

Reflexibility Statement

This study provides evidence for policy decision-making regarding Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) surveillance and response system strengthening, aligned with Liberia's Investment Plan for Building a Resilient Health System (2015 – 2021).

The local researcher played the leading role in the study design.

The funding supported field operations (e.g., data collection and daily substance allowance).

We acknowledged the data collectors for their contributions to the study in this manuscript. All members of the research partnership have unlimited access to the study data. With support from a Biostatistician (a team member), the local staff led the data analysis for the entire project. This engagement provided an opportunity to improve data analytic skills locally.

Through a concerted effort, every team member contributed to writing the original study report and this manuscript.

The (local) research partner was regularly mentored and supported in enhancing their writing skills with comments and discussions while developing the study protocols and report writing. A copy of the original report for this project has been shared with the Coordinator for Monitoring and Evaluation, Research and Health Statistics at the Ministry of Health, Liberia. We have developed a result dissemination plan to deliver at least an oral presentation to policymakers at the National Public Health Institute and the Ministry of Health in Liberia.

Undoubtedly, the LMIC researchers have played a leadership role, made immense contributions and are the sole owner of this work. The corresponding author is an LMIC researcher. As an early researcher, the Corresponding author was guided to gain practical experience in conducting a surveillance system evaluation, working in a multidisciplinary team, including a social scientist, biostatistician and infectious disease experts. This exposure provided an enhanced understanding of evaluation methodologies and valuable networking opportunities. The gender ratio was five males to one female. The gender disparity did not happen intentionally but instead was based on availability and interest from team members. The only female on the project played a pivotal role as the Biostatistician.

This manuscript was written from a PhD scholarship for an LMIC researcher.

The research findings clearly described Liberia's surveillance infrastructure and made recommendations suggesting improving the local infrastructure.

We acquired multiple authorisations for this study from the health system's national, county and district levels. The study protocol was reviewed by a local Institutional Review Board (IRB) to ensure protection for study participants.