



DREF Operation-Update

Sierra Leone | Flash floods and landslides

DREF n° MDRSL013	GLIDE n° FF-2022-000309-SLE
Operation update n°. 1 Date of issue: 02 February 2023	The timeframe covered by this update: 03 months
Operation start date: 14 September 2022	Operation timeframe: 04 months
Funding requirements (CHF): 382,337	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 382,337
N° of people being assisted: 11,688 (1,644 households)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); and the British Red Cross (BRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Office of National Security (ONS), National Disaster Management Agency, World Vision, WFP, Ministry of Social Welfare, Goal, Save the Children, Concern amongst others.	

Summary purpose of extension, timeframe, and justification

The Operations update seeks both a one month no-cost extension to implement pending activities and ensure operational changes are pro-actively implemented to follow the evolution of the situation and the needs. The changes to the strategy include :

- Rehabilitation of local and hand dug water wells instead initially proposed boreholes, based on Wash assessment finding showing that wells are the current source of drinking water in the communities and most in need of rehabilitation. Rehabilitation of wells will ensure to provide drinking water sources to affected communities, but it requires a more extensive work which will last for more weeks than initially scheduled for the boreholes. The extension follows the need to ensure effective rehabilitation and post-evaluation related to the provided service are conducted.
- Request a change of strategy to now support additional 192 affected HHs with unconditional cash instead of housing/rental allowance which from the assessment is not feasible but point out the need to support affected populations who were greatly affected but have not received supports. Meaning a total of 942 HHs to received unconditional cash and the 300 HHs planned to be supported by cash for rent no more included in the response.

Post distribution monitoring exercise will be conducted by SLRCS volunteers with technical support from IFRC Cluster team after the distribution to determine the effectiveness of the cash-based assistance and how useful the support was for beneficiaries. Findings from the PDM will be used by SLRCS as a guide in future for shelter assistance.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

In August 2022, Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone experienced persistent torrential rains causing associated impacts, including flooding in low-lying areas as well as new episodes of landslides on a low scale. Major roads in the city centre were rendered impassable due to the flood waters, heavily constraining vehicles and pedestrians having to find alternative routes. Houses have been flooded leaving residents trapped in the raging waters and their properties destroyed. On August 28, 2022, the Office of National Security (ONS) produced an update reporting flash floods and landslides affecting seven communities including Kanikay, Culvert, Kaningo, Tengbeh Town, Looking town, Cassava town, and Brooks field.

MDRSLRU13 – Sierra Leone Floods – DREF operation update 1

At Looking Town, a landslide covered two houses and some people are reportedly trapped in the rubble. The community managed to remove five people from the rubble. Four (04) of them had died and the remaining one, a 7-year-old child was rescued alive with serious injury and has been taken to the Rokupa Government Hospital. At Brook Street, a perimeter fence collapsed and left some people trapped in the makeshift buildings annexed to the fence. The people were later assisted by the Red Cross volunteers and the immediate neighbourhood. Those who sustained injuries were provided first aid services before conveying them to the hospital. Another building collapsed at Cassava farm off Leicester Road but detailed statistics on lives and property destroyed are not yet known. At Mary Street by Circular Road, an electrical pole has fallen due to the torrential rains with damage yet to be reported. Also, vehicular movement was disrupted on Bai Bureh Road, which is the most important route linking Freetown Central to the Eastern part by a tree that fell during the early hours of 28 August. The roadblocks impacted several responders' speedy presence such as the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society Volunteers and staff, the Fire Force team, and the Major of Freetown team and MSF.



On the impact of the disaster, the joint assessment with NDMA, SLRCS and other humanitarian agencies conducted from 29 August to 7 September reveal a total of 12,903 people (1,817 households) were affected, with 8 deaths, 79 injured, and 4 missing because of flash floods and landslides. Over 21% of the houses flooded by water and 16.4% hit by landslides are inhabitable, and families need rental assistance as immediate support. Also, over 18% of the houses were destroyed. A total of 17.7% of the population across the 18 communities lost their assets to flood waters and mud, and over 14% of the affected population had their livelihoods destroyed.

The assessment report also indicated that flooding was the result of cumulative factors in the period of high rainfall in Sierra Leone. Floods were attributed to poor urban planning and irregular construction, poor waste management practices, reclaiming of swamps and banking waterways for construction, and extreme weather conditions and climate change. The slope failure and infrastructural collapse are due to poor urban planning, building along waterways, sand mining, and rock quarrying.



Photo of mudslide affected community

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

SLRCS staff and volunteers were among the first responders collaborating with community members, local authorities, and other agencies. A total of 3 staff and 33 volunteers from the onset of the disaster supported the 18 incident sites with needed services such as emergency first aid (dressing and redressing of wounds to 63 victims) and psychosocial support to 29 families, search and rescue, and transportation of 8 dead bodies to

Connaught hospital mortuary. SLRCS on 29 August 2022 produced the first situation report and with support from IFRC update the Sierra Leone Emergency page on the [GO Platform](#) to inform the wider community of the disaster. The 33 volunteers continued providing humanitarian support to affected communities and were part of the multisectoral rapid assessment that was coordinated by the National Disaster Management Agency.

The multi-sectorial findings reveal identified immediate needs to include food assistance; emergency shelter and non-food items; emergency water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) support. Supporting livelihoods recovery and the rehabilitation of WASH facilities (boreholes and latrines) were among the needs identified. Providing humanitarian support to affected victims, the SLRCS leadership engaged the Freetown Cluster Delegation on the need to support through an allocation from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF). The DREF allocation has since strengthened coordination with the government and others, and also provided immediate first aid assistance, shelter, livelihoods, PSS, and WASH, identified as the most urgent needs of the affected population. Also, the assessment shows over 383 pregnant and lactating women, and some 2,898 school children were affected. Through the DREF Operations, the NS has provided hygiene/dignity kits and education materials, respectively to these sets of people.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Given the limited financial means available at SLRCS, IFRC Country Delegation in Sierra Leone supported the preparation and submission of this DREF request to enable the National Society to respond to the 28 August Floods and Landslide. IFRC Country Office in Freetown has been providing support to SLRCS to implement the DREF following approved EPoA and required standards.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in the country

The National Disaster Management Agency has been providing overall leadership for emergency planning and response. The agency has received support from several agencies with immediate response interventions including search and rescue, ambulance services, evacuations, emergency first aid, communication, psychosocial support, and rapid assessment. The matrix below summarizes the partners involved in the response.

NDMA Actions since 28 August 2022	Partners
Emergency Response	Office of National Security (ONS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CARITAS, Sierra Leone Police (SLP), Red Cross, Military, CRS, NFF, Freetown City Council, (FCC), and Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS).
Field Assessments	World Vision, WFP, NCRA, Min of Social Welfare, Red Cross, Goal, Save the Children, Concern
Evacuations	Office of National Security (ONS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CARITAS, Sierra Leone Police (SLP), Red Cross, Military, CRS, NFF, Freetown City Council, (FCC), and Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS).
Interpillar Coordination	All partners

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

Needs Assessments & Analysis

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

Report from the joint assessment led by the national disaster management agency (NDMA) indicated the need for rehabilitation of boreholes in floods affected communities. However, detailed technical assessment done by the national society WASH Engineer reported local and hand dug water wells as the only existing non-functional or broken-down sources of drinking water in the target communities. These water wells require extensive rehabilitation work ranging from re-deepening, lining, sinking, filter bed/gravel parking, fence construction, drainage and soak-away pit construction, retouch apron, headwall, cover slab and additional installation of PVC pipes and change of mechanical parts (bearing, water seal, axle, bolts and nuts, cylinder) for the proper functioning of the hand pumps. The activity was initially planned for October/November 2022. During community engagement, community stakeholders and beneficiaries requested for deferral in the rehabilitation work of the water wells since the water table was high. The program team therefore re-scheduled implementation to January 2023 (when the water table is expected to be low) to ensure there is water available throughout the year. Considering it will require time to facilitate the re-deeping, lining, sinking of the wells for sustainability and enhance quality implementation of this activity, a one-month extension will be required.

On the shelter needs, the situation of affected households has changed by the time the assistance, justifying another approach to support the 300 HHs in need of shelter assistance. The backdrop of delay in the transfer of funds to support DREF implementation, coupled with the fact that market assessment revealed most of the affected victims have started rebuilding process, and some of the targeted HHs not seeing it prudent to move out for four months with no funds to continue paying rental allowances or rehabilitate damaged houses, the activity is viewed not feasible as a conditional cash but rather as unconditional cash support to allow the population to adapt the response to the needs. The assessment suggested the need to support more vulnerable households who remain unsupported to date. This update is seeking approval to change strategy from providing rental allowances to 300 affected victims, to supporting additional households in need of support with unconditional cash.

Monitoring of the situation and continuous assessment of Market and context has shown that few agencies and organizations responded and especially through cash transfers including the government. Under this DREF, though 750 households have been supported, there is a need to provide cash for food assistance to meet the food needs of additional 192 HHs extremely vulnerable which match the selection criteria too and has not received support since. The approach will follow the same as described in the EPoA for the 750HHs supported by unconditional cash, where NSL 2,500 will be provided per HH. This implies, an additional 192HH will be supported by the repurposed rental allowance (i.e., 480,000/2,500 to give 192 HHs). The 192HHs will now be added to the already 750HHs supported, to produce an overall HHs supported with unconditional/multipurpose to be 942HHs. This has already been discussed with community committees.

Operation Risk Assessment

The undermentioned factors were anticipated to affect the response:

- Not communicating beneficiary selection criteria and distribution sites to beneficiaries will lead to high levels of community frustration and undermine the operations
- In an unstable economy, possible changes in prices and supply chain due to the flooding would also impede the level and output of implementation.
- During the flood season, cholera, diarrhea, and malaria cases increase within population living in flood-prone areas. This added to the fact that livestock diseases are prevalent, increasing the vulnerability of affected communities to infections, food insecurity and malnutrition, mostly among lactating women, children, and the elderly.

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

B. Operational strategy¹

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this EPoA is to provide immediate basic assistance to address the needs of 11,688 people (1,644 households) affected by floods in 10 neighborhoods of the capital city of Sierra Leone, Freetown. This will be done by providing Shelter, Livelihood and Basic Needs, Health, and WASH assistance in ten (10) communities: including Kroobay, Kamayama, Kaningo, Tengbeh town, Culvert, Wellington, Collen Town, Looking town, and Kaningo communities.

- **Health:** Planned Health activities are all completed, activities and response strategy remain as in the EPoA
- **WASH:** Almost all planned WASH activities are completed, the outstanding activity is the rehabilitation of the drinking water sources (wells) which was requested by community members to be done when the water table is low, thus the need for the one-month extension. Key point was to inform IFRC the drinking water sources described as boreholes are hand-dug wells, thus hand-dug wells will be rehabilitated, and the process is underway. WASH activities and the target remains as it is in the approved EPoA
- **Livelihood- unconditional cash:** The support to 750 HHs through unconditional cash according to the approved EPoA has been completed. If the cash for shelter is not repurposed, the target remains the same as planned in the approved EPoA (750 HHs)
- **Shelter:** According to the EPoA, 300HHs were to be provided a rental allowance for 4 months. The NS market assessment and beneficiaries/community engagement reports shared, the purpose for which

¹ The plan should be prepared by the National Society, with support from the Secretariat technical departments and support services.

Shelter was planned is at the moment not feasible and will not achieve the required outcome due to factors already explained on the link to the operations update. These 300HHs that were to benefit from Shelter assistance are part of the 750HHs already provided unconditional cash.

To note, the floods affected 12,903 people (1,817 HHs) in eighteen (18) communities. Red Cross response actions have since focused on ten (10) of the 18 communities with an affected population of 11,688 (1,644). In these 10 communities, WASH and Health interventions have been targeting 11,688 people (1,644). The planned Livelihood/Cash intervention in the EPoA focused on 46% of the affected households (750 HHs out of the 1,644) in the 10 communities at the time of the DREF request identified by the assessment as the most vulnerable HHs.

The joint registration and verification, market assessment, stakeholders' engagement report, and joint implementation and monitoring by NDMA have identified the need to support more vulnerable households (in both Red Cross ten operational communities and 8 not operating who to date find it difficult to feed their families as a result of the impact of the floods.

Since the NS is not planning to request additional funds, the request is to repurpose the funds that were to be used for housing allowance/shelter, which will be enough to provide the same unconditional cash to approximately 192 HHs based on needs and help restore the dignity of more HHs together with NDMA using the validated list of beneficiaries. This will thus increase # of HHs provided with shelter support from 750 to 942 out of the overall 1817 HHs affected.

See the summary below in your shared table:

sectors	Current target	Previous target	Achieved/status of cash execution
Shelter- conditional cash	0	300 HHs	To be repurposed based on need and explained factors.
Livelihood- unconditional cash	942 HHs (750+192)	750 HHs	750 HHs unconditional cash
WASH	11,688 people or 1,644 HHs	11,688 people or 1,644 HHs	Support not through cash
Health	11,688 people or 1,644 HHs	11,688 people or 1,644 HHs	Support not through cash

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

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	Shelter and Household items		
	People targeted: 5,250 Male: 1,029 Female: 1,071		
Shelter 1 outcome: Affected communities and crisis-affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being, and long-term recovery by addressing shelter and habitat issues			
Shelter Output 1.1: Affected households receive short-, medium- and long-term shelter and habitat assistance			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
% of community reached with cash that report that they were satisfied with the cash distribution		80	To be captured during PDM
# of households who received shelter assistance in terms of cash		300	0
# of PDM conducted		1	0

- A market assessment has been conducted which identified availability/access to shelters. Committees have been established and briefed on the nature of shelter support beneficiary households. Discussions with these committees and beneficiaries pointed out the need to support other families with unconditional cash, as rental allowance is not feasible especially when people are not willing to move away from communities, and some have already started rebuilding using local materials.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 5,250

Male: 2,450

Female: 2,800

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

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of affected population confirming that cash provided has supported their medical and basic needs	80	To be captured during PDM
# of households receiving unconditional cash assistance (change of indicator)	942	750
# of affected HHs provided with cash to recover their livelihoods (change of indicator)	942	750
number of volunteers trained and engaged in cash activities	50	50
# of PDM conducted	1	0

Unconditional cash transfer of funds to affected households: Based on the needs identified, an unconditional cash grant has been provided to the 750 households to support their livelihoods and cover medical expenses. Beneficiaries of the DREF intervention were registered and verified through criteria developed and certified by the coordination forum and other stakeholders. A sum of 2,000 New SLL (CHF 137) was provided to each HH to support deceased family members and injured victims as medical fees support and to help cover basic needs of these most affected households. This was made as a one-off instalment and an evaluation of the use of the cash will be conducted during a Post distribution monitoring. Prior to the distribution, an information session was conducted for 50 volunteers who supported cash distribution. The session was useful in providing useful information to sensitize targeted families on the details of Mobile money transactions

Post Distribution Survey: A PDM has been planned, and the DREF extension will support the PMER team conduct PDM as indicated in the approved EPoA.

Provision of educational materials to school children: A total of 300 school children affected by the disaster have been provided support in the form of educational Materials (12 exercise bks per child, 6pencils, 6pens, 2 rulers, 1 school bag, 3 erasers, pencil case, sharpener).



Health

People targeted: 11,688

Male: 5,727

Female: 5,961

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

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with immediate health support	750 HHs or 5,250 people	4,972

# of volunteers deployed for search and rescue	33	33
# Volunteers trained	100	100
# of volunteers trained in PSS	100	100
# of PSS sessions conducted	12	12
# of volunteers and staff provided with PSS support	120	100
# of vulnerable children provided with education materials	300	300

From the onset, a total of 3 staff and 33 volunteers were deployed and supported with search and rescue. Supported was also provided to the 18 incident sites with needed services such as emergency first aid (dressing and redressing of wounds), ambulance services, and psychosocial support.



Red Cross volunteers supporting search and rescue

A total of 100 volunteers have been provided refresher training on first aid. The volunteers held series of First Aid sessions with affected families within the affected communities during and after the floods. Some victims were treated for minor injuries on site whilst others were taken to secondary and tertiary health facilities in SLRCS ambulances



First Aid training for volunteers



Volunteers providing first aid support to victims

Affected households have been provided insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Three nets were provided to each of 1,644 households

Hundred volunteers are supporting hygiene and sanitation campaign twice a month for 4 months (8 campaigns) to ensure communities, including their latrines are cleaned up from the debris resulting from the flood. Volunteers during the hygiene promotion session used IEC materials with approved messages from MOHS on handwashing, waterborne diseases, sanitation, and hygiene during and after floods/landslides. Feedbacks are collected from local communities which helped us to evaluate our response mechanisms.

A total of hundred volunteers have been trained on in environmental and community health promotion. The trained volunteers from all 10 communities targeted were deployed working 3 days a week for 12 weeks to ensure community contributes to maintaining functioning drainage and waste management systems and overall awareness on health issues resulting from the floods. This will help to prevent and rapidly identify any eventual outbreaks.



Volunteers supporting community drainage cleaning

Hundred volunteers have been refreshed in psychosocial support for one day. Thirty-three of the trained volunteers provided PSS support to affected persons within their communities for the first month of the operation working 3 days per week.



Refresher training for volunteers on PSS

Three hundred schools going children who lost almost everything and were deprived of returning to school thus increasing their vulnerability to negative coping mechanisms and dropouts have been provided with educational materials including Books, pens, bags, mathematical sets, rulers, erasers, and sharpeners. The provision of educational materials has enabled them to go to school with ease and with dignity. The table below summarizes communities and number if children supported.

Community	Learning materials (Set)
Culvert	45
Kaningo	20
Tengbeh town	30
Kamayama	30
Kroobay	30
Amadu Lane, Lumley	35
Mount Aurel	30
Looking down, Kissy	20
Wellington	30
Kolleh town	30
Total	300



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

People targeted: 11,668

Male: 5,727

Female: 5,961

WASH Result 1: Immediate reduction of waterborne disease risks in targeted communities

WASH 1.2: Daily access to drinking water in quantity and quality and meeting Sphere and WHO standards are ensured for the target population

WASH Product 1.3: Adequate sanitation that meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is ensured for the target population.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with key messages on environmental sanitation and cleaning of drainages	11,688	10,636

# of households provided with access to safe drinking water	1,644	Ongoing
# of latrines rehabilitated (Target: 5 latrines)	5	5
# of women and girls provided with dignity kits (Target: 383)	383	383
- Volunteers have been working with communities to support environmental health awareness sessions, with the aim to maintain drainage and waste management systems - Aqua tabs have been procured and distributed which has been used to purify household water for a period of 1 month (as per Sphere standard, each person should have at least 15L of water per day). Also, Orientation has been provided to target communities on the storage of drinking water, healthy use of water treatment products) - A combined total of 383 women and girls have been provided with dignity/hygiene sufficient for 1 month. - The process of disinfecting/rehabilitating 5 communal latrines in Culvert, Kolleh community, Kroobay communities has been completed ensuring community members were involved and played a leading role. - Assessment has been completed by the NS WASH expert for the rehabilitation of 5 water well/ hand-dug wells in affected communities after it was initially requested by community members to be put on hold until the water table is low		

Strengthen National Society

S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies, and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers and employees with appropriate visibility items	100	100
# of volunteers involved in the operations insured	100	0
# of security briefing provided to volunteers and staff	1	2
# of surge deployed to support the intervention	1	0
# of monitoring missions conducted by IFRC	4	3
# of briefings provided to staff on CEA and protection	1	1
# of feedback system set	1	1
% of feedbacks collected that has been treated	100%	On going
# of lesson learnt workshop organized and reported	1	0

Progress towards outcomes

To effectively manage the DREF operation, a total of 100 SLRCS community-based volunteers were deployed to support the overall operation. The volunteers were provided a day orientation on their roles and responsibilities and the types of risks they were likely to face throughout the lifespan of the operation. Training on psychosocial support was also provided to volunteers who were involved in the operation. Additionally, volunteers were orientated on CEA and collected feedback from affected populations that were frequently analysed and reports informed DREF implementation

The DREF operation has mainstreamed community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) to guarantee meaningful participation of the affected communities. An effective complaints and feedback mechanism has been set up to ensure community feedback is considered in the DREF implementation. Communities are also informed of SLRCS Hotline service to ask questions, make complaints or provide feedback.

D. Financial Report

Overall budget for this operation remains CHF 382,337 as allocated at the launch of the project.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPA)

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

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How we work

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