



image of burning houses during the incident

Appeal: <b>MDRSL014</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 139,996</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Fire</b>
Glide Number: <b>FR-2022-000383-SLE</b>	People Affected: <b>938 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>938 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>10-01-2023</b>	Operational End Date: <b>30-04-2023</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>3 months</b>
Targeted Areas: <b>Western</b>			

Contain new version August 2023: The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the Netherlands, DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. IFRC, on behalf of the NS, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

# Description of the Event

## Date of event

2022-12-25

## What happened, where and when?

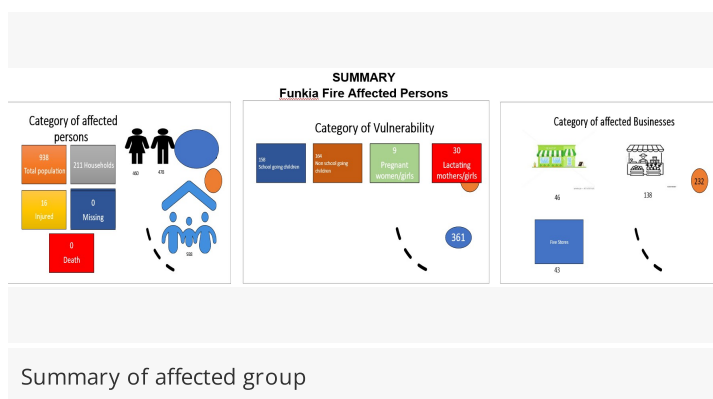
On 25 December 2022, a significant fire incident occurred in the England Ville Funkia, Goderich community in the Western Rural District. The incident originated around 12:30 pm when a lady was preparing her Christmas meal in a makeshift house. Despite the efforts of household members, the fire could not be extinguished, and the National Fire Force was unable to arrive on time due to a fatal accident involving the fire truck en route to the scene.

However, the entire community came together to combat the fire, successfully extinguishing it. Unfortunately, numerous houses had already been completely burnt, resulting in the displacement of many households in the Funkia community. A total of 211 households lost their homes and essential belongings. The displaced individuals had nowhere to stay, and the neighborhood was unable to accommodate the large number of displaced people. Consequently, a significant amount of the affected population had to sleep in the open. At the same time, some sought refuge in nearby public buildings such as markets and schools, and others resorted to staying on the unsafe beaches in and around Goodrich Village.

On 29 December 2022, the National Disaster Management Agency, specifically its directorate of Relief and Response, organized a joint Multi-Sectorial Assessment. According to the assessment report, a total of 938 individuals from 211 households were affected by the incident, losing their homes and properties. The Funkia community suffered the full impact of the incident, with 16 reported injury cases, some of whom were referred to the hospital without the means to pay their medical bills.

Among the displaced population were 322 children, 30 lactating women, and 9 pregnant women. Notably, 158 affected children were school-going toddlers who lost their school items. Additionally, the incident destroyed five stores, 46 shops, and 136 wooden stalls.

This incident severely impacted the community, which was already facing significant economic challenges and rising prices. The loss of their income-generating assets has further exacerbated their difficulties, making it even more challenging for them to regain stability and rebuild their lives.



Destroyed houses

## Scope and Scale

The incident had a profound impact on the Funkia community. As per the assessment report, a staggering number of 938 individuals residing in 211 households were left homeless and lost their belongings. Notably, the most severely affected were:

- Sixteen (16) individuals sustained injuries with some referred to the hospital with no income to pay their bills.
- All the affected communities were homeless with vulnerable groups exposed to deteriorated living conditions. Thus, in a risk of facing diseases and other aléas. Some 322 children, 30 lactating women, and 9 pregnant women were part of the homeless people identified during the assessment.

The fire destroyed all their settlements, belongings, shops, utilities, etc. A total of 158 children, mainly toddlers among the 322 affected children were pupils and had lost their school items.

- This incident severely affected the life balance of the community, already living with significant economic difficulties, exposed to rising prices and. All the small income routines and all income-generating activities were blown away by the fire. Five stores, 46 shops, and 136 wooden stalls were destroyed.

- Immediate access to families' basic needs of water and food was urgent; water sources were damaged from the debris of burnt houses



and stores, hence increasing risks of water-borne diseases, and sanitation issues.

- Funkia, a fishing community, is predominantly inhabited by fishermen and individuals engaged in fish-related trades for their sustenance. The devastating fire not only ravaged the infrastructure and installations but also destroyed the fishing nets that were crucial for their livelihoods. Consequently, the already impoverished population suffered a complete loss of their essential resources, means of living, and personal possessions.

- The incident also had an impact on the host communities and the surrounding areas that depend on the fishing market. Both the affected families and the hosts were dependent on alternative markets, which brings additional challenges to a population already stretched to its limits by accommodating some of the displaced families.

## National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Freetown Country Cluster Delegation covers Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Guinea Bissau. The Delegation among others provides technical assistance to the SLRCS with humanitarian operations related to disasters and crises caused by natural hazards; health services in hard-to-reach areas; longer-term resilience-building programs; coordinating support by IFRC membership to SLRCS; enhancement of SLRCS organizational development; and representing SLRCS internationally. In addition to IFRC, the British and Swedish Red Cross Societies are Movement partners with a presence in Sierra Leone.</p> <p>On 10 January 2023, IFRC released the DREF allocation amounting to CHF 139,996 which was useful in providing immediate basic assistance to address the needs of 938 people (211 households) affected by fire in the Funkia community. This was done through the provision of shelter, Livelihood and Basic Needs, Health, and WASH assistance. The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation throughout the response held regular meetings with the NS to stay informed about their response and assist in updating the GO Platform. During the initial phase of the response, the Cluster Operations and PMER Officers had working sessions with the NS to ensure a clear understanding of the proposed strategy. The Cluster also participated in PDM, and Lessons Learnt workshops and conducted monitoring visits during the response.</p>
Participating National Societies	The British and Finnish Red Cross Societies are the Participating National Societies in the country. However, neither of these PNSs provide support for the event.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

There is no ICRC presence in Sierra Leone. The partner is operating remotely but has provided no support for this event.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
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National authorities	An emergency interpillar meeting was held at the NDMA conference room on December 26, 2022, to discuss preliminary findings with partners and agencies of the government and set up a rapid multi-sectoral assessment team to assess the scope of the disaster in the affected community. As usual, the joint assessment team was commissioned by the Director General of NDMA including the Sierra Leone Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations. On 29 December 2022, another interagency coordination meeting was convened by NDMA to present findings from the rapid assessment and get partners' interests or commitment to the response. For more details see the link: <a href="https://ndma.gov.sl/2022/12/29/funkia-fire-incident-ndma-presents-assessment-report-at-coordination-meeting/">https://ndma.gov.sl/2022/12/29/funkia-fire-incident-ndma-presents-assessment-report-at-coordination-meeting/</a> .
UN or other actors	-
Are there major coordination mechanism in place? NDMA provided the overall leadership for emergency planning and response.	

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

The sector with the most urgent need was shelter, as all structures in the Funkia communities were destroyed, leaving no homes to be salvaged. A total of 211 households, including 119 headed by males and 92 headed by females, were impacted. Displaced individuals were left without adequate shelter and essential household items, underscoring the pressing need for support in this area. The presence of debris from the demolished buildings and shops increased health hazards and underscored the importance of providing better housing for the displaced population. Moreover, the loss of household belongings was a major concern that required attention.

According to the report, 26% of the affected individuals had to sleep outdoors, while 19% sought refuge in public buildings. Another 22% stayed with their families, 30% remained at the accident scene, and 3% resorted to other degrading means of accommodation. The assessment report also highlighted the damage inflicted upon local infrastructure and businesses, which had a direct impact on people's livelihoods. Priority needs included the provision of risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), hygiene/dignity kits, and educational support for children.

The dire living conditions of the affected population posed a risk to their health and overall well-being. Furthermore, it also had adverse effects on the host families who were accommodating them.



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Homes, businesses, and livelihoods in Funkia were destroyed by the fire incident. The need for immediate food was identified (rice, vegetable oil, salt, water, and others) as the destruction of household assets and food reserves has affected food access and availability.

Based on observation and Assessment, affected families were among those that lost (partially or totally) their dwellings and livelihoods and their source of income. A total of 228 businesspeople were affected by the fire incident of which at most business owners/persons were estimated to be the only revenue of the families. Fishing is one of the biggest sources of income in Funkia and all fishing material, dry fish stocks, etc. have been completely burnt. These families were in urgent need of cash to help them restart their businesses and continue their service to the community.

The business community activities loss impacted not only the families affected by the loss of their income but also surrounding families for which these activities constitute the immediate markets where they usually access food and other items. While prices were increasing in Freetown, long distances for procurement increased again the economic aspect of the vulnerability in these communities. Host communities and surrounding areas were also affected by the above situation.



### Health

The NS took measures to safeguard the health and well-being of the impacted communities and households. They prioritized good health and WASH practices to minimize the prevalence of water and vector-borne diseases such as Malaria, and waterborne diseases like acute watery diarrhea. Additionally, they worked towards preventing any cholera outbreak caused by contaminated water sources due to burnt community debris. In addition, SLRCS offered essential first aid and psychosocial assistance to the affected families, as required.



General wash and health deterioration condition:

A comprehensive analysis was conducted to assess the wide-ranging impact of the current situation on the living conditions of the affected families. The already difficult circumstances were further exacerbated by the loss of businesses, settlements, and other essential resources, leaving them vulnerable to various health risks, food shortages, hygiene challenges, and limited access to water, and basic necessities. Additionally, the psychosocial support identified during the initial rapid assessments needed to be taken into account. The SLRCS took proactive measures by providing psychosocial support, and first aid, and collaborating with other disaster management organizations for rescue and evacuation efforts. Among the affected individuals, 16 injuries were reported in the Funkia community. These injured individuals received first-aid services from the SLRCS before being referred to the hospital, and the expenses incurred were reimbursed through this operation.



## Education

The vulnerabilities highlighted in the joint assessment report by NDMA, which was shared on 29 December, encompass various challenges faced by school-going children whose parents struggle to afford school materials replacement or provide adequate support for their daily needs. Additionally, the report identifies a vulnerable group consisting of 158 school-going children, 164 out-of-school-going children, 9 pregnant women, and 30 lactating mothers who were affected.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

The impact of the disaster on household heads varies significantly, with a higher number of vulnerable male household heads (119) affected compared to female-headed households (92). The loss of houses and living materials can be attributed to the poor wiring of houses by unprofessional electricians who often use faulty, old, and outdated materials, as well as faulty receptacles. Illegal connections to a single-phase domestic meter can also lead to sparks and fire outbreaks. Urgent community engagement and sensitization were necessary to address these issues. Promoting good practices and ensuring coordination with local authorities to support safe constructions and installation messages were crucial.

SLRC, in collaboration with local Risk Reduction Committees, actively explored innovative ways to prevent fire outbreaks, such as implementing fire sensors, planning evacuation routes, conducting participatory sessions with the community, and raising awareness to reduce factors contributing to fire incidents.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of the operation was to provide immediate basic assistance to address the needs of 938 people (211 households) affected by the fire in the Funkia England Ville community, Goodrich, Western Rural District. This was done through the provision of Shelter, livelihood Basic Needs, Health, and WASH assistance. CEA served as an integrated pillar to all sectors for an appropriate and community-sensitive response to those affected by the fire incident in the Funkia community. The operation was carried out for three months, ensuring that all activities were executed following the required standards.

## Operation strategy rationale

The DREF assisted particular vulnerable populations that were identified in the assessment. Hygiene/dignity kits and educational materials were distributed by NS to these groups. Overall, the planned intervention targeted:

- Shelter assistance through conditional Cash for support to shelter reconstructions or rent following the result of the market assessment
- First Aid support and Ambulance Services
- Psychosocial support to distressed families
- Livelihood support through cash assistance
- Provision of dignity/hygiene kits to women/girls
- Support children with educational material
- Emergency WASH support
- Support environmental health and best practices through risk communication and community engagement on hygiene promotion and fire prevention.

The NS had a valid agreement with a Financial Service Provider using mobile money, which was utilized to handle all planned cash



allowances. Both in-kind and cash distributions were carried out. Each distribution was accompanied by a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM), along with thorough supervision of the utilization of cash assistance, with the assistance of community committees, volunteers, and NS personnel.

The provision of Unconditional Cash to households was accompanied by business support for shops and fishing-related activities, enabling households to obtain essential food and non-food items promptly. This comprehensive assistance approach played a crucial role in restoring the disrupted livelihoods and systems more sustainably.

Taking into account the lesson learned of Conditional cash for shelter, the best approach for shelter assistance was cash assistance for either building materials or house rental. NS conducted further consultation with NDMA and community committees to determine the best option after detailed identification was conducted to clarify if beneficiaries were tenants or landlords. Both were represented in the community committee to be established.

The amount for the cash is based on the minimum standard established by NDMA. NS based also on DREF consideration will contribute to households' needs with the following allocations:

- Cash business: 100 CHF being - 2,000 Sierra Leonean New Leones (NLE)
- Unconditional cash: 50 CHF - 1,000 Sierra Leonean New Leones (NLE)
- Cash for building material: 300 CHF - 6,000 Sierra Leonean New Leones (NLE)

## Targeting Strategy

### Who was targeted by this operation?

The Emergency Plan of Action aimed to assist a total of 938 individuals (211 households) in the Funkia community. Due to varying levels of impact and vulnerabilities within the targeted population, the approach was customized across different sectors as outlined below:

1. Shelter assistance was provided to all affected households that had lost their homes, which accounted for the 211 households.
2. Awareness, community engagement, and psychosocial support were extended to all affected individuals, as they were all exposed to the same risks and had similar needs. This encompassed a total of 938 individuals within the 211 households.
3. Livelihoods and Basic Needs support were prioritized for 175 households (875 individuals) who were deemed vulnerable and had experienced a loss of livelihood, either temporarily or permanently. Additionally, assistance was provided to 150 affected business owners or individuals.
4. Health and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services were provided to 175 households (875 individuals) in need, including First Aid and Psychosocial Support.
5. Efforts were made to improve health and environmental standards within the affected community, along with ensuring access to fire prevention messages through the RCCE (Risk Communication and Community Engagement) approach.
6. Special attention was given to pregnant and lactating women through the provision of dignity kits.

In addition to the aforementioned sectors, the intervention also focused on providing educational materials to 158 school-going children. This initiative aimed to prevent school dropouts in the aftermath of the fire incident in the Funkia community. The identification of these 158 children was carried out during the assessment phase.

The 175 households targeted for in-kind and unconditional assistance were identified as extremely vulnerable families based on specific vulnerability criteria. This decision was made in coordination with NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority), taking into account the presence of other actors and the needs of the most vulnerable individuals.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

SLRCS extended additional assistance to 175 of the most vulnerable households. The selection and verification of beneficiaries were carried out meticulously, focusing on households that had lost their homes, women-led households, families with special needs such as disabilities, the elderly, lactating mothers, pregnant women, and children under the age of five.

In terms of business support, priority was given to women who were both business owners and heads of households, families with young children and toddlers, tenants of rental shops, and households without any other sources of income generation.

The community members were kept informed about the selection process through meetings with key stakeholders in the affected areas, where the response options proposed by the Red Cross were outlined. This approach allowed the communities to voice their opinions, confirm the operational strategy, and provide essential information on evolving needs.



# Total Targeted Population

Women	459	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	479	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	938		

## Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Inadequate communication with target population Not communicating beneficiary selection criteria and distribution sites to beneficiaries will lead to high levels of community frustration and undermine the operations.	To mitigate this risk, SLRCS worked with the affected communities to ensure that SLRCS' reputation and trust with communities is protected from the onset.
Unstable economy context may cause inflation and frequent changes in prices that would impede the level and output of implementation.	SLRCS and IFRC cluster teams facilitated all processes and ensured the approval of this EPOA was issued in time to support rapid response.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Since the emergency plan of action was put into effect during the first two quarters of 2023, coinciding with the 2023 general elections in Sierra Leone, there was a potential risk of increased youth violence and other anti-social behaviors such as theft, drug abuse, explosions, and the abuse of children and women. To prevent such incidents during the operation, all security protocols of both the Movement and the Government were strictly followed by all volunteers and staff involved in the operation to minimize risks. The security management for this operation was guided by the RCRC's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values. Additionally, the following security measures were implemented:

- Maintaining visibility through the use of jackets and regular communication on all movements.
- Engaging with the community to provide clear explanations about the Red Cross's role, the support being offered, and the criteria for selecting beneficiaries.
- Organizing regular briefings to remind volunteers and staff about their conduct and Safer Access.
- Ensuring coordination between the NS and IFRC to uphold all security measures.
- Sustaining constant communication check-ins with all operation staff.
- Organizing regular security updates and disseminating information.
- Conducting real-time monitoring of field activities through the SLRCS information management system.
- Utilizing other IT contact systems to ensure communication during follow-up missions.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

## Implementation



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 69,686



Targeted Persons: 938

Assisted Persons: 938

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of Households confirm receiving the cash for construction	211	211
% of HH reported having used the cash for reconstruction of their home	90	94
# of group discussion with HH	30	36
# of Community stakeholder committees constituted	1	1
# of Community committees meetings held	10	13
# of post distribution monitoring conducted	1	1

## Narrative description of achievements

- **Verification of Beneficiary:** Beneficiary verification is a crucial process in emergency response programs. It is aimed at ensuring that assistance reaches the intended recipients and is used effectively. This involves verifying the eligibility and identity of individuals or households who are seeking relief in emergencies. For this incident, different methods were used to select the right beneficiary. Firstly, a verified beneficiary list was provided by the National Disaster Management Agency which contains essential information about the affected population, this includes personal details such as names, ages, addresses, family composition, and specific vulnerabilities. The verification methods include the following: field visit and interview by the NDRT and stakeholder committee Beneficiaries were typically required to provide supporting documentation to validate their identity and eligibility. In situations where official documents are lost or inaccessible due to the incident, alternative methods such as witness testimonies or community leaders' endorsements were considered, and random phone calls by the CVA focal point. Once the information is verified, eligibility criteria are applied to determine whether individuals or households qualify for specific types of assistance.
- **Training of Business owners on commodity card usage and reconciliation:** Ten business owners were targeted for the training. The training program was delivered in one-on-one sessions. The goal was to equip business owners with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively utilize commodity cards, optimize their usage, and ensure accurate financial record-keeping and expense management. The training covered topics such as Card usage guidelines, transaction procedures, reconciliation and expense tracking, expense reporting, fraud prevention, and security measures.
- **Provision of cash for shelter reconstruction:** A total of 211 households (119 male and 92 females headed HHs) were provided cash of NSL6,000 for shelter support. SLRCS has an agreement with Africell Mobile company for cash transfers. The mobile company was engaged in transferring cash into the mobile sims of registered beneficiaries. Accredited cash-out outlets were identified by the mobile company to make it easy for beneficiaries to instantly cash out their money upon receiving the sims.
- **The inclusion of community people to ensure community participation, confidence, and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI):** before the commencement of the intervention, a community stakeholder committee was formed to ensure active community engagement. The community comprises the chief, the community chairman, the local council representative, the women's leader, the chairlady, the youth leader, and the representative of the affected persons. The primary goal of the stakeholder committee was to foster active community engagement in response planning, decision-making, and implementation. By involving community members in these committees, their diverse perspectives, knowledge, and experiences were incorporated into the emergency response strategies, making them more effective and responsive to the community's specific needs. Community stakeholder committees help ensure that protection measures are integrated into emergency response strategies. They can identify vulnerable groups within the community, such as children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and marginalized populations, and develop plans to address their specific needs. This proactive approach helps prevent and mitigate potential harm and ensures that no one is left behind during the response.
- **Post distribution monitoring:** A post distribution monitoring survey was conducted to assess the effects of the funds provided and to identify any unintended consequences of the intervention. The monitoring plan incorporates various indicators, including process, output, and outcome indicators, following the SLRCS and IFRC Movement cash-based intervention. Based on the findings of the post-distribution monitoring, it was observed that 94.7% of the supported households utilized the cash for its intended purpose, which was



the reconstruction of their damaged houses. Additionally, 81.7% of the beneficiaries interviewed expressed satisfaction with the timeliness and availability of the cash. However, due to the economic crisis and rising inflation in the country, the amount provided was insufficient to cover the entire reconstruction needs. During the lessons learned workshop, the beneficiaries highlighted the importance of timely support and expressed their preference for accessing assistance through mobile money transfer, as it was more convenient for them.

## Lessons Learnt

- Providing cash to beneficiaries to purchase items and rebuild their damaged house is a more dignified approach to offering support, in contrast to the alternative of procuring items and distributing them.
- The establishment of community committees and their regular updates regarding the type of assistance and selection criteria proved to be effective in addressing various concerns and challenges encountered during the registration process, which was overseen by NDMA. The active participation of key community members played a crucial role in clarifying the selection process to other community members, thereby enhancing trust and confidence in the overall response efforts.

## Challenges

The NDMA assessment failed to capture some affected households that were not at home during registration resulting in an exclusion error. This posed a significant challenge during the distribution process. Additionally, the verification team faced difficulties as some beneficiaries were unable to remember the phone number they had used for registration.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 16,135

**Targeted Persons:** 150

**Assisted Persons:** 938

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of affected business persons confirming that cash provided has support their businesses restoration Target	150	150
% of people confirming cash support provided for their business has been used for that	90	94

## Narrative description of achievements

Rapid Market Assessment (RAM): A comprehensive market assessment was conducted to gather crucial information regarding the selection of vendors and pricing of essential commodities for the distribution of cash for livelihood support in the Funkia community. The RAM analysis provided valuable insights into the dynamics of the market, including fluctuations in prices, demand patterns, and overall market trends. This analysis not only helped in anticipating future changes but also ensured the effective and efficient distribution of commodities through the use of commodity cards. Additionally, the assessment also evaluated the existing local capacities and capabilities within the market. This information allowed us to utilize local resources, skills, and knowledge to support the intervention, thereby promoting community resilience and ownership.

According to the report, some households have reported losing their food stocks during the incident and are now seeking to replenish them or purchase enough for their daily needs. However, not all households have the financial means to afford sufficient food. The fire has disrupted income patterns in various ways, particularly affecting women who owned stalls and fishermen, as their sources of livelihood were destroyed.

Traders have indicated that the demand for staple food items, such as rice and other food materials, is lower than usual due to the lack of purchasing power, which is at least 30% below the required level. It is expected that this low demand will persist or even decrease further in the upcoming weeks. While some food stocks were damaged by the fire, especially in warehouses around the Funkia community and the premises of retailers in England Ville, traders remain confident that there are sufficient stocks available in the system to compensate for the shortfall. The main challenges currently faced by the market system are the decline in demand and the overall increase in the



inflation rate.

Traders have indicated that there is ample capacity to boost food stocks and shelter kits by 30% shortly, utilizing the existing stocks, to ensure prompt recovery of businesses and stabilize the exchange rate. It is highly anticipated that with the provision of financial assistance, business operations will be swiftly restored. Although the shock did not impact commodity prices, there has been a significant rise in prices attributed to external factors such as exchange rate fluctuations and inflation.

Livelihood support: Based on the needs identified, cash was provided to the 150 households to support their livelihoods. 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 as livelihood restoration contributions. SLRCS used an existing agreement with Africell Mobile company for cash transfers. The mobile company was engaged in transferring cash into the mobile SIM cards of registered beneficiaries. Accredited cash-out outlets were identified by the mobile company to make it easy for beneficiaries to instantly cash out their money upon receiving the SIM cards.

## Lessons Learnt

Cash transfers given to individuals impacted by the crisis have proven to be effective in supporting their efforts to restore their livelihoods. This assistance not only contributes to their dignity restoration but also empowers them to decide the type of business they wish to pursue, thereby aiding in the recovery of the market.

## Challenges

Despite expressing their appreciation and happiness for the support provided by Red Cross during the PDM and case study, business owners found that the amount of cash provided, and the impact of inflation and rising commodity prices were insufficient to start their intended business.



## Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 9,412

**Targeted Persons:** 875

**Assisted Persons:** 175

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of assessment conducted	1	1
# of PDM conducted	1	1
# of volunteers trained and engaged in cash activities	20	20
# of household receiving unconditional cash assistance	175	175
# of affected population confirming that cash provided has supported their medical and basic needs	875	875

## Narrative description of achievements

- Unconditional cash transfer:

Some 175 households received unconditional cash grants from SLRCS to help restore their livelihoods after losing their sources of income due to a fire incident. The amount of cash provided was determined based on a rapid market assessment of the current food basket calculation in Sierra Leone for one month, which was set at 2,000 Sierra Leonean New Leones. The community members view cash transfer assistance as more beneficial than in-kind support because it can be used to address various needs. Additionally, an information session was conducted for 20 volunteers who were involved in the distribution of cash. These volunteers were trained to raise awareness of the targeted families on the proper use of cash according to IFRC guidelines for medical assistance and basic needs. They also assisted



the families in accessing their cash grants at the designated Financial Service Provider (FSP) cashing points.

#### • Post Distribution Monitoring of Cash:

A survey was conducted two weeks after the distribution of cash to monitor its impact. The survey targeted 50% of households that received cash assistance. Before the data collection exercise, volunteers underwent a one-day orientation to familiarize themselves with the data collection tools and questions. The analysis of the results showed that 94.2% of the supported households expressed satisfaction with the assistance and that they used the money provided to restart their businesses. The beneficiaries acknowledged the positive impact of the support, as 83% of respondents confirmed receiving the cash on time. Additionally, more than 86% reported improved health conditions and better access to medical treatment due to the Red Cross cash assistance. Furthermore, over 61% mentioned a reduction in stress levels. However, despite the overall positive impact, 43% of households had to resort to negative coping strategies to meet their basic needs, indicating that there are still significant unmet needs despite the assistance provided. Nevertheless, cash assistance was considered an efficient means of supporting the affected population. During the monitoring visit, beneficiaries shared how the cash provided helped them seek medical attention.

## Lessons Learnt

- By providing cash transfers to households affected by the crisis, their recovery is facilitated in accordance with their unique needs, thereby aiding in the restoration of their dignity. This approach empowers them to determine what is essential for their families while also contributing to market recovery.
- The implementation of effective community engagement and accountability serves to enhance community understanding of relief assistance and selection criteria, thereby increasing their participation. It is crucial for communities to be at the forefront of all disaster response efforts.

## Challenges

- Although the Red Cross made efforts to involve the community and ensure accountability in their response, some households that did not meet the eligibility requirements felt neglected. Additionally, there were cases where unauthorized individuals tried to impersonate legitimate beneficiaries, but the distribution sites were efficiently managed, and a strong verification process with assistance from community stakeholders and security personnel successfully thwarted these fraudulent attempts.



**Budget:** CHF 5,109

**Targeted Persons:** 938

**Assisted Persons:** 938

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of PSS sessions conducted	8	8
% of people affected by the disaster reached with psychosocial support	80	89
# Volunteers trained	43	43
# of volunteers deployed for search and rescue	45	45
# of households reached with immediate health support	175	175

## Narrative description of achievements

- Psychosocial support: Psychosocial assistance was provided to affected families in the Funkia community during the first month of the operation, with the deployment of 43 volunteers. These volunteers underwent a one-day training session to prepare them for their involvement in this activity.



- Procurement and distribution of Mosquitoes: To combat malaria, the operation procured and distributed 350 mosquito nets to 175 households (2 nets per household). In addition, volunteers were deployed to raise awareness about health prevention, emphasizing the importance of using mosquito nets and preventing water-borne diseases.

- Community engagement: To maintain fire prevention measures and prevent the recurrence of fire incidents, 43 SLRCS community-based volunteers were deployed in Goderich for three days a week over 12 weeks who raise awareness on fire prevention. Furthermore, these volunteers conducted hygiene and sanitation campaigns twice a month for three months (a total of six campaigns) to ensure that the community, including their water sources and latrines, was cleaned up from the debris caused by the fire.

## Lessons Learnt

The response did not target all affected populations by the fire incident, leading to the erroneous perception that the Red Cross only provides assistance to individuals of particular significance. To rectify this situation, community leaders were engaged in the process of selecting and verifying beneficiaries based on predetermined criteria. Additionally, they collaborated with volunteers to reinforce the activities of the CEA, and to explain the selection criteria and rationale behind those selected.

## Challenges

Involvement of community stakeholders and women’s groups will help increase community understanding of selection criteria.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 18,233

**Targeted Persons:** 938

**Assisted Persons:** 938

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of women confirming they received dignity kits	428	428
% of targeted people receiving hygiene promotion messages	100	100
# of community consultation conducted for kit content and WASH related feedback	2	2

## Narrative description of achievements

- Dignity kits: A total of 428 women, including lactating women and those of childbearing age among the displaced population, received dignity and hygiene kits. These kits, which were procured and distributed, consisted of various items such as laundry soap (500mg)/detergent powder, bath soap, hand sanitizers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, assorted panties (sold in packs of 6), deodorant/roll-on, floor brushes, shaving sticks, Vaseline, sanitary pads, Dettol (large size), combs, flashlights, and batteries. The content of the kit was carefully selected and validated with the communities through focus group discussions involving the targeted women.

- Awareness raising: Community-based volunteers underwent orientation and were subsequently deployed to monitor the treatment and storage of water through home visits. Furthermore, these volunteers carried out awareness with messages on safe water, hygiene, and sanitation practices.

## Lessons Learnt

Cash transfer has demonstrated itself as a straightforward and efficient method for aiding the impacted community in regaining their misplaced household and hygiene kits. Engaging in an extensive procurement procedure would have inevitably prolonged our response time.



## Challenges

The fluctuating economy and depreciation of the leones compared to the USD led to an increase in the prices of dignity kits. The original budget set aside for purchasing the kits had risen by the time the funds were transferred and the procurement process commenced.



## Education

**Budget:** CHF 8,414

**Targeted Persons:** 158

**Assisted Persons:** 211

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of vulnerable children provided with education materials	158	158

## Narrative description of achievements

Support with educational materials: SLRCS procured and distributed educational materials to 158 school children affected by the disaster. Each child received 12 exercise books, 6 pencils, 6 pens, 2 rulers, 1 school bag, 3 erasers, a pencil case, and a sharpener as part of the support provided through the DREF Operations.

## Lessons Learnt

The allocation of educational resources facilitated the resumption of schooling for affected children. This alleviated the burden on parents who no longer had to seek funds to purchase educational materials for their children.

## Challenges

N/A



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 5,831

**Targeted Persons:** 938

**Assisted Persons:** 43

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of Community committees created and consulted for two-way feedback.	1	1
# of printing materials	1,500	1,500
# of people confirming they understand factor risk of fire incident in their communities and way to prevent	938	947
% of households sensitized on fire prevention practice	100	100



# of volunteer trained on CEA-RCCE	43	43
% of electricians identified and briefed	90	86
% of feedback collected during the awareness, PDM and other activities which are treated	100	1,001

## Narrative description of achievements

- A total of 43 volunteers received training in RCCE messaging on fire prevention and health risks. Volunteers conducted a minimum level of fire prevention awareness in the communities, reaching 938 affected individuals and potentially exposing host communities to the same risks. The aim was to develop a shared understanding of the risk factors for fire incidents in their communities and ways to prevent them.
- Meetings were organized with stakeholders and target populations from the affected community to involve them in fire prevention efforts.
- Throughout the intervention, risk communication and community engagement were prioritized to ensure meaningful participation from the affected community. To ensure that community feedback was taken into account during the implementation of the EPoA, an effective complaints and feedback mechanism was established. Fire prevention sessions were also conducted to gather feedback and address community concerns. Additionally, SLRCS informed community members about the Hotline service, which they could use to ask questions, lodge complaints, or provide feedback.
- Materials for raising awareness on fire prevention were developed, validated, and printed. A total of 1,500 flyers and posters were produced. Firefighters and NDMA were engaged to identify the best options for reducing repetitive domestic fires and to develop effective strategies for ongoing sensitization on mitigation measures. Professional electricians in the communities were also identified and sensitized.

## Lessons Learnt

The training provided on RCCE messaging has greatly improved the ability of volunteers to effectively communicate accurate health and fire prevention messages to the affected community. As a result, there has been a notable enhancement in community awareness regarding fire prevention, leading to an increased level of knowledge and understanding within the community to prevent fire outbreaks.

- The dissemination of Information, Education, and Communication material on walls and strategic locations proved to be effective in spreading awareness about fire prevention. The use of visuals and demonstrations also played a significant role in educating the public on fire safety.

## Challenges

Given the magnitude and consequences of the fire incident, the number of volunteers involved in promoting health and raising awareness about fire prevention was limited. While the planned sessions were successfully conducted, the participation of additional volunteers could have effectively disseminated fire prevention messages throughout the entire community, rather than solely concentrating on areas directly affected by the incident and nearby neighborhoods.



**Secretariat Services**

**Budget:** CHF 1,879

**Targeted Persons:** 938

**Assisted Persons:** 43

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of lesson learnt supported	1	1
#of meetings with NDMA and stakeholders for monitoring	10	8



## Narrative description of achievements

A day lessons learned workshop was conducted at the end of the operation to discuss and record best practices, and challenges encountered and provided recommendations that will be used to guide subsequent response to fire incidents.

## Lessons Learnt

Key Lessons from the workshop have been summarized under each thematic area



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 5,298

**Targeted Persons:** 43

**Assisted Persons:** 43

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers briefed	43	43
#of volunteers deployed	43	43

## Narrative description of achievements

- The volunteers underwent a comprehensive half-day orientation session to familiarize themselves with their responsibilities and the potential hazards they may encounter. Additionally, they received regular security briefings and updates to ensure their safety throughout the response efforts.
- A total of 43 volunteers were trained, deployed, and insured to support the operations.
- Volunteers and staff actively involved in the response action were equipped with personal protective gear and high-visibility items.

## Lessons Learnt

Volunteers were given an orientation to familiarize themselves with their roles and responsibilities, ensuring that their community engagement efforts aligned with the core principles of the movement. Furthermore, a comprehensive briefing on potential risks was provided to enhance their understanding and equip them with the necessary skills to effectively address and minimize these risks during response operations.

- It is imperative to adhere to the DREF action plan to ensure efficient service delivery.
- Prioritize the training of volunteers before engaging them in community activities and acknowledge their valuable contributions.
- To establish trust and confidence within the community, it is essential to involve community leaders and stakeholders in the recruitment of volunteers.

## Challenges

- There were no significant challenges encountered during the execution of the intended tasks.



# Financial Report

## DREF Operation

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

#### MDRSL014 - Sierra Leone - Funkia Fire Incident

Operating Timeframe: 10 Jan 2023 to 30 Apr 2023

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/1-2023/9	Operation	MDRSL014
Budget Timeframe	2023/1-2023/4	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 01/Nov/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>139,996</b>
DREF Response Pillar	139,996
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-139,141</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>855</b>

### II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	69,686	138,446	-68,760
PO02 - Livelihoods	16,135		16,135
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	9,412		9,412
PO04 - Health	5,109		5,109
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	18,233		18,233
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education	8,414		8,414
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	7,162		7,162
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>134,150</b>	<b>138,446</b>	<b>-4,296</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	548	695	-147
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	5,298		5,298
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>5,846</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>5,151</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>139,996</b>	<b>139,141</b>	<b>855</b>

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

## Please explain variances (if any)

The allocation for this intervention was CHF 139,996. The expenditure at the end of the intervention was CHF 139,141 and closing balance only CHF 855. The balance will return to the DREF pot. In general, the expenditures matched the planned intervention and variances are mainly in-line adjustments to deliver on the objectives despite the challenges and fuel inflation which impacted the financial planning. Detailed variances are provided in the attached financial report.



# Contact Information

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

**National Society contact:** Kparuwu Sandy, Secretary General, ksandy@sierraleoneredcross.org, 23276100073

**IFRC Appeal Manager:** Ghulam Mohamed Awan, Head of Delegation, ghulam.awan@ifrc.org, 23278811584

**IFRC Project Manager:** John K Gbao, Senior Operations Officer, john.gbao@ifrc.org, 23279102910

**IFRC focal point for the emergency:** John K Gbao, Senior Operations Officer, john.gbao@ifrc.org, 23279102910

**Media Contact:** Alhaji Bockarie Abu, Senior PMER Officer, alhaji.abu@ifrc.org, +23278039192

[Click here for reference](#)



# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/1-2023/9	Operation	MDRSL014
Budget Timeframe	2023/1-2023/4	Budget	APPROVED

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 01/Nov/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRSL014 - Sierra Leone - Funkia Fire Incident

Operating Timeframe: 10 Jan 2023 to 30 Apr 2023

## I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>139,996</b>
DREF Response Pillar	139,996
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-139,141</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>855</b>

## II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	69,686	138,446	-68,760
PO02 - Livelihoods	16,135		16,135
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PO04 - Health	5,109		5,109
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	18,233		18,233
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education	8,414		8,414
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	7,162		7,162
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>134,150</b>	<b>138,446</b>	<b>-4,296</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	548	695	-147
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	5,298		5,298
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>5,846</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>5,151</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>139,996</b>	<b>139,141</b>	<b>855</b>

# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/1-2023/9	Operation	MDRSL014
Budget Timeframe	2023/1-2023/4	Budget	APPROVED

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 01/Nov/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRSL014 - Sierra Leone - Funkia Fire Incident

Operating Timeframe: 10 Jan 2023 to 30 Apr 2023

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>115,591</b>		<b>115,591</b>
Clothing & Textiles	1,400		1,400
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	17,120		17,120
Teaching Materials	9,150		9,150
Cash Disbursement	87,921		87,921
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>-85</b>
Transport & Vehicles Costs		85	-85
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>7,857</b>		<b>7,857</b>
National Society Staff	750		750
Volunteers	7,107		7,107
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>4,580</b>		<b>4,580</b>
Workshops & Training	4,580		4,580
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>2,857</b>
Travel	2,000		2,000
Financial Charges	825	568	257
Other General Expenses	600		600
<b>Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>		<b>129,996</b>	<b>-129,996</b>
Cash Transfers National Societies		129,996	-129,996
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>8,544</b>	<b>8,492</b>	<b>52</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	8,544	8,492	52
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>139,996</b>	<b>139,141</b>	<b>855</b>

### 5.1 PROJECT PARTNER EXPENDITURE CERTIFICATION

PROJECT PARTNER NAME	SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS SOCIETY
PROJECT NAME	FUNKIA FIRE DREF
IFRC PROJECT CODE	PSL057
CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD	10 January 2023 - 30 April 2023

#### 5.1.1 BUDGET & EXPENSES BY PROJECT PARTNER ONLY PER PLANNED OPERATIONS & ENABLING APPROACH (Local Currency)

Planned Operations / Enabling Approaches	Budget Local Currency (A)	Prior Period Expenses Local Currency (B)	Current Period Expenses Local Currency (C)	Total (Year to date) Local Currency (D) (B+C)	Budget Balance Local Currency (E) (A-D)	Percentage budget spent (F) (D/A)	Explain implementation > 110% for Interim and Final Report and < 90% for Final Report only (G)
Shelter and Basic Household Items	1,308,660	0	1,257,260	1,257,260	51,400	96%	
Livelihoods	303,000	0	300,000	300,000	3,000	99%	
Multi-purpose Cash	176,750	0	175,000	175,000	1,750	99%	
Health	95,940	0	123,680	123,680	-27,740	129%	Cost of prices increased with the increase in the pump price of fuel
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	342,400	0	369,796	369,796	-27,396	108%	
Protection, Gender and Inclusion		0	0	0	0	0%	
Education	158,000	0	161,948	161,948	-3,948	102%	
Migration		0	0	0	0	0%	
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery		0	0	0	0	0%	
Community Engagement and Accountability	109,500	0	109,349	109,349	151	100%	
Environmental Sustainability		0	0	0	0	0%	
Coordination and Partnerships		0	0	0	0	0%	
Secretariat Services		0	0	0	0	0%	
National Society Strengthening	99,500	0	189,574	189,574	-90,074	191%	Part of the expenses under national secretariat/national society develop
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,593,750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,686,607</b>	<b>2,686,607</b>	<b>-92,857</b>	<b>104%</b>	

#### 5.1.2 BUDGET & EXPENSES BY PROJECT PARTNER ONLY ACCORDING TO COST CATEGORIES (Local Currency)

SP No	Cost Categories	Budget Local Currency (A)	Prior Period Expenses Local Currency (B)	Current Period Expenses Local Currency (C)	Total (Year to date) Local Currency (D) (B+C)	Budget Balance Local Currency (E) (A-D)	Percentage budget spent (F) (D/A)	Explain implementation > 110% for Interim and Final Report and < 90% for Final Report only (G)
	Personnel	95,940		102,330	102,330	-6,390	107%	
	Relief supplies, transportation and storage	2,346,810		2,349,154	2,349,154	-2,344	100%	
	Contributions to other organisations			0	0	0	0%	
	Other direct costs	151,000		235,123	235,123	-84,123	156%	Expenses under this budget line are related to ambulance maintenance
	Indirect cost recovery			0	0	0	0%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,593,750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,686,607</b>	<b>2,686,607</b>	<b>-92,857</b>	<b>104%</b>	

#### 5.1.3 BUDGET & EXPENSES BY PROJECT PARTNER ONLY PER STRATEGIC PRIORITY & ENABLER (CHF)

SP No	Strategic Priority & Enabler	Budget CHF (A)	Prior Period Expenses CHF (B)	Current Period Expenses CHF (C)	Total (Year to date) CHF (D) (B+C)	Budget Balance CHF (E) (A-D)	Percentage budget spent (F) (D/A)	Explain implementation > 110% for Interim and Final Report and < 90% for Final Report only (G)
SP1	Climate and environmental crises			0	0	0	0%	
SP2	Evolving crises and disasters	89,421		83,850	83,850	5,571	94%	Procured commodities below budget amounts and transportation of corr
SP3	Growing gaps in health and wellbeing	21,917		23,887	23,887	-1,970	109%	
SP4	Migration and identity			0	0	0	0%	
SP5	Values, Power and Inclusion	7,900		7,839	7,839	61	99%	
E6	Engaged			0	0	0	0%	
E7	Accountable			0	0	0	0%	
E8	Trusted	10,451		14,469	14,469	-4,019	138%	The pumping price of fuel changed twice during implementation
	<b>Total</b>	<b>129,688</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>130,045</b>	<b>130,045</b>	<b>-357</b>	<b>100%</b>	

#### 5.1.4 BUDGET & EXPENSES BY PROJECT PARTNER ONLY PER RESULT OR OBJECTIVE (CHF)

Result No.	Result or Objective	Budget CHF (A)	Prior Period Expenses CHF (B)	Current Period Expenses CHF (C)	Total (Year to date) CHF (D) (B+C)	Budget Balance CHF (E) (A-D)	Percentage budget spent (F) (D/A)	Explain implementation > 110% for Interim and Final Report and < 90% for Final Report only (G)
All results	Cost common to all results			0	0	0	0%	
R1				0	0	0	0%	
R2		89,421		83,721	83,721	5,699	94%	Cost related to volunteer insurance that was not paid.
R3		21,917		24,844	24,844	-2,927	113%	
R4				0	0	0	0%	
R5		7,900		7,839	7,839	61	99%	
R6				0	0	0	0%	
R7				0	0	0	0%	
R8		10,451		13,640	13,640	-3,189	131%	The pumping price of fuel changed twice during implementation
	<b>Total</b>	<b>129,688</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>130,045</b>	<b>130,045</b>	<b>-357</b>	<b>100%</b>	

