

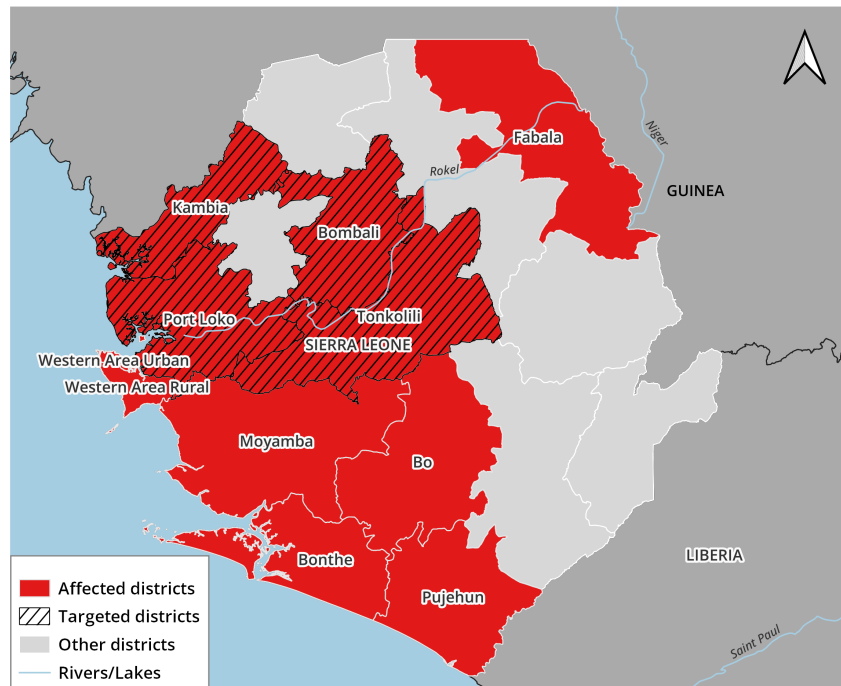


Floods across Sierra Leone

Appeal: MDRSL016	Total DREF Allocation: -	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 23,596 people	People Targeted: 12,610 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 03-10-2024	New Operational End Date: 30-04-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 03-10-2024		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 30-04-2025	
Additional Allocation Requested: -		Targeted Areas: Northern, Southern, Western	

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

0 2 4 km

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 extensive flooding across Sierra Leone, significantly impacting communities, farmlands, businesses, and infrastructure. By 23 September 2024, the NDMA had identified 27 flood events across multiple districts, affecting 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.

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

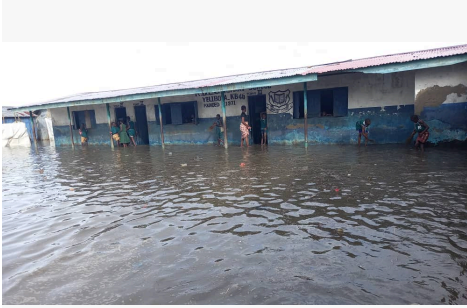
On 23 September 2024, the overflow of the Bumbuna Dam due to excessive rainfall led to severe flooding in downstream communities, displacing 716 people and causing significant property losses. Stagnant floodwaters also compromised water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, raising concerns about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

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

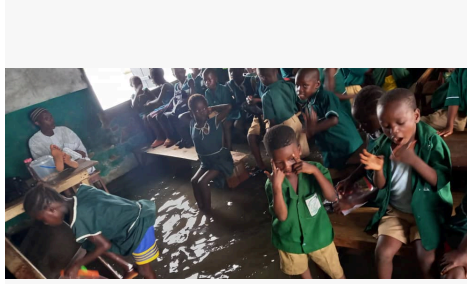
NDMA officials visited affected areas, urging residents to protect themselves from waterborne diseases and ensure the safety of drinking water sources. The agency coordinated with partners such as the World Food Programme (WFP), Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS),



and the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP) to conduct detailed assessments and deliver an effective humanitarian response. Citizens were encouraged to report flood-affected communities or emergencies via the NDMA's toll-free line (1199) or by visiting regional offices across the country.



Flood affecting education system



Flood water in class room



Flooded community in the north



Flooding in Kamasondo Port Loko

Floods in port loko



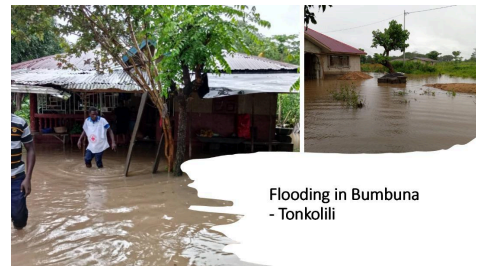
Flooding in Kakua Chiefdom – Bo District

Floods in Bo



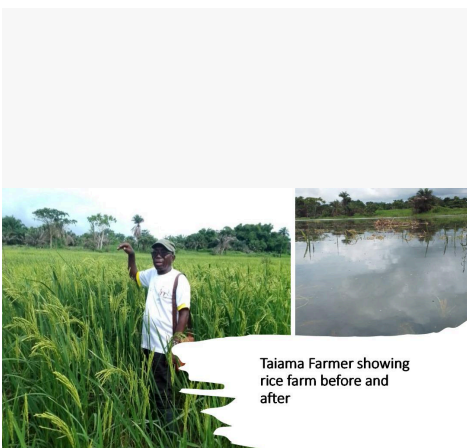
Building collapses in Mambolo

floods destroying houses in Mambolo



Flooding in Bumbuna - Tonkolili

Overflow of Bumbuna dam resulting to floods

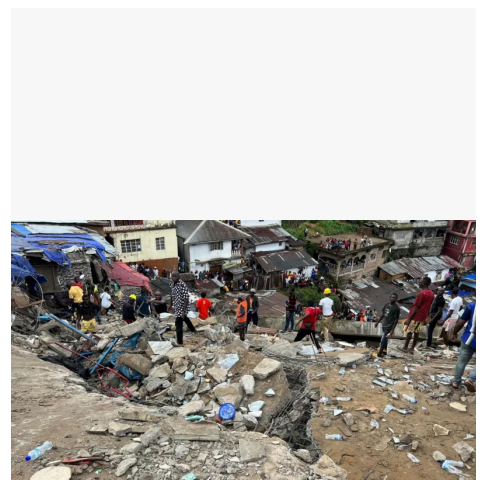


Taiama Farmer showing rice farm before and after

Flood submerging agricultural lands



a seven-story building in Freetown



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 reported in key districts, including Bo, Bonthe, Bombali, Falaba, Kambia, Moyamba, Tonkolili, Port Loko, and Pujehun, along with the Western Area (Urban and Rural). The hardest-hit areas 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. Besides displacing residents and destroying property, the floods led to significant economic losses, particularly among vulnerable farming populations. A total of 167 buildings, including 27 critical infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship, collapsed, further disrupting essential services. Additionally, 7,324 hectares of farmland were submerged, resulting in substantial crop losses that threatened food security and the long-term economic recovery of over 1,500 farmers.

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

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

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

Source Information

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

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:



There have been no changes to the initial response plan and budget. The Operations Update requests a two-month no-cost extension to support the completion of pending activities.

The extension is requested primarily because of the delay on fund transfers to the NS due to ERP challenge. When transfer was finally done, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) asked for refining the intervention to align with the ongoing partners response.

Progress on the implementation: 75% of the response is implemented. The remaining activities are:

- Post-distribution monitoring survey following cash transfer
- Documentary and success stories
- Continue with awareness raising on the proper use of mosquito nets
- Continue monitoring of household water treatments and purification
- Outstanding Payment of vendors/service providers
- Lessons Learned workshop

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

23-09-2024

Coordination	<p>Since the onset of the disaster, the SLRCS actively coordinated its efforts with both internal and external partners within the Red Cross Movement. As an auxiliary to public authorities, the SLRCS maintained strong collaboration with various government entities at both the district and national levels. The SLRCS participated in coordination meetings and working group forums organized in partnership with public authorities, which served as key platforms for information sharing, planning, analysis, and strategic coordination. Response teams were responsible for ensuring active engagement, effective coordination, and collaboration with government agencies and other stakeholders at all levels.</p>
National Society Readiness	<p>The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has a robust national presence and deeply rooted networks, enabling it to effectively reach vulnerable communities, including those in remote and hard-to-access regions where other humanitarian organizations struggled to operate. With extensive experience across a wide range of humanitarian programming, the SLRCS benefited from strong support and collaboration within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the IFRC, ICRC, and Partner National Societies (PNS) such as the British and Finnish Red Cross Societies.</p> <p>The SLRCS was well-equipped for rapid response and assessment, with more than 24 trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members and over 10 active Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members. This was further complemented by a volunteer base of over 16,000 individuals. Additionally, the SLRCS had completed a Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) and collaborated with partners and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to develop a multi-hazard plan that was instrumental in guiding operations. Operating through 14 branches, the SLRCS was strategically positioned to lead comprehensive preparedness and response efforts in close coordination with government authorities, ensuring both immediate relief and long-term resilience-building.</p>
Assessment	<p>A detailed multi-sectoral assessment of the flood-affected communities was conducted led by the NS. The findings provided comprehensive insights into the extent of the damage and the specific needs of the affected households. Meanwhile, 40 Red Cross volunteers in the impacted branches, coordinated by members of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), carried out a rapid assessment. This preliminary data, along with the situation report from the NDMA, provided essential information on the immediate damage and urgent needs, forming the basis for the response efforts.</p>



Resource Mobilization	The NDMA mobilized resources from partners to support flood-affected populations. However, this effort was ongoing, and no formal assistance had been announced at the time. In light of this situation, the National Society (NS) developed an action plan focused on essential response areas and sought support from partners to deliver comprehensive aid to the affected communities.
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IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC is operating a Country Delegation in Freetown, delivering essential support for the preparedness and response initiatives of National Societies in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau. This Cluster Delegation is comprising experienced professionals specializing in operations quality, accountability, and learning. By bolstering the organizational development and resilience of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, the delegation is ensuring that it is better equipped to handle future emergencies both efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>The Delegation is providing technical assistance across a range of areas, including disaster preparedness and response, National Society Development, planning, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and reporting (PMER), as well as financial management. It is coordinating support from its membership to enhance the capabilities of the SLRCS, strengthen its organizational framework, and represent the NS on the global stage.</p> <p>From the beginning of the flood response, the IFRC Country Delegation has been working closely with SLRCS leadership and the disaster management team to outline intervention areas, define roles, and establish responsibilities. This collaborative effort is including partners from the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, national and international NGOs, and donors, ensuring a cohesive and effective response. Established communication channels and protocols are enabling real-time information sharing and decision-making, facilitating swift and coordinated actions on the ground.</p> <p>The IFRC is utilizing its extensive network of partners and stakeholders to enhance response efforts, obtaining resources, technical expertise, and funding support from the global Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian entities. This collaborative approach is guaranteeing that the assistance from the IFRC's membership is being efficiently coordinated and focused on the most pressing needs immediately following a disaster.</p> <p>Through this DREF response, the IFRC country office in Freetown is continuing to support the SLRCS throughout the implementation phase, ensuring ongoing capacity to meet both immediate and evolving needs. The Cluster Delegation is designating an operations focal point to aid in the initial response phase, while technical staff, including the PMER officer, are undertaking support missions to improve operational efficiency.</p>
Participating National Societies	The Finnish and British Red Cross Societies are actively assisting the SLRCS in enhancing capacity for community-based health programming, tree planting and care initiatives, SGBV programmes, and disaster risk reduction efforts. While neither of these Partner National Societies (PNSs) has allocated funding for the current response

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

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



Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	Since the assessment began, the SLRCS worked in close collaboration with the NDMA. In response to the authorities' call for assistance, emergency meetings were convened to seek support from humanitarian organizations for flood-affected populations. The SLRCS actively provided first aid, while the NDMA focused on assessing the situation, facilitating search and rescue operations, and mobilizing resources from partners to assist affected populations. However, the process of resource mobilization was still in progress, and no formal assistance had been announced at the time.
UN or other actors	-

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

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

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

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

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

Given these findings, the response concentrated on providing replacements for these vital household and non-food items. Supplying blankets, mats, and kitchen kits enabled affected families to restore their living conditions and alleviate the immediate discomfort and instability caused by the flooding. This strategy helped families resume their daily routines and improve their health and hygiene practices.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

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

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

The affected individuals endured severe hardships, including food scarcity and an increased struggle for daily survival. In light of the extensive losses and the ongoing impact of the flood, the response prioritized addressing the immediate food needs of these families. Providing food assistance was vital in helping them recover from the shock and stabilize their living conditions.

Without prompt support for their food needs, the affected populations faced the risk of further deterioration in their already fragile



situation. Ensuring that families had access to adequate food was crucial in helping them regain stability and initiate the process of rebuilding their livelihoods and resuming normal activities

Health

The health situation among flood-affected populations quickly worsened due to their heightened vulnerability. Immediate intervention was essential to avert a rise in waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and related health complications, all of which could have significantly affected their overall well-being. The rainy season further elevated the risk of malaria, particularly among children and pregnant women. This region had a history of waterborne diseases and malnutrition. Given these circumstances, there was an urgent need to distribute mosquito nets and implement comprehensive awareness and training programs aimed at preventing waterborne diseases. Addressing these critical needs was crucial to avoiding a public health crisis and safeguarding the health of the affected communities.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

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

Protection, Gender And Inclusion

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

Protection, gender, and inclusion were vital for the response, as the affected communities needed to maintain dignity, access to resources, opportunities for participation, and safety. Different groups—women, girls, men, and boys across various ages, abilities, and backgrounds—faced common needs, risks, and coping strategies that had to be addressed.

A comprehensive gender and diversity analysis was necessary to guide the operational strategy, influencing distribution schedules and hygiene promotion activities to ensure they effectively met the specific requirements of diverse populations. Failure to address these needs could have led to further marginalization of vulnerable groups and hindered the overall effectiveness of the intervention.

Community Engagement And Accountability

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

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

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

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

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 four-month intervention provided comprehensive and targeted support to 1,800 households (12,600 people) in the four districts, focusing on those impacted by the floods in Kambia (774 households), Bombali (345 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 (NFIs), water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, and food support through a cash transfer approach.

1. Livelihoods: Target 1,800 households (12,600 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 (12,600 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 (12,600 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 182) per household. This approach restored essential items, alleviated immediate burdens, and supported recovery processes.

4. Health: Target 1,800 households (12,600 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 will be targeted through this operation?

The DREF allocation is aiming to assist 1,800 households (12,600 individuals) impacted by the floods in the three most affected districts. The SRCS focused on identifying and prioritizing support for vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and marginalized communities. Community engagement is playing a crucial role in effectively addressing the basic needs of the affected population.

A comprehensive registration and profiling system is being established to gather data on family size, income, housing conditions, and specific vulnerabilities. This information is facilitating the creation of detailed beneficiary profiles, allowing for the categorization and prioritization of aid based on the severity of needs. SLRCS is utilizing these profiles to ensure that the most vulnerable individuals are receiving priority support.

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 Targeted Population

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

Risk and Security Considerations

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

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

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

There was a threat of national demonstrations against the ruling government due to political, social, and economic challenges, particularly high tariffs on utilities such as electricity and communication, taxes on basic commodities, and widespread hunger. This threat had existed since the announcement of the presidential and parliamentary election results in June 2023.

However, the NS worked within the framework of action of Safer Access, in addition to complying with the provisions outlined in the SLRCS Security Manual. This was done in accordance with the IFRC Freetown Cluster Delegation's Minimum-Security Requirements (MSRs), which were applied by all components of the Red Cross Movement present in Sierra Leone, and the management, employees, and volunteers of the SLRCS.

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 96,034



Targeted Persons: 12,600

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households provided with cash for household items	1,800	1,800
% of households satisfied with the cash provided for household item	80	0
% of households using cash for the purpose it was provided	80	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- A market assessment was conducted to evaluate price fluctuations and the availability of essential goods.
- Volunteers were deployed for four days to monitor the cash transfer process and ensure its effectiveness.
- Cash assistance was provided for household kits to support affected families in replacing essential items lost due to flooding.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 12,600

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	0
% of households using cash for the purpose it was provided	80	0
# of PDM conducted	1	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- A market assessment was conducted to evaluate price trends and the availability of essential goods. Targeting committees were established, and beneficiary households were briefed on the selection criteria and distribution process.
- A total of 1,800 households received cash assistance for food support for two months. Additionally, 100 volunteers were deployed for three days to monitor cash transfer activities and ensure smooth implementation.



Health

Budget: CHF 13,873

Targeted Persons: 12,600

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	10,300

Progress Towards Outcome

- A total of 100 volunteers were trained on PSS, First Aid, EPIC, and Health Promotion over three days.
- First aid was provided to injured persons in the affected communities.
- A total of 1,800 households received mosquito nets (two per household).
- Community members were trained on the proper installation and use of LLINs.
- Over 1,000 people received Psychosocial Support (PSS).
- Hygiene Promotion Posters (IEC materials) were produced and distributed.
- Hygiene and sanitation campaigns were organized twice a week for three months to raise awareness of health risks and ensure the cleaning of communities, including water sources and latrines.
- Personal protective equipment (gloves, boots, mufflers, raincoats, etc.) was provided to 100 volunteers and staff



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 81,928

Targeted Persons: 12,600

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	10,300

Progress Towards Outcome

- A total of 100 volunteers were trained on water, hygiene, and sanitation promotion activities, including waterborne disease prevention, menstrual hygiene, Epidemic Control for Volunteers, and the use of MILDAs.
- An initial assessment of the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation was conducted in target communities. Continuous monitoring of the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation was carried out in the target communities. Six sanitation campaigns were organized (two campaigns per month for the first three months). The population in target communities was trained on safe drinking water storage and the proper use of water treatment products. A total of 1,800 households received cash support to purchase WASH items included in the MPC





Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 12,600

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	10,300

Progress Towards Outcome

- A total of 10 staff members have received briefings on PGI and PSEA, including the implementation of PGI minimum standards across all intervention sectors.
- A total of 100 volunteers have been trained on PGI and PSEA as part of other training sessions, such as WASH and health. These 100 volunteers are actively conducting PGI and PSEA sensitization activities for the affected population during other awareness sessions.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 5,137

Targeted Persons: 12,600

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of Community stakeholder meetings	4	3
# of volunteers involved in CEA activities	100	100
% of feedback received and responded to	80	75
# 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

Progress Towards Outcome

- A total of 100 volunteers were trained on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) to support operational activities, enhancing accountability and ensuring alignment with community needs and priorities.
 - Three community meetings were successfully organized to validate beneficiary selection criteria and finalize beneficiary lists.
 - A broad spectrum of community members, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, was actively engaged to ensure diverse perspectives and needs were addressed.
 - Local knowledge and practices related to flood management and response were integrated into intervention strategies.
 - Clear and continuous two-way communication channels between authorities and the community were established.
 - Multiple platforms, including community meetings, social media, and radio, were utilized to disseminate information and updates.
- Community Feedback Mechanisms were set up to receive and address community feedback, complaints, and suggestions, enabling



adjustments to early actions for improved effectiveness.

Regular awareness campaigns and educational programs on flood risks, early warning signs, and appropriate response actions were conducted, empowering communities to respond swiftly and effectively to floods.

Transparency in decision-making processes and resource allocation was ensured, with continuous updates provided to the community on how decisions were made, and resources were distributed.

Communication efforts were carried out to secure media coverage of volunteer activities, increasing visibility and awareness of the response efforts.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 6,479

Targeted Persons: 4

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of technical support missions conducted by IFRC	4	2
# of coordination meetings attended	6	7

Progress Towards Outcome

SLRCS actively participated in coordination meetings to strengthen collaboration with partners and stakeholders, having attended seven meetings so far.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 54,624

Targeted Persons: 100

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned, workshop conducted	1	0
# of monitoring conducted by SLRCS Head Quarter Office staff	8	6
# of documentaries produced (video and case studies)	2	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- The team ensured coordination and public relations to enhance collaboration and visibility.
- The NS team conducted program monitoring to track progress and effectiveness, with six monitoring visits already carried out to provide guidance and ensure quality and compliance with standards.
- A total of seven PMER and operations staff were trained on data management, monitoring, evaluation, and evidence-based reporting to support quality reporting.



About Support Services

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

The total number of volunteers involved is including 100 from the four districts of operation. The volunteers are engaging in community engagement and awareness raising, conducting assessments, distributions, and post-distribution monitoring exercises. They are also supporting data collection, verification, and validation of the target communities. The 10 staff members are actively participating in the full implementation of the DREF and coordinating with stakeholders, including local and national authorities, as well as other non-governmental partners.

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

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

How will this operation be monitored?

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

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

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

Third Level of Monitoring: The IFRC Freetown Office has already conducted the first two technical support missions. The initial mission, led by an Operations Officer, focused on the early stages of response, specifically on the selection criteria and the finalization of the beneficiary list, ensuring accurate identification and prioritization of the most vulnerable populations.

The second mission took place during the cash transfer process, supervising the multipurpose cash transfer to ensure that fund disbursement was managed efficiently and transparently, adhering to the highest standards of financial accountability.

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

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

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

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

Social media platforms are playing a pivotal role in amplifying the operation's visibility, utilizing regular updates, engaging content, and real-time sharing of success stories to connect with a broader audience. This multi-channel approach is not only fostering transparency but also building a robust narrative around the operation, drawing in support and engagement from stakeholders and donors. By



leveraging a diverse range of communication tools and platforms, this strategy is ensuring that the achievements of the SLRCS and its partners are widely recognized, reinforcing the necessity for ongoing support and investment in the intervention.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

- Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone Floods 2024

Operating Budget

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

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Kpawuru Sandy, Secretary General, ksandy@sierraleoneredcross.org

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

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

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

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

[Click here for the reference](#)

