

Additional barriers to the completion of this program

1. Critical in a low resource country is support for the work force in the Liberian National Public Health Service (NHS). Unfortunately, private practice in Liberia has increased with more doctors involved in this form of care, despite the continued and worsened poverty for most families.
2. Adequate salaries for midwives and nurses who are functioning as obstetric, neonatal, and paediatric clinicians are needed urgently. Most have not received the enhanced salaries promised after the completion of their training from the MOH, despite their major contribution to hospital care. Their current salaries are 250 USD per month with two paediatric clinician trainees receiving no financial support from the MOH, despite repeated promises. An educational incentive of 150 USD per month should have ended soon after qualification when the MOH would enhance their salaries to match the advanced and essential work the clinicians would be undertaking. Unfortunately, although this enhancement was provided until 2019, thereafter it was not made available by the MOH and so, MCAI with donor support, has found it necessary to continue to fund qualified clinicians at 150 USD per month in addition to their basic salary. The clinicians are undertaking similar work to doctors and are paid around only 15% of the monthly salaries.
3. Following the recommendation of the international WHO evaluation in 2019, plans were prepared to institutionalise all three specialities of the National Task Sharing Programme within a Liberian University. With additional support from The University of Edinburgh, this approach aimed to provide an accredited BSc degree for all qualified graduates of the task-sharing programs. The former MOH blocked this development wanting MCAI to work with a private University in Bong County which could not be supported by the University of Edinburgh, MCAI or WHO. Plans are now underway to begin a part-time BSc course for each trainee within the University of Liberia and Tubman University (both are foremost national universities in Liberia).