

Research for BUILDing pro-poor health systems during the recovery from conflict

The ReBUILD team welcome two new members who joined the team on the 1st of May 2013. Dr Abdul Karim Mbawah was appointed as the research officer for the Human resources for health project (project 2), with Dr Mohamed Samai as the project lead, and Dr Haja Ramatulai Wurie appointed as the Research Officer for the Contracting in the Health Service Delivery System in Sierra Leone project (project 3) with Dr Ansumana Sillah as the project lead. Dr Wurie also is as the research uptake officer for the ReBUILD project. They joined Mr Rogers Amara who is the research officer for the analysis of health expenditure in the poorest households in Sierra Leone project (project 1) with Dr Joseph Edem-Hotah (the Principal Investigator) as the project lead, and Mr Amara Katta, the administration officer for the project.

The team also welcome Maria Bertone, a PhD student from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, here to give technical support to the human resource for health project. She will be working with the team whilst doing research for her PhD studies.

Research Progress reports

The fieldwork for projects 1 and 2 of the first phase ReBUILD projects were conducted in the same study sites, as will the fieldwork for project 3. The study sites chosen are listed below:

- Western Area (Urban/Rural) District

- Kenema District (Eastern Province)
- Bonthe District (Southern Province)
- Koinadugu District (Northern Province)

These are representative of the different regions, urban/rural variations, remoteness/hard to reach areas, and measures of poverty/need.

Health expenditure of households in Sierra Leone (Project 1)

This project focuses on building knowledge about the implications of different methods of financing the public health system, exploring the impact of new approaches to health financing such as the free healthcare initiative for pregnant women and lactating mothers and children under the age of five years in Sierra Leone. The overall aim is to understand how the budgets of the poorest households have been affected by health financing policy as it has evolved (during and) since the conflict and to investigate the level and distribution of out-of-pocket health care expenditures for both curative and preventive health care in the poorest households.

Progress

Secondary data from the Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) reports of 2003/4 and 2011 were used for the quantitative aspect of the study, to understand the pattern of household expenditure on health care among the poor households. This will

also elucidate the long term trend in affordability associated with different phases of user fees, to assess the impact of the free health care initiative.

The fieldwork for this project is ongoing. A life history/ in-depth interview will be used to document a poor patient's illness episode and health expenditure trajectories and to assess his or her perception about the effect of user fees. Data provided will be used to test hypothesis and examine changes in the pattern of poor household expenditure in areas where the current health financing pattern is changed relative to household's health expenditure and in areas where the health financing pattern has not changed.

For more information on this project please contact Mr Rogers Amara on 078450333 or rogerwcharlie@yahoo.com OR Dr Joseph Edem-Hotah on jedem-hotah@yahoo.com or 076879523.

Human resource for health (Project 2)

This project focuses on Human Resources for Health (HRH) and, in particular, on the incentives established for health workers and their dynamics over the post-conflict period and will concentrate on evaluating management innovations and opportunities for ensuring that health systems are appropriately staffed to deliver quality services which are responsive to the needs of the communities they serve.

ties they serve. The main goal of this project is to understand the post-conflict dynamics for these workers – and ultimately how to reach and maintain incentive environments for them to support access to affordable, appropriate and equitable health services.

Progress

The fieldwork for this study is complete. Data was collected using stakeholder mapping, document review, key informant interviews, quantitative analysis of existing data, in-depth interviews and health workers incentives survey. The transcription of the key informant interviews is complete and the in depth interviews are ongoing. The analysis of these interviews will be done in due course. The database containing the data from the health worker survey has been created and analysis is in progress.

The secondary data, i.e., analysis of existing quantitative data, covering the period 2005 to 2012, sourced from the Human Re-

sources for Health directorate at the MoHS, Statistics Sierra Leone and District Health Management Teams in the four projects districts has been analysed and the report writing is in the final stages.

For more information on this project please contact Dr Abdul Mbawah on 076244040 or email akmbawah@yahoo.com OR Dr Mohamed Samai on 076841240 or email dhsamai@yahoo.com.

Contracting in the Health Service Delivery System in Sierra Leone

This project will focus on contracting, and in particular the performance based financing and the performance tracker schemes which the Government has recently introduced to support the Free Health Care Initiative. The overall aim of this project is to understand the change process and consequences of contracting in support of the process of decentralisation within the health

system in Sierra Leone during the post conflict period.

Progress

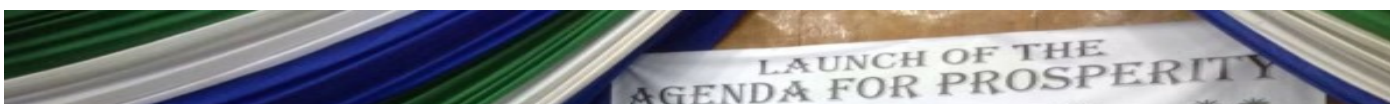
The research protocol and the interview guide has been developed and the documentary review is almost complete. Contact has been made with the World Bank requesting any preliminary data/report they have on evaluating the contracting of primary health care services (focusing on the impact of contracting on the performance based indicators) in Sierra Leone.

Ethical approval has been granted in Sierra Leone and the research proposal has been reviewed by the ethics board at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. A draft work plan for the fieldwork is also being developed.

For more information on this project please contact Dr Haja Wurie on hrwurie@yahoo.com or 076950212 OR Dr Ansumana Sillah on 078484146 or ansumana.sillah@yahoo.co.uk.

DFID Implementation Partners Meeting

ReBUILD Sierra Leone had representation at the DFID Sierra Leone Millennium Development Goals implementation partners meeting, which included DFID partners working on health, education and WASH projects. The aim of this meeting was to strengthen and encourage the synergies across the different DFID sectors and programmes in order to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency in delivery of the programmes and achieve maximum results. Discussions were focused around how the different DFID multi sector projects can continue to support the government of Sierra Leone at the national, district and community levels, with the overall goal of meeting the MDGs and working in line with the government of Sierra Leone's Agenda for Prosperity and sustain and improve health care delivery initiatives. It also created an ideal platform for networking and ReBUILD used this as an opportunity create vital relationships with policy makers and researchers alike. The ReBUILD teams will endeavour to attend future DFID implementation partners meetings.



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