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Health Services; Introduction; Key Findings; Health Outcomes; Figure 2.1 Health Outcomes Relative to Countries of Similar Income; Figure 2.2 Trend in Under-5 Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio as Compared to MDG Targets

Figure 2.3 The Causes of Maternal Deaths by PercentFigure 2.4 Trends in Under-5 Mortality and Infant Mortality Rates; Figure 2.5 Causes of Mortality, in Percent, 2010; Health Service Use; Figure 2.6 Main Causes of Morbidity and Mortality, for All Ages, in Percent, 2005; Figure 2.7 Health Service Utilization by Health Regions and Departments, 2012; Figure 2.8 Child Birth Attended by a Skilled Birth Attendant, Percentage, 2012; Table 2.1 Health Related Indicators for Gabon; Figure 2.9 Barriers to Accessing Health Care Reported by Women (15-49 years), 2012

Figure 2.10 Women Receiving All Necessary Exams during Prenatal Visits, Percentage, 2012Figure 2.11 Health Service Use and Quality of Care among Children Under 5 Years of Age with Fever, 2012; Figure 2.12 Health Facility Attendance by Consumption Quintile; Summary; Figure 2.13 Patient Perceptions and Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Public Facilities during Childbirth, 2000 and 2012; Notes; Chapter 3Health Financing; Introduction; Key Findings; Global Comparisons; Figure 3.1 Total Health Spending as Compared to Other Countries with Similar Income

Figure 3.2 Public Health Spending Compared to Countries with Similar Income

Sommario/riassunto

Gabon is an upper middle income country, with reasonable spending on health, however, its health outcomes resemble that of a country that is low / low-middle income. Where has Gabon gone wrong, and what are the challenges that Gabon is facing in improving health outcomes? Gabon is an emerging economy, while it has achieved high economic development it still has not achieved living standards and health outcomes seen in upper middle income countries. Gabon faces low life expectancy (63 years), levels as seen in other low income countries. It is in an early stage of an epidemiological transition. Fertility rates remain high, and mortality rates are starting to decline. It has a high burden from communicable diseases. While HIV incidence and tuberculosis incidence has started to show positive results, Malaria incidence continues to remain high. There are cost-effective interventions available to prevent many of the communicable diseases the country faces. These interventions require multi-sector approaches, behavioral change programs, outreach services, community development, and a primary health care focus.
