consensus meeting?

No!

a. If so, what insights were gained?

Not applicable.

b. Were domestic expenditures data reviewed as part of the data consensus meeting? If so, please share insights and challenges you had in reviewing and validating these data.

Not applicable.

Please provide the following information on the Government’s point of contact for this update:

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