



**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH**



**COMMUNIQUE OF THE
1st ANNUAL NATIONAL
HEALTH
SUMMIT**

**WITH THE THEME:
UNLOCKING THE POTENTIALS FOR
IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES**

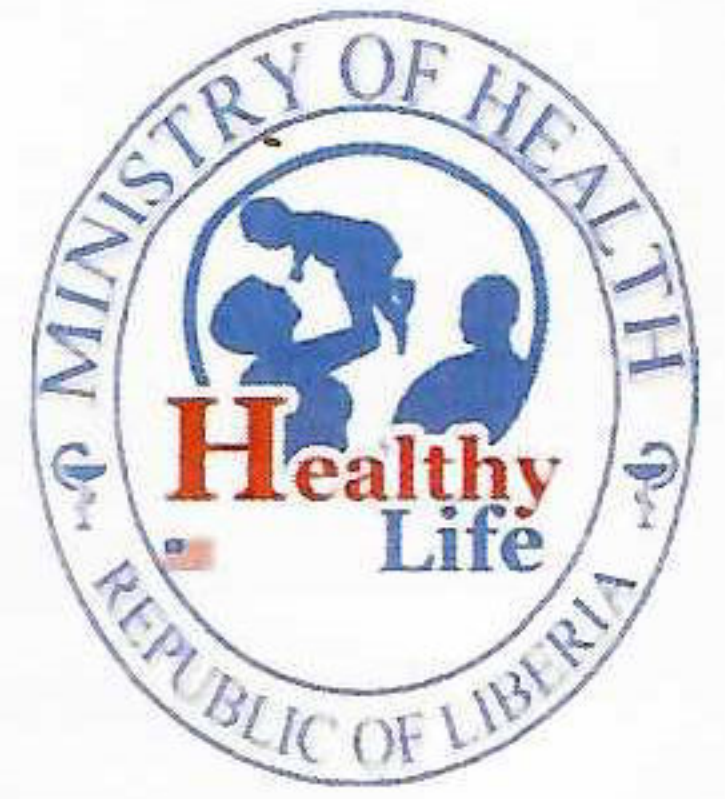
**A Pathway to
“Maternal and Neonatal
Mortality Reduction”**



Republic of Liberia

Ministry of Health

National Health Summit
Royal Ambassador Hotel
April 25, 2025



Communique of the First Annual National Health Summit with the theme: “Unlocking the Potentials for Improved Health Outcomes: A Pathway to Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Reduction”

Preamble

Reaffirming the inalienable rights to Health in Liberia and hence, the concerted efforts of the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Health, aimed at strengthening the health system as enshrined in the National Health Policy and Strategic Plan, the Primary Health Care approach encompassing decentralization, community empowerment, and partnership shall be followed in the implementation of the policy & strategic plan.

Context

Liberia remains among the countries with the highest maternal and neonatal mortality rates globally—with an estimated 742 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, neonatal mortality of 37 per 1000 live births and Under-five mortality estimated at 93 per 1,000 live births (LDHS, 2020). This is compounded by systemic weaknesses in primary health care, workforce shortages, limited financial resources, fragmented data systems, and persistent socio-economic challenges. However, the Ministry of Health, under the steady leadership of Dr. Louise M. Kpoto, has seized the moment, created by the nation’s democratic renewal to reassess, realign, and revitalize the sector.

WHEREAS, H E. Joseph Nyuma Boakai, President of the Republic of Liberia, declared Maternal and Neonatal Death as a National Health Emergency in 2024.

RECOGNIZING the important contribution that the implementation of the National Health Plan makes towards saving lives in Liberia and achieving the goals of the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), the Ministry of Health and its Partners convened from April 23-25, 2025 to hold its First Health Summit and review the implementation of the National Health Plan and Policy for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that “Every Mother Matters, Every Birth Counts” there is an urgent and imperative need to accelerate maternal and neonatal health improvements in Liberia, and grounded in the principles of equity, resilience, and national ownership, we—representatives of the Government of Liberia including the county superintendents, County Health Teams, health professionals, UN Agencies, NGOs and INGOs development partners, civil society organizations, and private sector stakeholders—gathered at the 1st National Health Sector Summit. The summit serves as a defining moment for collective action under the new and dynamic leadership of the Ministry of Health, committed to driving transformation through accountability, transparency, and results-driven service delivery.

KNOWING that partners and donor organizations appreciate the invaluable achievements of the Ministry of Health in reforming the health sector and the delivery of the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS II) in Liberia, the partners and donors also hailed the Government of Liberia through the Minister of Health for progress to date. The presence and active participation of their representatives further demonstrates their unflinching support to the health sector.

The First National Health Summit had broad based representation at all levels and brought together over **250** participants including: members of the Executive, county superintendents, county health boards, county health teams, development partners, Private Sector, Civil Society organizations, donor agencies, United Nation’s Family, health training institutions, non-governmental organizations, referral medical hospitals, Regulatory body, among others.

In partnership with all stakeholders, the Champion for the Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal mortality in Liberia, the First Lady, Madam Kartumu Yarta Boakai, launched the catchphrase **“Every Mother Matters, Every Birth Counts”** further reaffirming the government of Liberia’s commitment to making maternal and newborn health a high priority as indicated in the AAID Vision 2029 and SDGs 2030.

Cognizant of Liberia’s commitment to improving health outcomes, the Conference reviewed, amongst other things, progress made in implementation of the Ministry of Health National Policy (2022-2031) and the National Health Sector Strategic Plan (2022-2026), with specific reference to each of the components of the National Health Strategic Plan:

1. Essential Package of Health Services EPHS II
2. Essential Package of Health Services for UHC
3. Human Resources for Health
4. Child Survival Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2028

Now, therefore, in view of the foregoing, the Summit resolved on the following recommendations and National Call to Action for the reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality:

- Strengthen the national inter-sectoral steering committee under the leadership of the First Lady of the Republic of Liberia for accelerating Maternal and Newborn Mortality reduction.
- Increase attention for newborns, the most vulnerable citizens and especially preterm babies, linking to our ongoing commitment to **Every Mother Matters, Every Birth Counts**.
- Accelerate interventions for maternal and newborn mortality reduction through strengthened linkages between communities and health facilities.
- Recognizing the high unmet need for family Planning and unacceptably high adolescent pregnancy, the Ministry of Health

commits to ensuring responsive family planning services for women and girls in Liberia.

- Pledge, through national action and international cooperation, to accelerate progress on newborn, child and maternal survival. We hold ourselves accountable for our collective action towards this goal. And on behalf of all children and women everywhere in Liberia, we recommit the efforts of our respective organizations to give every child and woman the best possible start in life.
- Increase resources from the Government of Liberia, partners, other sectors including private sector for the implementation of the Road Map for acceleration of Reduction of maternal and newborn deaths.
- Accelerate the re-orientation and re-engineering of health system strengthening, using the primary health care approach including the Revolving Drug Fund (RDF) for the reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality and the attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Engage the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Superintendents, National Traditional Council, and NGO community) to strengthen the development of county specific interventions for reducing maternal and newborn mortalities.

Declaration

We leave this summit with renewed urgency, a clear roadmap, and unified resolve to transform maternal and neonatal health outcomes in Liberia. We urge all national and international stakeholders to join in sustained partnership mutual accountability, equity and resiliency, with a shared vision that **Every Mother Matters, Every Birth Counts.**