



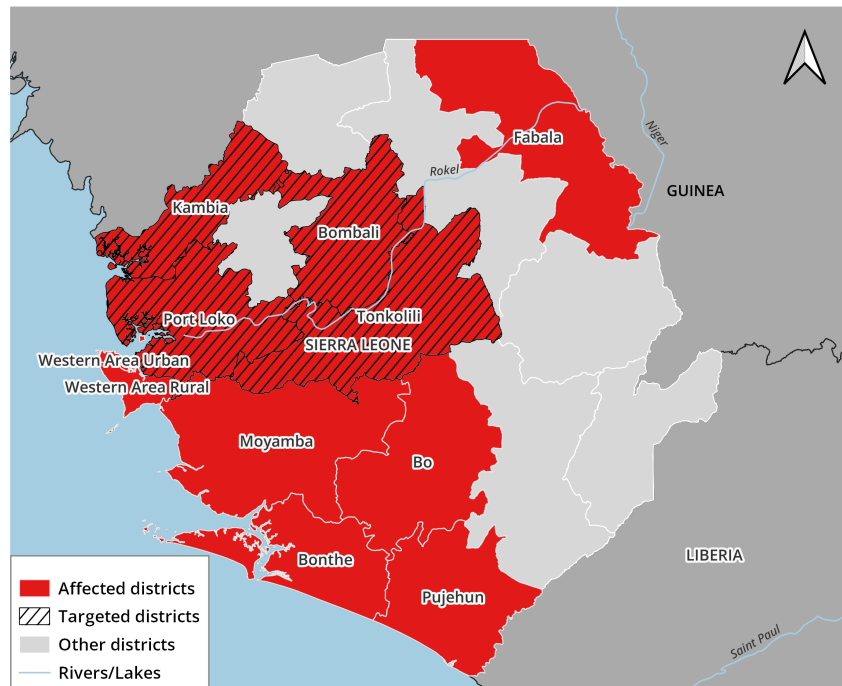
Floods across Sierra Leone

Appeal: MDRSL016	Total DREF Allocation: -	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 23,596 people	People Targeted: 12,610 people	People Assisted: 12,610 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 03-10-2024	Operational End Date: -	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Targeted Regions: Northern, Southern, Western			

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, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event

SIERRA LEONE Floods



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: Sierra Leone RC, OCHA, IFRC. Map produced by: IFRC Africa Region Office

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Map showing floods affected districts and districts covered by the response

Date of event

23-09-2024

What happened, where and when?

By mid-September 2024, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) reported that extensive flooding had occurred across Sierra Leone, severely impacting communities, farmlands, businesses, and infrastructure. By 23 September 2024, the NDMA had documented 27 flood events across multiple districts, which affected 3,330 households and 23,596 people. The hardest-hit areas included Bo, Bonthe, Bombali, Falaba, Kambia, Moyamba, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Pujehun, and the Western Area.

The floods were triggered by heavy rainfall from Guinea, which led to the collapse of 167 buildings, including 27 critical infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship. A total of 7,324 hectares of farmland were inundated, and many roads became impassable, disrupting local economies. Between August and 23 September, further flooding displaced over 50 communities and affected more than 1,500 farmers, jeopardizing both immediate food supplies and longer-term recovery efforts.

On 23 September 2024, the overflow of the Bumbuna Dam, caused by excessive rainfall, led to severe flooding in downstream communities. This incident displaced 716 people and caused significant property losses. Stagnant floodwaters also compromised water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, heightening concerns about waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid, while also increasing the risk of malaria due to mosquito breeding.

The NDMA, in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency, monitored rainfall patterns and confirmed that heavy rains in Guinea, particularly from rivers originating in the Futa Jallon Highlands had worsened the flooding situation. The African Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action Systems had accurately predicted this heavy precipitation, which intensified the crisis in Sierra Leone.

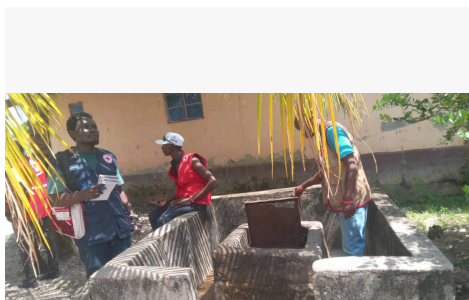
NDMA officials visited affected areas and urged residents to safeguard themselves from waterborne diseases and to ensure the safety of drinking water sources. The agency coordinated with key partners, including the World Food Programme (WFP), the Sierra Leone Red



Cross Society (SLRCS), and the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP), to conduct detailed assessments and deliver humanitarian assistance. Citizens were encouraged to report flood-affected communities and emergencies through the NDMA's toll-free line (1199) or by visiting regional offices across the country.



Training of volunteers to support community engagement



Assessment of drinking water sources



Meeting with stakeholders on target and selection criteria



Meeting with community committee

Scope and Scale

The September 2024 floods in Sierra Leone caused widespread devastation across multiple districts, affecting both rural and urban areas. Significant damage was recorded in Bo, Bonthe, Bombali, Falaba, Kambia, Moyamba, Tonkolili, Port Loko, and Pujehun, as well as the Western Area (Urban and Rural). The hardest-hit communities included:

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

The flooding severely affected the livelihoods of 23,596 people, comprising 3,330 households across 27 communities. Beyond the displacement of residents and destruction of property, the floods inflicted significant economic losses, particularly on farming communities. A total of 167 buildings collapsed, including 27 critical infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship, which further disrupted essential services. Moreover, some 7,324 hectares of farmland were submerged, leading to severe crop losses and threatening food security and long-term recovery for more than 1,500 farmers.

The floods also rendered many roads impassable for over a week, isolating communities from markets, healthcare facilities, and schools, and severely disrupting local economies. Small businesses, which relied heavily on daily trade, were particularly hard hit.

Preliminary assessments confirmed that the floods were primarily caused by heavy rainfall in the Futa Jallon Highlands of Guinea, which led to rivers overflowing into Sierra Leone. The situation further deteriorated on 16 September 2024, when the Bumbuna Dam overflowed due to excessive rainfall. This event displaced 716 people, caused significant property and livelihood losses, and disrupted the electricity supply to downstream communities.

In addition to physical and economic damages, stagnant floodwaters compromised water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid. The accumulation of stagnant water also created breeding grounds for mosquitoes, raising the likelihood of malaria outbreaks in the affected areas.

Source Information

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

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) operates a Country Delegation in Freetown, supporting National Societies in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau. The Delegation focused on operations quality, accountability, and learning, while strengthening the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society's (SLRCS) capacity to manage emergencies effectively.</p> <p>Technical assistance was provided in disaster preparedness, National Society Development, PMER, and financial management. The Delegation also coordinated membership support to enhance SLRCS capabilities and represent the National Society internationally.</p> <p>From the onset of the floods, IFRC worked with SLRCS leadership, the disaster management team, and partners across the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, NGOs, and donors to define roles, share information, and ensure a coordinated response.</p> <p>The IFRC mobilized resources, technical expertise, and funding from its global network to meet urgent needs. Through the DREF response, the Freetown office continued to support SLRCS during implementation, with an operations focal point and technical staff, including PMER officers, providing targeted support to improve efficiency.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The Finnish and British Red Cross Societies supported the SLRCS in strengthening community-based health programming, tree planting and care initiatives, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) programmes, and disaster risk reduction efforts. However, neither Partner National Society allocated funding for the September 2024 flood response.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) did not maintain a physical presence in Sierra Leone but provided remote support through its Abidjan Delegation. It partnered with the SLRCS to strengthen the capacity of committees in regions affected by socio-political and inter-community violence. However, the ICRC did not commit assistance for the September 2024 flood response.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	During the assessment, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) worked closely with the NDMA. Emergency meetings were convened to coordinate humanitarian support for flood-affected populations. The SLRCS delivered first aid, while the NDMA conducted



	situation assessments, coordinated search and rescue operations, and initiated resource mobilization. At that stage, resource mobilization was ongoing, and no formal assistance had been confirmed.
UN or other actors	-

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

A National Inter-Pillar Coordination mechanism, led by the NDMA, was established to manage all partners involved in the response. These meetings provided updates on the disaster situation, discussed response actions, and coordinated efforts to avoid duplication of resources and activities. At the time, priority was given to conducting detailed assessments as new districts continued to report cases.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The September 2024 floods caused substantial losses within affected communities, although the structural integrity of homes largely remained intact. Rapid assessments indicated that, while buildings were not significantly damaged, floodwaters had destroyed or rendered essential household items such as furniture, cooking utensils, bedding, blankets, mats, and kitchen kits unusable.

The assessment highlighted that the priority was not shelter reconstruction, but the replacement of critical household and non-food items (HHIs). The loss of these items had left families without the necessary tools for daily living, affecting hygiene, food preparation, and overall comfort.

Consequently, the response focused on providing replacements for these vital items. Distribution of blankets, mats, and kitchen kits enabled affected families to restore basic living conditions, alleviate immediate hardship, and resume daily routines, thereby supporting their health and hygiene practices.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The communities affected by the September 2024 floods had already been experiencing the severe effects of climate change, which caused frequent and intense climatic shocks that disrupted livelihoods and income-generating activities. The floods further exacerbated these challenges, leaving many families in precarious situations.

The disaster caused significant losses, including the destruction of crops, damage to farming tools, and disruption of local markets, which severely affected livelihoods and created critical shortages of food and income. Affected households faced heightened hardships, including food scarcity and increased difficulty in meeting daily needs.

In response, priority was given to addressing immediate food needs. Providing food assistance was essential to help families recover from the shock, stabilize their living conditions, and begin rebuilding their livelihoods. Without prompt support, these populations risked further deterioration in an already fragile situation.



Health

The health situation among flood-affected populations deteriorated rapidly due to their heightened vulnerability. Immediate interventions were required to prevent increases in waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and related health complications, all of which threatened overall well-being. The rainy season further elevated the risk of malaria, particularly among children and pregnant women. The region had a history of waterborne diseases and malnutrition, which compounded these risks. Consequently, there was an urgent need to distribute mosquito nets and implement awareness and training programs focused on preventing waterborne diseases. Addressing these needs was critical to averting a public health crisis and protecting the health of affected communities.





Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The floods severely disrupted the community's water supply, causing contamination from overflowing latrines and wastewater and creating a critical shortage of safe drinking water. This led to highly unsanitary conditions, which were worsened by increased open defecation. There was an urgent need for essential hygiene and sanitation items, including soap, jerry cans, and the construction of emergency latrines. Water treatment solutions were also required to ensure the safety of available water sources, and physical sanitation of affected living areas was necessary to reduce health risks. Addressing these needs promptly was essential to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases and safeguard the health and safety of the affected communities.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The intervention required a thorough needs analysis that considered gender, diversity, disability, and minority populations to support vulnerable households effectively. There was also a critical need for personal protective equipment (PPE) for response teams, including boots, flashlights, bibs, megaphones, and raincoats, to ensure their safety while operating in affected areas.

Protection, gender, and inclusion were essential, as communities needed to maintain dignity, access to resources, opportunities for participation, and personal safety. Women, girls, men, and boys of different ages, abilities, and backgrounds faced shared risks and specific needs that had to be addressed.

A comprehensive gender and diversity analysis guided the operational strategy, informing distribution schedules and hygiene promotion activities to ensure they met the distinct requirements of all population groups. Addressing these needs was critical to prevent further marginalization of vulnerable groups and to ensure the effectiveness of the overall response.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The response required strong community engagement and the active involvement of administrative authorities at all stages, including assessment, targeting, and distribution. This was essential to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable populations were effectively addressed.

There was also a significant need for a transparent and accountable operational framework, which included establishing beneficiary and non-beneficiary committees. These committees played a key role in managing complaints and facilitating feedback from affected populations. Their active participation helped ensure that interventions were responsive to community needs and fostered trust and cooperation among stakeholders.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The objective of the operation was to provide shelter assistance through the distribution of household and non-food items (HHIs), support livelihoods, and improve health and hygiene practices. The intervention aimed to deliver emergency relief to 1,800 households (12,610 people) affected by the floods in Kambia, Port Loko, Tonkolili, and Bombali districts. The operation was initially planned for four months but was later extended to six months to complete all pending activities and maximize impact.

Operation strategy rationale

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

Based on feedback from past post-distribution monitoring, cash transfers proved effective in helping affected individuals recover according to their specific needs, restoring their dignity by allowing them to choose what was essential for their families and supporting market recovery. The SLRCS had an existing contract with both Orange and Africell, which was utilized during the 2021 floods, the Funkia fire response, the oil tanker explosion, and other response actions. This platform was also used for ongoing projects supported by PNSs to facilitate cash interventions. The same contract was utilized by the NS to support this operation. Continued assessments and



monitoring were conducted to ensure that the operation remained aligned with the evolving situation on the ground, considering forecasts and potential adjustments from partners that could have impacted operational parameters.

This six-month intervention provided comprehensive and targeted support to 1,800 households (12,610 people) in the four districts, focusing on those impacted by the floods in Kambia (874 households), Bombali (445 households), Port Loko (266 households), and Tonkolili (215 households). The strategy was designed to address immediate needs and promote recovery through three key areas: the provision of essential household and non-food items (HHIs), water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, and food support through a cash transfer approach.

1. Livelihoods: Target 1,800 households (12,610 people)

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

2. Shelter: 1,800 households (12,610 people)

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

3. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): 1,800 households (12,610 people)

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

The cash transfer to beneficiaries was provided in two installments. The first transfer included one month of food support (NLE 1,250), cash for household items, and cash for WASH items, all amounting to NLE 3,650. This was immediately followed by post-distribution monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the response and the use of cash for the intended purpose. The second installment covered the second month of food distribution, followed by additional post-distribution monitoring. The overall cash support totaled NLE 4,900 (CHF 184) per household. This approach restored essential items, alleviated immediate burdens, and supported recovery processes.

4. Health: Target 1,800 households (12,610 people)

Health risks were prioritized under this intervention. SLRCS ensured that affected communities and households preserved their health and well-being, and that good health and WASH practices were upheld and improved to reduce the occurrences of waterborne and vector-borne diseases such as malaria and acute watery diarrhea, and to prevent any cholera outbreak. SLRCS also provided first aid and psychosocial support to affected families as necessary. A total of 100 volunteers were trained in PSS, CEA, CVA, First Aid, and Health Promotion. Prevention of the above-mentioned diseases was prioritized in messaging, activities, and relief support deployed.

To support these outcomes, 100 SLRCS volunteers from all four branches were deployed four days a week for 12 weeks to ensure that the community contributed to maintaining functional drainage and waste management systems while increasing awareness of health issues resulting from the floods. This approach helped to prevent and rapidly identify any potential outbreaks.

This integrated response strategy combined cash assistance, WASH interventions, and health promotion to deliver immediate relief while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery and resilience. Local committees oversaw beneficiary selection and fund utilization processes to ensure transparency and community ownership. A market assessment preceded cash distribution to assess feasibility, while post-distribution monitoring evaluated the intervention's effectiveness and allowed for necessary adjustments.

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

The Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) focal point ensured that all volunteers completed online training on sexual and gender-based violence disclosure and referral, with compliance reported in the operation's activity report. Additionally, the Monitoring and Assessment Framework integrated Essential Response Plan questions into future assessments to better identify needs and implement targeted actions.

This participatory strategy was essential for fostering trust, improving operational transparency, and ensuring that the response effectively addressed the specific needs and concerns of the affected communities. SLRCS was well-positioned to lead these efforts,



supported by its trained NDRT, RDRT members, and a volunteer base of over 16,000. The NS developed a multi-hazard plan in collaboration with the NDMA, which was instrumental in guiding this operation, ensuring that interventions were effective and comprehensive in addressing the needs of the affected populations.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The DREF operation aimed to assist 1,800 households (12,610 individuals) affected by the floods in the most impacted districts. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) focused on identifying and prioritizing support for vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and marginalized communities. Community engagement played a key role in addressing the basic needs of the affected population effectively.

A comprehensive registration and profiling system was established to collect data on family size, income, housing conditions, and specific vulnerabilities. This information enabled the creation of detailed beneficiary profiles, which were used to categorize and prioritize aid according to the severity of need. SLRCS utilized these profiles to ensure that the most vulnerable individuals received priority support throughout the operation.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

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

Assessment of Needs:

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

Priority Considerations:

- Households that were classified as poor or near-poor in the latest assessments.
- Households that had not received assistance or had only received minimal support from other agencies.
- Households that lacked a sustainable source of income or livelihoods.

Households with individuals living with disabilities or chronic illnesses.

- Households that were headed by women.
- Households with pregnant or lactating women.
- Households with elderly members (aged over 65 years).
- Households with children under five years old.

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	6,431	Rural	-
Assisted Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Assisted Men	6,179	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Assisted Boys (under 18)	-		
Total Assisted Population	12,610		
Total Targeted Population	12,610		



Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
Present Economic Challenges, especially high and unstable inflation may increase the cost of basic commodities and the general cost of the response.	SLRCS staff and volunteers conducted regular price monitoring, and the procurement team ensured that items were purchased within the first month of the operation. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) staff and volunteers carried out Rapid Market Assessments before determining cash transfer values.
Inadequate community engagement on planned activities may be a source of conflict	Communities were adequately informed of the response scope and selection criteria. SLRCS-trained volunteers and staff in Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) consistently engaged community stakeholders prior to major interventions, such as the distribution of household items and cash.
Recurrence of similar flooding incidents in the same locations	SLRCS continued to coordinate with the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency (SLMeT) and shared alerts with trained community-based volunteers and stakeholders. Communities were engaged on early warning system (EWS) signs during all sensitization sessions and meetings, particularly in areas near the Bumbuna Dam.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

There was a threat of national demonstrations due to political, social, and economic challenges, including high tariffs on utilities, taxes on basic commodities, and widespread hunger, which had persisted since the announcement of the presidential and parliamentary election results in June 2023. To mitigate this risk, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) operated within the Safer Access framework and adhered to its Security Manual, in line with the IFRC Freetown Cluster Delegation's Minimum Security Requirements (MSRs). These measures were applied by all components of the Red Cross Movement in Sierra Leone, including SLRCS management, staff, and volunteers, to ensure safe and effective operations.

Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 96,034

Targeted Persons: 12,610

Assisted Persons: 12,610

Targeted Male: 6,431



Targeted Female: 6,179

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households provided with cash for household items	1,800	1,800
% of households satisfied with the cash provided for household item	80	93
% of households using cash for the purpose it was provided	80	96

Narrative description of achievements

- **Conduct Market Assessment:** SLRCS conducted a market assessment in the affected districts to evaluate the availability, pricing, and accessibility of household items such as bedding, kitchen kits, and other essential non-food items. The assessment identified local suppliers, potential supply constraints, and fair market values, which informed the cash transfer amounts for households. By ensuring that the cash provided matched market realities, the intervention allowed households to purchase the items they needed most, restored essential household functionality, and minimized market disruption. The assessment ensured that the support provided was relevant, timely, and met the immediate needs of affected families.
- **Deployment of Volunteers to Monitor Cash Transfer;** Volunteers were deployed for four days to monitor the cash transfer process, observing distribution activities, verifying beneficiary identity, and addressing any challenges or disputes on the ground. Volunteers also ensured that households understood the purpose of the cash support and how to utilize it appropriately. This monitoring process reinforced accountability, enhanced transparency, and ensured that funds reached the intended households efficiently. The active oversight contributed to high levels of community trust and minimized errors or misuse during cash disbursement.
- **Provision of Cash for Household Kits:** Cash support was successfully provided to 1,800 households to enable the replacement of essential household items, including bedding, kitchen kits, and other non-food essentials. Households were guided on using the funds to restore their living conditions, improve hygiene, and maintain daily routines. Post-distribution feedback indicated that 93% of households were satisfied with the cash provided, and 96% used the funds for their intended purpose, demonstrating the effectiveness and relevance of the intervention. This cash assistance helped families recover essential household items, alleviated immediate hardships, and strengthened their resilience following the flood disaster.

Lessons Learnt

- **Market Assessment is Key:** Conducting a detailed market assessment ensured cash values were appropriate and households could purchase essential items without market disruptions.
- **Volunteer Training and Monitoring Improves Accountability:** Deploying volunteers to monitor distribution reinforced transparency, minimized errors, and increased community trust.
- **Cash Assistance Enhances Dignity and Choice:** Providing cash rather than pre-packaged items allowed households to prioritize their most urgent household needs.
- **High Satisfaction Confirms Relevance:** The fact that 93% of households were satisfied and 96% used the cash as intended demonstrates that the intervention effectively met the priorities of affected communities.
- **Community Engagement is Critical:** Involving beneficiaries and local committees throughout the process ensured transparent targeting and smooth implementation.

Challenges

- **Market Availability:** Limited local supply of household items occasionally required careful sourcing to ensure households could access needed goods.
- **Monitoring Capacity:** Deploying sufficient volunteers to cover all locations for four days posed logistical and coordination challenges.
- **Beneficiary Understanding:** Ensuring that households fully understood the purpose of cash for household kits required extensive communication and guidance.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 0



Targeted Persons: 12,610

Assisted Persons: 12,610

Targeted Male: 6,431

Targeted Female: 6,179

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# HHs that receive cash for two-month nutritional support	1,800	1,800
# of volunteers trained and engaged in cash activities	100	100
% of the target satisfied with the cash provided for food	80	91
% of households using cash for the purpose it was provided	80	91
# of PDM conducted	1	0

Narrative description of achievements

- **Training Volunteers on Cash Transfer and Household Registration:** SLRCS trained 100 volunteers on cash transfer procedures and household registration using the Kobo Collect platform. The training covered beneficiary identification, registration processes, ethical management of cash, data collection, and verification. Volunteers were also trained on safeguarding, accountability, and community engagement to ensure transparency throughout the operation. This preparation enabled volunteers to conduct accurate household registration, maintain secure records, and manage cash transfers efficiently. The training ensured that volunteers were competent and confident in handling cash assistance operations, reducing errors in registration and targeting, and contributing to the smooth implementation of the cash transfer program.
- **Conduct Market Assessment:** SLRCS conducted a comprehensive market assessment in Kambia, Port Loko, Tonkolili, and Bombali districts to evaluate the availability, pricing, and accessibility of essential food commodities. The assessment process involved collecting data on local market conditions, identifying potential supply constraints, and determining appropriate cash transfer values for affected households. This ensured that the cash provided would meet nutritional needs and support household food security. By basing the cash transfer on market realities, the operation enabled beneficiaries to access essential goods without causing market disruptions, ensuring the intervention was both relevant and effective.
- **Set Up Targeting Committees and Brief Beneficiary Households:** Targeting committees were established in each affected community, comprising local leaders, volunteers, and SLRCS representatives. These committees verified beneficiary lists and ensured transparent selection of households based on vulnerability criteria, including children, the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and marginalized groups. Beneficiary households were briefed on the purpose of the cash assistance, the disbursement process, and accountability mechanisms. This process ensured that the most vulnerable households were prioritized and understood how to safely access and use the support. The committees and briefings enhanced fairness, transparency, and community trust, which contributed to smooth implementation and positive engagement throughout the operation.
- **Transfer of Cash to 1,800 Households:** Cash transfers were successfully disbursed to 1,800 households, providing two months of nutritional support. The process included verification of beneficiary identity, secure distribution of cash, and guidance to households on appropriate use. Volunteers monitored the distribution, ensuring accountability and promptly addressing any issues. The cash support enabled families to purchase essential food items, stabilize household nutrition, and reduce immediate financial pressures caused by the floods. By allowing households to meet their own needs directly, the intervention helped maintain dignity, strengthened resilience, and improved overall household well-being.
- **Deploy Volunteers to Monitor Cash Transfer Activities:** SLRCS deployed volunteers for three days to monitor the cash distribution process, observing the accuracy of transfers, addressing discrepancies, and providing on-the-ground support. Volunteers reported daily on challenges and successes, ensuring transparency and accountability. Their involvement helped prevent errors and misuse of funds while reinforcing community confidence in the intervention. This monitoring contributed to the smooth operation of cash transfers, strengthened trust between beneficiaries and SLRCS, and ensured that households received the intended support effectively.
- **Conduct Post Distribution Monitoring:** Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) was conducted over three days by 40 trained volunteers to assess the effectiveness and relevance of the cash transfers. Volunteers collected feedback from beneficiaries on satisfaction with the support and how the cash was utilized. The monitoring revealed that 91% of households were satisfied with the cash provided for food, and 91% of households used the cash for its intended purpose. This process not only confirmed that the intervention met the immediate nutritional needs of the affected population but also reinforced accountability, validated the impact of the cash assistance, and provided valuable insights for improving the planning and implementation of future cash-based programs.



Lessons Learnt

- Comprehensive training of volunteers on cash transfer procedures, household registration, safeguarding, and accountability significantly improved operational efficiency and accuracy.
- Establishing targeting committees and conducting thorough briefings ensured transparency, built trust, and minimized conflicts during cash distribution.
- Conducting market assessments prior to cash distribution allowed for appropriate transfer values, ensuring households could meet their nutritional needs without market disruption.
- Deploying volunteers for distribution oversight and PDM confirmed that 91% of households were satisfied and 91% used the cash as intended, demonstrating the value of robust monitoring systems.
- Collecting real-time feedback from beneficiaries enabled adjustments to improve subsequent distributions and informed planning for future cash-based livelihood interventions.

Challenges

Handling cash in communities posed inherent risks, requiring strict adherence to safeguarding and transparency measures to prevent misuse or fraud.



Budget: CHF 13,873

Targeted Persons: 12,610

Assisted Persons: 12,610

Targeted Male: 6,431

Targeted Female: 6,179

Indicators

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

Narrative description of achievements

- Training of Volunteers on PSS, First Aid, EPIC, and Health Promotion: SLRCS trained 100 volunteers over three days on Psychosocial Support (PSS), First Aid, Epidemic Prevention and Control (EPIC), and health promotion. The training included essential skills for providing immediate health assistance, promoting hygiene practices, and delivering psychosocial support to affected communities. Volunteers were also trained on safe use of personal protective equipment and community engagement techniques to ensure transparency and effectiveness. This preparation enabled volunteers to provide accurate first aid, promote preventive health measures, and support mental wellbeing efficiently. The training strengthened volunteer confidence, improved service delivery, and contributed to the overall effectiveness and professionalism of the health response.
- Provision of First Aid to Injured Persons: Volunteers provided immediate first aid to injured persons in the flood-affected communities, addressing minor cuts, wounds, and injuries caused by flood-related hazards. The timely intervention minimized the risk of infections, reduced complications, and prevented further deterioration of health conditions. Providing first aid also reinforced community trust in the SLRCS as a reliable emergency response partner and contributed to the safety and wellbeing of affected populations.
- Distribution of Mosquito Nets and Community Training: A total of 1,800 households received two mosquito nets per household to prevent malaria, particularly among children and pregnant women. Volunteers conducted community training on the proper installation and use of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), ensuring that beneficiaries could use them effectively. This intervention reduced the risk of malaria outbreaks and strengthened community capacity for disease prevention, protecting vulnerable populations from vector-borne illnesses.
- Provision of Psychosocial Support (PSS): SLRCS volunteers provided psychosocial support to individuals and families affected by the floods, addressing stress, trauma, and anxiety. PSS activities included counseling, emotional support, and referral to specialized care where necessary. These interventions improved mental wellbeing, enhanced resilience, and complemented physical health support,



ensuring a holistic approach to community recovery.

- Production of Hygiene Promotion Materials and Campaigns: SLRCS produced hygiene promotion materials, including posters and IEC tools, and conducted hygiene and sanitation campaigns twice a week for three months. The campaigns focused on cleaning households, water sources, and latrines, promoting handwashing, and educating communities on preventing waterborne diseases. This approach improved health awareness, reduced risks of cholera, typhoid, and other waterborne illnesses, and strengthened community practices for maintaining clean and safe environments.
- Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Volunteers and staff were provided with personal protective equipment, including gloves, boots, mufflers, and raincoats, to ensure safety while working in flood-affected areas. Proper use of PPE allowed volunteers to conduct health and hygiene activities safely, reducing exposure to contaminated water and debris, and maintaining uninterrupted health service delivery.

Lessons Learnt

- Comprehensive volunteer training on PSS, first aid, EPIC, and health promotion significantly improved service delivery quality.
- Combining first aid, PSS, mosquito nets, and hygiene promotion ensured holistic support to affected populations.
- Training households on LLIN use and hygiene practices increased adoption of preventive measures and strengthened resilience.
- Continuous supervision and engagement ensured that interventions met the actual needs of the population and enhanced accountability.
- Proper provision and use of protective equipment maintained volunteer safety, allowing uninterrupted health services in challenging conditions.

Challenges

- Some communities were difficult to reach due to flooded roads and damaged infrastructure, delaying health service delivery.
- Coordinating and managing volunteers across multiple locations for health, hygiene, and PSS activities posed logistical challenges.
- Ensuring that all households understood health guidance, proper use of mosquito nets, and hygiene practices required repeated engagement and follow-ups.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 81,928

Targeted Persons: 12,610

Assisted Persons: 12,610

Targeted Male: 6,431

Targeted Female: 6,179

Indicators

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

Narrative description of achievements

- Training of Volunteers on Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation Promotion: SLRCS trained 100 volunteers on water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) promotion, including waterborne disease prevention, menstrual hygiene, Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV), and the use of MILDAs (Mobile Integrated Learning and Data Application). The training equipped volunteers with the skills to educate communities on safe water storage, sanitation practices, and disease prevention. This preparation ensured that volunteers could deliver accurate and



consistent health messaging, conduct hygiene promotion campaigns effectively, and provide practical guidance to households. The training enhanced volunteer confidence, improved community engagement, and strengthened the overall quality and impact of WASH interventions in affected areas.

- **Initial WASH Assessment:** SLRCS conducted a comprehensive initial assessment of the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation in target communities. The assessment identified gaps in access to safe drinking water, functioning latrines, hygiene resources, and knowledge on proper water treatment. By understanding the baseline WASH conditions, the team was able to prioritize interventions, target the most vulnerable households, and design appropriate health promotion and resource distribution strategies. This ensured that the response was evidence-based, timely, and aligned with community needs.
- **Continuous WASH Monitoring:** Volunteers and staff continuously monitored WASH conditions in the target communities, tracking the availability and safety of drinking water, the condition of sanitation facilities, and hygiene practices. Regular monitoring allowed rapid identification of issues, informed adjustments to interventions, and ensured that support reached households effectively. This ongoing supervision reinforced accountability, promoted safe WASH practices, and maintained community trust in the response activities.
- **Sanitation Campaigns;** SLRCS organized six sanitation campaigns (two per month for the first three months) in the affected communities. These campaigns involved cleaning households, communal areas, water sources, and latrines, as well as educating residents on proper hygiene practices. The campaigns reduced environmental contamination, lowered the risk of waterborne diseases, and strengthened community capacity for maintaining clean and safe surroundings. Participation of volunteers and community members fostered collective responsibility and encouraged sustained improvements in hygiene behavior.
- **Community Training on Safe Water Storage and Treatment;** Volunteers provided training to households on the safe storage of drinking water and the proper use of water treatment products. This education ensured that families could protect themselves from waterborne diseases and maintain a safe household water supply. By combining practical demonstrations with awareness messaging, communities were empowered to adopt sustainable hygiene practices, improve household health, and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks.
- **Provision of Cash for WASH Items:** Cash support was transferred to 1,800 households to enable the purchase of essential WASH items as part of the Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) intervention. Households were guided on using the funds for items such as soap, water containers, and water treatment solutions. The cash assistance ensured that families had the necessary resources to maintain hygiene and access safe water. Post-intervention feedback and monitoring confirmed that all targeted households received support; 12,600 people were reached with key messages on health promotion and hygiene; and households had access to safe drinking water. The cash-based approach provided households with flexibility to meet their specific WASH needs, improved sanitation standards, and contributed to long-term health benefits.

Lessons Learnt

- **Continuous Monitoring Strengthens Impact:** Regular assessment and monitoring of WASH conditions allowed rapid response to emerging issues and ensured that households maintained access to safe water and sanitation.
- **Sanitation Campaigns Promote Behavior Change:** Active community involvement in hygiene and sanitation campaigns enhanced adoption of safe practices and encouraged shared responsibility for maintaining clean environments.
- **Cash Assistance Increases Flexibility and Satisfaction:** Providing households with cash for WASH items empowered them to prioritize their specific needs, improving satisfaction and ensuring proper use of resources.
- **Community Education Complements Material Support:** Combining resource provision with training on water storage, treatment, and hygiene practices reinforced behavior change and reduced the risk of waterborne diseases.

Challenges

- **Flooded roads and damaged infrastructure** delayed the delivery of WASH items and hindered volunteer movement for monitoring and campaigns.
- **Community Awareness:** Some households initially struggled to adopt proper water storage and hygiene practices, requiring repeated engagement and follow-ups.
- **Supply of WASH Items:** Ensuring timely availability of essential WASH items for cash-supported households occasionally posed challenges due to local market constraints.
- **Environmental Hazards:** Volunteers faced risks related to contaminated water, debris, and unsafe sanitation facilities while conducting campaigns and monitoring activities.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 12,610

Assisted Persons: 12,610

Targeted Male: 6,431

Targeted Female: 6,179



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers briefed on PGI and PSEA and the implementation of PGI minimum standards	100	100
# of people reached with PGI and PSEA sensitizations by volunteers	12,600	12,610

Narrative description of achievements

- Staff Briefing on PGI and PSEA: A total of 10 SLRCS staff were briefed on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), as well as Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) principles. The briefing covered the implementation of PGI minimum standards across all sectors, ensuring that staff were aware of their responsibilities, safeguarding procedures, and approaches to protecting vulnerable groups during interventions. This preparation enabled staff to integrate protection measures into planning and implementation, improving accountability, reducing risks for vulnerable populations, and fostering an inclusive and safe environment throughout the operation.
- Volunteer Briefing on PGI and PSEA: 100 volunteers were briefed on PGI and PSEA during other sectoral trainings, including WASH and health interventions. The briefing emphasized identifying vulnerable groups, promoting equality and inclusion, and preventing and reporting any incidents of exploitation or abuse. Volunteers were also trained on engaging communities respectfully and safely, ensuring that assistance reached the most vulnerable individuals without discrimination. This preparation strengthened the volunteers' capacity to apply PGI principles during field activities, increasing the protection and dignity of affected populations.
- PGI and PSEA Sensitization of the Affected Population: The 100 trained volunteers actively conducted PGI and PSEA sensitization activities with the affected population during ongoing interventions such as WASH and health campaigns. They provided guidance on recognizing and reporting abuse, promoted equal access to services, and reinforced safe and inclusive practices at community level. These sensitizations reached 12,600 people, ensuring that community members were aware of their rights, protection mechanisms, and how to access assistance safely. The integration of PGI and PSEA into all sectoral activities enhanced accountability, safeguarded vulnerable groups, and promoted dignity and inclusion throughout the flood response operation.

Lessons Learnt

- Training Strengthens Safeguarding: Briefing both staff and volunteers on PGI and PSEA principles ensured consistent application of protection standards throughout all interventions.
- Community Sensitization is Essential: Actively engaging affected populations in PGI and PSEA awareness increased knowledge, improved reporting, and promoted safe and inclusive access to services.
- Integration Across Sectors Works: Embedding PGI principles within existing activities, such as WASH and health campaigns, proved effective for reaching large numbers of people without requiring separate interventions.
- Empowering Communities Enhances Protection: Providing information on rights, reporting channels, and safe practices strengthened the overall protection environment and fostered community trust in the response.

Challenges

- Integration Across Sectors: Ensuring consistent application of PGI principles across multiple sectors (WASH, Health, Livelihoods, Shelter) required close coordination and supervision.
- Volunteer Capacity: While volunteers received briefings on PGI and PSEA, applying these principles in complex field situations sometimes required additional support and guidance.
- Sensitive Reporting: Encouraging individuals to report protection concerns or abuse was challenging due to social stigma, fear, or lack of trust in reporting mechanisms.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 5,137

Targeted Persons: 12,610

Assisted Persons: 12,610

Targeted Male: 6,431

Targeted Female: 6,179



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of Community stakeholder meetings	4	6
# of volunteers involved in CEA activities	100	100
% of feedback received and responded to	80	97
# of staff and volunteers oriented and mobilized in raising awareness of the CEA and minimum standards	100	100
# of people reached with CEA messages	12,610	12,610

Narrative description of achievements

- **Training Volunteers on CEA to Support Operational Activities:** SLRCS trained 100 volunteers on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) principles and practices to strengthen their role in supporting operational activities. The training emphasized the importance of accountability, transparency, community participation, and inclusiveness. Volunteers were equipped with skills to listen actively, document feedback, and communicate clearly with communities. By integrating CEA into the operation, volunteers ensured that actions were aligned with community needs and priorities, improved the trust between beneficiaries and the organization, and enhanced the effectiveness of the response.
- **Organizing Community Meetings to Validate Criteria and Beneficiary Lists:** Six community stakeholder meetings were conducted across the affected districts to validate the selection criteria and final beneficiary lists. These meetings brought together traditional leaders, local authorities, community representatives, and marginalized groups to ensure transparency and fairness in the targeting process. This participatory approach strengthened community ownership of the intervention, reduced the risk of conflicts, and ensured that the most vulnerable households were accurately identified and prioritized for assistance.
- **Engaging a Broad Spectrum of Community Members:** Throughout the operation, SLRCS made deliberate efforts to engage a wide range of community members, including women, youth, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. This approach ensured that diverse perspectives and needs were captured in the planning and implementation of activities. Incorporating voices that are often overlooked promoted inclusiveness, minimized the risk of exclusion, and ensured that services addressed the unique needs of all affected groups.
- **Incorporating Local Knowledge and Practices:** Local knowledge and practices related to flood management and response were incorporated into intervention strategies. Community members shared their experiences, coping mechanisms, and traditional practices during discussions, which helped inform early warning and preparedness actions. Leveraging local knowledge not only improved the relevance of interventions but also built community confidence and trust in the operation.
- **Establishing Two-Way Communication Channels:** SLRCS established continuous two-way communication channels between community members, volunteers, and authorities. Information on intervention plans, selection criteria, and distribution timelines was shared, while feedback and complaints from households were collected and addressed promptly. This system fostered transparency, promoted accountability, and enabled real-time adjustments to meet community needs effectively.
- **Using Multiple Platforms for Information Dissemination:** To maximize outreach, SLRCS used multiple platforms including community meetings, radio, posters, and social media to share updates on the flood response. This ensured that timely and accurate information reached all affected households, regardless of literacy levels or access to technology. Disseminating information through diverse platforms increased awareness, reduced misinformation, and kept communities engaged throughout the response.
- **Setting Up Community Feedback Mechanisms:** Community Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) were established to collect and address community complaints, feedback, and suggestions. Households could provide input through meetings, suggestion boxes, and direct communication with volunteers. Approximately 97% of feedback received was responded to, reflecting the effectiveness of the system in building trust and ensuring accountability. The CFM also helped SLRCS identify gaps, adapt early actions, and improve service delivery in real time.
- **Conducting Awareness Campaigns and Education Programs:** Regular awareness campaigns and educational sessions were conducted in the affected districts, focusing on flood risks, early warning signs, and appropriate response actions. These activities reached over 12,600 people and empowered communities with the knowledge to act quickly and effectively during flood events. By raising awareness, the campaigns strengthened preparedness and reduced the potential impact of future floods.
- **Ensuring Transparency in Decision-Making and Resource Allocation:** SLRCS ensured transparency throughout the response by keeping communities informed about how decisions were made, how resources were allocated, and how distributions were conducted. Clear communication about processes reduced misconceptions, improved accountability, and strengthened trust between the NS and the affected population.
- **Communication Work and Media Coverage:** Communication efforts were undertaken to ensure adequate media coverage of volunteer



activities and highlight the impact of the operation. Media engagement increased the visibility of the response, promoted community trust, and demonstrated the commitment of SLRCS to accountability and transparency.

Lessons Learnt

- Training volunteers in CEA significantly improved accountability, transparency, and the alignment of activities with community needs.
- Community Meetings Build Ownership: Validating criteria and lists through community meetings enhanced fairness, reduced conflicts, and fostered ownership.
- Multiple Communication Platforms Work Best: Using diverse platforms ensured wide outreach and helped overcome literacy and access barriers.
- Inclusion Enhances Impact: Engaging marginalized groups ensured diverse perspectives and made the intervention more equitable and effective.

Challenges

- Disseminating information and collecting feedback in hard-to-reach locations was challenging due to damaged roads and limited communication infrastructure.
- Multiple dialects in the affected districts made it difficult to ensure uniform understanding of messages.
- Limited Resources for Awareness: While campaigns reached many people, limited logistical resources constrained the ability to scale up awareness activities even further.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 6,479

Targeted Persons: 4

Assisted Persons: 3

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of technical support missions conducted by IFRC	4	3
# of coordination meetings attended	6	9

Narrative description of achievements

- IFRC Technical Support Mission and Monitoring Visits: The IFRC conducted three technical support missions and monitoring visits to operational branches during the flood response operation. These missions provided the SLRCS with hands-on technical guidance on planning, implementation, and reporting. The visits also included on-site monitoring of activities to ensure compliance with DREF standards and alignment with operational objectives. This technical engagement improved accountability, strengthened operational quality, and provided staff and volunteers with practical support to address challenges. The missions also ensured that global best practices were applied, enhancing the overall effectiveness and impact of the response.
- Participation in Coordination Meetings: SLRCS, supported by the IFRC, actively participated in nine coordination meetings with government authorities, humanitarian partners, and other stakeholders. These meetings served as platforms for sharing updates, aligning strategies, and ensuring complementarity with other actors. Active participation strengthened SLRCS's visibility within the humanitarian space, reinforced trust among partners, and improved coordination to avoid duplication of efforts. By contributing to these forums, the NS also influenced decision-making processes to prioritize the needs of flood-affected communities.
- Volunteers Insurance: As part of safeguarding measures, all volunteers engaged in the flood response operation were covered by insurance. This provision ensured that volunteers had protection in the event of injury, illness, or other risks while carrying out field activities. The availability of insurance boosted volunteer morale, enhanced their confidence while working in high-risk environments, and demonstrated SLRCS's commitment to duty of care. Ensuring volunteer safety contributed to sustained engagement and high-quality service delivery throughout the operation.



Lessons Learnt

- **Technical Support Strengthens Quality:** On-site technical missions by IFRC proved essential in reinforcing operational quality and should be planned more frequently in future responses.
- **Active Coordination Builds Influence:** Regular participation in coordination meetings enhanced SLRCS's visibility and influence, ensuring the voice of affected communities was represented in decision-making.

Challenges

Coordination Fatigue: Multiple coordination platforms sometimes overlapped, leading to time constraints for staff balancing both operational duties and meeting participation.



Budget: CHF 54,624

Targeted Persons: 100

Assisted Persons: 100

Targeted Male: 68

Targeted Female: 32

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned, workshop conducted	1	1
# of monitoring conducted by SLRCS Head Quarter Office staff	8	11
# of documentaries produced (video and case studies)	2	1

Narrative description of achievements

- **Ensure Coordination and Public Relations:** SLRCS maintained continuous coordination and public relations throughout the flood response operation. Regular meetings were held with partners, government agencies, and community representatives to align strategies, share updates, and ensure effective communication of response activities. Public awareness campaigns were conducted to inform communities about ongoing interventions, eligibility criteria for assistance, and safety measures. These efforts improved transparency, strengthened trust between stakeholders, and enhanced community participation in the operation.
- **Programme Monitoring Conducted by NS Team:** The SLRCS National Headquarters staff conducted 11 monitoring visits during the operation. These visits assessed the progress of activities, verified the delivery of household and non-food items, and evaluated the effectiveness of health, WASH, and livelihood interventions. Monitoring reports provided real-time feedback to field teams, enabling prompt corrective actions and ensuring that the most vulnerable households received priority support. This monitoring also contributed to evidence-based decision-making and improved overall operational efficiency.
- **Documentary Production on Flood Response Activities:** A documentary, including video footage and case studies, was produced to capture the key activities and impact of the flood response. The documentary highlighted the challenges faced, interventions implemented, and lessons learned from the operation. It served as a tool for knowledge sharing, advocacy, and donor engagement, providing a visual record of the achievements and experiences of both the affected communities and response teams.
- **Lessons Learned Workshop:** A two-day lessons learned workshop was conducted at the end of the operation, bringing together beneficiaries, volunteers, partners, and staff from both headquarters and branch offices. The workshop reviewed the effectiveness of interventions, identified best practices, and highlighted areas for improvement. Feedback from participants informed recommendations for future flood response operations, enhanced accountability mechanisms, and strengthened the capacity of SLRCS and its partners to respond efficiently to similar disasters.
- **Ensure Compliance with Reporting and Accompany the Process:** SLRCS ensured full compliance with reporting requirements throughout the operation. Reports were prepared and submitted in line with DREF and IFRC guidelines, documenting the distribution of household and non-food items, health and WASH activities, and beneficiary engagement. Regular reviews and accompaniment of field reporting processes helped maintain accuracy, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that decision-makers had access to reliable data for operational planning and evaluation.
- **Staff Training on Data Management, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Evidence-Based Reporting:** Staff and volunteers received training on



data management, monitoring and evaluation, and evidence-based reporting to improve the quality and reliability of operational data. The training enhanced staff capacity to collect, analyze, and report information accurately, supporting better decision-making and ensuring that response activities were guided by evidence. This capacity-building initiative contributed to the overall efficiency, accountability, and effectiveness of the operation.

Lessons Learnt

- **Community Engagement is Critical:** Early and continuous involvement of communities helped identify needs accurately, improve targeting, and foster trust.
- **Comprehensive Data Collection Enhances Response:** Detailed registration and profiling of beneficiaries enabled prioritization of vulnerable groups and improved resource allocation.
- **Coordination Mechanisms Strengthen Efficiency:** Regular coordination meetings among NDMA, SLRCS, IFRC, and partners reduced duplication and enhanced operational coherence.
- **Capacity Building Improves Quality and Leaves Lasting Impact:** Training staff and volunteers on monitoring, evaluation, data management, and evidence-based reporting strengthened accountability and built long-term institutional capacity.
- **Documentation and Knowledge Sharing Adds Value:** Producing a documentary and conducting a lessons learned workshop captured experiences to inform future flood responses.
- **Preparedness for Recurring Floods is Essential:** Establishing early warning systems and sensitizing communities improved readiness for potential future flooding events.
- **Monitoring Visits Drive Accountability:** Regular HQ monitoring ensured transparency, allowed real-time adjustments, and improved quality of service delivery.
- **Visibility and Advocacy are Strengthened Through Documentation:** The documentary boosted visibility of SLRCS activities and created a strong advocacy tool.
- **Workshops Promote Organizational Learning:** Multi-stakeholder lessons learned workshops brought diverse perspectives and strengthened disaster preparedness.
- **Reporting Systems Build Credibility:** Strengthened compliance with reporting requirements enhanced transparency, accountability, and donor confidence.

Challenges

- **Access to Remote Areas:** Flooded roads and collapsed bridges hindered access to some affected communities, delaying relief delivery and assessments.
- **Weather Conditions:** Ongoing heavy rains and waterlogging occasionally disrupted field operations and community engagement activities.
- **Coordination Complexity:** Managing multiple stakeholders including government agencies, NGOs, and Red Cross Movement partners required continuous communication to prevent duplication and ensure efficient resource use.
- **Health Risks:** Stagnant floodwaters and disrupted WASH facilities increased risks of waterborne diseases, necessitating urgent health and hygiene interventions.
- **Security Concerns:** Political tensions and potential demonstrations required careful adherence to security protocols to ensure the safety of staff and volunteers.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	* Operation MDRSL016
Budget Timeframe	* Budget APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 26/Nov/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRSL016 - Sierra Leone - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 04 Oct 2024 to 30 Apr 2025

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	470,306
DREF Response Pillar	470,306
Expenditure	-467,892
Closing Balance	2,414

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			0
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	333,283	324,377	8,906
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	333,283	324,377	8,906
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	6,489	2,183	4,305
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	130,534	141,332	-10,798
Enabling Approaches Total	137,023	143,515	-6,492
Grand Total	470,306	467,892	2,414

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

Please explain variances (if any)

- The Secretariat Services line had a budget of 6,488.83, with actual expenditures of 2,183.42, resulting in a positive variance of 4,305.41. This variance occurred because the budget was overestimated during the planning stage, with reduced cost towards stationery and office related costs, hence actual costs were lower than anticipated. The resulting savings were reallocated to cover gaps in other budget lines.
- The National Society Development line had a budget of 130,534, with actual expenditures of 141,331.74, leading to a negative variance of 10,797.74. This slight over-expenditure reflects that the budget for these activities was underestimated, requiring the use of savings from other lines to meet the additional costs.



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for reference](#)

