

Implementation research for performance-based financing in Liberia

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Funding:

World Bank Executed Trust Funds (BETF) for PBF Implementation Research (PBF-IR)

Project dates:

2019-2020

Background:

Liberia has been implementing different designs with different incentive mechanisms of performance-based financing (PBF) over the past two decades to improve health service delivery to its population. Currently, three specific PBF approaches are being implemented to improve the provision of essential health services in a total of seven counties. Of these, two PBF approaches focus on service delivery at a total of 225 primary health facilities in six counties and one PBF approach focusing on service delivery at eight secondary level hospitals in seven counties.

No thorough implementation research has been carried out for any of these PBF programs so far. PBF is increasingly considered a means of introducing strategic purchasing mechanisms for health services provision in Liberia, there is growing interest among national and international stakeholders to explore implementation experiences and draw on the lessons learned from these different PBF implementations.

Study Objective:

The primary objectives of this study are: a. to understand to what extent these different PBF programs have been implemented as planned in respect to the operationalization of PBF as a health system strategy; b. to explore the key PBF design elements and lessons learned related to PBF operationalization across these PBF programs; and c. to inform the roadmap to integrate PBF as a future strategic purchasing function into the Liberia Health Equity Fund.

Study Design:

The study adopts a cross-sectional mixed-methods study approach with three complementary study components: 1) a review of existing information on PBF, which entails a review of implementation documents and a review of existing quantitative

routine PBF data; 2) a quantitative assessment of PBF implementation based on primary quantitative data collection at the health facility and county levels; and 3) a qualitative assessment in the form of in-depth interviews with PBF stakeholders at the health facility and county levels and key informant interviews with main PBF stakeholders,.

Main outcomes of interest:

Estimation of implementation fidelity of each of the three PBF programs and identification of key elements facilitating adherence and adaptation of these PBF designs in different counties.

Publications:

Final Report – Implementation Research for Performance Based Financing (PBF) in Liberia.

Policy Brief 1 - Aspects of Quality of Care in PBF Implementation.

Policy Brief 2 – Aspects of Strategic Purchasing in PBF Implementation.

Policy Brief 3 – Opportunities for Alignment of PBF Approaches.

Presentation – Overview Key Aspects of PBF Implementation Research in Liberia

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