



SIERRA LEONE IFRC Country Office

MAASL002

Appeal number

2,250,000

Swiss Francs

Total funding requirement

212,600

People to be reached

16,257

Volunteers Countrywide

COUNTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the world with a Human Development Index(HDI) of 0.420 positioning it at 179th out of 188 countries (UNDP Human Development Report 2016). Furthermore, 77.5 % of the population is multidimensionally poor and live on less than 2 USD a day. In a country already challenged with a low life expectancy of 51.3 years and 38% of children below the age of 5 exhibiting stunted growth (Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey 2015), the Ebola virus outbreak and the mudslide incident only served to overstretch already inadequate health services. It was also worsened by low household sanitation facilities with only 9% of households having access to water on their premises (Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey 2015). While the recovery phases of the Ebola virus and Mudslide ended on 31st June 2018 and 31st March 2019 respectively, the legacy of the two incidents exposed gaps and frailties in the social and medical services in the country. Poverty is still rampant and livelihood and health services remain inadequate.

The situation is highly likely remain the same in 2020 because of the high USD and SLL exchange and inflation rates . The SLRCS played a crucial role in the massive government and multiagency response to the Mudslide Emergency and is taking a lead role in responding to the 2019 floods for which a DREF has been approved. It is expected that 300 households will be supported with food and non-food items, provided with psychsocial support while also building their capacity in early warning and other DRR related skills and knowledge. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society maintains a permanent co-operation framework with the Office of National Security and other Government Line ministries and with Movement Partners. According to the SLRCS Flood Contingency Plan 2019, Sierra Leone remains susceptible to mudslides within the wider Freetown area and will need to remain alert to flooding induced disaster in 2020 especially given the already existing vulnerability of many poor communities in the hilly Freetown area.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

It is estimated that 17% of those displaced by the conflict experienced sexual assault of some form (Physicians for Human Rights, 2002) and that up to 250,000 women and girls experienced abuse (HRW, 2003). The war also led to massive displacement, of more than half of the population (UNFPA, 2007), meaning the social networks and bonds that in the past had afforded women some form of protection were shattered. As a result, women became disaffiliated and increasingly vulnerable to violence, and the limited services and infrastructures that existed prior to the conflict were destroyed.

STATISTICS

77.5%

of the country's population live off less than 2 dollars per day

51.3

Age of life expectancy in Sierra Leone

9%

Of households have access to water on their premises.

National Society Profile

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society was formed in 1962 when it took over from the former British Red Cross Society. It has Branch offices in 14 out of 16 districts in Sierra Leone and possesses a volunteer network of over 16,000 volunteers. It responded actively during the Ebola and Sierra Leone Mudslide emergencies and was responsible during Ebola for an effective Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) programme that received local and international recognition. SLRCS also responded to the 2019 floods in the country's capital city and various other districts. The National Society has a 2014 to 2018 Strategic Plan which Plan was however seriously undermined by the twin tragedies of the Ebola Virus outbreak and the Sierra Leone Mudslide.

The National Society ended the Ebola Virus Recovery phase at the end of June 2018 while the Mudslide Recovery Operations ended in March 2019. National Society priorities in 2020 will revolve around further implementation of its Transformation Plan, its new Strategic Plan 2019 to 2023 and the rebranding and repositioning of the National Society. The roll-out of Revised constitution and various adopted policy documents are expected to revamp the National Society's Governance and Management structures.

Country Office Role

The COP 2020 will help strengthen key aspects of the transformation plan taking into consideration (a) Strengthening the Governance and Management of the Society (b) Strengthening Financial Development and HR Systems of the Society (c) Rolling-out approved policies of the Society (d) Implementing OCAC recommendations and Extending BOCA to additional 11 branches and strengthening resource mobilisation with emphasis on subvention from the Government. Implementation of the transformation plan is strongly aligned with PAC Abidjan Commitment No 1 that is meant to strengthen capacities SLRCS' leadership as it will seek to build governance, management, accountability and sustainability. COP is also aligned with the commitments expressed in the Africa Roadmap 2017-2020 to create effective, accountable and resilient National Societies including SLRCS. Furthermore, the COP2020 programmatic activities are aligned with SDG's 1, On Poverty, SDG 2, On Hunger, SDG 3, on Better Health, SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 11, On Sustainable Communities, SDG 13 on Climate Action and SDG 17 on Stronger Partnership.

Movement Footprint

Movement Cooperation in 2020 will seek to build on 2017/2018 collaboration that saw Movement Partners meet weekly with the National Society. In 2020 this is expected to strengthen and may involve, should the opportunity arise, joint collaboration on funding or partnership opportunities, especially in respect of the 1 Billion Coalition (1BC) and branch as centre of resilience. Additionally IFRC will seek closer Joint Planning with ICRC pursuant to the model developed between IFRC/ICRC in Liberia in 2017 and in accordance with the Joint ICRC/IFRC Approach for Africa-Revised Plan of Action 2018-2020. Sierra Leone will also retain close links with the West Coast Cluster especially on Cross Border issues and the ECOWAS Disaster Framework and will continue to work with the West Coast Cluster on strengthening the Liberia Red Cross Society. In addition, technical and qualitative advice will be sought from the Africa Regional Office on various Thematic Areas of the Transformation Plan. Links with the African Disaster Management Group and the Regional Disaster Management office will also be strengthened to build capacity of the disaster management department of SLRCS.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 180,000

Disaster risk reduction will focus on building organisational and technical capacities of SLRCS' HQ and branch level staff, including volunteers, to work with vulnerable communities to prevent and minimise the impact of disasters in their respective communities. These include disaster preparedness, organisational strengthening with special attention to branch level contingency plans as well as establish Early Warning systems in the potential affected communities.

- 12,800 people reached with public awareness and education campaigns
- Community contingency plan is now in place

SHELTER

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 16,000

A lack of knowledge and resources on how to improve shelter is prevalent in Sierra Leone. Shelter is also a new Area of Focus for the National Society. Accordingly, 2020 targets must be modest and seek to build the National Society foundation of knowledge and skills on shelter (IFRC Africa Roadmap 2017-2020). The focus will be on facilitating development of knowledge and skills on shelter.

- 35 staff and volunteers trained in shelter and resettlement programming

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 120,000

The Livelihood and basic needs programme for 2020 will seek to provide basic support to marginalised people including youth, women and the elderly especially in affected communities in disaster prone districts of Western Area Urban & Rural, Kono, Portlolo, Bombali, Pujehun, Kambia and Bo. The project will target the most vulnerable communities to strengthen their livelihoods through vocational training, which farming and technical training may increase income earning activities.

- 1,000 people reached with food assistance or cash for basic needs
- 780 households supported to increase household food production

HEALTH

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 990,000

Health Programming in 2020 will build on the Community Based Health and First Aid Approach (CBHFA) which together with Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) and CP3 prior to 2020 reached 63 Communities in 9 districts namely Western Area, Port Loko, Kambia, Bombali, Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Bonthe, Kailahun and Moyamba and impacted on over 71,000 people.

- 45,000 people reached with services to reduce relevant health risk factors
- 37,161 people reached through awareness raising on HIV, malaria, TB and SRH
- 81,120 people reached with CP3

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 320,000

WASH activities heightened in Sierra Leone between 2017 and 2019 with the Mudslide response and recovery efforts. SLRC WASH programmes supported by IFRC reached over 4,000 people directly during this period with WASH Infrastructures while training and awareness reached over 10,000 indirectly.

- 5,000 households provided with safe water services that meet agreed standards
- 24,000 people provided with knowledge on and access to improved excreta disposal

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 110,000

Protection, Gender and Inclusion is a cross cutting program that can be integrated into all thematic areas of SLRCS operational programmes and Districts. Many programme activities require a mainstreaming gender in decision making. The Protection, Gender and Inclusion program will operate in all SLRCS operational Districts through engagement of District stakeholders and establishment of local structures that will support the implementation of Protection of vulnerable groups and address gender issues at District Level.

- 45 people benefitted from PGI training conducted on minimal standard
- National Society country programmes include measures to improve equitable status

MIGRATION

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 90,000

The community engagement and accountability approach will be used for the implementation of Migration. CEA is the process of and commitment to providing timely, relevant and actionable lifesaving and life enhancing information to communities.

- 5,000 people reached with services for migration assistance and protection
- 1,000 people reached by awareness raising and sensitization campaigns

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 10,000

Focus will be on greater alignment with the IFRC /roadmap 2017-20. IFRC's focus on effective, accountable and resilient National Societies fits in well with the Sierra Leone Country Operational Plan 2020.

- 5,000 active volunteers at all levels
- 2,000 NS youth participation in understanding IFRC Youth Policy, PAC, YABC concept.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The National Society in conjunction with IFRC will continue working with the office of National Security(ONS) on the Disaster Law Programme for Sierra Leone.The National Society COP2020 will focus on both small and large scale disaster and emergency responses as aligned with the IFRC global strategy and its contributions to the SDGs (IFRC S2030).

- 1,500 people assisted through cash tranfer programming
- 30 trained NDRT satff and volunteers

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 6,000

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society's COP 2020 will continue to strengthen its auxiliary role to the Government of Sierra Leone and engage in more effective advocacy and communication. It will seek to reposition itself both to the Government and the people of Sierra Leone in all its humanitarian interventions at all levels.

- 9 SLRCS sources of income strenghtened
- 9 guidelines on income genration and expenditure developed

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 400,000

IFRC will seek to work with the National Society in a coordinated and well-structured manner in seeking to build a momentum for positive change in line with the Transformation Plan 2018 and NSD Development Plan 2019 to develop RC/RC presence, effectiveness and impact in Sierra Leone.



CONTACTS

For more information on the work of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Country, please contact:

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