



Budgit Liberia

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One-day town hall meeting on promoting health sector transparency and accountability through stakeholders' engagement

Name of county: Grand Bassa County

No.	Institution
1	Liberian Government Hospital
2	Grand Bassa County Health Team
3	J-Sigh Medical Clinic
4	Magic FM
5	Ableejay Radio
6	Grand Bassa Disabled Association
7	Muslim Council (Grand Bassa Chapter)
8	Traditional Council of Grand Bassa County
9	Bassa Youth Assembly
10	Bassa Women Organization
11	Liberian Council of Churches (Grand Bassa Chapter)

Following our COVID-19 Transparency and Accountability Project phase II launched that focuses on promoting health sector transparency and accountability through stakeholders' engagement, we held a one-day town hall meeting in Grand Bassa County. The essence of the meeting was to understand the challenges, opportunities and possible recommendations to institute transparency and accountability measures in the county health system by having a dialogue with stakeholders in the county, and to develop a resolution to promote transparency and accountability in the health sector of Liberia. The following points were captured during the meeting:

1. The government and international partners supply drugs and medical equipment to various health facilities -mostly government owned health centers. However, there is a lack of adequate and proper monitoring of these supplies. Most often these supplies are diverted to private health centers thus putting the ordinary people who seek medical care from these public health facilities to stand at greatest risk of spending more money or some even die due to lack of money to pay to get the drugs that are prescribed by the health practitioners. Therefore, the panel recommended that the government should put proper monitoring measures in place which should be tailored in a way that the community members to be an integral part of the process.
2. The national government is underpaying health workers and some health workers are not on payroll. Those that are employed don't receive their compensation on time, because of this health workers accept bribery from citizens. By consensus, panels recommend that the national government should increase health workers salaries and pay health workers on time.
3. Health workers should be accountable for their actions during the time of medical prescription, examination and administration of drugs for patients. Oftentimes, health workers carelessly pay less attention during the examination, administration and prescription of drugs for patients. However, the panel recommended that health workers be held accountable for their negligence during medical proceedings through a court process.
4. Health care services are not made public to patients and the days those services are offered. The panel recommended that the management of health facilities should make public services that they offer and prices thereof. In this way, patients will have a clear understanding of the services offered and the prices so that they don't get embarrassed when seeking medical care.
5. People with disabilities are often discriminated against when seeking treatment at some health centers. Most often they are charged more than the regular price for similar services that regular patients get. However, the panel recommended that people with disabilities should be treated like other patients. Mostly, they should be given free health services.