



Factsheet on Health Financing in Sierra Leone in 2013

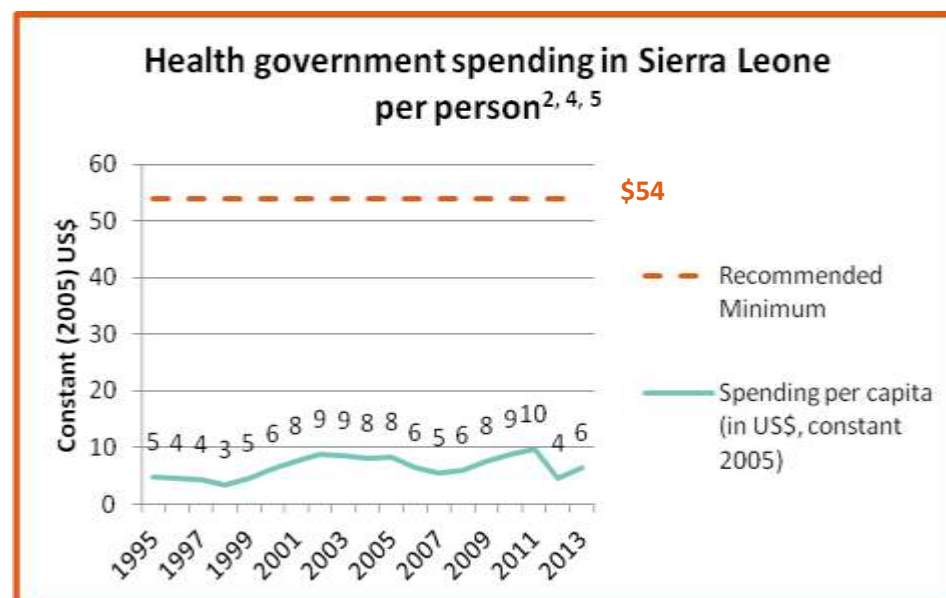
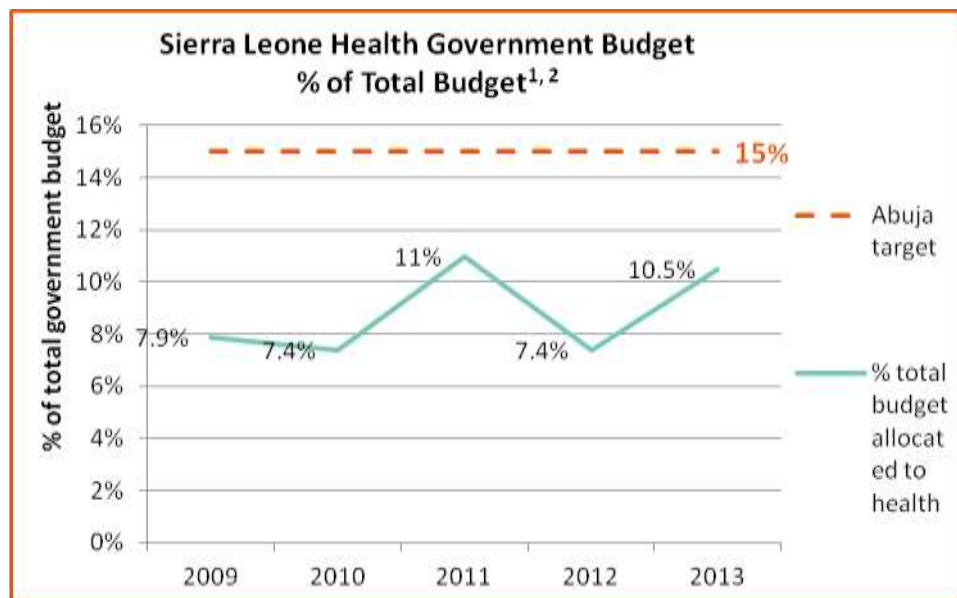
Abuja commitment

The Government of Sierra Leone has signed up to the Abuja Declaration, meaning that it has committed to spending **15%** of its total budget on health.¹ In 2012, the Sierra Leone Government committed **10.5%** of its total budget to health for 2013, that is an estimated **Le 195 billion** (excluding salaries).²

This still leaves a **gap** of an estimated **Le 84 billion** (excluding salaries) if the Abuja target is to be met.

Per person spending in Sierra Leone

The World Health Organization (WHO) has advised governments to spend at least **US\$54** per person in order to provide basic health services.³ Based on calculations from the 2013 budget, the Sierra Leone Government will not meet this benchmark in 2013. A mere **US\$6** per person is planned to be spent, leaving a large gap of **US\$48** per person.⁴



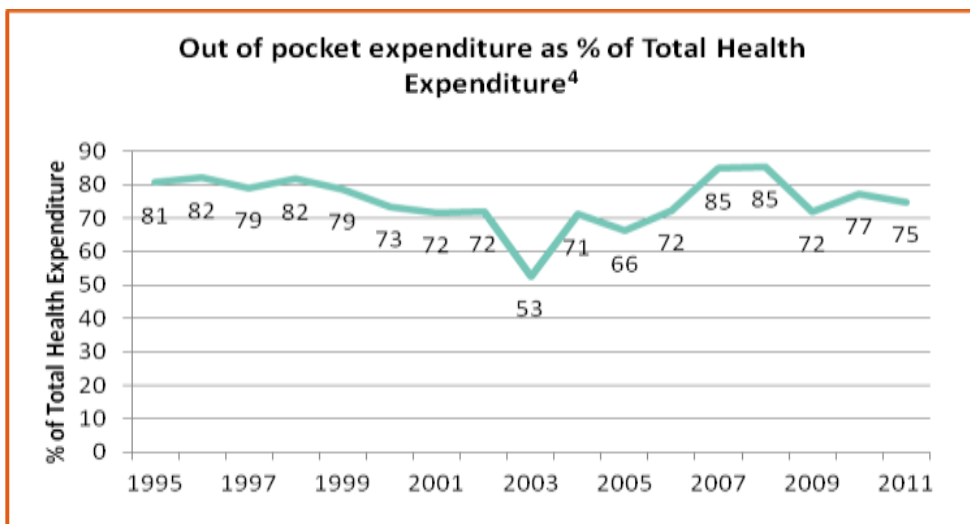


Problems with disbursement

Funds allocated centrally are not disbursed on time or not fully transferred. For example, in 2011, only **17.8 billion** out of the budgeted **Le 19.6 billion** was actually transferred to local councils, leaving a shortfall of **Le 1.7 billion**.¹ In 2012 fiscal year, 7.4% of the national budget was allocated to the health sector by the government but only 6% was disbursed, leaving a shortfall of 1.4%. In 2013, Le 10.5 billion was allocated, and half yearly disbursement was 17%⁶ leaving a balance of 83% to be spent if government is to fully comply with its budgetary commitment for health, as stated in the budget passed in Parliament.

Out of pocket expenditure

Health spending by individuals out of their own pocket and without insurance is high in Sierra Leone. Even with the launch of the Free Healthcare Initiative in 2010, which enabled pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 to access free healthcare, **75%** of the Total Health Expenditure (THE) in 2011 came from people's own money and not from public funds or health insurance.⁴



References

1. Save the Children. (2012) *Sierra Leone Health and Sanitation Budget Tracking 2012*. Save the Children: Sierra Leone.
2. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development [Sierra Leone] (2012). *Government of Sierra Leone Annex 1 – Budget Profile for FY 2011–2015*. MoFED: Freetown.
3. Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems. (2010). *Constraints to scaling up and costs: working group 1 report*. Geneva: WHO.
4. World Health Organisation. (2013). *Global Health Expenditure Database (GHED)*. Retrieved July 2013, from <http://apps.who.int/nha/database/DataExplorerRegime.aspx> (Please note that all figures in Leones or dollars are expressed in 2005 currency in order to strip out inflation).
5. International Monetary Fund. (2013). *World Economic Outlook: Hopes, Realities, Risks – April 2013*. Washington, DC: IMF
6. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development [Sierra Leone] (2012). *Release of FY 2013 first half (Jan- Jun) allocations*. MoFED: Freetown.