



LCM ELECTS NEW LEADERS FOR 3YRS



MOH Validates 10-Years NCHP Documents

The Ministry of Health (MOH) has begun the validation of a 10-year policy document that aims to reduce infant mortality.

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Plan Handover New Yamaha Bike to Global Fund NFM3 HIV/TB Grant Implementers

MEET THE LCM EXECUTIVES



Madam Joyce L. Kilikpo of PHIL/ LCM Chair



Mrs. Theodosia Kolee of NAC / LCM 1st Vice Chair



Dr. Benetta C. Andrews of LCPS/ LCM 2nd Vice Chair



Jessica Healey of USAID / Oversight Committee Chair



Dr. Moses Jeuronlon, WHO/LCM FRDC Chair



Gabriel Starks of Starks Foundation / Chair, Ethics Committee



Mr. William E. Walker, Jr., LCM Head of Secretariat

LCM Elects New Leaders For 3yrs



From (L-R): Rev. Oreftha Miller Davis of LCL, Representing Dr. Benetta C. Andrews of LCPS; Madam Joyce L. Kilikpo of PHIL; Mrs. Theodosia Kolee of NAC Sworn In As Second Vice Chair, Chairperson and First Vice Chair, Respectively

The Liberia Coordinating Mechanism (LCM) of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (TGF) on today, elected Madam Joyce Kilikpo, Executive Director of the Public Health Initiative of Liberia - PHIL, Madam Theodosia Kolee, Chairperson of the National AIDS Commission - NAC, and Dr. Benetta C. Andrews, Secretary of the Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons - LCPS, respectively to serve as Chair, First Vice and Second Vice Chairs of the multi-sectorial organization until July 2025.

The LCM is a national body that oversees implementation of Global Funds, approved grants on behalf of Liberia and also ensures linkages and consistency between the Global Fund grants and other national health and development programs. Its membership includes representatives of all sectors involved in the response to these diseases: faith-based organizations, government, civil society organizations, academic institutions, multilateral and bilateral organizations, people living with the disease, private sector and technical agencies.

The adhoc elections committee chaired by Mr. Dosla Farcarthy of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), provided the procedures for the elections, noting that only three constituencies were allowed to be voted while the bi-lateral and multi-lateral organizations would serve as observers. Nomination for the positions were generated from the floor. 16 out of 27 members of the LCM participated during the electioneering process which is 50 percent plus one.

Madam Theodosia Kolee of NAC representing the government constituency, and Dr. Benetta Andrews of LCPS representing private sector constituency are just joining the LCM leadership. Madam Kolee the first vice was elected unopposed after Mr. Johnson Hinnneh of the Ministry of Education declined to contest but supported her first vice chair elections bid. Mr. Hinnneh had served on the LCM leadership for four (4) years.

In another development, Dr. Andrews, the second vice chair, defeated her opponent narrowly with two votes margin. Dr. Andrews had contested against Cllr. Theresa Davis of the Liberia Business Association (LBA). Dr. Andrews got 9 out of 16 votes; while Cllr. Davis got 7 out of 16 votes during the electioneering process. Cllr. Davis had served on the LCM Leadership for only a year following a bi-election to fill the vacancy created in September 2021. This was now perfect opportunity for Cllr. Davis to serve a full term but she never got re-elected.

As for Madam Joyce Kilikpo who representing the Local NGOs/CBOs is the current Chair. She got re-elected after completing the leadership tenure of Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA). Cllr. Gongloe resigned in July 2021 thus creating a gap in the LCM leadership.

Madam Kilikpo had previously served on the LCM as Second Vice Chair, but ascended to the position of chair on September 29, 2021 after Mr. Johnson T. Hinnneh of the Ministry of Education (MoE), the than First Vice Chair declined to serve as Chair, a

privilege given the first vice chair to serve as chair upon resignation of the chair proper as such is consistent with the LCM's Governance and Operational Manual.

After a year of service as Chair, the tough talking public health advocate, Madam Kilikpo got re-elected unopposed. This is the third time the PHIL Executive Director has gotten elected unopposed to serve on the LCM Leadership.

Meanwhile, the Elections for the Chair, First and Second Vice Chairs took place in the Musu's Spot Conference Room, Congo Town, Montserrado County. The Election of officials of the LCM is mandatory by the LCM's Governance and Operational Manual which serves as the Constitution of that august body. The elections took place during the LCM Extraordinary Sitting which was held for two days, beginning with orientation of members of the LCM. Every three year the LCM goes to election to elect the Chair, First and Second Vice Chairs as well as to establish other standing committees.

In a remark, Madam Joyce Kilikpo thanked the members of the LCM for re-electing her as Chair as well as for the elections of her able deputies, Madam Theodosia Kolee and Dr. Bennetta C. Andrews.

She uses the opportunity to call on all to work along with her leadership. "Our doors are open to working with all. We want to advance the idea of putting ownership into practice as such I want you support us in making this work for our country," the LCM Chair noted.

Madam Kilikpo was amazed by the overwhelming support of their male counterparts on the LCM and said these words: "Wow! We are seated here today and we are making history. Imagine the LCM leadership being led by all females today. This is something that worth commending. This gives us hope for women leadership in our country and the sub-region. I know as Liberians; we are good at making history and I want to believe that this might be the first in Global Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCMS). I stand to be corrected. This demonstrates that our male counterparts are moving shoulders to shoulders with us and believed in equal representation and believed in what women are able to bring to the table. I just want to say thanks to everyone for re-electing me as chair and electing my colleagues to help me move this leadership ahead."

About the LCM

The LCM is known globally as Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM). It is a national body that submits funding applications to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria on behalf of the country. Members of the LCM include representatives of all sectors involved in the response to the diseases: multilateral and bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, faith-based organization, the private sector and – especially – people living with the diseases.

Established in 2006, the LCM is also responsible to select organizations to serve as Principal Recipients (PRs) for the implementation of the Global Fund grant. The Ministry of Health (MOH) currently serves as the PR for the Tuberculosis, Malaria and Health System Strengthening; while Plan International Liberia (PIL), serves as Co-PR for the community component for the Tuberculosis, Malaria and Health System Strengthening grants.

LCM of the Global Fund

The Liberia Coordinating Mechanism (LCM or Liberia's CCM) of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria has the primary responsibility to coordinate the development and submission of proposals to the Global Fund (GF) on behalf of the country as well as select organizations known as Principal Recipients to manage the funds. Learn more at www.lcm.org.lr and connect with us on Facebook.

MOH, Partners Conclude National Conference On Newborn Health Nutrition



The Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with its local and international partners, including the Liberia Coordinating Mechanism of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, on June 29, 2022 concluded a two-day national conference across held in the 15 political subdivision of the country as part of efforts to reduce maternal newborn health and increase child nutrition.

The event brought together the Montserrado County Health Team (MCHT), Community Health Assistant (CHA), and other health practitioners from Montserrado County. The Global Fund remains huge contributor to public health services in Liberia including the community health program and health systems strengthening.

Participants brainstormed and shared knowledge including challenges as well as reflected on issues, ranging from maternal newborn health and mortality to child health and nutrition services and the dynamics in the provision of quality healthcare delivery in Liberia.

At a Town Hall held in Monrovia under the theme: “Invest in Maternal Newborn Health and Nutrition, To Reduce Maternal and Newborn Death in Liberia,” LCM Head of Secretariat Mr. William E. Walker, Jr. welcomed the organizing of said conference and urged the participants to remain engaged throughout the conference.

“Today, we recognized your courage to attend this conference and we hope you will demonstrate this throughout this conference so that your voices are heard. Let's make maximum use of the opportunity we have to reduce maternal newborn health and increase child nutrition,” Mr. Walker noted.

For her part, Dr. Willimina Jallah, Liberia's Minister of Health applauded the Montserrado County Health (MCHT) and locals for bracing the successful organizing of the conference.

“This conference is being held across the 15 Counties in Liberia. The entire indicator is multi-sectorial approach, nutrition, child health, pregnancy and all that stimulates

health. “Exclusive breastfeeding remains critical,” said Minister Jallah.

She said every health professional has to be responsible in the discharged of their deities because health matters, stressing the need for everyone to go back in their various communities to promote health matters. Dr. Jallah uses the occasion to commend the CHO and her team for the level of cooperation thus far.

Also speaking, Dr. Yatta S. Wapoe, County Health Officer of Montserrado County, who made opening remarks at the kickoff, told health workers that the objective of the conference was also aimed at reducing maternal morbidity and mortality (MMR) as well reduce infant morbidity and mortality.

Giving statistics on various health facilities in Montserrado during the conference, Nancy T. Bonner, said the county has the population of approximately 1.4million and it has 374 health facilities. These facilities according to her, play a critical role in reducing maternal newborn health in the health sector.

And out of the number, 62 are public health facilities, while 312 are private owned facilities; of that number, 11 hospitals, while 28 health facilities as well as 335 clinics, as such she told Minister Jallah that the Ministry has lot to do in the county.

Madam Bonner, however, clarified that Montserrado County has only 5 functional maternal waiting homes that are situated in rural Montserrado, specifically in Todde, St. Paul and Careysburg districts.

Meanwhile, at least five (5) health workers were honored by the Montserrado County Health Team through the Ministry of Health for their service rendered over the years at the end of the conference. Those honored include: Mrs. Debbie W. Kwashie, Best Performing Certified Midwifery (CM)-Argthington Clinic, Mary T. Kwiwalazu Best Performing Officer In Charge (OIC) Goba Town Clinic, Beatrice Boimah best performing Vaccinator- Duport Road Health Center, Emily Williams- best performing Community Health Assistant (CHA) – Careysburg, and Francis Cole Traditional Trained Midwifery (TTM) – Johnsonville Clinic.

MOH Validates 10-Years NCHP Documents

The goal of the National Community Health Program (NCHP) is to enhance the delivery of quality community health program and to also reduce maternal, neonatal, infant, and adolescent mortality and morbidity in all communities and creating child-friendly communities through disease detection, prevention, and response.

The program is a coordinated, high-quality, government-managed community health care system aimed at contributing to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in which all households should have access to life-saving services and are empowered to mitigate potential public health risks in the community.

This process is intended to criticize the policy documents and make suggestions where necessary, as well as make recommendations for its finalization by the committee response. It further focuses on building consensus and getting stakeholders' buy-in on the Community Health Program (CHP) policy, aligning the NCHP policy document and reviewing sticky points per thematic areas which will develop a justification for possible inclusion or exclusion in policy areas.

“This process has come a very long way over the last one-year plus, and the Ministry had a lot of engagements with national, County, districts, and at community, levels to ensure that community health services are provided in a more equitable way in the communities thus improving health care services in Liberia,” said Oloasford Wiah, Director of the NCHP.

The policy documents are also intended to strengthen community structures through standardization of identification and orientation processes, which include: creating, training, equipping, incentivizing, supervising, deploying, digitally empowering, supporting, and motivating fit-for-purpose Community Health Workers (CHW).

Wiah indicated that going forward the Ministry wants to see different approaches when it comes to community health. “For example, the issues of the human resource aspect of the Community health program.

What do we intend to do, and how do we intend to achieve that? The issue of supply chain commodities for community health workers: what are those policies we need to put in place for them

to ensure that they do their work effectively and efficiently.”

Wiah, however, clarified that the intent of the validation is not to create something new in the policy documents but to build around what they already have. “We have Community Health Assistants (CHA) who are carrying on their activities in rural communities and urban cities. We already have Community Health Volunteers (CHV); but these CHV roles are not in a clear direction as compared to CHA; therefore, we want to standardize what these CHA's are doing now so that we don't have a loophole in the system, as we have been seeing in the urban settings.”

This, he believes, will help Liberia's health system, adding that the Ministry wants to see one community health policy with two different approaches. “One of the approaches is that we are currently doing the work of the CHA's in rural communities. The second approach is to just standardize what the CHV's in urban cities are doing to address the health needs of the community.”

He said: “We have learned lessons since the inception of this program in 2016. We want to keep the situations engaging as they come out in the health sector.”

Dr. Francis Ketehe, Chief Medical Officer, (CMO) stressed the importance of maintaining the momentum of the NCHP to show the development partners that Liberia is appreciative of all of the support over the years and is doing something better to improve the country's health system.

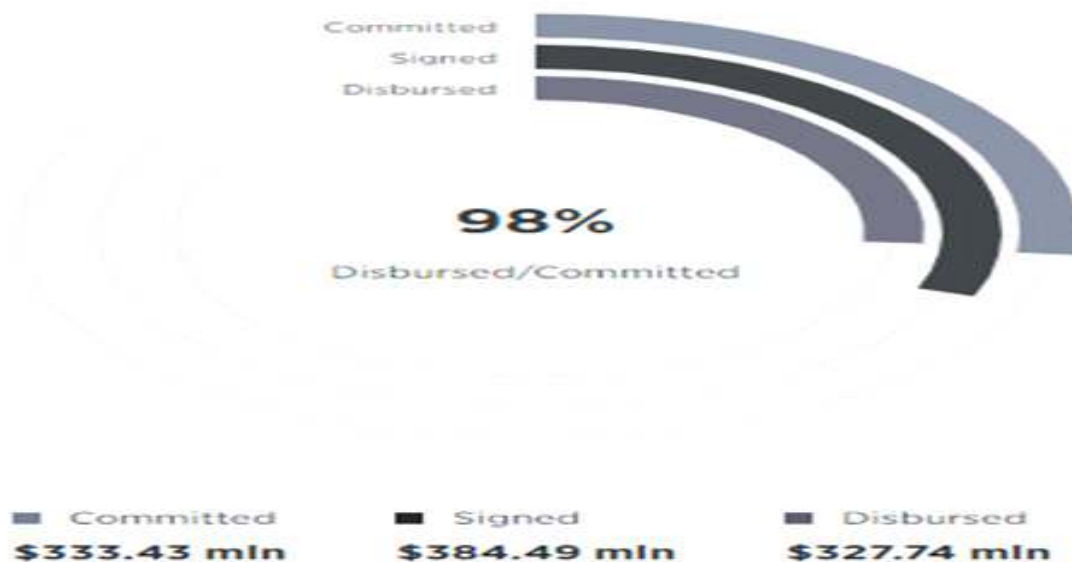
Ketehe sees this as essential to Liberia's health sector and calls on the national legislature to allocate more funds in the budget to support the program. “We all have to work continuously with the program managers so that at the end of the day we can continue to maintain quality health care service not compromise, but also provide what is needed for us to move forward,” he added.

The ongoing validation process began from June 16 -18, and it brought together health technicians, County Superintendents from Grand Bassa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Margibi, River Gee, Maryland, Grand Kru, Sinoe, River Cess, Lofa Gbarpolu, and Bong Counties.

GF Invests Billion To Defeat HIV, TB And Malaria In Liberia

Investment

Comparison between disbursed, committed and signed amounts



LCM Membership Renewal - In Picture



LCM Membership Renewal - In Picture



Plan Handover New Yamaha Bike to Global Fund NFM3 HIV/TB Grant Implementers



Plan International Liberia has turned over to three partners who are sub recipients of Global Fund NFM3 HIV and TB grants 29 new Yamaha Motorbikes to boost quality of their work at the beneficiary communities' levels.

Liberia United Methodist Development Services (LUMDS), Equip Liberia and Youth Alive Liberia (YAL) are the three partners implementing the Global Fund TB/HIV grants as sub-recipients under Plan International Liberia (PIL) working in five (5) counties, Grand Bassa, Margibi, Bong, Nimba and Monteserrado with their works being concentrated at the community levels.

Making remarks during the turnover ceremony which was held at PIL's Congo Town Office, Mr. William E. Walker, Jr. Head of Secretariat of the Liberia Coordinating Mechanism (LCM) of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria welcomed the donation by Plan International Liberia and reaffirmed the LCM's commitment to working with the Principal Recipient and the sub-recipients for the smooth implementation of the Global Fund grants in Liberia.

According to him, the bikes as donated will now help the sub-recipients of the grant to move to the high to reach areas of the country in collecting and transporting TB specimens, tracing contact, tracking lost to follow up cases, collecting data and reporting as well as meeting the demands of the community as per the grant designed.

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Photo Courtesy: PLAN Communication Team

agencies.

PIL is Principal Recipient of Global Fund NFM3 HIV and TB intervention grant in Liberia working alongside the Ministry of Health of Liberia and other key partners including LUMDS, Equip and YAL.

LUMDS is engaged with active TB cases notification and referral of TB patients for treatment at health facilities in Montserrado, Bong, and Nimba Counties; while Equip and YAL are operating in Grand Bassa, Margibi, Bong and Nimba Counties on Community component of the HIV grant for Key Population (KP).

Earlier speaking, Dr. Ufuoma Omo-obi, PIL Country Director flanked by Chief of Party for Global Fund Malaria Program Dr. Ibrahim Kamara and Deputy Chief of Party, GF HIV and TB program Fatu Foster M. Kamara, urged the partners to use the assets to change the trend of HIV and TB prevention in Liberia.

Speaking on behalf of sub-recipients of the grant, Mr. William R. Whitfield, Liberia United Methodist Development Services representative promised to use the bikes for the purpose intended. According to him, they have long awaited the arrival of the bikes to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of the community health volunteers who are working with them – LUMDS, Equip and YAL.

The ceremony was graced by the presence National TB Control Program of Liberia.

Local NGOs Elect Reps On The LCM



In compliance with the Global Fund guidelines for all Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) to conduct orientation for all CCM members and alternates each year on their roles and responsibilities in overseeing the implementation of the Global Fund grants, the Liberia Coordinating Mechanism (LCM) has completed another round of membership renewal for Civil Society Organizations in the country.

The process began with orientation session and was climaxed with elections for civil society constituency representatives selected to serve on the LCM who agreed on their own procedures and selection of those to represent the CSOs on the LCM.

More than 150 civil society actors including Key Population Representatives (KPs), People Living with the Diseases – TB/HIV and Malaria (PLWD), and Local Non-Governmental Organizations (LNGOs) including Community Based Organizations (CBO) participated during the orientation meetings.

The orientation served as refresher for existing civil society representatives on the LCM and an introduction to the new organizations which are interested in becoming LCM members. LCM Secretariat working in collaboration with the LCM Membership Renewal Committee and led the orientation which brought together 50 participants of local non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in the country, 50 representatives of Persons Living with the Disease and 50 representatives of Key Population Organizations. Both the orientation and elections meetings took place in Monrovia.

The Electoral guidelines were drawn-out by CSOs representatives at the end of the orientation meeting. The procedures were reviewed and agreed upon ahead of the elections for each of the CSO constituencies through a documented process by the CSOs organizations themselves.

For the Key population representatives' elections, the following individuals were elected to serve on the LCM for the next three (3) years: Jennifer Kuwa Henshaw of LEGAL as member, while Tamba J. Jabba of TNOL+ alternate, and Maxwell W. Monboe of LIPRIDE as member; while MacArthur Paul of LEN as alternate.

Likewise, those elected to represent People Living with the Disease on the LCM are as follow: Madam Josephine Godoe of



LIBNEP+ as Member, while Joe Joe Baysah of Light Association as alternate; and Madam Cecelia R. Cole of the Liberia Women Empowerment Network (LIWEN) as member, while Mr. Dahn H. Tyler of ALL+ as alternate.

For their part, Local NGOs/CBOs representatives elected on the LCM were: Madam Joyce L. Kilikpo of Public Health Initiative Liberia (PHIL) member, while Mr. Emmanuel N. Kimen of EQUIP Liberia as alternate; and Mr. Gabriel Starks of Starks Foundation as member, while Mr. Swaliho Fofana of YouthAID Liberia as alternate.

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Members of the LCM include representatives of all sectors involved in the response to the diseases: multilateral and bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, faith-based organization, the private sector and – especially – people living with the diseases.

Every three year the LCM renew its membership to through a well-documented process. It is also responsible to select organizations to serve as Principal Recipients (PRs) for the implementation of the Global Fund grant. The Ministry of Health (MOH) currently serves as the PR for the Tuberculosis, Malaria and Health System Strengthening; while Plan International Liberia (PIL), serves as Co-PR for the community component for the Tuberculosis, Malaria and Health System Strengthening grants.

OVERSIGHT HIGHPOINTS PROGRESS IN HEALTH RESPONSE

The LCM has had a responsibility of Oversight of The Global Fund (TGF) grant implementation. Liberia is currently implementing a grant of over US\$101.745 for HIV, TB, and Malaria, including building resilient and sustainable systems for health and reducing the impact of COVID 19 on Liberia (US\$77.7 million grant support to HIV, TB, and Malaria, including building resilient and sustainable systems for health, and US\$24.045 million to fight COVID 19). The Ministry of Health and Plan International are Principal Recipients (PRs) for the Global Fund grants.

In early 2021 Plan International Liberia and the Ministry of Health started the implementation for the Global Fund NFM3 HIV/TB grant, which aims to provide HIV response to key populations and Community TB program in high burden areas. The HIV grant is expected to last for three (3) years - January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023.

To help increase efficiency and effectiveness of the grant implementation, the LCM has mandated its Oversight Committee to conduct regular monitoring site visit twice a quarter. USAID has been complimenting the effort of the Global Fund support to the LCM for oversight Monitoring.

During the visit to Nimba, the Oversight Mission Team had acquaintance meetings with the county health teams, HIV unit staff at key public and private health facilities, health state actors including, warehouse managers and peer educators, peer navigators, person who injecting drugs and operators of the integrated Drop-In-Centers (DICs) at Ganta Methodist.

Also, Program activities of LUMDS, Equip Liberia and Youth Alive Liberia (YAL), which are working in Nimba County as sub-recipients under the Global Fund NFM3 HIV and TB grants under Plan International Liberia as Co-Principal Recipient of the Fund's grants were reviewed.

Likewise Plan International Liberia local malaria office and Nimba County Health Team were reviewed.

Following the mission and debriefing, the County Health Team (CHT) welcomed the update from the Oversight committee and noted that actions are in motion to mitigate the increase report of home delivery in G community. According to the officer in charge of the Nimba County Health Team, C. Paul Yanzee, a delegation from the County Administration including key health response actors was sent to Gbalasonnor Community to establish the cause of increasing rate of home delivery in said community and to also proffer recommendations for appropriate actions to be taken to addressing said challenge. To other challenges that surround supply chain management, data quality and reporting, as well as, entire community health program, OIC Yanzee assured the Monitoring Visit Team of the County's commitment to improving them.

Earlier speaking, Madam Theodosia Kolee, Head of the LCM Oversight Mission Team Designate, and Vice Chair of the Oversight Committee thanked the CHT for being receptive and committed to meeting the health needs of people in that part of the country. According to her, the monitoring visit was necessary to build linkages and further enhance collaboration in testing and treatment of the general and key population in the counties as a step forward in the joint fight to reduce the spread of HIV, increase TB cases notification and reduce illnesses and deaths associated with malaria in Liberia.



Joyce Re-elected As LCM Chair

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Globally: GF invests US\$4 billion A Year To Defeat HIV, TB and Malaria

The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, equitable future for all. The Global Fund unites the world to find solutions that have the most impact, and we take them to scale worldwide. It's working. We won't stop until the job is finished.

44 Million

lives saved through the Global Fund partnership

21.9 Million

people on antiretroviral therapy for HIV in 2020

4.7 Million

people with TB treated in 2020

188 Million

mosquito nets distributed in 2020

Joyce Re-elected As LCM Chair

...Vows To Promote Country Ownership



Madam Joyce Kilikpo, Executive Director of the Public Health Initiative of Liberia -PHIL has experienced re-election as Chair by members of the Liberia Coordinating Mechanism (LCM) of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (TGF). Madam Kilikpo to serve as chair for the next three (3) years, ending July 2025.

Ms. Joyce L. Kilikpo is representing Civil Society Sector on the LCM.

Delivering a message following her re-election as chair of the LCM, Madam Kilikpo promised to work with all Local and International organizations and partners to ensure national ownership of the Global Fund grant.

In her words: “Our doors are open to working with all. We want to advance the idea of putting ownership into practice as such I want you support us in making this work for our country.”

Madam Kilikpo who is representing the Local NGOs/CBOs is to be supported by two other female who got elected. Madam Theodosia Kolee, Chairperson of the National AIDS Commission - NAC, and Dr. Benetta Andrews, Secretary of the Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons - LCPS, respectively got elected to serve as First and Second Vice Chairs of the multi-sectorial organization until July 2024.

The PHIL Executive Director felt amazed by the overwhelming support of her male counterparts on the LCM who has for the first time elected only female to the leadership, and said these words: “Wow! We are seated here today and we are making history. Imagine the LCM leadership being led by all females today. This is something that worth commanding. This gives us hope for women leadership in our country and the sub-region. I know as Liberians; we are good at making history and I want to believed that this might be the first in Global Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCMS). I stand to be corrected. This demonstrates that our male counterparts are moving shoulders to shoulders with us and believed in equal representation and believed in what

women are able to bring to the table. I just want to say thanks to everyone.”

This is the third time the PHIL Executive Director has gotten elected unopposed to serve on the LCM Leadership.

She joined the LCM in July 2018 and was elected as the 2nd Vice Chair and later ascended to the position of chair on September 29, 2021 after Mr. Johnson T. Hinnneh of the Ministry of Education (MoE), the than First Vice Chair declined to serve as Chair, a privilege given the first vice chair to serve as Chair if the Chair proper resigns as consistent with the LCM's Governance and Operational Manual.

Meanwhile, Madam Theodosia Kolee of NAC representing the government constituency, and Dr. Benetta Andrews of LCPS representing private sector constituency were also elected to serve as first and second vice chairs on the LCM. Both are new on the LCM leadership. Madam Kolee the first vice was elected unopposed after Mr. Johnson Hinnneh of the Ministry of Education declined to contest but supported her first vice chair elections bid. Mr. Hinnneh had served on the LCM leadership for four (4) years.

While, Dr. Andrews, the second vice chair, defeated her opponent narrowly with two votes margin. Dr. Andrews had contested against Cllr. Theresa Davis of the Liberia Business Association (LBA). Dr. Andrews got 9 out of 16 votes; while Cllr. Davis got 7 out of 16 votes during the electioneering process. Cllr. Davis had served on the LCM Leadership for only a year following a bi-election to fill the vacancy created in September 2021. This was now perfect opportunity for Cllr. Davis to serve a full term but she never got re-elected.

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OVERSIGHT HIGHPOINTS PROGRESS IN HEALTH RESPONSE



Oversight Meeting With Nimba CHT

The Liberia Coordinating Mechanism (LCM) Oversight Monitoring Visit Team has high-pointed progress contributing to the Nimba County health response as outcomes of an August 2022 visit. The team outlined as progress the improvement in coordination and management of the county health response, reduction in home delivery in most communities except for Gbalasonnor Community in District #2 which is reporting high home delivery.

The Oversight Team further noted that LUMDS, Equip Liberia and Youth Alive Liberia (YAL) which are sub-recipients of the Global Fund Grant under Plan International Liberia are of assets to the Nimba County's Community Health program as they are contributing to reduction of patient load in health facility.

The Monitoring Visit team further pointed out that the community health assistant program which is a shared responsibility of the Ministry of health and Plan International Liberia as Principal Recipients of the Global Fund Grant, particularly for Malaria response is making significant impact.

"I used to go to the hospital every time if my child gets sick but nowadays, the small doctors are in our communities helping us with medicines," Ma Nora Weawon, Elder of Gbanquoi Town in Saclapea Mah District stated when speaking of Community Health Assistants (CHAs) are providing health assistance within their community.

Saclapea Mah is one of six districts located in Nimba County, Liberia.

Gbanquoi Town has reported no home delivery since 2022.

The community has a population of over 250,000 persons with youth and children accounting for the highest. The Town is more than five kilometers away from the Saclapea Comprehensive Health Clinic (CKA: 'the Camp') but residents of the town especially the Trained Traditional Midwives (TTMs) are on top of their gains to ensure every child deliver at the Comprehensive Health Facility. There is a mentality waiting room at the facility.

Robert W. Nyah, the Community Health Supervisor had given good appraisal of the work of the 14 CHAs under his supervision.

Gbanquoi Town said they are so happy about the CHA program and will be happier if the medications to treat children under 5 are always made available through the Ministry of Health by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in the country.

"I want to thank you for coming here today to speak with us and to understand our different issues. We are happy that the Global Fund is supporting the Ministry of Health to help us who are poor people when we are sick but we need the drugs to be here every time because nowadays to ride motorbike is expensive and we don't have that kind of money to pay when our children are sick to rush them to the camp. Da all the problem we have but we still want to say thank you plenty for everything your been doing," Samuel M. Gaye, Gbanquoi Town Chief noted.

Meanwhile, the Oversight Committee of the Liberia Coordinating Mechanism (LCM) had visited the county as part of its regular Oversight Monitoring Visit.

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