



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Minister's Top Stories of the Month

"300 Days of Activism"

Results After the First 150 Days



Maternal Health

30.2% Reduction

Maternal deaths reduced.
Progress during the first 150 days of the campaign.



Child Health

14.4% Reduction

Child deaths reduced.
Progress over the same 150-day period.



Zero-Dose Children

79% Improvement

Zero-dose immunization coverage improved.
Reaching more children with life-saving vaccines.



MINISTER'S REMARKS

In February this year, President Dr. Julius Maada Bio declared the implementation of 300 Days of Activism to accelerate progress in health service delivery for mothers and their babies. This ambitious national initiative is pegged around three zeros: Zero Preventable Maternal Deaths, Zero Preventable Child Deaths, and Zero-Zero Dose Children.

We are halfway through the journey already, and the data we have so far show significant gains in both maternal and child health outcomes. Despite this progress, there is still room for improvement especially in the areas of addressing preventable causes of death like malaria, malnutrition, high blood pressure, sepsis and hypertension, among others. In the remaining days of this national drive, we will double down on our efforts to not only reduce the numbers drastically, but aggressively bend the curve to achieve our tripple zero targets.



KEY HEALTH INDICATORS FACTSHEET

NATIONAL HEALTH SECTOR KPIS

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

62 yrs

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO

354/100k

UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY

91/1,000

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

56/1,000

STUNTING, U5

26%

FULL IMMUNIZATION (DTP3)

90%

ANC 4+ COVERAGE

79%

CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE

29%

GOVT EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH

8%

PERFORMANCE BY LIFE STAGE · Q1 2026

Maternal & Newborn

Facility mortality: 129/100k, down 53%
ANC 1 coverage: 92% — target met
Facility delivery: 98% — target met
ANC before 12 wks: 18% — missed
Contraceptive use: 38% — below target

Child Health

Under-5 mortality: down 10% QoQ
SAM cure rate: 99% — target met
Malaria, U5: 479/1,000 — off target
Leading death drivers: diarrhoea & malnutrition, 41%
Immunization antigens: 5 of 7 met 95% target

Adolescent & Adult

HIV incidence: 1.1/1,000 — 4x target
TB incidence: 159/100k — stable
Adolescent fertility: 94/1,000 (ages 15–19)
GBV cases reported: 1,190 in Q1 2026
HIV positivity rate: 8% — above 5% target

DISTRICT PERFORMANCE LEAGUE TABLE · Q1 2026

Composite score /100 across maternal, child, disease control, data quality & adolescent/adult domains.

Tier 1 — National Leaders

- 1. Kailahun — 88**
HMIS completeness 95% & timeliness 79% — #1 nationally
- 2. Pujehun — 85**
Highest ANC4 coverage nationally; near-zero maternal mortality
- 3. Karene — 83**
Zero maternal deaths; 100% facility delivery

Tier 4 — Critical Improvement

- 14. Bombali — 48**
Misses all immunisation targets; lowest vaccination
- 15. WA Rural — 44**
Highest HIV & TB positivity; timeliness under 55%
- 16. WA Urban — 38**
Lowest HMIS timeliness; worst stillbirth & LBW rates

Source: Sierra Leone Health Sector Quarterly Data Bulletin, Q1 2026 — Ministry of Health / DPPI





NATIONAL RECOGNITION

President Bio Praises Health Ministry for Performance at the 69th ECOWAS Summit



President Dr. Julius Maada Bio recently commended the Ministry of Health for its exceptional leadership, professionalism, and preparedness in delivering quality healthcare services during the 69th ECOWAS Heads of State and Government Summit in Freetown and Lungi, describing its work as one of the key pillars behind the conference's success.

Ahead of the summit, the Ministry rolled out a comprehensive medical preparedness strategy — emergency response training, strengthened Infection Prevention and Control measures, improved ambulance services, and pre-positioned top medical personnel and supplies at the conference venues both in Freetown and Lungi.



MEDICAL MILESTONE

Sierra Leone Performs Its First-Ever Brain Tumor Surgery at Connaught Hospital

Medical doctors in Sierra Leone made history this month after successfully performing the country's first-ever brain tumor surgery at Connaught Hospital in Freetown. Carried out under the USLTHC Neurosurgery Programme, the procedure was jointly led by Dr. Allieu Kamara, Neurotrauma Surgeon, and Dr. Ibrahim Jalloh, a Sierra Leonean neurosurgeon based in the UK — a milestone reflecting the country's investment in advanced medical training under the leadership of the Minister of Health Dr. Austin Demby.

“The patient is recovering very well. This reflects the growing capacity of Sierra Leone's health system to deliver highly specialized, life-saving interventions locally,” said DCMO-Clinical Services, Dr. Mustapha Kabba, after learning about the good news.





EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Sierra Leoneans Injured in Guinea Road Crash Discharged After Successfully Receiving Care



Eight out of twelve Sierra Leoneans injured in a road traffic accident in the Republic of Guinea have been successfully treated and discharged from the Emergency Hospital and Connaught Hospital in Freetown — a milestone in the Government's coordinated emergency response between health authorities in Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Health Minister Dr. Austin Demby thanked the Government of Guinea and its medical team for their swift, professional intervention, noting that prompt emergency care at the scene, paired with seamless cross-border coordination, was instrumental in stabilising the victims before their transfer for continued treatment.



DIGITAL HEALTH

Health Travel Portal Goes Live at Lungi International Airport



Sierra Leone launched its first-ever Health Travel Portal at Lungi International Airport in June, strengthening border health security, disease surveillance, and preparedness against public health threats.

The digital platform requires travellers entering or leaving the country to submit travel history and health documentation 72 hours in advance, helping authorities anticipate and respond to health risks while keeping travel safe and seamless.

“The health travel portal will strengthen border security amid the ongoing Ebola outbreak elsewhere,” said Minister of Health Dr. Austin Demby at the launch.





Global Mercy Departs After Three Years of Life-Changing Care in Sierra Leone



The Global Mercy left Queen Elizabeth II Quay in Freetown in June, concluding three consecutive years of humanitarian field mission in Sierra Leone. Mercy Ships leaves behind a legacy of healing and hope with 5,430 free surgeries, 17,110 dental procedures, and more than 590 health workers trained.

At a farewell event, President Julius Maada Bio praised the partnership, noting that the ship's greatest achievement was leaving behind a stronger health system. Health Minister Dr. Austin Demby called the mission transformative and “much more than a hospital ship in Sierra Leone's waters.”

“You were a symbol of hope and healing for our people, and you gave thousands of patients a second chance at life.”

— DR. AUSTIN DEMBY, MINISTER OF HEALTH



THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE

July 2026 — 300 Days of Activism: Day 150 of 300

Six weeks of measurable progress across maternal and child survival, emergency response, and global partnership.



79%

ZERO-DOSE COVERAGE GAIN

Improvement in the first 150 days of the campaign.



30.2%

MATERNAL DEATHS REDUCED

Progress toward zero preventable maternal deaths.



14.4%

CHILD DEATHS REDUCED

Progress toward zero preventable child deaths.



1st

**BRAIN TUMOR SURGERY EVER
PERFORMED IN SIERRA LEONE**



8 out of 12

**CRASH SURVIVORS TREATED &
DISCHARGED AFTER GUINEA ROAD
ACCIDENT**



5,430

**FREE SURGERIES DELIVERED BY MERCY
SHIPS OVER 3 YEARS**

Quote of the Month:

"We will double down on our efforts to bend the curve and achieve our national tripple zero targets," Dr. Austin Demby, Minister of Health for Sierra Leone.



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

PRODUCED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS UNIT