

# Spotlight on



## SIERRA LEONE COVID-19 STRATEGIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAM

...to enhance accountability & transparency

# Acronyms

<b>ACC</b>	- Anti-Corruption Commission
<b>AHBN</b>	- Africa Health Budget Network
<b>ASSL</b>	- Audit Service Sierra Leone
<b>BDO</b>	- Binder Dijker Otte
<b>CSO</b>	- Civil Society Organisation
<b>COVID-19</b>	- Coronavirus Disease 2019
<b>CMO</b>	- Chief Medical Officer
<b>DA</b>	- Designated Account
<b>EERP</b>	- Ebola Emergency Response Project
<b>EOC</b>	- Emergency Operations Center
<b>FM</b>	- Financial Management
<b>FTCF</b>	- Fast Track COVID-19 Facility
<b>GoSL</b>	- Government of Sierra Leone
<b>HSDSSP</b>	- Health Service Delivery and System Support Project
<b>IDA</b>	- International Development Association
<b>IFR</b>	- Interim Financial Reports
<b>IHPAU</b>	- Integrated Health Project Administration Unit
<b>IHR</b>	- International Health Regulations
<b>IPF</b>	- Investment Project Financing
<b>MoHS</b>	- Ministry of Health and Sanitation
<b>MPA</b>	- Multiphase Programmatic Approach
<b>NDP</b>	- National Development Plan
<b>REDISSE</b>	- Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project
<b>SOE</b>	- Statement of Expenditure
<b>USD</b>	- United State Dollars
<b>WB</b>	- World Bank
<b>WBG</b>	- World Bank Group



## About the Spotlight

This Spotlight is an advocacy and accountability tool designed to educate CSOs and advocates to improve their engagement in accountability and transparency for the implementation of the World Bank's (WB) grant to Sierra Leone for its COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Emergency Response Program, to the tune of USD 7.5 million. The Spotlight is a product of content analysis of the WB Project Appraisal Document of the Sierra Leone COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Project.

The Spotlight presents analyzed information about the existing gaps, challenges, priorities and objectives of the program to tackling COVID-19. It highlights the strategies and how

the implementation of the project is going to be coordinated by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS). It shows how resources are allocated across the intervention areas and disbursement arrangements. This Spotlight analyzes the project financing sources, arrangements for funds flow from WB, financial management, accountability mechanism, and provides key recommendations.

The Spotlight will be used by media, CSOs and country-level accountability mechanisms such as the COVID-19 Finances Accountability Working Group in Sierra Leone, to sensitize and engage stakeholders about the implementation, transparency and accountability of the WB COVID-19 grant to Sierra Leone.

# WHAT ARE THE COVID-19 CHALLENGES IN SIERRA LEONE?

Sierra Leone's economy continues its post-Ebola recovery and expansion, albeit at a slower pace with estimated growth of 5.1 percent in 2019. Sierra Leone is ranked 92/195 on Global Health Security Index, public health systems indicators are still poor:

01	Sierra Leone's income per capita is still very low				respiratory infection, febrile hemorrhagic fevers, etc)
02	Weak health systems, the country is still recovering from major shocks (Ebola, mudslide, ongoing Lassa fever and measles outbreaks) with inadequate health workforce	05			High influence of religious and traditional practices among citizens could aid the spread of COVID-19 at an alarming rate
03	Poor nutritional status (36 percent stunting amongst under-fives) with weak immunity.	06			Porous borders could make it very difficult to contain COVID-19
04	High burden of disease and hospitalization ( malaria, acute	07			Inadequate resources for health sector and emergency preparedness
		08			Critical gaps for human resources for health and emergency preparedness and response

## HEALTH PRIORITIES AND INTERVENTIONS IDENTIFIED

The project is aligned with World Bank Group's (WBG) strategic priorities and commitment to strengthen pandemic preparedness through three key actions under preparedness:

- Improving national preparedness plans including organizational structures of the government
- Promoting adherence to the International Health Regulations (IHR)
- Utilizing international frameworks for monitoring and evaluation of IHR

The proposed project is also aligned with the GoSL' s National Development Plan (NDP) 2019–2023

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Limit human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers
- Early Identification, isolation and care for patients, including providing optimized care for infected patients
- Address crucial unknowns regarding clinical severity, extent of transmission and infection treatment
- Communicate critical risk and event information to all communities and counter misinformation
- Minimize social and economic impact through multi-sectoral partnerships

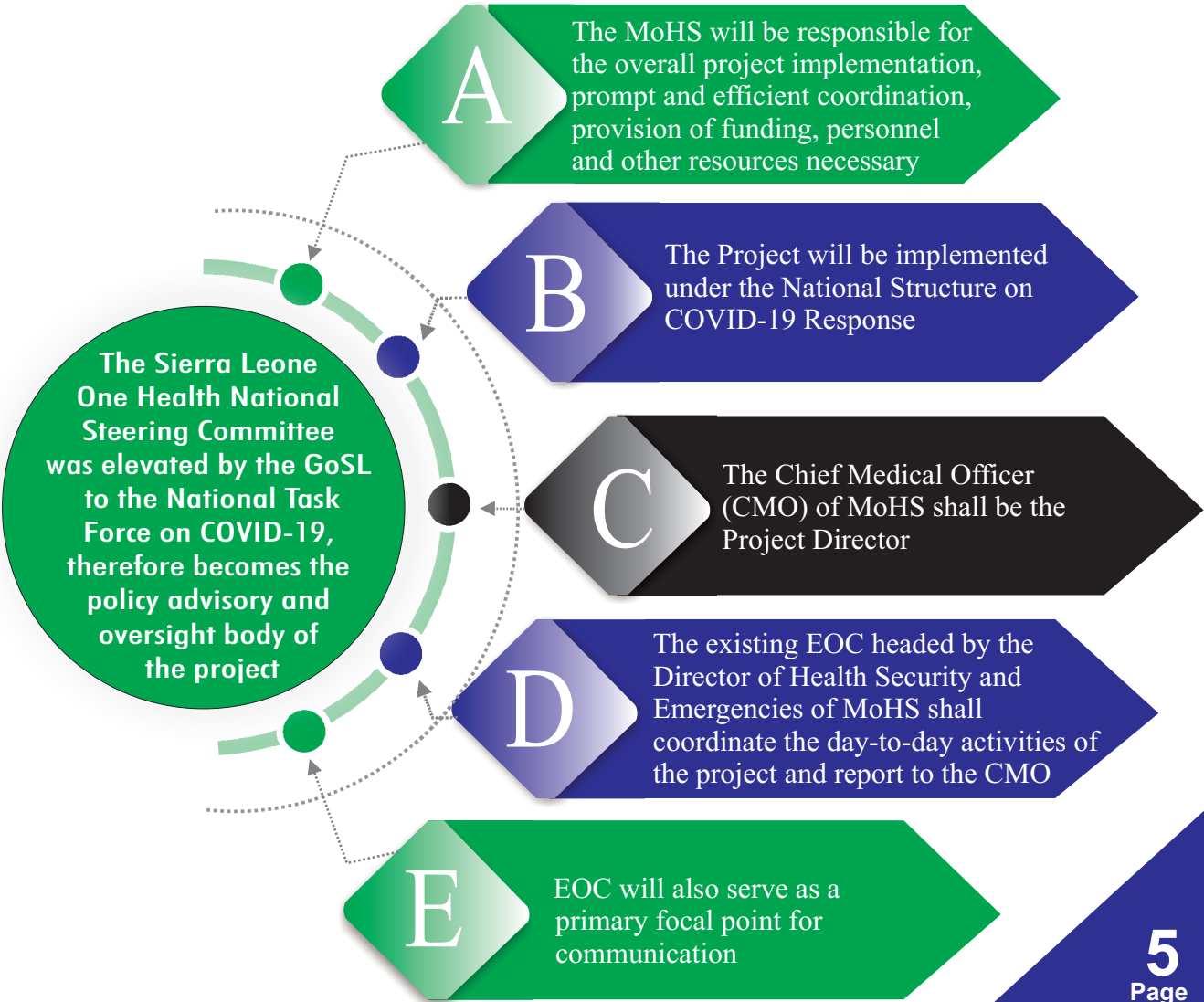
# WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES

The Project will build on the gains made from the REDISSE, EERP and HSDSSP.

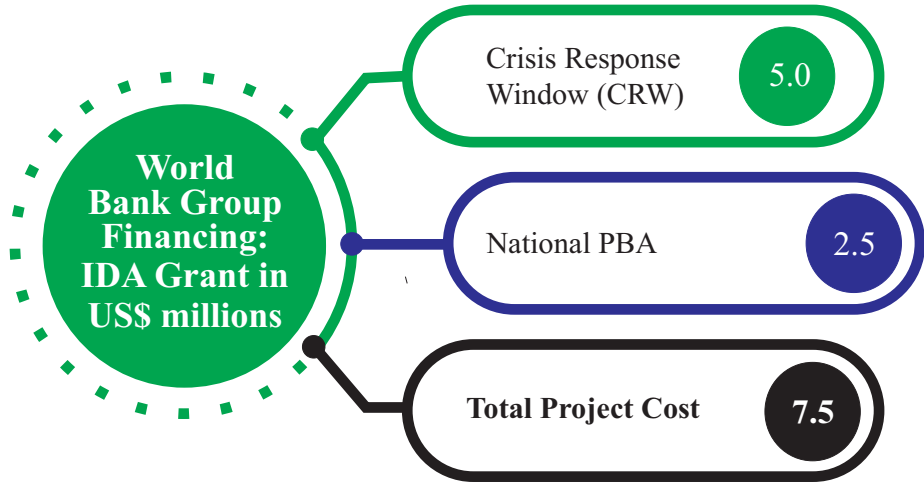
The Project will fill critical financing gaps that have been identified due to the new emergency preparedness and response needs created by COVID-19.

The project design will include similar implementation arrangements for the existing Bank-supported health projects (REDISSE, EERP and HSDSSP)

# WHAT ARE THE COORDINATING MECHANISMS?



# HOW IS THE PROJECT FINANCED?



## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS ACROSS INTERVENTION AREAS

Component Name	Cost US\$, millions
Supporting National and Sub-national Public Health Institutions for Prevention and Preparedness	2.30
Strengthening Multi-sectoral National Institutions and Platforms for Policy Development and Coordination of Prevention and Preparedness using One Health approach	1.00
Emergency COVID-19 Response	3.70
Implementation Management and Monitoring and Evaluation	0.50

## DISBURSEMENT BY YEAR

Expected Disbursements (in US\$, millions)			
WB Fiscal Year	2020	2021	2022
Annual	3.75	2.25	1.50
Cummulative	3.75	6.00	7.50



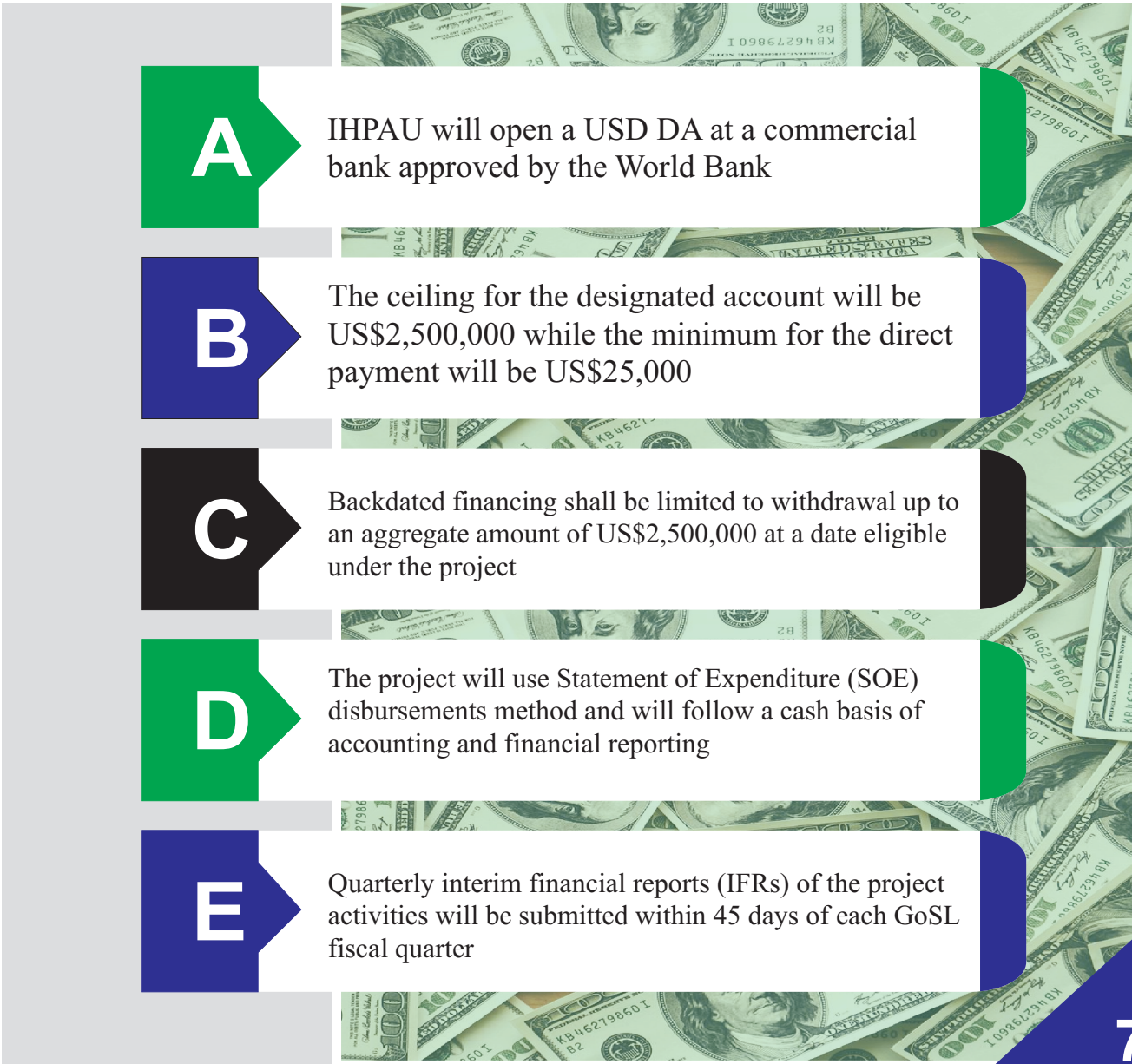
# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The IHPAU FM system will be used for the administration of the project funds:

IHPAU’s FM arrangement met World Bank's minimum requirements for the administration of project funds

IHPAU has satisfactory internal controls and external auditing processes in place that will support the effective utilization of the project resources.

## FUND FLOWS



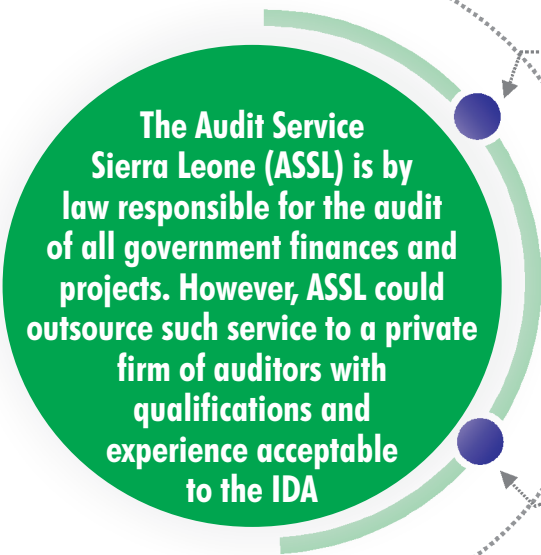
# WHAT IS THE ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM?

## Internal Audit



BDO, an independent accounting and auditing firm will provide internal auditing services that will include pre - and post - transaction activities.

## External Audit



The annual audited financial statements of the project shall be submitted to IDA within 6 months of the end of the GoSL' s fiscal year (i.e. by June 30 each year)

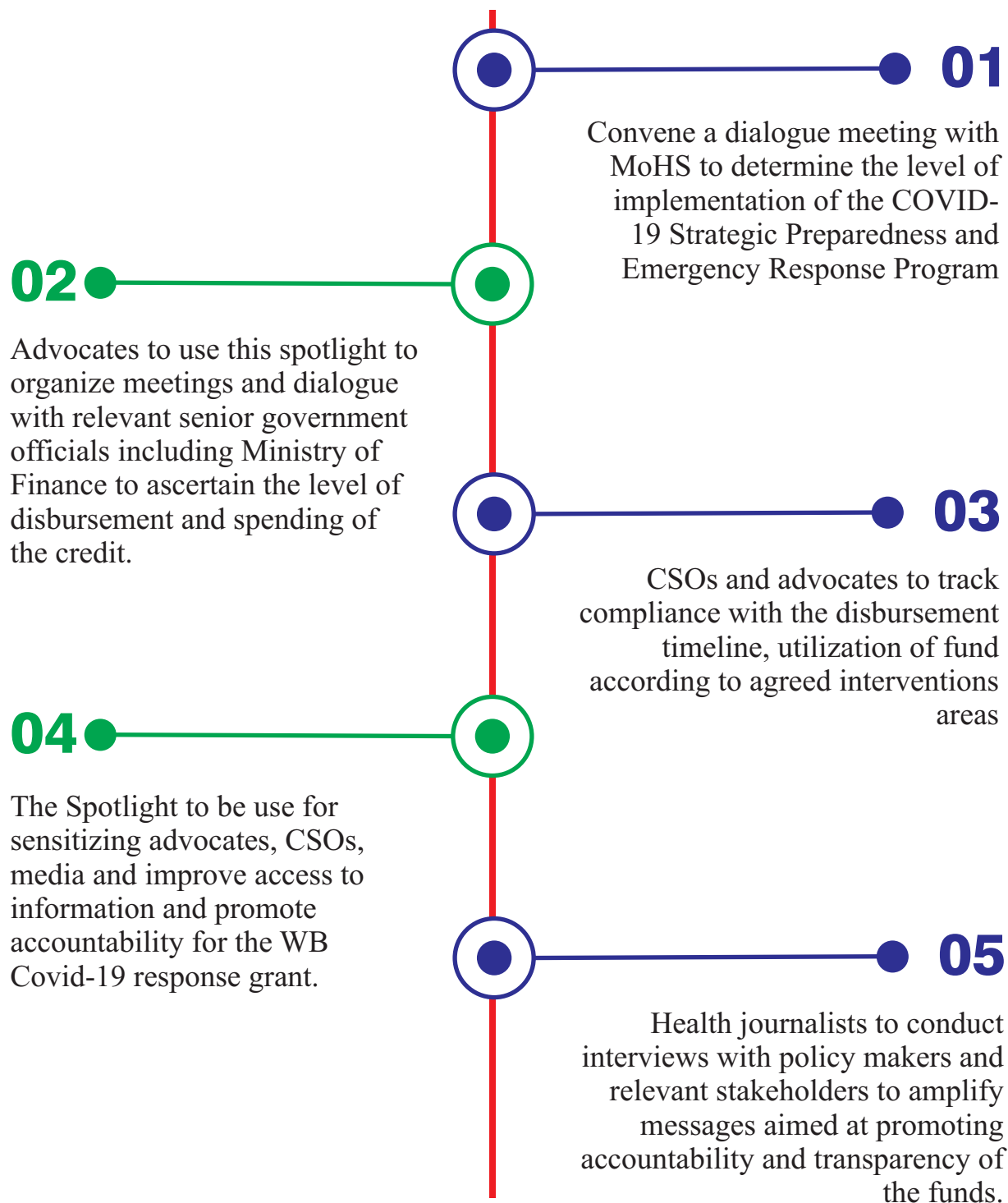
The external auditors will audit the project financial statements on terms of reference as agreed with the World Bank



IHPAU will collaborate with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) which will provide external oversight on the project management including the provision of the social and financial support to the households



# KEY RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTIONS





## ABOUT THE SIERRA LEONE COVID-19 FINANCES ACCOUNTABILITY WORKING GROUP

The COVID-19 Finances Accountability Working Group in Sierra Leone being hosted by Health Alarms serves as a loose coalition that engages in advocacy to influence domestic resource mobilization and timely disbursement of finances including international development assistance for health at the country level. It also promotes accountability and transparency of COVID-19 finances. It draws expertise from its diverse membership of advocates, media, young people, civil society organizations and

the academia to gather, analyze and synthesize information on COVID-19 finances and collectively conduct advocacy and engagements with high-level government officials and development partners.

The Africa Health Budget Network provides technical support to the three working groups in Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone with funding from the Open Society Foundations (OSF) through a programmatic grant ‘Accountability of COVID-19 finances in Africa.’



# COVID-19

**F I N A N C E S**

**ACCOUNTABILITY WORKING  
GROUP IN SIERRA LEONE**



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Designed and produced with technical support from the **Africa Health Budget Network**

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