

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Liberia: Montserrado & Margibi Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation: MDRLR004	Glide n° FL-2017-000146-LBR
Date of Issue: 12 October, 2017	
Operation Manager (responsible for this EPoA): Younos Abdul Karim, Head of Country Office.	Point of contact (name and title): G. Ambullai Perry, Director of Programmes
Operation start date: 5 October 2017	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 127,086	
Number of people at risk: 10,000	Number of people to be assisted: 2,500
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) presence (3,000 volunteers, 67 staff members, 15 Chapters)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Country Office, ICRC Delegation, Canadian and Danish Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: UNICEF, WHO, WFP, LRRRC, NDMA, MOH, and OXFAM	



Flood affected populations receiving immediate relief items

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

The incessant torrential rains during third-fourth weeks of September 2017 has left 42 communities inundated with water in Lower Margibi and Montserrado Counties of Liberia. According to rapid assessments by the local Red Cross branch and the office of the City Mayor of Unification City along with local communities' leaders there were 21 villages/communities and close to 10,000 people or 2,000 families affected by rainfed floods. Around 1,500 families whose homes and livelihood security coupled with contaminated water sources caused by flooded latrines, factories, graves amongst others stagnant water that put the community at risk of water and vector borne diseases.

Liberia is one of the world most wet countries and has a record number of floods in the last ten years. Lower Margibi has a history of recurring floods in the last 4 years where communities remain at risk of flooding especially in the peak of the rainy season. In late June and early July 2016, the National Disaster Management Agency reported that over 15,000 persons were affected by floods in 49 communities of Lower Margibi. In Montserrado, urban communities are among the most affected with over 45% of the affected population.

Once again, the Du River joining the Atlantic Ocean in Lower Margibi overflowed its banks thereby leaving people in their communities at risk. The main road to International Airport was rendered impassable due to the flood waters, heavily constraining vehicle traffic and those travelling by air as road traffic have to find alternative routes. The rains hamper ability of those marooned in their villages for return to safety. Therefore, the DREF is focused on those communities that are inaccessible for evacuation to safer places.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

In response to the back-to-back floods (2016 and 2017), the LNRCS has dispatched assorted relief items procured under the current Japanese supported floods preparedness and response project. The items include 300 sleeping mats, 1,000 bars of soap, 2 bales baby clothes (boys and girls) 2 bales children's clothes (boys and girls 5-17), 2 bales male and female clothes (adults), and 400 blankets. They will be distributed to affected communities who have been staying in specific shelters in Lower Margibi.

The LNRCS has a strong capacity in water and sanitation programming. As part of the immediate response, and with support from ICRC, the LNRCS WASH team has begun water trucking in some extremely affected communities in Margibi. Access to communities in parts of Montserrado and Margibi is challenging. In some cases, LNRCS will need to use the Mercedes four-wheeler truck and in some cases, it will organise local arrangements for wood canoes to transport community members from risk areas that are cut-off by the floods. The airport being cut off needs special mention. The LNRCS has manned the airport highway overnight since Saturday 16 September and has deployed staff and volunteers, a Mercedes truck rescue people and goods from stuck and stranded vehicles.

The LNRCS and National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) set up a daily National Coordination forum on 17 September to coordinate information and initial response. During the first meeting on 18 September, relief agencies including WHO, WFP, UNDP, OXFAM and PSI along with City authorities, MOH and community leaders resolved that drinking water, food, shelter and clothing should be supplied immediately. Red Cross also prioritized search and rescue efforts as critical where some people may still be stranded for days without amenities.

The Red Cross while validating the list of affected families will commence the distribution of minimum assorted non-food items to about 200 families only. These are from the IFRC, Japanese Flood

Recovery Project with LNRCS and Danish Red Cross emergency stocks. The Red Cross also continues to advocate for drinking water, rescue efforts and additional food and non-food supplies for the affected population.

The LNRCS capacity to respond is enhanced by its experience in managing similar emergencies, especially in 2016. There are 5 FACT members trained, 1 ERU Logistics, 2 RDRT members (relief and WASH) and a reasonable logistics that need minimum augmentation to further function effectively without stress. With a well-structured Chapter and Branch on the grounds, the response actions can be easily coordinated with other actors.

Overview of Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC provides technical support to the LNRCS through its Liberia Country Office based in Monrovia, West Africa Country Cluster office in Abuja and Africa Regional Office, in Nairobi. The Development Operational Plan (DOP) (MAALR001) is supporting a number of IFRC delegates in Liberia including: Head of Country Office, Programme Development Delegate, Finance Delegate and a number of well-trained national support staff, who are providing technical support to the National Society (NS) in response to the flooding as needed. Alongside the DOP, the IFRC is also supporting LNRCS in the implementation of DREF operation no. MDRLR003 for the forthcoming Legislative and Presidential Elections Preparedness. The IFRC Liberia Country Office has released NFIs from stocks (sourced from on going Enhancing Response and Recovery Capacity for Population affected by Floods in Margibi and Montserrado Counties Project, stocks funded by the Japanese Government). On 16 and 18 September 2017, alerts were issued using the IFRC Disaster management information system (DMIS), which indicated the intention of the LNRCS to request international assistance to the floods through an allocation from the DREF. On 19 September, an Operational Strategy meeting was convoked with the IFRC Liberia Head of Country Office, Africa Region in consultation with Geneva level and it was agreed that a DREF allocation was an appropriate mechanism to support the NS response. The National Society was able to send teams to conduct assessments to the affected area when it became accessible by the end of September.

Movement Coordination

The LNRCS with the support of the IFRC is also coordinating the support of Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement partners. The Movement is part of the coordination mechanisms at national level, meeting every day on the onset of the disaster. The Canadian Red Cross has already donated assorted relief items including 2 bales of shower slippers, 2 bales of plastic mats, 4 dozen of bath towels, and 2 bales of lappas. IFRC, ICRC and Danish Red Cross teams in Liberia are supporting the LNRCS promptly respond to the floods.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

As a result of the floods, a joint assessment conducted alongside the NDMA and the Liberia Refugees Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), the Disaster Unit of the General Services Agency (GSA) to collect, collate and consolidate useful data for response. In addition, the coordination of the response is being led by the NDMA consolidating the different response support to the operation and coordinating resource mobilization along with partners. UN agencies are also supporting the Government to provide timely assistance to the affected people. The Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) is providing rescue services using float boats and vehicles to evacuate people from their trapped communities across flood water lines. It is expected that more UN and INGOs will become involved in the response as more data becomes available.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Needs Assessments & Analysis

Basic needs of affected people including WASH, non-food items/relief (maybe in the form of cash transfer), health including psychosocial support, shelter and security have been identified during two rounds of initial and rapid assessments already conducted by the LNRCS. Many people cannot move

from their flooded and damaged homes fearing theft and insecurity. They fear going to centres and returning to find their household goods got stolen. Livelihood security is greatly at risk as well. Other critical immediate needs include provision of ready-made safe drinking water and food. The provision of water storage gallons to enhance storage capacity at household level, and hygiene promotion to address the risk of water and vector borne diseases are among critical immediate needs of the affected population.

Beneficiary selection

Targeted assistance beneficiary selection will consider the following

- Partial or complete loss of household items
- Partial or complete loss of livelihood assets
- Partial or complete loss of water storage
- Houses partially and/or completely damaged

Generally, all affected persons will receive support in shelter and essential non-food items, WASH, PSS, and community health promotion.

Preference will be given to:

- Households which are in the latest list of poor/near poor households
- Households which have not received any support or received very little support from other agencies
- Households which have no sustainable source of income and livelihoods
- Households with persons with a disability or chronically ill persons
- Households headed by women
- Households with pregnant or lactating women
- Households with elderly person(s), i.e. over 65 years
- Households with children under 5 years.

Risk Assessment

As the rain continues, there is likelihood of more people and communities getting affected thus increasing the current number to a double. Communities are cut-off completely from safe places.

Coordination for proper and efficient response could be a challenge. It is assumed that the mechanism for proper coordination and information sharing might impact the implementation of planned activities.

Now that Liberia is preparing for elections in October, this situation could be exploited by politicians to showcase themselves by showing up with donations to communities where already the LNRCS might be working with the vulnerable people. This also might compromise how we would deliver services. In an unstable economy, change in prices, and supply chain would also impede the level and output of implementation. Customs regulations and clearances are also considered as risk factors in the implementation. Liberia is yet to have an International Disaster Response Regulation on international response protocols. The assumption is that in the absence of such basic regulation, implementation would also be challenged by customs duties, clearances, and taxations.

Feasibility and delivery capacity

LNRCS, through its network of volunteers down to community level is well positioned to carry out relief and recovery interventions. Distributions will be carried out in accordance to IFRC and LNRCS procedures and processes in line with the fundamental principles. To build on local resources and create linkage with local authorities, the operation will involve representatives from communities to support targeting and distribution activities. These representatives are being familiarized with the working of the Red Cross.

B. Operational strategy and plan

The Plan of Action is developed based on the initial information and details already provided by the rapid assessments conducted. Relevant sectors of intervention, for now, include cross-cutting (common to all sectors) Non-Food Items distribution, Emergency Health, PSS and WASH.

Overall objectives

This plan aims to meet the immediate shelter and essential non-food items, WASH, relief, health, PSS and shelter needs of 2,500 people or 500 families affected by floods (25% of total affected people) in Lower Margibi and Montserrado Counties.

In addition, LNRCS will support the improvement of knowledge and skills on disaster risk reduction, paired with small-scale resilience-building measures in some of the worst hit communities.

Proposed strategy

This plan maintains interventions aiming to address the WASH, non-food item, health, PSS and shelter needs of flood affected people.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Water and sanitation activities will be carried out through distribution of hygiene kits (1 kit/family for 1 month), water storage items/facilities, household chlorination, rehabilitation of water points, environmental cleanliness, solid waste management and provision of water purification tablets (Aqua tabs). Key messages to raise awareness on prevention of water and vector borne diseases will be disseminated at community level.

Shelter and non-food items

This will consider provision of emergency shelter materials, toolkits and essential non-food items. Focus will be given on Lower Margibi and rural Montserrado for shelter rehabilitation and or construction while all affected 500 families whose houses (roof, partition, cooking sheds, etc.) either completely or partially damaged targeted for the intervention will receive tarpaulins. Affected families will receive 2 tarpaulins, 2 blankets, 2 sleeping mats, 2 mosquito nets, 1 kitchen set and 2 containers of 5-gallon capacity and 10 families will share 1 piece of 5-gallon water container. It includes provision of 10 shelter tool kits to be used by Red Cross volunteers to support affected households to fix damaged houses with materials provided.

Health

The immediate health and PSS focus will be on promoting safe communities through health and hygiene promotion. The volunteers will be trained to carry out health and hygiene promotion messages while PSS will focus on rehabilitating and providing psychological first-aid support to individuals and families affected by the disaster. Key targeted among the populations are children, women, the elderly and single women household heads.

Operational support services

Human resources

The LNRCS has trained over 250 DM volunteers in the affected chapters in the last 4 years. These volunteers and trained staff will be deployed and engaged during the operations. They will carry out needs assessment and distribute relief WASH items to affected people. The HQs programme team will support the chapters from time to time as the implementation goes on. In strengthening the timely delivery of the planned actions at HQs and the chapters, seven (7) skilled volunteers (2 per chapter and 3 at HQ) will be added to the teams to provide surge support. They will receive fixed incentives for the operational period.

IFRC is providing technical support to LNRCS over the course of the operation. In addition, an RDRT with relief profile will be deployed for one month. The overall responsibilities of the operation in terms of implementation, monitoring, compliances and reporting will lie with the operations manager.

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain – including procurement, storage and transport – in accordance with the operation requirements and aligned to IFRC logistics standards, processes and procedures.

Procurement under this operation will be technically coordinated by the LNRCS with oversight technical guidance of the IFRC Finance and Administration Delegate in country and IFRC Regional Logistics coordinator. There may be need for additional material support from the Sahel Cluster upon request and need. All procurement relating to this operation will follow the regulations of the Liberian government and the IFRC standard procurement systems and procedures to ensure transparency and accountability. Quality inspection will be undertaken at the end of procurement process before items are accepted and goods received notes signed.

Communications

LNRCS will profile the assistance provided under this operation to the public through news and features in local media. Updates on the response will also be posted on the LNRCS social media portals.

Security

The main security risk is from opportunistic crime. Sporadic outbreaks of violence resulting from disputes over land, illegal mining and the exploitation of natural resources pose a potential threat to members in remote locations. Adequate risk mitigation measures must be employed. All RC/RC personnel actively involved in the operations must have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security). Road travel presents a considerable safety hazard which ought to be addressed appropriately.

Community engagement and accountability

Community engagement and accountability measures will ensure effective complaints and feedback procedures and mechanism. LNRCS will inform community members that they can use a designated mobile phone number to ask questions, share their concerns or provide feedback to inform change to be made on operational plan.

Gender, diversity and protection

All activities are being implemented in line with the IFRC Minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming and the LNRCS Gender Policy.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER)

Reporting on the operation will be done in accordance with the IFRC minimum reporting standards, with an update after the first one month and a final report to be made available three months after the end of the operation timeframe. Regular monitoring of the planned activities will be carried out by the operation team while scheduled monitoring visits will be made jointly by IFRC/LNRCS teams. A lesson learned workshop is planned at the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

The IFRC, through its finance unit in-country will oversee and regulate the financial aspect of the operation. They will provide the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets and carry out all expenditure.

D. Budget

Liberia - Floods (Margibi & Montserrado)

0

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	15,295
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	20,791
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,433
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	27,818
Other Supplies & Services	14,912
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	87,248
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	969
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	12,116
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	13,085
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	5,234
Volunteers	5,816
Total PERSONNEL	11,050
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	6,591
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	6,591
Travel	0
Information & Public Relations	775
Office Costs	0
Communications	97
Financial Charges	484
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	1,356

Partner National Societies

Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)

Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	7,756
Total INDIRECT COSTS	7,756
TOTAL BUDGET	127,086

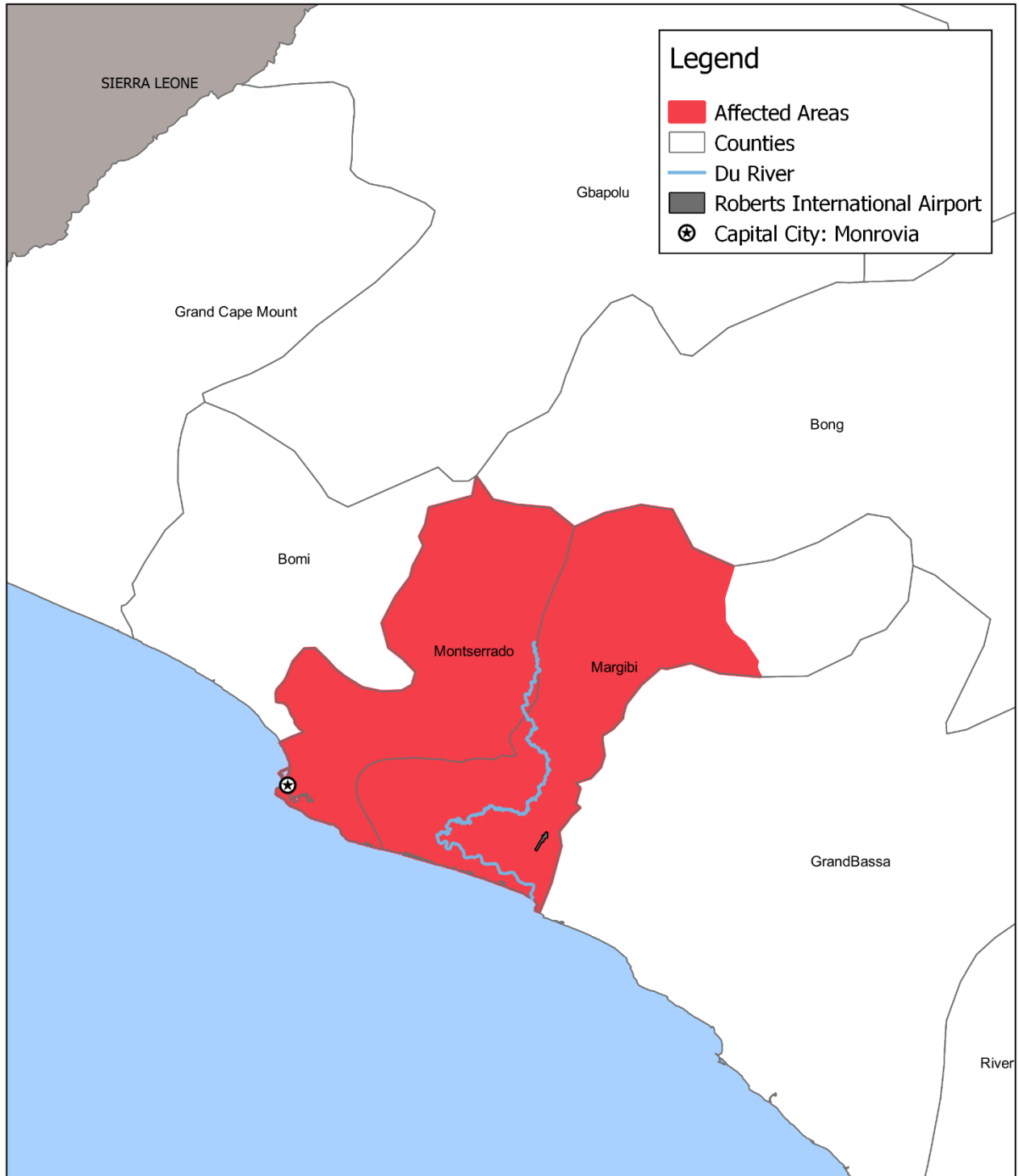


International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر



Liberia: Floods

30 September 2017 • FL-2017-000146-LBR



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
Map data sources: IFRC, GADM, OpenStreetMap Contributors

0 10 20 30 40 km



Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Liberia Red Cross Society office: G. Ambullai Perry, Director of Programmes, Email- ambullai.perry@liberian-redcross.org, Tel: +2317703 69308

In the IFRC country office:

- Younos Abdul Karim, Head of Country Office, +231777589111; Email: younos.karim@ifrc.org

In the African Region:

Florent Del Pinto, Acting Head of Disaster and Crisis Prevention, Response & Recovery Africa Region, Mob. (loc.): +254(0)780930278, email: florent.delpinto@ifrc.org

- Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Regional Logistic Unit; phone +254 733888022; fax +242 202 712 777; email rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- In the IFRC regional office for Africa: Kentaro Nagazumi, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Coordinator, phone:+254731984117 or +819086899793;email: kentaro.nagazumi@ifrc.org

In the IFRC Geneva:

- **IFRC Geneva:** Alma Alsayed, Senior Officer, Response and Recovery; phone: +4122730 4566; Email alma.alsayed@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- Fiona Gatere, PMER Coordinator Africa Region; phone: +254780771139; Email: fiona.Gatere@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
