



# SIERRA LEONE

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

5 November 2024



## IN SUPPORT OF THE SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS SOCIETY



13

National Society branches



14

National Society local units



9,766

National Society volunteers



66

National Society staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



202,047

Disasters and crises



202,047

Health and wellbeing



133,186

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

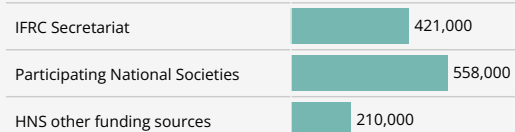
Country	Funding Requirement	3.1M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations Funding	276,000
	Emergency Operations Expenditure	189,000
	Longer-term Funding Requirement	1.2M
Participating National Societies	Longer-term Funding	2.2M
	Longer-term Expenditure	1.4M
	Funding Requirement	1.9M
HNS other funding sources	Expenditure	1.1M
	Funding Requirement	30,000
	Funding	210,000

### Sierra Leone Red Cross Society

Overview








Funding Sources



Appeal number **MAASL002**

In addition to: CHF 172,000 DREF Funding
















## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	 202,000
	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 11,000
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 202,000
Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	 138,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 56,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	771

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordina..	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	4
National Society development	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes
	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
Accountability and agility	Functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA policy to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	National Society is showing progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Bilateral Support						Multilateral Support
		Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Through IFRC
British Red Cross								
Finnish Red Cross	1.4M							
Icelandic Red Cross	323,000							
Swedish Red Cross								

Total Funding Reported **CHF 1.7M**

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

Sierra Leone, a West African nation with a tropical climate and diverse geography, faces a myriad of interconnected challenges across multiple domains. The country is highly susceptible to natural disasters such as floods, landslides, and droughts, which disrupt the economy and infrastructure, compounding existing development struggles. Economically, while Sierra Leone is rich in natural resources like diamonds, iron ore, bauxite and rutile, its economy remains largely agrarian and plagued by issues such as corruption, poor infrastructure, and limited access to basic services. Food insecurity is pervasive, due to extremely low agricultural productivity. Half the population does not have access to adequate nutritious food for a healthy life, and chronic malnutrition is widespread. Agriculture is at the core of Sierra Leone's economy, but domestic production by smallholder (often subsistence) farmers is insufficient to feed the population. As a result, Sierra Leone imports more than 70 per cent of the food its population consumes.

Political instability has marked Sierra Leone's past, notably with a civil war that ended in 2002, but despite significant progress in peacebuilding and democracy, recent political developments—including the June 2023 elections and a potential coup attempt in November—highlight ongoing governance tensions.

The country has also faced severe challenges with a fragile healthcare system that struggles with outbreaks such as Ebola and lacks sufficient infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. Socially, high levels of poverty, unemployment, gender inequality and limited access to education and clean water persist, reflecting deep structural vulnerabilities. In Sierra Leone, women continue to suffer significant inequalities in terms of literacy, access to land and legal protection.

Recent economic crises, currency devaluation, civil unrest and periods of inter-communal conflict, especially in Freetown, have heightened political tensions and undermined efforts toward sustainable development. The instability is compounded by a series of protests and violent episodes surrounding the 2023 elections and ongoing investigations into recent security incidents. These factors suggest that Sierra Leone's path toward long-term stability remains fragile, with governance, social equity and disaster resilience among the key areas requiring sustained attention and support.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society made progress in environmental sustainability through its Tree Planting and Care (TPC) project, which focused on reforestation, climate awareness and community education in multiple districts. The project established tree nurseries to support reforestation efforts, engaged trained volunteers to facilitate climate change awareness and data collection and collaborated with local teachers to integrate environmental education in schools. Celebrating World Environmental Day, the project highlighted its efforts and gained recognition from key government partners.

### Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society enhanced disaster resilience through focused efforts involving its community-based disaster management committees (CBDMCs). Refresher training on disaster risk reduction, vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCA) and community action planning strengthened the ability of CBDMC members and local youth to engage communities in proactive disaster management. The National Society also supported community action plan reviews, prioritized risk reduction measures such as latrine construction and drainage clearing and coordinated bylaws addressing key risks. Additionally, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society provided emergency relief in response to local disasters and trained members in psychological first aid and emergency response, reinforcing community resilience in crises.

### Health and wellbeing

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society focused on community-based health and first aid (CBHFA), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives. Efforts included extensive community engagement for disease prevention, health promotion and vaccinations. Volunteers led health education on preventing malaria, respiratory infections and diarrheal diseases through interactive mobile cinema shows and household visits. The National Society also advanced WASH projects, ensuring clean water access through new and rehabilitated wells and boreholes. Youth-

focused programmes provided sexual and reproductive health education, while targeted training empowered local leaders and motor drivers in [first aid](#) and public health. These initiatives were aimed to enhance community resilience across Sierra Leone.

### Values, power and inclusion

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society created and trained agents of change who champion positive gender norms and support gender-based violence (GBV) prevention. The National Society empowered women's groups by enhancing their knowledge of legal rights and establishing partnerships with state actors to improve GBV response. Public awareness campaigns addressed harmful traditional practices and advanced gender equality, while new Savings and Loans Associations (SLAs) fostered financial literacy and economic empowerment for women.

### Enabling local actors

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society enhanced its [protection, gender and inclusion](#) (PGI) framework through workshops that engaged staff, volunteers and board members in addressing discrimination and promoting safe, resilient communities. For branch development, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society invested in infrastructure improvements to enhance sustainability, and successfully recruited new volunteers to expand its humanitarian reach. Youth executives held strategic meetings, furthering youth development initiatives and coordinating election preparations. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society also supported various events including the Red Cross Day, to honor community volunteers and celebrate its 61st anniversary. Additionally, a newly implemented monitoring and evaluation framework improved project tracking, [community engagement and accountability](#) (CEA), ensuring responsiveness to public feedback. With the support of a finance management training programme, the National Society enhanced its financial transparency, equipping staff and volunteers with essential skills to manage resources efficiently.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society implemented its Tree Planting and Care (TPC) project. The initiative focused on mitigating deforestation, raising awareness about climate change and promoting environmental sustainability across six districts in Sierra Leone.

A key achievement was the establishment of nurseries in all six project branches, laying the foundation for large-scale reforestation. To support these efforts, 30 volunteers were trained as trainers on deforestation and climate change, equipping them with the skills to lead community engagement sessions. These volunteers facilitated focus group discussions, data collection and awareness-raising exercises, reaching a total of 1,070 people, including 591 males and 479 females.

Additionally, 36 "link" teachers were trained to educate students about the hazards of deforestation and the importance of tree planting. Through this initiative, 253 students were reached, creating a ripple effect of environmental awareness among young people. To further support these efforts, 500 information, education and communication (IEC) materials on the TPC project were distributed in the targeted communities.

The actual tree planting efforts saw the successful planting of 37,712 trees across the three pilot branches of the project, using both seeds and seedlings. These activities were highlighted during the celebration of World Environmental Day, which featured participation from key government officials, including representatives from the Ministry of Environment

and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA).

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the Red Cross Society of Sierra Leone technical assistance and capacity building support, including the establishment of an internal working group within the National Society. This group reviews the project's planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) systems. In addition, the IFRC conducted technical support missions and developed tools to facilitate the implementation and progress tracking of the TPC project.



## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit [IFRC GO page Sierra Leone](#).

In 2023, two IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) were approved in Sierra Leone including the Freetown fire incident and election preparedness.

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	<a href="#">Sierra Leone- Freetown fire incident</a>
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRSL014
<b>DURATION</b>	3 months (10 January 2023 to 30 April 2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 139,996
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	938
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">Sierra Leone Funkia Fire Incident</a>

The DREF allocation of CHF 139,996 helped the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society to assist 938 individuals (211 households) in the Funkia community, providing shelter to all 211 affected households. [Mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) and community engagement were offered to all individuals, while 175 vulnerable households (875 individuals) received prioritized livelihoods support, along with 150 business owners. Health and [WASH](#) services, including [first aid](#) and psychosocial care, were extended to 875 people. Special attention was given to pregnant and lactating women through dignity kits, and 158 school children received educational materials to prevent dropouts. Vulnerable households were identified in coordination with the NDMA to ensure targeted assistance.

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	<a href="#">Sierra Leone- Election preparedness</a>
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRSL015
<b>DURATION</b>	2 months (08 June 2023 to 31 August 2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 172,004
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	75,000 people
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">Election Preparedness</a>

The DREF allocation of CHF 172,004 enabled the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society to respond to civil unrest surrounding the elections in Sierra Leone, held between June and July 2023, in line with the Electoral Commission's schedule. These elections included both Presidential and Parliamentary processes across the country. The National Society's intervention was triggered by two factors: (i) thresholds set in the contingency plan and (ii) the election calendar. The first trigger was activated when at least 1,250 people were at risk due to the elections, while the second, already reached, was linked to protests, arrests, or violence involving political figures during the campaign. Six hotspot districts were identified, and the National Society focused on preparing branches and pre-positioning resources, with readiness actions completed a week before the June 24, 2023 Presidential election.

## **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

### ***Conduct refresher training of CBDMCs on disaster risk reduction, vulnerability and capacity enhancement (eVCA) and community action plan management***

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society focused on activities of the community-based disaster management committees (CBDMCs), who are local teams set up by the Integrated Resilience Programme (IRP), and trained to respond to disasters, together with the community youth. Between May and June, 186 CBDMC members from six branches of the 'Building Resilience, Inclusive Development and Gender Equity' (BRIDGE) project received refresher training on key areas including disaster risk reduction, enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (eVCA) and community action plan management. This three-day training focused on strengthening the capacity of volunteers to prevent and respond to disasters, equipping them to engage their communities in identifying disaster risks and implementing mitigation measures.

As part of these efforts, the CBDMCs conducted eVCAs, helping communities identify risks and vulnerabilities. This led to practical disaster mitigation initiatives such as the construction of fire belts to prevent wildfires, cutting down tall trees near houses and marking water levels on trees to anticipate potential flooding. Community members also raised awareness about activities, such as coal burning and deforestation, that contribute to disasters.

### ***Train CBDMCs to facilitate review of community action plans and develop a detailed implementation plan for one prioritized disaster risk reduction micro action on any project thematic area***

The CBDMCs also facilitated reviews of community action plans across the six operational branches, enabling community members to assess progress and prioritize tasks. For example, some communities prioritized constructing household latrines to prevent open defecation, while others focused on clearing drainage systems to mitigate flooding. Despite some plans, such as retrofitting damaged facilities, not being implemented due to resource constraints, these communities are set to include these priorities in future plans.

### ***Coordinate and support the development/enforcement of community bylaws on disaster risk reduction and follow up on the implementation of disaster risk reduction activities***

A key achievement of the National Society in 2023 was the development and enforcement of community bylaws related to disaster risk reduction across all six BRIDGE branches. These bylaws aimed to address issues such as poor sanitation, deforestation and dangerous agricultural practices. Although some communities struggled with enforcement, engagement meetings were held to address resistance, leading to revisions of the bylaws to ensure wider acceptance.

In response to local disasters such as flooding in Delken in October 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society provided emergency relief including food and essential household items including rice, onions, salt, mattresses, blankets and bedsheets to 96 households (724 beneficiaries), enhancing its crisis response capabilities. Furthermore, in November, CBDMC members were first responders to a fire disaster in the Kroo Bay community, where they helped contain the fire and provided first aid as well as coordinated with the NDMA for victim registration.

### ***Conduct basic training of CBDMCs, branch staff and volunteers on PFA/emergency first aid***

The National Society also conducted basic psychological first aid (PFA) and emergency first aid training for 220 CBDMC members across six branches. This training equipped community volunteers with skills in handling common injuries and providing emotional support during disasters, contributing to the resilience of communities during crises.

## **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** provided technical and capacity-building support to the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society for the training of CBDMCs and development of tools for managing community action plans. The IFRC facilitated mentorship and coaching sessions for the CBDMCs, ensuring that they are well-equipped to manage early warning systems and implement effective disaster mitigation strategies.

Additionally, the IFRC provided support in disaster response operations, such as during the Delken floods, ensuring that the National Society could distribute relief items efficiently and in line with international best practices.



### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

*Conduct community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) refresher training for communities (malaria, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections (ARI) disease prevention module) in collaboration with MoHS district/ peripheral health unit (PHU) Level. Conduct mobile cinema on ARI, malaria and diarrhoea diseases in schools and communities*

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society focused on COVID-19 vaccination, community health promotion and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives. Through the Saving Lives and Livelihood Programme, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society worked in all 16 administrative districts of Sierra Leone to improve the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines. Mobilizers were engaged to deliver key messages on vaccination to ensure widespread public awareness. In May 2023, 120 community volunteers received a three-day refresher training on the community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) programme. This group subsequently carried out extensive health promotion activities in their communities, using the digital KOBCollect application for effective data collection.

*Conduct household visits and awareness-raising sessions on ARI, malaria and diarrhoea and their prevention. Encourage communities to restock oral rehydration to manage diarrhoea*

Biannual meetings with community action groups were held in six locations from April to June 2023, providing a platform for community members to share experiences, reflect on activities and discuss challenges encountered. Mother's and father's clubs conducted household visits where discussions centred on priority health topics including malaria, ARI and diarrhoeal diseases.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society trained 126 community volunteers (66 males, 60 females) in disease prevention modules (malaria, diarrhoea and ARI) as part of the CBHFA programme, preparing them to respond to health emergencies such as COVID-19 and cholera. Additionally, 48 mobile cinema shows were conducted in six districts to raise awareness about health practices, and over 480 community members participated in health education sessions.

Volunteers continued to raise awareness about malaria prevention with household visits focusing on the use of mosquito bed nets and environmental cleanliness. Through 496 awareness-raising sessions, volunteers engaged over 6,126 households on the prevention of malaria, ARI and diarrhoea. Volunteers also ensured that 119 children under five years old suffering from diarrhoea were treated using oral rehydration points (ORPs), while 62 community focal points replenished ORP materials through local social fund activities.

*Produce and distribute appropriate information, education and communication (IEC) materials on priority disease prevention and conduct radio discussion on fistula*

600 IEC materials were produced and distributed to further educate communities on priority health topics. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society also took steps to address fistula awareness and treatment. Despite signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Aberdeen Women's Centre (AWC) to refer fistula victims for free treatment, challenges persisted. Only four cases were referred in the year following the MoU's inception, prompting a one-day lessons-learned engagement to explore ways to improve awareness and referral efforts.

*Conduct community-level training for boys' and girls' groups in their sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and entitlements as provided by law*

The National Society enhanced awareness on SRHR by training 190 boys and girls across branches, equipping them with knowledge about topics such as family planning and the effects of teenage pregnancy.

*Provide 'edutainment' materials/equipment to selected adolescent-friendly corners at the PHU in the operational communities and conduct peer education sessions on menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and teenage pregnancy (in and out of school)*

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society provided 'edutainment' materials, such as TV and DVD sets, to six adolescent-friendly corners across health facilities, improving teenagers' access to SRHR information. Peer educators led 248

sessions on MHM and teenage pregnancy, engaging 586 youth. Further, intergenerational dialogues involving community leaders were held, focusing on social and cultural issues affecting women and girls.

***Target motor drivers' unions to train them in first aid, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), SRHR and child early and forced marriage (CEFM) and train traditional midwives, healers and religious leaders on SRHR priority issues with communication messages on SRHR, CEFM and SGBV***

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society trained 60 motor drivers on first aid, SGBV and SRHR, enabling them to provide basic first aid and raise awareness about these critical topics. Traditional midwives, healers and religious leaders were also trained on SRHR issues, benefiting 186 participants who will now act as influencers in their respective communities.

***Train WASH committee, field health officers (FHOs) and coaches on borehole operation and hand pump minor maintenance including resource mobilization for future maintenance***

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society advanced its WASH initiatives, making clean water and sanitation accessible across numerous communities and schools. Major activities included drilling two solar-powered boreholes in Blama and Bauya, providing 860 individuals with safe water through storage towers and solar-driven taps. Additionally, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society completed 14 hand-dug wells, now serving 5,083 people and improving school attendance while reducing water-fetching time and related safety risks. Rehabilitation efforts restored functionality to two office wells and eight community wells, collectively benefiting 3,514 individuals and enhancing accessibility with disability-friendly ramps. Pre- and post-construction water quality tests were conducted to meet World Health Organization (WHO) standards, with regular chlorination added for turbidity management. To sustain these facilities, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society distributed 22 sets of pump maintenance tools across six branches and trained WASH committees and FHOs on maintenance, water management and hygiene, ensuring these communities could independently manage and maintain the water systems.

Additionally, the National Society made progress in constructing four institutional latrines at two schools in Bo and Kenema branches, with two completed and two nearing completions. Eight hand-dug wells were completed and six others rehabilitated- although poor road conditions delayed the delivery of construction materials in some areas. In Pujehun, a borehole drilling project was successful, but efforts in Moyamba faced challenges.



*Community-based Volunteers from the Integrated Resilience Programme conducted supportive supervision and monitoring of Savings and Loan Associations in the rural/urban areas of the western region in August 2023. (Photo: Sierra Leone Red Cross Society)*

## IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society technical support for digitalizing community data collection using the KOBOLCollect application. The IFRC also guided and supported the National Society in the construction of water facilities and ensuring that volunteers were properly trained and equipped. Additionally, the IFRC contributed to the printing and dissemination of health-related IEC materials. The IFRC funded and guided the training for WASH committees and strengthened the National Society's public health campaigns focused on water safety by conducting water quality testing and promoting best practices in water treatment.



## Values, power and inclusion

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

*Establish agents of change group in target communities, train agents of change and support them to undertake/lead on positive gender norms including SGBV prevention in their communities including self-led initiatives*

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society spearheaded initiatives to engage men and boys as allies, educate women on their rights, and strengthen community response mechanisms for gender-based violence (GBV).

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society selected 180 influential men and adolescent boys across 12 communities to serve as agents of change. These individuals, chosen and endorsed by their communities, received training on positive gender norms and GBV prevention, equipping them to lead discussions and advocate for gender equality. Training sessions illuminated negative customs—such as female genital mutilation (FGM), restricted property rights for widows and physical abuse—that perpetuate gender inequality. By the end of the training, participants committed to fostering respectful power dynamics in their communities, with each agent creating an action plan to drive positive change at the household level.

*Train women's groups including lobbying state and non-state actors on their legal rights and entitlements as well as organize mass campaigns*

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society organized a comprehensive training for women's groups, partnering with the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Family Support Unit (FSU) to educate 1,200 women and girls on their rights under the country's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act of 2021. Participants discussed laws and entitlements around employment, maternity leave and political representation, and raised concerns about the limited enforcement of these protections. Government representatives encouraged the women to report cases and seek support from the Legal Aid Board, emphasizing advocacy for stricter implementation. In collaboration with FSU, the project also conducted educational sessions to dispel myths around harmful traditional practices such as FGM, engaging women in open discussions about alternative cultural practices that maintain the positive aspects of traditional rites.

*Train women's groups on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) concepts and link them with relevant state and non-state actors for effective joint actions against SGBV issues in their communities*

To address SGBV, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society conducted a mapping exercise to outline community referral pathways and identify service providers. This data was shared to strengthen community response and support access to SGBV services. During the annual 16 days of activism against SGBV campaign, female group members led public awareness activities, including skits on SGBV prevention and participated in four community radio discussions. These campaigns emphasized the importance of ending SGBV as a human rights issue and advocated for respectful relationships in the community.

*Organize women's groups into Savings and Loans Associations (SLAs), train them on SLA principles and financial literacy and conduct dialogues between SLAs to foster learning*

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society also promoted economic empowerment through the establishment of 48 women's Savings and Loans Associations (SLAs) across 12 communities, engaging 1,200 women. Participants received training on savings, financial literacy and income generation. After training, groups began self-initiated savings activities, with members using small loans to start individual businesses. Each participant received £25 in mobile money to meet

immediate needs, and each group received a £900 seed grant to support their activities. Additionally, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society provided the groups with tools for record-keeping, coaching and mentoring sessions, which enabled social cohesion and helped build members' confidence in managing finances. By the end of the year, most groups transitioned from informal savings clubs to formally registered SLAs with the Freetown City Council, with 90 per cent maintaining accounts with the United Bank of Africa.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in establishing the agents of change groups within target communities. Through workshops, the IFRC supported the agents in exploring the effects of harmful cultural norms and identifying ways to address them in their communities. The IFRC also provided resources for the agents of change to independently initiate community discussions on SGBV prevention.

## **ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS**



### **Strategic and operational coordination**

#### **IFRC membership coordination**

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society is part of four IFRC Pan-African initiatives focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society development.

The **British Red Cross** is supporting the National Society with a two-year project focusing on risk communication, community engagement and resilience building in the western region.

The **Finnish Red Cross** is currently present in the six districts of Pujehun, Kenema, Bo, Moyamba, Bonthe and Kono in the BRIDGE project focused on community-based health approaches, promoting WASH, livelihoods and capacity building.

The **Icelandic Red Cross** is supporting the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in consortium with the Finnish Red Cross and supporting through the IFRC the implementation of the Tree Planting and Care initiative in six branches.

#### **Movement coordination**

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

The **ICRC** supports the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society with communications and National Society profiling.

#### **External coordination**

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society collaborates extensively with various government line ministries in implementing its programmes. It works with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Welfare, local councils and other authorities at national and branch levels to enrich the quality and sustainability of its programmes. The National Society leadership and its National Disaster Response Team participate in every planning meeting convened by the government's National Disaster Management Agency, which has lead oversight for all disaster management and response-related incidents in Sierra Leone.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society also worked closely with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), and other local and regional partners.



## National Society development

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

#### *Contribute to the institutional protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) plan implementation*

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society enhanced its PGI framework. The National Society hosted a workshop that engaged staff, volunteers and governing board members, emphasizing the importance of addressing violence, discrimination and exclusion. Facilitators highlighted the critical role of PGI in building safe, resilient communities and reducing risks associated with harmful practices. This session reinforced the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society's commitment to embedding PGI principles within all levels of its programmes and operations.

#### *Support branch development priorities of six BRIDGE branches. Support BRIDGE branches to conduct at least one membership drive and enrollment session*

For branch development, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society took a strategic approach by concentrating a €5,952 investment on the Kenema Branch, focusing on improvements to the branch office and income generation through renovations. The upgrades included extensive work on the branch guesthouse, modernizing facilities to create a sustainable revenue stream and increasing local membership. A successful recruitment drive across six BRIDGE project branches led to 603 new volunteer enrolments. These new recruits, who will receive training in first aid, MHPSS and disaster management, will play a pivotal role in extending the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society's reach and enhancing its humanitarian services.

#### *Youth executive meeting*

The Youth Executive also convened in Kono and Kenema for meetings that included National Youth elections, discussions on youth development and preparation for the Sierra Leone General Elections. Youth representatives presented their branch activities and developed a National Youth Plan of Action based on these discussions.

#### *Contribute to the national and international events celebrated annually including Red Cross Day and First-Aid Day*

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society also contributed to national and international events, such as World Red Cross Day, celebrated in Kono. Year 2023's theme, "Everything we do comes from the heart," resonated as the National Society acknowledged community volunteers' dedication. This celebration, coinciding with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society's 61st anniversary, spotlighted local heroes and deepened community ties.

#### *Contribute to the National Society development plan dissemination*

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society rolled out the National Society development plan to staff and volunteers at its Kono branch on 17 and 18 November 2023, enhancing understanding of the plan's goals for a stable, sustainable Red Cross presence in Sierra Leone. Building on previous capacity assessments, this plan focuses on implementing the core elements necessary for a well-functioning National Society and setting a strong foundation for the future.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society's PGI initiatives, contributing to the development and rollout of an institutional PGI plan. The support also facilitated the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society's alignment with IFRC standards and strengthening its institutional response to pressing issues in Sierra Leone.



### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society focused on implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, designed to enhance evidence-based results tracking. This results-based approach fostered a shared understanding among the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society and its partners, allowing for timely assessments and adjustments. To ensure data accuracy and inclusiveness, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society emphasized disaggregation, ensuring a comprehensive view of the effectiveness of project outcomes across demographics.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society also prioritized community engagement and accountability (CEA), building mechanisms to gather public feedback and address issues promptly. This proactive approach helped align the National Society's responses to community needs and enabled real-time problem-solving in project implementation. Moreover, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society formulated a joint risk management strategy for its operations, which included establishing a dedicated risk monitoring mechanism. This structure empowered the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society to anticipate, identify and mitigate risks, thereby ensuring greater stability and adaptability in response to emerging challenges. All operations were supported by CEA, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) and dedicated operations managers, ensuring transparency and accountability in project tracking and reporting.

In February 2023, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society took a strategic step toward enhancing financial accountability by conducting basic finance management training. Funded through the National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) project, this training was designed for the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society staff, finance and administration volunteers. The sessions equipped participants with essential financial management tools and techniques, improving their capacity to manage resources effectively and ensuring efficient, transparent financial practices.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** provided support to the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in implementing the M&E framework, ensuring data-driven decision-making that aligns with the IFRC standards. The IFRC also provided technical guidance for Sierra Leone Red Cross Society's risk management strategy, refining the mechanisms for identifying and addressing potential operational risks.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

## DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Sierra Leone 2023 Financial Report](#)  
**Note:** For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRSL014](#) and [MDRSL015](#)
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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