



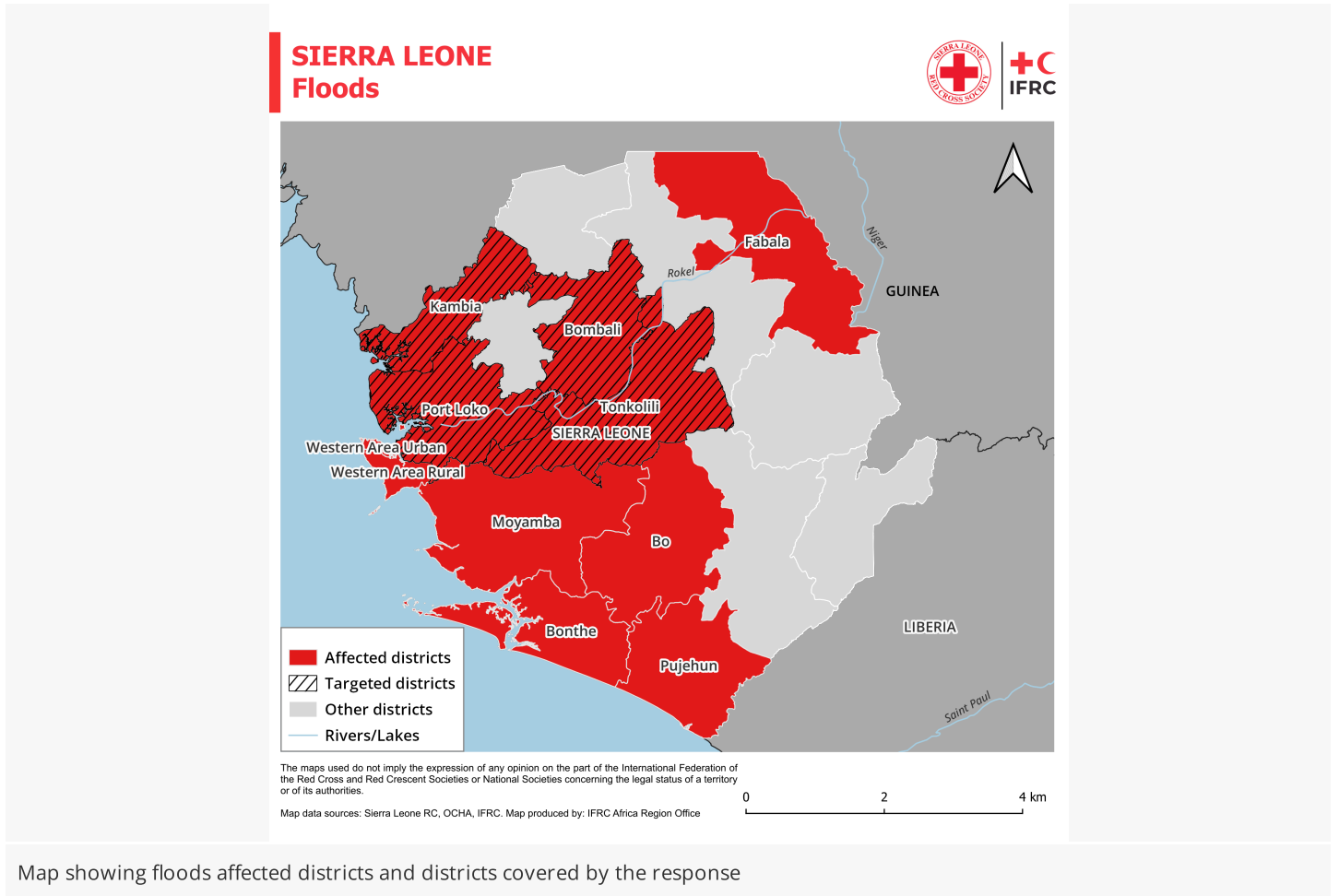
Floods across Sierra Leone

Appeal: MDRSL016	Country: Sierra Leone	Hazard: Flood	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 470,306	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 23,596 people	People Targeted: 12,610 people	
Operation Start Date: 03-10-2024	Operation Timeframe: 4 months	Operation End Date: 28-02-2025	DREF Published: 08-10-2024
Targeted Areas: Northern, Southern, Western			

Description of the Event

Date of event

23-09-2024



What happened, where and when?

The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has reported extensive flooding across Sierra Leone, significantly impacting communities, farmlands, businesses, and infrastructure. By September 23, 2024, the NDMA identified 27 flood events across multiple districts, affecting 3,330 households and 23,596 people. Hardest-hit areas include Bo, Bonthe, Bombali, Falaba, Kambia, Moyamba, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Pujehun, and the Western Area.

Heavy rainfall from Guinea triggered these floods, resulting in the collapse of 167 buildings, including 27 essential infrastructures like schools, hospitals, and places of worship. Additionally, 7,324 hectares of farmland have been flooded, and many roads remain impassable, disrupting local economies. Between August and 23 September, more floods were reported, displacing over 50 communities and affecting over 1,500 farmers, jeopardizing both current food supplies and long-term recovery.

On 23 September 2024, the overflow of the Bumbuna Dam due to excessive rainfall led to severe flooding in downstream communities, displacing 716 people and causing significant property losses. Stagnant floodwaters have also compromised water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, raising concerns about waterborne diseases like cholera and typhoid, and increasing the risk of malaria due to mosquito breeding.

The NDMA, in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency, has been monitoring rainfall patterns, noting that heavy rains in Guinea, particularly from rivers originating in the Futa Jallon Highlands, have exacerbated the situation. The African Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action Systems had predicted this heavy precipitation, worsening the flood crisis in Sierra Leone.

NDMA officials have visited affected areas, urging residents to protect themselves from waterborne diseases and ensure the safety of drinking water sources. The agency is coordinating with partners like the World Food Programme (WFP), Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), and the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP) to conduct detailed assessments and deliver an effective humanitarian response.



Citizens are encouraged to report flood-affected communities or emergencies via the NDMA's toll-free line (1199) or by visiting regional offices across the country.



Taiama Farmer showing rice farm before and after

Flood submerging agricultural lands



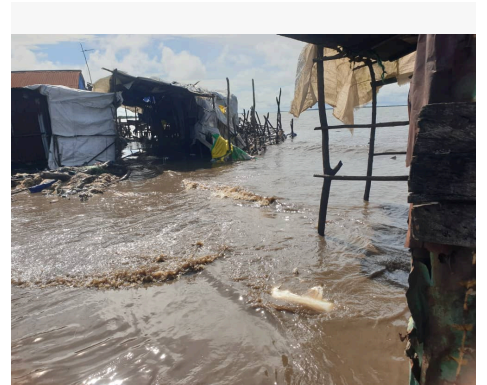
Flood affecting education system



Flood water in class room



Flooded community in the north



Flooding in Kamasondo Port Loko

Floods in port loko



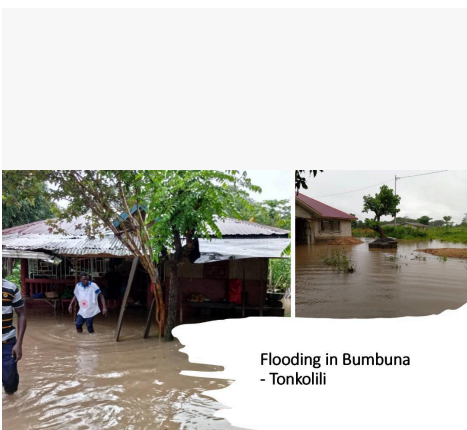
Flooding in Kakua Chiefdom – Bo District

Floods in Bo



Building collapses in Mambolo

floods destroying houses in Mambolo

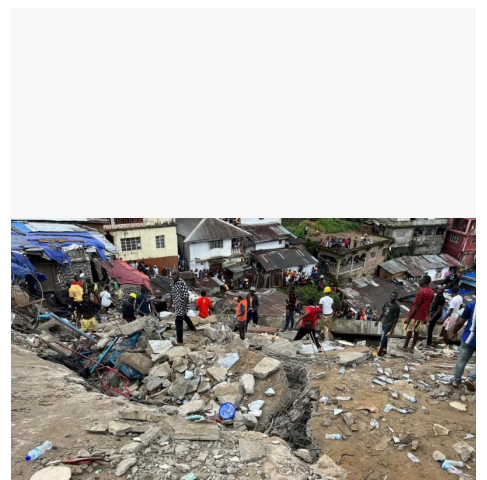


Flooding in Bumbuna - Tonkolili

Overflow of Bumbuna dam resulting to floods



a seven-story building in Freetown



Scope and Scale

The recent floods in Sierra Leone have caused widespread devastation across multiple districts, affecting both rural and urban areas. Significant damage has been reported in key districts, including Bo, Bonthe, Bombali, Falaba, Kambia, Moyamba, Tonkolili, Port Loko, and Pujehun, along with the Western Area (Urban and Rural). The hardest-hit areas include:

Bo District: Baoma, Kakua, Jaiama, and Valunia
Bonthe District: Benducha, Bonthe Island, Bum, and Yorbekwu
Bombali District: Bombali Shebora
Falaba District: Dembeleya Musaia
Kambia District: Mambolo, Samu, and Thonkor Limba
Moyamba District: Fakunia, Kamajei, Kagboro, Kori, Njama Kowa, and Rotifung
Tonkolili District: Dansogoia and Kalantuba
Port Loko District: Kamasondo
Pujehun District: Kpanka Kabondeh, Peri, Barri, and Sorogbema
Western Area: Western Area Urban and Western Area Rural.

The flooding has severely affected the livelihoods of 23,596 people, comprising 3,330 households across 27 communities. Besides displacing residents and destroying property, the floods have led to significant economic losses, particularly among vulnerable farming populations. A total of 167 buildings, including 27 critical infrastructures like schools, hospitals, and places of worship, have collapsed, further disrupting essential services. Additionally, 7,324 hectares of farmland have been submerged, resulting in substantial crop losses that threaten food security and the long-term economic recovery of over 1,500 farmers.

The flooding has also rendered many roads impassable for over a week, isolating communities from markets, healthcare facilities, and schools, and disrupting local economies and daily life. Small businesses, heavily dependent on daily trade, have been particularly hard hit.

Preliminary assessments indicate that the flooding was primarily caused by heavy rainfall in the Futa Jallon Highlands of Guinea, leading to rivers overflowing into Sierra Leone. The situation was worsened on September 16, 2024, when the Bumbuna Dam overflowed, causing further flooding downstream, displacing 716 people, and leading to the loss of property and livelihoods, as well as disruptions to the electricity supply.

Stagnant floodwaters have heightened the risk of waterborne diseases, including cholera and typhoid, particularly in areas where water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure has been compromised. The increased mosquito breeding in these waters has also raised concerns about potential malaria outbreaks.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. National Disaster Management Agenda Situation report	https://ndma.gov.sl/2024/09/24/4259-zsqong/

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:



Lessons learned:

Sierra Leone last experienced large-scale floods in 2021. Reflecting on that response, numerous preparedness activities were implemented by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Freetown City Council, Red Cross, and other partners. These efforts included early warning actions, strengthened preparedness measures, and drainage cleanings in key parts of Freetown and flood-prone areas. This proactive approach proved effective in mitigating flood impacts in previously affected regions.

For the current floods, similar preparedness actions have successfully prevented floods in traditionally vulnerable areas. However, continuous rainfall has triggered floods in districts across the country that have not experienced such disasters in recent years. Learning from the 2021 Freetown floods, the following key lessons have been identified for this year's flood response:

Early Action Protocol (EAP) implementation: The lack of a clearly defined Early Action Protocol (EAP) during past floods caused delays in response. For the current flood response, an EAP will be introduced, using weather forecasts and community insights. This protocol will establish specific triggers, such as rainfall levels and river data, to initiate swift responses, minimizing the impact through early actions. Defined roles for each response phase will ensure smooth coordination.

Strengthened drainage and waste management systems: Inadequate drainage and poor waste management have been significant factors exacerbating flood severity. Moving forward, collaboration with local authorities will focus on maintaining and upgrading drainage systems, especially in high-risk communities. Efforts will also include improving solid waste management to prevent blockages, which can worsen flooding conditions.

Enhanced information dissemination systems: A recurring challenge in past responses was the delay in providing communities with critical information. This year, a robust communication strategy will be implemented, utilizing various platforms such as mobile alerts, local radio, and community leaders. Timely and accurate information will empower communities to take early action and protect themselves from impending floods.

Conduct regular drills and workshops: The 2021 flood response revealed a lack of community preparedness. This year, regular flood preparedness drills and workshops will be conducted in high-risk areas to equip residents with the knowledge and skills to respond quickly and effectively, reducing the risk of loss and damage.

Community engagement in flood risk management: In the past, top-down interventions were less successful without community involvement. To address this, local communities will be fully engaged in flood risk management planning and decision-making. This will ensure that preparedness and response measures reflect the unique needs of each community, promoting ownership and long-term sustainability.

Cash transfer programmes for recovery: Cash-based interventions were highly effective in supporting households during past floods, particularly for restoring livelihoods and addressing hygiene needs. For the current response, a cash transfer programme will be introduced, allowing affected families to meet their specific needs while also boosting local market recovery.

Building on anticipatory action and resilient infrastructure: The 2021 floods highlighted the need for anticipatory action and resilient infrastructure. This year's response will focus on enhancing early warning systems and reinforcing infrastructure, including drainage improvements and flood barriers. Continuous updates to flood risk maps will account for changes in urbanization, ensuring that vulnerable areas are accurately identified and supported.

Psychosocial support is essential: Psychosocial support plays a critical role in maintaining the mental and emotional well-being of affected persons during and after disasters. In previous emergencies, such as the Sierra Leone oil tanker explosion (2021) and the flood and landslides (2017), timely psychosocial support helped reduce stress and provided strong coping mechanisms. A key lesson is the need to integrate psychosocial services into flood response efforts, especially for parents, who should receive guidance on managing their children's stress to promote positive parenting and help mitigate trauma at home.

Community-based volunteers are key: Trained, community-based volunteers are essential for rapid, effective emergency response. Their role was evident during responses to the fire accident (2021), the flood (2019), and the cholera epidemic (2012). Volunteers with skills in cash transfers, hygiene promotion, and community awareness can be quickly mobilized and deployed, reducing time and costs. Additionally, their engagement in hygiene promotion is critical for disease prevention in flood-affected areas, and their involvement in interventions helps manage community expectations, ensuring smoother operations.

Transparency and communication are key: Past experiences, such as during the fire accident (2021) and the oil tanker explosion (2021), underscored the importance of transparency and communication. Clear dissemination of selection criteria for assistance among affected populations helps manage expectations and avoid resentment. Engaging communities in the planning and implementation of interventions and holding awareness sessions are crucial to ensuring transparency. Furthermore, effective communication with



affected families is vital during disasters to prevent confusion and undue pressure on response teams. Engaging authorities and community members in explaining the operational limitations proved effective in past responses.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

23-09-2024

Coordination	<p>Since the onset of the disaster, the SLRCS has been actively coordinating its efforts with both internal and external partners within the Red Cross Movement. As an auxiliary to public authorities, the SLRCS maintains strong collaboration with various government entities at both the district and national levels. The SLRCS participates in coordination meetings and working group forums organized in partnership with public authorities, which serve as key platforms for information sharing, planning, analysis, and strategic coordination. Response teams are responsible for ensuring active engagement, effective coordination, and collaboration with government agencies and other stakeholders at all levels.</p>
National Society Readiness	<p>The SLRCS has a robust national presence and deeply rooted networks, enabling it to effectively reach vulnerable communities, including those in remote and hard-to-access regions where other humanitarian organizations may struggle to operate. With extensive experience across a wide range of humanitarian programming, the SLRCS benefits from strong support and collaboration within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the IFRC, ICRC, and Partner National Societies (PNS) like the British and Finnish Red Cross Societies.</p> <p>The SLRCS is well-equipped for rapid response and assessment, boasting more than 24 trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members and over 10 active Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members. This is further complemented by a volunteer base of over 16,000 individuals. In addition, the SLRCS has completed a Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) and collaborated with partners and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to develop a multi-hazard plan that will be instrumental in guiding ongoing operations. Operating through 14 branches, the SLRCS is strategically positioned to lead comprehensive preparedness and response efforts in close coordination with government authorities, ensuring both immediate relief and long-term resilience-building.</p>
Assessment	<p>A detailed multi-sectoral assessment of the flood-affected communities, led by the NS is currently underway. The findings will offer comprehensive insights into the extent of the damage and the specific needs of the affected households. Meanwhile, 40 Red Cross volunteers in the impacted branches coordinated by members of the National Disaster Response Team have conducted a rapid assessment. This preliminary data, along with the situation report from the NDMA, has provided essential information on the immediate damage and urgent needs, forming the basis for the ongoing response efforts.</p>
Resource Mobilization	<p>The NDMA has started mobilizing resources from partners to support flood affected populations. However, this effort is ongoing, and no formal assistance has been announced yet. In light of this situation, the National Society (NS) has developed an action plan focused on essential response areas and is seeking support from partners to deliver comprehensive aid to the affected communities.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC operates a Country Delegation in Freetown, delivering essential support for the preparedness and response initiatives of National Societies in Sierra Leone, Liberia,</p>
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Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau. This Cluster Delegation comprises experienced professionals specializing in operations quality, accountability, and learning. By bolstering the organizational development and resilience of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, the delegation ensures that it is better equipped to handle future emergencies both efficiently and effectively.

The Delegation provides technical assistance across a range of areas, including disaster preparedness and response, National Society Development, planning, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and reporting (PMER), as well as financial management. It coordinates support from its membership to enhance the capabilities of the SLRCS, strengthen its organizational framework, and represent the NS on the global stage.

From the beginning of the flood response, the IFRC Country Delegation has worked closely with SLRCS leadership and the disaster management team to outline intervention areas, define roles, and establish responsibilities. This collaborative effort includes partners from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, national and international NGOs, and donors, ensuring a cohesive and effective response. Established communication channels and protocols enable real-time information sharing and decision-making, facilitating swift and coordinated actions on the ground.

The IFRC utilizes its extensive network of partners and stakeholders to enhance response efforts, obtaining resources, technical expertise, and funding support from the global Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian entities. This collaborative approach guarantees that the assistance from the IFRC's membership is efficiently coordinated and focused on the most pressing needs immediately following a disaster.

Through this DREF response, the IFRC country office in Freetown will continue to support the SLRCS throughout the implementation phase, ensuring ongoing capacity to meet both immediate and evolving needs. The Cluster Delegation will designate an operations focal point to aid in the initial response phase, while technical staff, including the PMER officer, will undertake support missions to improve operational efficiency.

Participating National Societies

The Finnish and British Red Cross Societies are actively assisting the SLRCS in enhancing capacity for community-based health programming, tree planting and care initiatives, SGBV programmes, and disaster risk reduction efforts. While neither of these Partner National Societies (PNSs) has allocated funding for the current response, their involvement will continue, especially since the DREF initiative will not fully meet the needs of all affected households.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC lacks a physical presence in Sierra Leone, but it offers remote support through its Abidjan Delegation. It works in partnership with the SLRCS to enhance the operational capacity of committees in regions affected by socio-political and inter-community violence. At the time the DREF was submitted, the ICRC had not committed to providing assistance for the flood response.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	Since the assessment began, the Sierra Leone Red Cross has been working in close collaboration with the NDMA. In response to the authorities' call for assistance, emergency meetings were convened to seek support from humanitarian organizations for flood affected populations. The SLRCS has actively provided first aid, while the NDMA has focused on assessing the situation, facilitating search and rescue operations, and mobilizing resources from partners to assist the victims. However, the process of



	resource mobilization is still in progress, and no formal assistance has been announced yet.
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UN or other actors	Action to date has not been communicated.
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Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

A National Inter-Pillar Coordination mechanism, led by the NDMA, has been established to manage all partners involved in the response efforts. These meetings provide updates on the disaster situation, discuss response actions, and coordinate efforts to prevent duplication of resources and activities. Currently, significant attention is focused on conducting detailed assessments, as new districts continue to report cases.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The recent flooding has led to substantial losses within the impacted communities, yet the structural integrity of the homes has largely remained intact. A rapid assessment conducted after the flood revealed that, while the buildings did not sustain significant damage, the floodwaters severely affected household items. Essential belongings, including furniture, cooking utensils, and bedding, were either destroyed or rendered unusable, indicating a pressing need for replacements rather than shelter reconstruction.

The assessment indicates that the primary focus should not be on rebuilding the houses, as they are structurally sound. Instead, the priority should be on replacing essential household and non-food items (NFIs). The floodwaters devastated critical items such as blankets, mats, and kitchen kits, which are essential for maintaining basic living standards. The loss of these items has left families without the necessary tools for daily living, impacting their comfort and ability to manage hygiene and food preparation.

Given these findings, the response should concentrate on providing replacements for these vital household and non-food items. Supplying blankets, mats, and kitchen kits will enable affected families to restore their living conditions and alleviate the immediate discomfort and instability caused by the flooding. This strategy will assist families in resuming their daily routines and enhancing their health and hygiene practices.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The communities affected by the recent flood are grappling with the severe repercussions of climate change, which has led to frequent and intense climatic shocks. These conditions have already disrupted local livelihoods and income-generating activities, further deteriorating living standards. The recent flooding has exacerbated these challenges, leaving many families in a precarious situation.

The flood has caused significant losses, hindering families' ability to engage in their usual economic activities and worsening existing vulnerabilities. The destruction of crops, damage to farming tools, and disruption of local markets have severely affected the livelihoods of those impacted, resulting in a critical shortage of food and income that places immense pressure on these families.

Currently, the affected individuals are enduring severe hardships, including food scarcity and an increased struggle for daily survival. In light of the extensive losses and the ongoing impact of the flood, it is essential to prioritize addressing the immediate food needs of these families. Providing food assistance is vital to help them recover from the shock and stabilize their living conditions.

Without prompt support for their food needs, the affected populations face the risk of further deteriorating their already fragile situation. Ensuring that families have access to adequate food will be crucial in helping them regain stability and initiate the process of rebuilding their livelihoods and resuming normal activities.



Health

The health situation among flood affected populations is quickly worsening due to their heightened vulnerability. Immediate intervention is essential to avert a rise in waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and related health complications, all of which could significantly affect their overall well-being. The rainy season further elevates the risk of malaria, particularly among children and pregnant women. This region has a history of waterborne diseases and malnutrition. Given these circumstances, there is an urgent need to distribute mosquito



nets and implement comprehensive awareness and training programmes aimed at preventing waterborne diseases. Addressing these critical needs is crucial to avoiding a public health crisis and safeguarding the health of the affected communities.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The floods have significantly disrupted the community's water supply, leading to contamination from overflowing latrines and wastewater and creating a severe shortage of safe drinking water. This situation has fostered a highly unsanitary environment, worsened by an increase in open defecation. Consequently, there is an urgent demand for essential hygiene and sanitation resources, like soap, jerry cans, and the construction of emergency latrines. Additionally, water treatment solutions are crucial to ensure the safety of any available water sources. There is also an immediate need for the physical sanitation of the affected living areas to reduce health risks. Promptly addressing these needs is vital to preventing outbreaks of waterborne diseases and enhancing the overall health and safety of the impacted communities.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The intervention requires a thorough needs analysis focused on gender, diversity, disability, and minority considerations to support vulnerable households effectively. There is a critical need for essential personal protective equipment for intervention teams, including boots, flashlights, bibs, megaphones, and raincoats, to ensure their safety while operating in affected areas.

Protection, gender, and inclusion are vital for the response, as the affected communities must maintain dignity, access to resources, opportunities for participation, and safety. Different groups, namely women, girls, men, and boys across various ages, abilities, and backgrounds, face unique needs, risks, and coping strategies that must be addressed.

A comprehensive gender and diversity analysis is needed to guide the operational strategy, influencing distribution schedules and hygiene promotion activities to ensure they effectively meet the specific requirements of diverse populations. Failure to address these needs could lead to further marginalization of vulnerable groups and hinder the overall effectiveness of the intervention.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The current response to the situation requires a strong emphasis on community engagement and the involvement of administrative authorities at all stages, including evaluation, targeting, and distribution operations. This is essential to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable populations are adequately addressed.

There is a significant need for a transparent and accountable operational framework, necessitating the establishment of beneficiary and non-beneficiary committees. These committees will be vital in managing potential complaints and facilitating feedback from all affected groups. Their active participation will help ensure that the response is responsive to the needs of the community, fostering trust and cooperation among stakeholders.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The objective of this operation is to deliver shelter assistance by distributing household and non-food items (NFIs), supporting livelihoods, and improving health and hygiene practices. The intervention aims to provide emergency relief to 1,800 households (12,600 people), affected by the floods in Kambia, Port Loko, Tonkolili, and Bombali districts. The operation will be implemented over 04 months to ensure the timely and effective completion of all activities.

Operation strategy rationale

This DREF operation will assist in emergency shelter, hygiene promotion and sanitation, improving access to safe drinking water through water treatment, and access to food and non-food items primarily through a multi-purpose cash transfer approach while implementing disaster mitigation activities.



Based on feedback from past post-distribution monitoring, cash transfers have proven effective in helping affected individuals recover according to their specific needs, restoring their dignity by allowing them to choose what is essential for their families and supporting market recovery. The Sierra Leone Red Cross has an existing contract with both Orange and Africell, which was utilized during the 2021 floods, the Funkia fire response, the oil tanker explosion, and other response actions. This platform is also being used for ongoing projects supported by PNSs to facilitate cash interventions. This same contract will be utilized by the NS to support the current operation. Continued assessments and monitoring will be conducted to ensure that the operation remains aligned with the evolving situation on the ground, considering forecasts and potential adjustments from partners that could impact current parameters.

This four-month intervention aims to provide comprehensive and targeted support to 1,800 households (12,600 people) in the four districts, focusing on those impacted by recent floods in Kambia (774 households), Bombali (345 households), Port Loko (266 households), and Tonkolili (215 households). The strategy is designed to address immediate needs and promote recovery through three key areas: the provision of essential household and non-food items (NFIs), water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, and food support through a cash transfer approach.

1. Livelihood: Target 1,800 households (12,600 people)

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society plans to transfer NLE 2,500 (CHF 95) to each household identified as most vulnerable, aimed at covering their nutritional needs for 02 months. This amount has been calculated based on the local expenditure basket. The transfer will be distributed in two installments: the first installment in the initial month of DREF implementation, followed by the second installment in the subsequent month. Prior to the cash distribution, a market assessment will be conducted to gather clear information on the market situation. Additionally, post-distribution monitoring will be carried out to assess the effectiveness and impact of the intervention.

2. Shelter: 1,800 households (12,600 people)

Each household will receive NLE 1,400 (CHF 52) to replace essential household items lost due to flooding, including blankets, bedsheets, drinking buckets, laundry bowls, cooking utensils, and cups. Additional support will provide kitchen sets, sleeping mats, and three blankets to ensure families can quickly regain their standard of living.

3. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): 1,800 households (12,600 people)

The WASH component is critical for preventing health crises and ensuring the well-being of the affected population. Each household will receive WASH kits valued at NLE 1,000 (CHF 37), which include buckets with lids, jerry cans, soap, chlorine, and hygiene kits to address basic sanitation needs. Additionally, community-led initiatives will focus on cleaning drainage systems, waterways, and waste disposal sites to prevent disease spread and promote a healthier living environment.

In summary, the cash transfer to beneficiaries will be provided in two installments; the first transfer will include one month of food support (NSL1,250), cash for household items, and Cash for WASH items all amounting to NL3,650. This will be immediately followed by post-distribution monitoring to provide knowledge of the effectiveness of the response and use of cash for the intended purpose. The second installment will cover the second month of food distribution. This will also be followed by post-distribution monitoring. The overall cash support will total NLE 4,900 (CHF 182) per household. This approach aims to restore essential items, alleviate immediate burdens, and support recovery processes.

3. Health: Target 1,800 households (12,600 people)

The health risks will be prioritized under this intervention. SLRCS will ensure that affected communities and households preserve their health and well-being and ensure good health and wash practices are upheld and improved to reduce the occurrences of water and vector-borne diseases such as Malaria, and acute watery diarrhea, and prevent any cholera outbreak. SLRCS will also provide first-aid and psychosocial support to the affected families, as necessary. A total of 100 volunteers will be trained in PSS, CEA, CVA, First Aid, and Health Promotion. Prevention of the above-mentioned diseases is to be prioritized in the messages, activities, and relief support that will be deployed.

To cover the required actions that will serve this outcome, 100 SLRCS volunteers from all 04 branches will be deployed 04 days a week for 12 weeks to ensure the community contributes to maintaining functioning drainage and waste management systems and overall awareness of health issues resulting from the floods. This will help to prevent and rapidly identify any eventual outbreaks.

This integrated response strategy combines Cash, WASH interventions, and health promotion to deliver immediate relief while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery and resilience. Local committees will oversee beneficiary selection and fund utilization processes to ensure transparency and community ownership. A market assessment will precede cash distribution to assess feasibility, while post-distribution monitoring will evaluate the intervention's effectiveness and allow for necessary adjustments.

A robust community feedback mechanism will enhance accountability and responsiveness, facilitating complaint resolution and ensuring that the response is tailored to community needs. This will include community-based committees to monitor activities and a team of trained volunteers skilled in complaint management. Comprehensive gender and diversity analysis will be conducted across all sectors to understand the impact on various groups and tailor the response accordingly. All sectors will adhere to IFRC's minimum standards for protection, gender, and inclusion in emergencies.

The Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) focal Point will ensure all volunteers complete online training on sexual and gender-based violence disclosure and referral. Compliance will be reported in the operation's activity report. Additionally, the Monitoring and Assessment Framework will integrate Essential Response Plan questions into future assessments to better identify needs and implement targeted actions.

This participatory strategy is essential for fostering trust, improving operational transparency, and ensuring that the response effectively



addresses the specific needs and concerns of the affected communities. SLRCS is well-positioned to lead these efforts, supported by its trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members, Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members, and a volunteer base of over 16,000. The NS has developed a multi-hazard plan in collaboration with the NDMA, which will be instrumental in guiding this operation, ensuring that interventions are effective and comprehensive in addressing the needs of the affected populations.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The DREF application aims to assist 1,800 households (12,600 individuals) impacted by the floods in the three most affected districts. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society will focus on identifying and prioritizing support for vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and marginalized communities. Community engagement will play a crucial role in effectively addressing the basic needs of the affected population. A comprehensive registration and profiling system will be established to gather data on family size, income, housing conditions, and specific vulnerabilities. This information will facilitate the creation of detailed beneficiary profiles, allowing for the categorization and prioritization of aid based on the severity of needs. SLRCS will utilize these profiles to ensure that the most vulnerable individuals receive priority support.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The criteria for selection will be co-formulated with community stakeholders, beneficiary representatives and NDMA representatives at district level. However, SLRCS will use its experience from previous DREF operations to propose the following criteria for inclusion into the beneficiary selection criteria:

Assessment of Needs:

- Households that have suffered partial or complete loss of household items.
- Households with partial or complete loss of livelihood assets.
- Households that have experienced partial or complete loss of water storage facilities.
- Households with partially or completely damaged homes.

Priority Considerations:

- Households classified as poor or near-poor in the latest assessments.
- Households that have not received assistance or have only received minimal support from other agencies.
- Households lacking a sustainable source of income or livelihoods.
- Households with individuals living with disabilities or chronic illnesses.
- Households headed by women.
- Households with pregnant or lactating women.
- Households with elderly members (aged over 65 years).
- Households with children under five years old.

Total Targeted Population

Women	6,426	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	6,184	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	12,610		



Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Recurrence of similar flooding incidents in the same locations	SLRCS will continue to coordinate with the SLMeT and share alerts with trained community-based volunteers and stakeholders. SLRCS will ensure that communities are engaged on EWS signs during all sensitization sessions and meetings, especially for communities close to the Gbungbuna Dam.
Present Economic Challenges, especially high and unstable inflation may increase the cost of basic commodities and the general cost of the response.	SLRCS staff and volunteers will continue to do price monitoring, and the procurement team will ensure that items to be procured are bought within the first month of the operation. CVA staff and volunteers will also do Rapid Market Assessment before setting out the cash value.
Inadequate community engagement on planned activities may be a source of conflict	Communities will be adequately informed of the response scope and selection criteria. Also, SLRCS-trained volunteers and staff in CEA will consistently engage community stakeholders prior to any major intervention such as household items distribution and cash.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

There is a threat of national demonstrations against the ruling Government for political, social and economic challenges, especially high tariffs on utilities such as electricity and communication, taxes on basic commodities and hunger. This threat has been in existence since the presidential and parliamentary elections results were announced in June 2023. However, the NS will work within the framework of action of Safer Access, in addition to compliance with the provisions contained in the Sierra Leone Red Cross Security Manual, in accordance with the IFRC Freetown Cluster Delegations Minimum Security Requirements (MSRs) which must be applied by all components of the Red Cross Movement present in Sierra Leone, as well as the management, employees and volunteers of the SLRCS.

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 96,034

Targeted Persons: 12,600

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households provided with cash for household items	1,800
% of households satisfied with the cash provided for household item	80
% of households using cash for the purpose it was provided	80

Priority Actions

- Conduct market assessment
- Deployment of volunteers to monitor the cash transfer process for 4 days
- Provision of cash for households kits





Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: -

Targeted Persons: 12,600

Indicators

Title	Target
# HHs that receive cash for two months nutritional support	1,800
# of volunteers trained and engaged in cash activities	100
% of the target satisfied with the cash provided for food	80
% of households using cash for the purpose it was provided	80
Number of PDM conducted	1

Priority Actions

- Train volunteers on cash transfer and household registration through the Kobo collect platform
- Conduct market assessment
- Set up targeting committees and briefing of beneficiary households
- Transfer of cash to 1,800 households to cover food support for two months
- Deploy volunteers to monitor cash transfer activities for 3 days
- Conduct Post distribution monitoring (PDM) for 3 days by 40 volunteers



Health

Budget: CHF 13,873

Targeted Persons: 12,600

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households reached with mosquito nets	1,800
# of Volunteers trained on PSS, First Aid, Health promotion	100
# of people reached with immediate health support	12,610

Priority Actions

- Training of 100 volunteers on PSS, First Aid, EPIC, and Health Promotion for 3 days
- Provision of first aid to injured persons
- Distribution of mosquito nets to affected households (2 per HH)
- Training of communities on the installation of LLINs
- The provision of PSS to the affected population (People in need) in the impacted communities
- Production of Hygiene Promotion Posters (IEC)
- Organizing Hygiene and sanitation campaigns twice a week for 3 months on health risks to ensure that communities, including their water sources and latrines are cleaned.
- Providing personal protective equipment (gloves, boots, mufflers, raincoats, etc.).





Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 81,928

Targeted Persons: 12,600

Indicators

Title	Target
% of targeted households, which receive support in terms of health promotion and hygiene awareness	100
# of households assisted with WASH items via cash	1,800
# of households having access to safe drinking water	1,800
# of people reached with key messages of health promotion and personal and community hygiene	12,610

Priority Actions

- Train 100 volunteers on water, hygiene, and sanitation promotion activities waterborne disease prevention (including menstrual hygiene, Epidemic Control for Volunteers, and the use of MILDAs)
- Conduct an initial assessment of the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation in target communities
- Continuously monitor the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation in target communities
- Organization of 6 sanitation campaigns (two campaigns per month for the first three months).
- Provide training to the population of the target communities on the storage of drinking water and the healthy use of water treatment products.
- Transfer of funds to 1,800 households for support for the purchase of WASH items included in MPC.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: -

Targeted Persons: 12,600

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers briefed on PGI and PSEA and the implementation of PGI minimum standards	100
# of people reached with PGI and PSEA sensitizations by volunteers	12,600

Priority Actions

- Briefing of staff on PGI and PSEA and the implementation of PGI minimum standards during the interventions in all sectors
- Briefing of volunteers on PGI and PSEA during other training (WASH or health)
- PGI and PSEA sensitization activities by volunteers to the affected population during other sensitizations



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 5,137



Targeted Persons: 12,600

Indicators

Title	Target
# of Community stakeholder meetings	4
# of volunteers involved in CEA activities	100
% of feedback received and responded to	80
# of staff and volunteers oriented and mobilized in raising awareness of the CEA and minimum standards	100
# of people reached with CEA messages	12,610

Priority Actions

- Train volunteers on CEA to support operations' activities. Involvement can enhance accountability and ensure that actions are aligned with community needs and priorities
- Organize community meeting to validate the criteria and lists of beneficiaries.
- Engage a broad spectrum of community members, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, to ensure diverse perspectives and needs are addressed.
- Incorporate local knowledge and practices related to flood management and response
- Establish clear and continuous two-way communication channels between authorities and the community
- Use multiple platforms (e.g., community meetings, social media, radio, etc.) to disseminate information and updates.
- Setting up Community Feedback Mechanisms for receiving and addressing community feedback, complaints, and suggestions, which should be used to amend early actions to be more effective
- Conduct regular awareness campaigns and educational programmes about flood risks, early warning signs, and appropriate response actions. This would empower communities to act quickly and effectively during floods
- Ensure transparency in decision-making processes and the allocation of resources. Keep the community informed about how decisions are made and how resources are distributed
- Undertake communication work to ensure media coverage of the volunteers' activities



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 6,479

Targeted Persons: 4

Indicators

Title	Target
# of technical support missions conducted by IFRC	4
# of coordination meetings attended	6

Priority Actions

- IFRC technical support mission and monitoring visits
- Participation in coordination meetings
- Volunteers insurance



Budget: CHF 54,624

Targeted Persons: 100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of lessons learned, workshop conducted	1
# of monitoring conducted by SLRCS Head Quarter Office staff	8
# of documentaries produced (video and case studies)	2

Priority Actions

- Ensure coordination and public relations
- Programme Monitoring conducted by NS team
- Documentary production on flood response activities
- Organize a lessons learned workshop
- Ensure compliance with reporting and accompany the process
- Train staff on data management, monitoring, and evaluations, and evidence-based reporting to support quality reporting

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

The total number of volunteers involved will include 100 from the four districts of operation. The volunteers will be involved in community engagement and awareness raising, assessment, distribution, and post-monitoring distribution exercises. They will also support during data collection verification and validation of the target communities. The 10 staff members will also be involved in full implementation of the DREF and coordination with stakeholders including the local and national, as well as other non-governmental partners.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

The operation will involve a limited procurement process for essential items, including mosquito nets, visibility materials, and the printing of educational resources. The procurement activities will be managed by the SLRCS National Head Office in Freetown, with the IFRC Freetown Office providing oversight and monitoring to ensure compliance with procurement standards and procedures.

How will this operation be monitored?

The monitoring framework for this operation is thoughtfully designed to provide robust oversight and ensure high-quality implementation, thereby attracting potential donors. It encompasses three distinct levels of monitoring, each tailored to address specific operational components.

First Level of Monitoring: The leadership from SLRCS branches will actively oversee the implementation of the operation within their communities. This local involvement is essential for delivering a well-coordinated response that meets the specific needs of the community. Their presence enables immediate adjustments to effectively respond to any challenges that may arise.

Second Level of Monitoring: The SLRCS head office in Freetown will play a pivotal role in delivering technical support and maintaining quality throughout the implementation process. This national-level oversight ensures adherence to established standards and best practices, reinforcing the effectiveness of the intervention and its alignment with national guidelines.

Third Level of Monitoring: The IFRC Freetown Office will conduct a series of four technical support missions throughout the operation timeframe. The initial mission, led by an Operations Officer, will concentrate on the early stages of response, specifically focusing on the selection criteria and the finalization of the beneficiary list. This step is vital for accurately identifying and prioritizing the most vulnerable populations.

The second mission will occur during the cash transfer process to supervise the multipurpose cash transfer, ensuring that fund disbursement is managed efficiently and transparently, adhering to the highest standards of financial accountability.

The third mission, led by the PMER team, will focus on post-distribution monitoring three weeks after cash disbursement.

The final visit will coincide with a lessons-learned workshop that involves all technical team members who contributed to the operation. This phase is crucial for assessing the intervention's effectiveness, gathering valuable insights, and ensuring that the final report accurately reflects the outcomes and impacts of the operation.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The communication strategy for this operation is crafted to enhance visibility and engagement at every phase, effectively showcasing the actions and impact of the Sierra Leone Red Cross and its partners. To accomplish this, a comprehensive array of communication materials will be produced, including press releases to announce significant milestones, detailed progress reports to document the outcomes of various activities, and high-quality photos and videos that visually capture the operation's progress. Additionally, a compelling documentary film will provide an in-depth exploration of the intervention's reach and effectiveness, further illustrating its importance.

Social media platforms will be pivotal in amplifying the operation's visibility, utilizing regular updates, engaging content and real-time sharing of success stories to connect with a broader audience. This multi-channel approach not only fosters transparency but also builds a robust narrative around the operation, drawing in support and engagement from stakeholders and donors. By leveraging a diverse range of communication tools and platforms, this strategy ensures that the achievements of the SLRCS and its partners are widely recognized, reinforcing the necessity for ongoing support and investment in the intervention.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

- Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone Floods 2024

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	404,889
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	102,276
Multi-purpose Cash	195,113
Health	14,775
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	87,254
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	5,471
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	65,417
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	6,900
National Society Strengthening	58,517
TOTAL BUDGET	470,306

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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IFRC Appeal Manager: Ghulam Muhammad AWAN, Head of Delegation, ghulam.awan@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: John K Gbao, Senior Operations Officer, john.gbo@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: John K Gbao, Senior Operations Officer, john.gbo@ifrc.org

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[Click here for the reference](#)

