PARTNERSHIP FOR ADVANCING COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (PACS)
February 2015-February 2020 | Implementer: International Rescue Committee

The Partnership for Advancing Community Based Services (PACS) works to strengthen the delivery of high quality community health and social welfare services by providing technical and operational support to the Ministries of Health (MOH), Public Works, and Gender, Child, and Social Protection, as well as to civil society organizations (CSO). PACS supports interventions across four strategic objectives:

- Broadened capacity of MOH, CHTs, Non-Governmental Organizations and CSOs to implement and manage community services;
- Increased availability of sustainable and quality community-based health services;
- Increased demand for and provision of community health and social (child) welfare services; and
- Improved access to safe water supply and sanitation at the community level.

In addition, with support from the Global Health Ebola Team (GHET), the activity works to rebuild and restore public confidence in the health system with special attention to border communities and other vulnerable (hard to reach) communities. There is also emphasis on expanding the availability of services including integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) of childhood illnesses in three (Grand Bassa, Margibi, and Rural Montserrat). PACS also supports the roll-out of the National Community Health Assistant Program (NCHAP), which requires substantial up-front investments for training and procurement of supplies and equipment. In January 2018, PACS received additional funding via the Global Health Security
Agenda (GHSA) to strengthen Community Events Based Surveillance (CEBS) in Bong, Lofa and Nimba. Implementation of CEBS is in close collaboration with the MOH, NPHIL and the CHTs.

**Current Activities**

- Supporting institutionalization of National Community Health Assistants (CHA) program
- Supporting Community Events Based Surveillance (CEBS), to strengthen epidemic preparedness and response activities
- Working with CSOs to build and strengthen their capacity and internal management systems to implement, and manage community-based programs and foster effective participation in governance, advocacy, and service provision at local and national levels
- Facilitating community level linkages (through CSOs) between health and WASH structures to function in a more cohesive, integrated manner across result areas
- Providing technical support to MOH at national/county levels to strengthen Community-Based Information System (CBIS) data analysis and information use

**Accomplishments to Date**

- Supported the MOH to develop a national curriculum for Community Health Assistants (CHAs) and Community Health Services Supervisors (CHSS): 99 Community Health Services Supervisors and 672 CHAs recruited and trained.
- Provided technical assistance to strengthen community-level supply chain and health information systems
- Mobilized 1,490 communities to stop open defecation including support for community-driven latrine construction of 2,596 latrines benefiting 66,542 people
- Constructed 135 and rehabilitated 66 wells which continue to be operational, serving at least 42,000 people individuals
- Developed Behavior Change Communications tools for CHAs/CHVs to address health priorities including maternal and child health, malaria prevention and treatment.
- Developed data collection tools for the Community-Based Information System; CBIS is now integrated into the DHIS2 for community level reporting
- Trained 425 port of entry (POE) staff (border police, immigration officers) and CHT staff to enable them to identify and report all 19 priority diseases, conditions, and events at the various POE in Bong, Lofa, and Nimba

**Planned Outcomes**

- Greater capacity of government and CSOs to implement and manage community services
- Increased availability of community-based health services
- Improved health-seeking behavior and practices
- Improved access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene