

SIERRA LEONE

<https://doctorswithafrica.org/en/where-we-work/in-africa/our-work-in-sierra-leone/>

IN 2020

In 2020, the **National Emergency Medical Service (NEMS)** was gradually handed over to the country's health authorities, who have been running it independently since 1 October 2020. However, Doctors with Africa CUAMM has continued to support the service's management body. To cope with the Covid-19 pandemic, NEMS was reinforced to guarantee **emergency transfers tied to infectious disease** and sample transfers via dedicated ambulances. Despite the effects of the pandemic, which partially reduced use of the services, including maternal services, Doctors with Africa CUAMM continued to support **Sierra Leone's largest maternity** unit in Freetown, attending more than 6,200 deliveries (including over 3,000 obstetric emergencies) and continuing the gestational diabetes screening and activities at the HDU (High Dependency Unit). In 2020, additional HDUs were also opened in the regional hospitals of Makeni, Bo and Pujehun. These facilities **provide intensive care** for critical patients and improve the level of care offered. In 2020, assistance for Lunsar Hospital concluded with the completion of the three-year project to support the SJOG maternity hospital and several peripheral health facilities in the district.

Doctors with Africa CUAMM continued to support the country's most remote health districts – **Bonthe and Pujehun** – by providing training and assistance in **maternal and child health** services. As part of this programme, CUAMM helped develop **14 blood banks** (3 regional and 11 at district-level) by providing solar refrigerators and equipment to improve the management of blood transfusions. In Bonthe, we continue to encourage **boat referrals for women** living in the river areas who would not otherwise be able to reach the hospital to give birth. Our work has continued at the hospital in Pujehun, where a **baby care unit** has been set up to care for newborns with diseases; the referral back system is also being reinforced with **vouchers to take the most fragile paediatric patients** who have just been discharged from hospital back to their home villages to help the recovery process.

2020 SNAPSHOT

114
human
resources

25
health facilities
supported

64
NEMS
resources

6,901,978 €
invested
in projects

COUNTRY PROFILE

Freetown
Capital



1,120
per 100,000
live births
Maternal
mortality rate

8,102,739
million
Population

72,180 km²
Area



19.4 years
Average age
of the population

105.1
per 1,000
live births
Under-five
mortality rate

53.9/55.5 years
Life expectancy
(m/f)



4.1
Average number
of children
per women

78.5
per 1,000
live births
Neonatal
mortality rate

182nd
out of 189
countries
Human
Development
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WHERE WE WORK



FREETOWN WESTERN AREA

1 Hospital *Princess Christian Maternity Hospital - Freetown*
10 health centres
1,573,109 population served



NEMS Project

PORT LOKO DISTRICT

1 Hospital *St. John of God Hospital - Lunsar*
24 health centres
140,970 population served



BOMBALI DISTRICT

1 Hospital *Makeni*
636,000 population served



BONTHE DISTRICT

5 health centres
210,531 population served



BO DISTRICT






1 Hospital *Bo*
5 health centres
603,716 population served

PUJEHUN DISTRICT

1 Hospital *Pujehun CMI*
5 health centres
384,864 population served



RESULTS ACHIEVED

 CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH	34,521 prenatal visits	4,669 transfers for obstetric emergencies	39,407 attended births	17,554 visits of children < age 5
 NUTRITION	100 children treated for severe acute malnutrition			
 INFECTIOUS DISEASES	1,051 patients treated for malaria	37,882 Children < age 5 treated for acute respiratory infection		5,131 respiratory infections treated by community agents
 ONGOING TRAINING	2,067 community agents	126 nurses and midwives	11 doctors	100 other
 CHRONIC DISEASES	1,476 tests for gestational diabetes	79 pregnant women identified with gestational diabetes		