

MLI Sierra Leone

The Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global Health (MLI), funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, is a program of Realizing Rights and Global Health & Development at the Aspen Institute. Our partners are the Results for Development Institute and the Council of Women World Leaders, and we are working in collaboration with the World Health Organization to advance the WHO report *Women and Health: Today's Evidence, Tomorrow's Agenda*. MLI strengthens the leadership capacity of ministries of health in **Ethiopia, Mali, Nepal, Senegal, and Sierra Leone** in order to advance policy in three interrelated areas: ***health financing for equity, donor harmonization in health, and reproductive health.***



Dr Kisito S. Daoh, chief medical officer at the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in Sierra Leone. Photo © Dominic Chavez



Mariama Kanu holds Isata Tina Kargbo, just one month old, at the Regent Health Center in Regent, Sierra Leone. Photo © Dominic Chavez

In **Sierra Leone**, MLI is helping the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) to increase its capacity to utilize government and donor funds and to build a financial management system capable of efficiently generating the information required for decision-making. In addition, MLI is helping the Ministry to harmonize development assistance, moving toward a Sector-Wide Approach, an IHP+ Country Compact, and potentially a pool funding arrangement. Current MLI activities include:

- ❖ **Financial Management** by engaging PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to work with the MoHS, conduct an assessment of the capacity of the Financial Management Unit, and to provide technical support to MoHS to address the most urgent financial management needs identified in the assessment.
- ❖ **Donor Coordination** by working with the MoHS and development partners to strengthen MoHS ability to lead day-to-day coordination of external assistance and mapping and monitoring development partners' and NGOs' activities in the health sector.
- ❖ **Reproductive and Child Health** by working with the Director of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Division to identify areas for capacity-building as well as to increase the ability of RCH Division to use evidence more effectively for policy action.
- ❖ **Communications** by providing technical support to improve Ministry leaders' ability to communicate their priorities more effectively to government and civil society stakeholders such as with the lead up to and following the launch of Free Health Care for Pregnant and Lactating Mothers and Children Under the Age of Five.