


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Operation Update Report 1

Sierra Leone: Civil Unrest

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n°: MDRSL012	GLIDE n°
Operation update n° 1; Date of issue: 01 December 2022	Timeframe covered by this update: 10 August 2022 to 30 November 2022
Operation start date: 10 August 2022	Operation timeframe: 04 months (New end date: 31 December 2022)
Funding requirements (CHF): N/A	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 96,180
N° of people being assisted: 1,500 people (approx. 220 households)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and British Red Cross (BRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Office of National Security, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Freetown City Council (FCC), Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), Ministry of Youth, UN Agencies, Save the Children International, Sierra Leone Police and Military leaderships.	

This operation update is to inform stakeholders of Sierra Leone Civil Unrest response progress from 10 August 2022 to November 2022 and extend the timeframe by an additional month. As such, the new end date is 31 December 2022 for a total duration of 04 months.

The budget and strategy remain the same as the DREF Plan of Action. Most of the activities (around 91%) planned have been completed and the extension is to allow the completion of the following ones:

- Post distribution monitoring of cash to persons affected by the Civil Unrest to support medical costs. The transfer of funds was delayed due to the finalization and validation of recipients' list by the NDMA.
- IFRC monitoring visit involving the PMER and Operations Officers to monitor the quality of implementation, and support Post distribution monitoring and lessons learnt workshop.
- Support Lessons learned workshop (LLW) to generate learning from the operations, facilitated by IFRC PMER Officer.

The extension is required because of the delay in implementation due to challenges in the response. The NS needed to use validated list for the cash support from the government. This proposed date falls outside the approved DREF time frame, thus the need for an extension.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

In July 2022, Freetown experienced a series of strike actions with civil unrest precipitating a humanitarian crisis affecting populations across many parts of the country. On 8 and 9 August 2022, an organized group of civilians operated under social media platforms by unknown Sierra Leoneans in and outside Sierra Leone requested a sit-home action across the Country. On 10 August 2022, citizens took over the streets of Freetown, Waterloo, Makeni and Kamakwei towns to [demonstrate against the Government of Sierra Leone for unemployment, economic hardship, and injustices](#), demanding reductions in fuel prices, economic relief for indebted families, fair prices for agricultural products, employment and labour rights, security, and protection. Thousands of people were mobilized around the country, blocking roads and main supply routes. Although the mobilizations began peacefully in the Eastern Part of Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone, the situation deteriorated rapidly. A confrontation between security forces and demonstrators across the country led to increasing casualty rates. The deadly engagement started with tear gas canisters, which was followed by live bullets as the situation deteriorated within three hours. Regulatory measures

were imposed attempting to control the crowd, including a curfew. The authorities arrested and detained some of the protesters and conducted property searches and restrictions on the internet and social media. A cross-section of the population was impacted, with a high casualty rate reported for young people

On 13 August 2022, the protest extended to three other districts, and more than five towns with more than 20 concentration points and road blockades. As a result of these demonstrations, public and private property damage and people detained and injured were reported by media and social media. In Shell, Kissy, Wellington and Calaba town in the Western Rural District, the protesters set fires in police stations, and other government properties, killed security personnel and attacked key political figures in these locations. The vice president of the Republic of Sierra Leone declared a state of emergency and imposed a nationwide curfew from 3pm to 7am that day, which was later reviewed from 7pm to 7am due to severe internal commotion.



Manifestations in Sierra Leone @SLRCS

In response to these protests, Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) launched a [DREF Operation](#) for CHF 96,180 to improve the living conditions of 1,500 people (220 households) affected by the violence by providing pre-hospital care, psychosocial support, emergency medical and blood transfer services, as well as mitigate the risk of attacks on the SLRCS volunteers, which could lead to their inability to perform their humanitarian mandate.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

On 10 August, Sierra Leone Red Cross Society deployed the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) led by the Secretary-General, reactivated its standby social mobilization, disaster, burial, and First Aid teams to help reduce human suffering from the protest. A total of 5 members of staff and 35 volunteers were mobilized for:

- Voluntary blood donors to support the injured at Connaught hospital. In Freetown alone, SLRCS volunteers donated over 29 units of blood to the Connaught Hospital blood bank, as they were overwhelmed with injured victims from the demonstration. Similar support was provided in Rokupa hospital in Freetown, regional hospital in Makeni and Wesleyan Missionary hospital in Kamakwei.
- Collection of corpses from the streets of Freetown, Makeni, Kamakwei and Waterloo to mortuaries in the respective locations.
- The National Society (NS) deployed 6 ambulances and 7 vehicles in the four locations, Freetown (Eastern), Makeni, Kamakwei and Port Loko districts respectively to facilitate movement of volunteers and affected population.

SLRCS leadership and NDRT team have been participating in all the planning meetings convened by the Office of the National Security (ONS), which is the leading Government oversight for all national security matters including civil unrest.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Given the limited means available at SLRCS, IFRC Country Delegation in Sierra Leone supported the preparation and submission of this DREF request to enable the National Society to respond to the 12 August Civil unrest, and adequately prepare for the upcoming elections. IFRC Country Office in Freetown have been providing support to SLRCS throughout the implementation of the DREF.

Overview of other actors in the country

The Government of Sierra Leone provided support through Connaught and Rokupa hospitals in Freetown, regional hospital in Makeni, and Wesleyan hospital in Kamakwei. The Emergency hospital also provided specialized services for those victims with severe injuries and fractures. Among support provided by other partners, Save the Children provided Child Protection services during the unrest in Waterloo. The Sierra Leone Police and Military enforced curfew and monitoring hotspots with several arrests made.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment, and scenario planning

Needs Assessments & Analysis

Please refer to the [EPoA](#) for details on needs assessment.

Operation Risk Assessment

As this is a context of socio-political interest and since the need to strengthen the pillar of acceptance of the actions of the SLRCS is an important one, the following factors were anticipated to affect the response:

- Lack of safe access for teams due to lack of knowledge of Red Cross and Red Crescent resulting on attacks on ambulance units, institutional vehicles, and SLRCS facilities.
- Attacks on SLRCS operational personnel who provide pre-hospital care, psychosocial support, referents for RFL.
- Blockage of roads or hindering units' mobility to different points of the country's cities.
- Shortage of pre-hospital care supplies, food products or fuel to continue care.
- Situations of violence that generate looting and consequently the shortage of stocks in the market and effects on the availability of food resulting in nutritional insecurity of the population.
- Identification of SLRCS as a government institution rather than an independent and impartial actor.
- Physical and mental exhaustion of the response teams.
- Damage to the image and institutional reputation due to false or ill-intentioned information circulating on social networks.
- Risk of contagion of COVID-19 response personnel or other virally transmitted diseases.

Though the approved DREF EPoA clearly indicated mitigation measures for the above risks, the implementation of the DREF has far not been affected by any of the risks.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of the operation is to improve the living conditions of around 1,500 people (220 households) affected by the violence by providing pre-hospital care, psychosocial support, emergency medical and blood transfer services, and multi-purpose cash assistance, as well as mitigate the risk of attacks on the National Society that could lead to its inability to perform its humanitarian mandate.

The strategy developed to achieve the above results remain unchanged. Please refer to section C in the plan of action published [here](#) for more details and for key achievements to date, kindly go to section C below.



Volunteers on the field for peace promotion and support

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 1,050

Male: 516

Female: 534

Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods

Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of affected population confirming that cash provided has support their medical and basic needs	80%	TBD by PDM
#of people receiving unconditional cash assistance	150	150
# of affected HHs provided with cash to recover their livelihoods	150	150
# of PDM conducted	1	0

- Based on the needs identified, unconditional cash grant has been provided to the 150 households to support their livelihoods and cover for medical expenses. Beneficiaries of the DREF intervention were registered and verified through criteria developed and certified by the coordination forum and other stakeholders. A sum of 2,000 New SLL (CHF 137) was provided to each HH to support deceased family members and injured victims as medical fees support and to help cover basic needs of these most affected households. This was made as a one-off instalment and an evaluation of the use of the cash will be conducted during a Post distribution monitoring.
- A PDM has been planned, and the DREF extension will support the PMER team carry out PDM as indicated in the approved EPoA.



Health

People targeted: 1,500

Male: 735

Female: 765

Health Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Health Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with pre-hospital care and first aid services	150	150
# of people reached with health services (first aid, ambulance transfers).	150	150
# People reached with key messages of respect for the Medical Mission*.	1500	1500
#of hotspots cover with NS intervention	4	4
# of additional first aid kit purchased	10	10

Health Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of people reached population provided with psychosocial support	80%	78%
# of PSS sessions held in affected communities	8	8
# of people reached with PSS	1500	1500
# of volunteers and staff provided with PSS support	120	120

- A total of 80 volunteers were provided 3 days of training on of refresher training in Emergency First Aid. The SLRCS' community-based volunteers provided Emergency First Aid to families that were affected by the Civil Unrest. The volunteers held series of First Aid sessions with affected families within the affected communities of Freetown, Makeni and Karene Districts during and after the conflict. Some victims were treated for minor injuries on site whilst others were taken to secondary and tertiary health facilities in SLRCS ambulances.
- A total of 6 NS ambulances were mobilized for 2 months. Maintenance and deployment of the ambulance to support the evacuation of injuries and victims, and transport of volunteers first-aid teams have been completed.
- 80 volunteers have been trained in first aid and PSS. These volunteers were mobilized to prevent injuries from getting worse, favouring the recovery of the affected person in a short time in case of escalation.
- National Society have ensured procurement and positioning of 10 first-aid kit to support the different emergency team and Procurement and distribution of 100 visibility jackets to contribute to the protection of 80 volunteers and 20 staff have been completed.
- Following the demand from Health centres and communities, the national society has promoted blood donation from volunteers. A total of 60 volunteers have mobilized and donated 60 units of safe blood for victims under treatment at secondary and tertiary facilities.
- A combined training on the use of the Emblem, application of Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law (IHL), safety and security, emergency first aid services, and psychosocial support before, during and after violence protests have been provided to 20 staff and 80 volunteers
- A total of 20 Senior Sierra Leone Police Officers and 20 Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) personnel in 10 barracks (Freetown 4, Bombali 2, Kamakwei 2 and Port Loko 2) have been engaged on the use of the Emblem, Red Cross Fundamental Principles, and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) for one day for each session.



Volunteers providing safe blood at health center for vulnerable victims @SLRCS



Volunteers in the field providing first aid to injured and evacuation to the hospital @SLRCS

Strengthen National Society		
S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences, and capacities to plan and perform		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers involved in the response	100	100
Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers insured	100	100
# of volunteers and employees with appropriate visibility items	100	100
#of volunteers insured	80	0
#of security briefing provided to volunteers and staff	2	3
Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of jackets provided to volunteers.	80	100
Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of briefings provided to staff on CEA and protection	1	1
% of feedback system set	100	100
% of feedback collected which has been treated	100	81
# of lesson learnt workshop organized and reported	1	0
# of IFRC monitoring visits	4	2
Progress towards outcomes		
To effectively manage the DREF operation, a total of 100 SLRCS community-based volunteers were deployed to support the overall operation. The volunteers were provided a day orientation on their roles and responsibilities and the types of risks they were likely to face throughout the lifespan of the operation. Training on psychosocial support was also provided to volunteers who were involved in the operation. Additionally, volunteers were orientated on CEA and collected feedback from affected populations that were frequently analysed and reports informed DREF implementation.		

D. Financial Report

Overall budget for this operation remains CHF 96,180 as allocated at the launch of the project.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

In the Sierra Leone National Society:

- Kpawuru Sandy, Secretary General; phone: +232 76 800 073; email: ksandy@sierraleoneredcross.org
- Yusufu Camara, Director of Programs and Operations ycamara@sierraleoneredcross.org, +232 79 492 611

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation:

- Ghulam Muhammad Awan Head of Country Cluster Delegation, email: ghulam.awan@ifrc.org; phone: +232 78 811 584
- Alhaji Bockarie Abu; Senior PMER Officer, email: alhaji.abu@ifrc.org , phone: 23278039192,
- John K. Gbao, Senior Operations Officer, email: john.gbao@ifrc.org; phone: +232 79 102 910

IFRC office for Africa Region:

- Rui Alberto Oliveira, Head of Disaster Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department ai, Nairobi, Kenya; email: rui.oliveira@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- **Programme and Operations focalpoint:** Nicolas Boyrie, Senior Officer Operations Coordination, email: nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org
- **DREF:** Eszter Matyeka, DREF Senior Officer, DCPRR Unit Geneva; Email: eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for Resource Mobilization and Pledge: Louise Daintrey, Head of Unit, Partnership and Resource Development, Nairobi, email: louise.daintrey@ifrc.org;

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit:** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Africa Regional Logistics Unit, email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org; phone: +254 733 888 022

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting enquiries)

- IFRC Africa Regional Office: Philip Komo Kahuho, Regional Head, PMER & QA; email: philip.kahuho@ifrc.org; phone: +254 732 203 081

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.