



SIERRA LEONE

2025 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec



04 August 2026

IN SUPPORT OF THE SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS SOCIETY



14

National Society
branches



16

National Society
local units



67

National Society
staff



18,000

National Society
volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency
Operations



171,385

Climate and
environment



126,856

Disasters
and crises



181,412

Health and
wellbeing



101,488

Values, power
and inclusion



34,724

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Sierra Leone Red Cross Society				
Overview		Funding Sources		
Funding		IFRC Secretariat		Not reported
Expenditure		Participating National Societies		Not reported
		HNS other funding sources		Not reported
IFRC network				
Country		Funding Requirement		9.5M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term	Funding Requirement		7.3M
		Funding		1.1M
		Expenditure		850,000
	Emergency Operations	Funding		1.1M
		Expenditure		1.1M
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement		595,000	
	Funding		951,000	
	Expenditure		944,000	
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement		1.6M	
	Funding		Not reported	

Appeal number **MAASL002**

*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRS1003 / MDRSL017 / Sierra Leone Mpox emergency

Health and wellbeing

Number of people reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services



Number of people reached with contextually appropriate health services



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment

Number of people reached with activities to address environmental problems



Disasters and crises

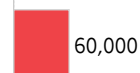
Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction



Number of people reached with livelihoods support



Number of people reached with shelter support



Percentage of assistance delivered using cash and vouchers

88%

Health and wellbeing

Number of people donating blood

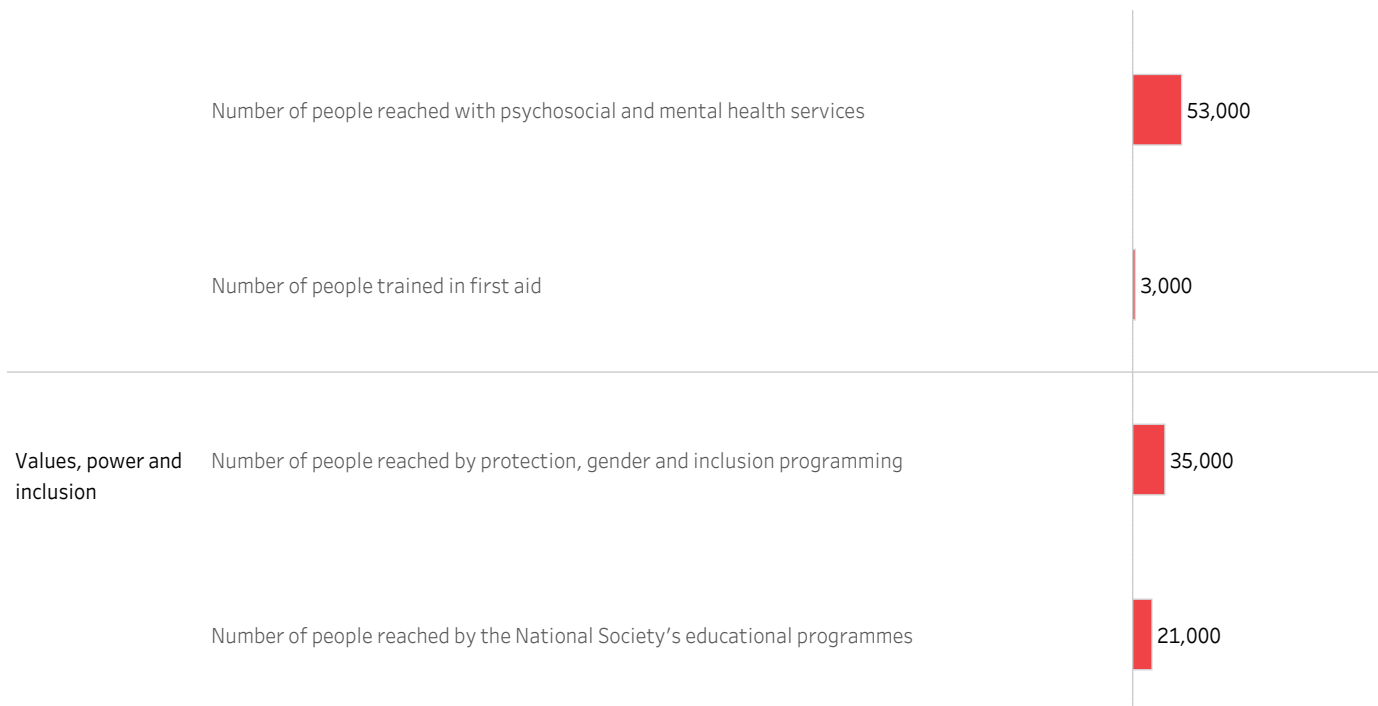


Number of people reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services



Number of people reached with immunization services





ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of government-led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	
National Society development	National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role There is a National Society Development plan in place	
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	
Accountability and agility	National Society has a Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism National Society is implementing a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy	

IFRC NETWORK BILATERAL-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
British Red Cross	34,000						
Finnish Red Cross	917,000						
			Total Funding Reported CHF 951,000				

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

Sierra Leone, a West African country bordered by Guinea, Liberia and the Atlantic Ocean, has an estimated population of approximately 8.9 million people. Administratively, the country is divided into five regions and 16 districts, with Freetown serving as the capital. While English is the official language, Krio remains the most widely spoken language across the country.

Despite progress in recent years, Sierra Leone continues to face significant socioeconomic and development challenges. Poverty, food insecurity, unemployment and limited access to essential services remain widespread, particularly among rural communities. Agriculture remains the backbone of the economy and the main source of livelihoods for much of the population, yet low productivity and climate-related shocks continue to undermine food security. Gender inequality also remains a major concern, with women facing barriers in access to education, economic opportunities, land ownership and decision-making processes.

The country remains highly vulnerable to health emergencies, natural disasters and economic shocks. The legacy of the civil war, the Ebola outbreak, recurrent disease outbreaks, the Freetown mudslide and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to affect community resilience and institutional capacity. In 2025, Sierra Leone also faced public health challenges linked to the Mpox outbreak, while ongoing concerns included high maternal and child mortality, limited access to safe water and sanitation, and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases.

Social and economic pressures continued to affect young people, with youth unemployment and limited access to technical and vocational opportunities contributing to increased vulnerability, irregular migration and substance abuse. The rapid rise in the use of the highly addictive drug 'kush' remained a significant public health and social concern, particularly among youth, highlighting the need for long-term, community-based prevention and support measures.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened community resilience to climate and environmental risks through integrated climate adaptation, environmental restoration and awareness initiatives. By promoting locally led climate action, engaging communities in ecosystem restoration and strengthening environmental stewardship, the National Society contributed to reducing vulnerability to climate-related hazards while supporting more sustainable and resilient communities.

Disasters and crises

During the reporting period, the National Society enhanced disaster preparedness, response and recovery capacities through strengthened volunteer networks, community-based disaster management structures and emergency response systems. The National Society delivered timely assistance to disaster-affected populations, reinforced preparedness and early warning mechanisms and strengthened institutional disaster management systems, contributing to improved community resilience and more effective emergency response nationwide.

Health and wellbeing

Between January to December 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened access to essential health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services through integrated community-based interventions focused on disease prevention, epidemic preparedness, maternal and child health, first aid and community health promotion. By expanding volunteer capacities, strengthening community surveillance systems and improving access to health and sanitation services, the National Society enhanced community resilience to public health risks and supported national health priorities.

Migration and displacement

In 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened protection and support for vulnerable migrants through advocacy, awareness raising, community engagement and collaboration with national and international partners. The National Society contributed to safer migration practices, improved understanding of migration risks and strengthened protection systems while promoting resilience and addressing some of the underlying drivers of migration and displacement.

Values, power and inclusion

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society advanced inclusive, accountable and people-centred programming by strengthening Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), risk communication, safeguarding and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) approaches across all programme areas. Through stronger feedback mechanisms, improved communication systems and increased participation of vulnerable groups, the National Society enhanced accountability, community ownership and equitable access to humanitarian services.

Enabling local actors

During the reporting period, the National Society strengthened its institutional effectiveness, sustainability and local leadership through investments in governance, branch development, financial sustainability, volunteer and youth engagement, and organizational systems. The National Society also enhanced its humanitarian diplomacy, communications and advocacy efforts, strengthening its visibility, partnerships and influence in humanitarian decision-making. Complementary investments in accountability, digital transformation, risk management, planning and organizational preparedness improved operational agility, transparency and long-term institutional resilience, positioning the National Society to deliver more effective and sustainable humanitarian action.

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

In this reporting period, no changes or amendments were made by the National Society.

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO page Sierra Leone.

Emergency Appeal name	Regional Africa Mpox Epidemic
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	<u>MDRS1003</u> / MDRSL017
People to be assisted	30 million
Duration	21 months (20 August 2024 - 31 December 2025, extended until 30 June 2026)
Funding requirements	Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide)
Link to Emergency Appeal	<u>Mpox Emergency Appeal</u>
Link to Operational Strategy	<u>Operational Strategy</u>
Link to latest operations update	<u>Operations Update No. 5</u>

In 2024, many African countries experienced an introduction or upsurge of Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox). There was a dramatic increase in cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), following which the virus spread to neighbouring countries and epidemics re-emerged or grew in previously endemic countries. These developments, linked with an increased risk profile amongst the population due to poverty and strained access to health services and almost non-existent supply of Mpox-related vaccines, led organizations such as the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization to declare this epidemic a public health emergency of continental and international concern.

In January 2025, Sierra Leone reported its first cases of Mpox. Within weeks, the disease had spread across all 16 districts, triggering widespread fear and misinformation among communities. Uncertainty about the nature of the disease, its transmission and prevention measures created significant public anxiety. In response, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the National Public Health Agency and District Health Management Teams, launched a rapid and coordinated intervention. This initial response prioritized community engagement, providing accurate information, essential tools and fostering partnerships to curb the spread of Mpox while strengthening public trust in the health system.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The regional Mpox emergency appeal supported National Societies in preparing and responding to the mpox epidemic. The operation focused on scaling up health/water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) including risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and addressing socio-economic impacts. The operational strategy took a regional approach to coordinate, manage and operationalize priorities and pillars of support to different National Societies in the region. Based on a risk-based approach to the evolving outbreak and health system capacity in each country, the goal is to contain the spread of the outbreak while supporting impacted communities to cope and recovery.

Following the confirmation of Mpox cases in Sierra Leone in early 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society mobilized and trained volunteers to conduct risk communication, community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) activities, contact tracing, community surveillance, mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) and early case detection. Through household visits, community outreach, engagement with local leaders and the use of digital reporting systems, the National Society helped improve public awareness, counter misinformation, strengthen community trust and support timely reporting of suspected cases.

The response also included the promotion of infection prevention and control measures through hygiene campaigns, the installation of handwashing facilities in public spaces and the distribution of information, education and communication materials. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened community ownership by engaging traditional, religious and community leaders as key advocates for prevention and behaviour change, while feedback mechanisms helped inform and adapt response activities. Through strong coordination with public authorities, IFRC and partners, the National Society contributed to improved surveillance, enhanced preparedness and strengthened community resilience to Mpox and future public health emergencies.

The key areas of response and intervention by the National Society included:

Health and care: community awareness, risk communication, community surveillance, contact tracing, psychosocial support and volunteer training reaching 93,819 people.

Water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)): reached 102,707 people through hygiene promotion, handwashing campaigns, infection prevention and control measures and sanitation interventions in high-risk locations.

Community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)): community dialogues, household visits, engagement with local leaders, rumour management, stigma reduction and community feedback mechanisms reached 258,825 people.

Volunteer capacity building and surveillance: training of 480 volunteers and 40 surveillance staff on Mpox prevention, [community-based surveillance](#), contact tracing, psychosocial support and use of the Nyss reporting platform.

Community leadership engagement: engagement of traditional leaders, religious leaders, school heads, youth leaders and other community influencers to promote prevention practices and strengthen community ownership of the response.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC): establishment of handwashing facilities in communities, schools, health facilities and public spaces, alongside distribution of information and awareness materials.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened community resilience to climate and environmental risks through integrated interventions focused on ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, environmental awareness and community engagement. Operating in a context of increasing exposure to floods, landslides, coastal erosion and other climate-related hazards, the National Society aligned its activities with national priorities, the [IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care Initiative](#), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

A major area of focus was community-based environmental restoration and reforestation, aimed at reducing vulnerability to climate-related disasters and restoring degraded ecosystems. The National Society mobilized communities in hazard-prone areas to participate in tree-planting and environmental protection initiatives, while branch-level seedling production centres supported the long-term sustainability of these efforts. School environmental clubs and volunteer networks played a key role in promoting environmental stewardship and strengthening youth engagement in climate action.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society also implemented climate awareness and behavioural change initiatives to improve understanding of environmental risks and encourage sustainable practices. Community education activities addressed issues such as deforestation, soil erosion, flood prevention and environmental conservation, while promoting energy-efficient alternatives to reduce pressure on forest resources. Communities were further supported with knowledge and practical skills related to tree care, environmental management and climate adaptation.

To strengthen ownership and sustainability, the National Society actively engaged community leaders, volunteers, local authorities and other stakeholders in the planning and implementation of climate and environmental activities. Advocacy and dialogue with local and national authorities supported broader environmental management and reforestation efforts, while community groups and school clubs helped champion locally led climate action.

Through these interventions, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened environmental awareness, enhanced ecosystem restoration efforts and increased community participation in climate action. These achievements contributed to reducing vulnerability to climate-related hazards and building more resilient communities and local systems.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in advancing climate and environmental programming through technical guidance, alignment with the [IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care Initiative](#), and support for community resilience, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation efforts.



Disasters and crises

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

In 2025, three IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Funds ([IFRC-DREF](#)) were approved for floods and a fire emergency.

1.

Name of Operation	Sierra Leone Floods 2024
MDR-Code	MDRSL016
People assisted	12,610
Duration	6 months (03 October 2024 to 30 April 2025)
Funding requirements	CHF 470,306
DREF Operation link	DREF Final Report

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 470,306 in October 2024 supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in assisting approximately 12,610 people affected by the widespread devastation across multiple districts in Sierra Leone due to extensive flooding. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period with assistance including essential household items, drinking water, water treatment kits and sanitation kits, complemented by hygiene promotion. Affected people were also supported with the provision of mosquito nets and essential first aid.

2.

Name of Operation	Multiple Fire Incidents 2025
MDR-Code	MDRSL018
People assisted	2,980
Duration	5 months (23 March 2025 to 31 August 2025)
Funding requirements	CHF 270,354
DREF Operation link	DREF Final Report

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 270,354 in March 2025 supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in assisting approximately 2,980 people directly affected and displaced across locations following the destruction of their homes and belongings caused by uncontrolled farmland burning. The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) led disaster preparedness and response efforts in Sierra Leone throughout the fire emergency. During the response, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society actively provided [first aid](#) services, while NDMA focused on assessing the situation, coordinating search and rescue operations and engaging partners to ensure resources were available for the response. The agency also engaged the National Society to support response operations in the southern and eastern regions, where the situation was critical and the presence of other humanitarian partners was limited.

3.

Name of Operation	Sierra Leone Floods 2025
MDR-Code	MDRSL019
People assisted	5,000
Duration	5 months (13 September 2025 to 28 February 2026)
Funding requirements	CHF 375,000
DREF Operation link	DREF Operation

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 375,000 supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in assisting approximately 5,000 people affected by devastating flash floods across 17 communities in seven districts including Bonthe, Kenema, Bo, Moyamba, Kono, Falaba, and Koinadugu. The National Society rapidly mobilized its emergency response mechanisms following the floods, activating the Cash Working Group to guide cash-based assistance and deploying trained volunteers to conduct assessments, provide first aid and deliver Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to affected communities. The National Society worked closely with public authorities and humanitarian partners through established coordination platforms while leveraging its nationwide branch network, trained disaster response teams and volunteer base to support emergency response and recovery efforts. Simultaneously, rapid and detailed needs assessments were conducted to inform targeted assistance and strengthen ongoing response operations.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society continued to strengthen disaster preparedness, response and recovery capacities across the country, addressing recurrent hazards such as floods, fires, building collapses and other emergencies. Through its nationwide network of branches, disaster response teams and community-based structures, the National Society enhanced community resilience, promoted disaster risk reduction and ensured timely humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

Preparedness remained a key priority, with trained volunteers, Community-Based Disaster Management Committees and standby emergency response teams supporting early warning, risk awareness and community preparedness efforts. These measures improved local capacities to anticipate, prepare for and respond to emergencies, particularly in high-risk and densely populated areas.

The National Society also played a critical role in emergency response operations during the year, providing first aid, search and rescue support, psychosocial assistance, referrals and recovery support to communities affected by disasters. Humanitarian interventions included support to people affected by fires and structural collapses, as well as the use of cash-based assistance to help affected households meet immediate recovery needs and restore their livelihoods.

At institutional level, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened its disaster management systems through the development and validation of a national Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy. The process involved broad consultations with staff, volunteers, branches and communities, resulting in a framework that strengthens preparedness, response coordination, community resilience and alignment with national and international disaster risk reduction priorities.

The National Society further reinforced its auxiliary role by actively participating in national and district disaster management coordination mechanisms, contributing to preparedness planning, emergency response coordination and the promotion of community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in strengthening disaster preparedness, response and resilience-building capacities in line with the Programme for Africa (PAC) commitments and IFRC Strategy 2030. Technical and institutional support contributed to the development of disaster risk management systems, community resilience initiatives and preparedness measures.

The **British Red Cross** expressed support for disaster risk reduction activities through the Integrated Resilience Programme (IRP), providing technical and financial assistance to strengthen community preparedness and resilience. The National Society also collaborated with Movement partners and national stakeholders to enhance early warning systems, disaster coordination mechanisms and locally led resilience-building initiatives.



A volunteer trained in epidemic control and community-based surveillance through the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3) promotes community health through epidemic preparedness, disease awareness and community-based surveillance. (Photo: Sierra Leone Red Cross Society)



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened community health, epidemic preparedness and access to essential health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services through integrated interventions aligned with national health priorities. The National Society expanded access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure, promoted healthy behaviours through community-based health education, and strengthened disease prevention efforts through extensive volunteer outreach and community engagement.

Epidemic preparedness and response capacities were enhanced through the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3), which strengthened community surveillance systems, volunteer capacity and early warning mechanisms for public health threats. The National Society also expanded first aid and emergency health capacities by training additional responders and increasing community-level preparedness for health emergencies and accidents.

The National Society continued to support sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health through referrals, awareness-raising and education initiatives, while promoting menstrual hygiene management and improving access to health information for women and girls. Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) principles were integrated across health programming, with community volunteers, mothers' clubs and local structures playing a key role in health promotion and disease prevention activities.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in strengthening community health, WASH and epidemic preparedness programmes through technical guidance, capacity building and partner-supported interventions. The IFRC also supported the development of community-based surveillance systems, volunteer capacities, first aid services and public health preparedness mechanisms.

Support from the **Finnish Red Cross** through the BRIDGE programme contributed to improved access to safe water and sanitation services, while collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other partners strengthened community health promotion, disease prevention and epidemic preparedness efforts.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened its response to migration and displacement challenges through advocacy, community engagement, protection initiatives and coordination with national and international partners. Recognizing that migration is driven by a combination of poverty, unemployment, limited livelihood opportunities, climate risks and social vulnerabilities, the National Society implemented activities aimed at promoting safer migration, strengthening community resilience and protecting vulnerable people on the move.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society played an active role in national and international coordination mechanisms on migration and human mobility. The National Society contributed to the development of action plans and policy discussions that integrated disaster displacement, climate change adaptation and environmental migration considerations. It also participated in initiatives to improve data and evidence on migration and displacement trends, supporting more informed planning and decision-making by public authorities and humanitarian actors.

At community level, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society implemented awareness and education activities focused on the risks associated with irregular migration and human trafficking. Through community outreach, interactive awareness sessions and forum theatre performances, communities in high-risk and border areas received information on migration risks, protection mechanisms, migration laws and available support services. These efforts strengthened public awareness and improved the capacity of community members to identify and report cases of trafficking, exploitation and abuse.

The National Society also supported initiatives aimed at addressing some of the root causes of migration by engaging youth, women and other vulnerable groups in skills development and livelihood-related activities. These interventions promoted alternative economic opportunities, strengthened resilience and encouraged safer and more informed migration decisions.

In addition, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society contributed to strengthening protection systems for migrants and vulnerable populations through collaboration with government institutions and local stakeholders. Capacity-building activities focused on anti-trafficking measures, referral pathways and survivor support mechanisms enhanced the ability of communities and local authorities to identify trafficking risks and connect affected individuals to appropriate services and protection mechanisms.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society through technical guidance, coordination and partnerships aimed at strengthening migration and displacement programming. Collaboration with organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supported policy dialogue, evidence generation and the integration of disaster displacement, climate adaptation and human mobility considerations into planning processes.

The IFRC also contributed to strengthening community awareness, protection mechanisms and institutional capacity to address migration-related risks, while supporting coordination with government institutions and humanitarian partners.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened its commitment to accountability, inclusion and community-centred programming by integrating Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), risk communication and communications approaches across all programmes and operations. These efforts helped ensure that humanitarian assistance was accessible, equitable and responsive to the needs of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, while reinforcing human dignity and community participation.

The National Society enhanced its internal and external communications systems to improve transparency, visibility and engagement with communities, partners and stakeholders. Information on humanitarian programmes and emergency operations was disseminated through traditional and digital media platforms, while communication capacities were strengthened through risk communication training for staff, volunteers, journalists and government representatives. Investments in digital infrastructure further improved connectivity and communication at branch level, supporting more effective coordination and service delivery.

Risk communication remained an integral part of preparedness and response activities. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society used a range of communication channels to disseminate lifesaving information, strengthen early warning systems and support community preparedness. These efforts improved awareness of disaster and health risks and enabled communities to take timely preventive action.

CEA was systematically integrated into programme delivery. Communities were actively involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of interventions and were provided with opportunities to give feedback and influence decision-making. Through strengthened feedback mechanisms and regular dialogue, the National Society improved transparency, responsiveness and community ownership while promoting behavioural and social change.

The National Society also advanced the integration of PGI across its programmes. Capacity-building initiatives strengthened staff and volunteer understanding of PGI principles, disability inclusion, safeguarding and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. Protection considerations were incorporated into humanitarian interventions, while risk management measures helped ensure that services were delivered safely and in accordance with the 'do no harm' principle.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in strengthening communications, community engagement, accountability and inclusion across its programmes. The IFRC and BBC Media Action supported risk communication capacity building for staff, volunteers, media professionals and government representatives, helping to improve the quality and reach of public information during emergencies.

Support from the **Finnish Red Cross** through the BRIDGE Programme contributed to the integration of PGI and community engagement approaches.

The **Icelandic Red Cross** supported the Digital Divide Initiative, strengthening branch-level communication and digital capabilities.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

IFRC membership coordination

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

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society is part of the four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The **British Red Cross**, the **Finnish Red Cross** and the **Icelandic Red Cross** currently support the National Society with programmes around health, water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)), [disaster risk reduction](#), livelihoods and risk communication, community-friendly approaches, Community Engagement and Accountability ([CEA](#)).

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

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

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

Movement coordination

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

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

External coordination

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

The National Society also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Food Programme (WFP) for the management and monitoring of cash-based assistance and distribution of relief items to vulnerable communities. The WFP has supported the National Society to build its capacity through volunteer training in food security and livelihoods assessments, cash and voucher assistance, relief management and the humanitarian code of conduct for effectively distributing food to people affected by disasters. The National Society will engage local councils and other stakeholders using existing platforms to implement key health, disaster risk reduction, water and sanitation, migration and shelter, food security and livelihoods programme interventions and policies, and advocacy for the inclusion of women and persons with disabilities. The various district health management teams will provide direction on government policies, as well as the establishment/strengthening of certain structures.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

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migration and shelter, food security and livelihoods programme interventions and policies, and advocacy for the inclusion of women and persons with disabilities. The various district health management teams will provide direction on government policies, as well as the establishment/strengthening of certain structures.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society continued to strengthen its institutional capacity, sustainability and effectiveness through the implementation of its National Society development agenda. Guided by the National Society Development Strategy (2023–2027), efforts focused on strengthening governance, financial management, branch development, planning and reporting systems, leadership and organizational preparedness. The National Society further advanced a series of organizational reforms through the implementation of key policies and procedures covering financial management, procurement and logistics, human resources, fraud and anti-corruption, conflict of interest, safeguarding, Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and codes of conduct for staff and volunteers. These measures contributed to stronger accountability, improved organizational effectiveness and enhanced institutional resilience.

Financial management and sustainability remained a priority, with efforts focused on strengthening financial systems, compliance and accountability across headquarters and branch structures. Capacity-building initiatives improved financial management practices, while branches were encouraged to expand local resource mobilization efforts and strengthen engagement with local stakeholders. These actions enhanced transparency, improved resource stewardship and contributed to greater financial sustainability.

Branch development continued to play a central role in strengthening humanitarian service delivery at community level. Investments in branch infrastructure, staffing, leadership development and operational systems improved the ability of branches to implement programmes and respond to local needs. Digital transformation initiatives strengthened information management, communication and reporting capacities across the branch network, while mentoring and leadership support enhanced governance and operational effectiveness at local level.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society also strengthened youth and volunteer engagement as key drivers of community action and institutional sustainability. Through leadership development, peer learning and volunteer capacity-building initiatives, the National Society increased the participation of young people and volunteers in humanitarian activities and decision-making processes.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in organizational development, including the Organizational Capacity Assessment Certification (OCAC) follow-up process, development of the Organizational Development Plan, governance strengthening and institutional capacity-building initiatives.

The **British Red Cross** supported National Society development efforts and contributed to strengthening institutional sustainability and organizational effectiveness.

The **Finnish Red Cross** provided support to National Society development priorities, including youth engagement, leadership development, financial sustainability, monitoring and evaluation systems and capacity strengthening initiatives.

The **Icelandic Red Cross**, through the Digital Divide Initiative, supported digital transformation efforts by strengthening information and communication technology systems and branch-level connectivity.

The ICRC contributed to National Society development through support to governance, security systems and broader institutional strengthening efforts



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened its humanitarian diplomacy, advocacy and communications efforts to enhance public trust, promote its auxiliary role and amplify the voices of vulnerable communities. Through strategic engagement with government institutions, humanitarian partners and communities, the National Society advanced inclusive and evidence-based approaches to humanitarian action in line with its Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) agenda and IFRC Strategy 2030.

A key achievement was the organization of a PGI Experience Sharing Workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs and humanitarian partners. The event brought together government representatives, Movement partners, staff and volunteers to exchange lessons learned, promote good practices and strengthen coordination on inclusive programming. The initiative contributed to stronger partnerships, increased awareness of PGI principles and reinforced the importance of participatory humanitarian approaches.

The National Society also strengthened its strategic communications systems to improve public awareness, transparency and community engagement. Through radio, television, print media, social media platforms, digital campaigns and community forums, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society disseminated information on humanitarian activities, health and safety issues and volunteer action. Risk communication approaches were integrated into emergency operations, enabling timely dissemination of lifesaving information and strengthening public understanding of risks and protective actions.

In addition, the National Society maintained active participation in national and international coordination forums, government-led platforms and Movement partner meetings focused on health, disaster management and social protection. These engagements enabled the National Society to advocate for the needs of vulnerable populations, contribute to policy dialogue and strengthen collaboration with key stakeholders. Through these efforts, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society enhanced its visibility, strengthened partnerships and increased its influence in humanitarian decision-making processes.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society through technical guidance and capacity strengthening. The IFRC and BBC Media Action jointly supported risk communication training for staff, volunteers, journalists and government representatives, strengthening the quality and effectiveness of public communication during emergencies and humanitarian operations.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supported initiatives promoting Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), including experience-sharing and capacity-building activities that strengthened partnerships and inclusive programming approaches.

The **Icelandic Red Cross**, through the Digital Divide Initiative, strengthened the National Society's digital communication capacity by supporting improvements in information and communication technology systems and branch-level connectivity.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society strengthened accountability, transparency and organizational agility by embedding Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) across all major programme areas, including health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), climate and environment, migration and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI). Through community dialogue, house-to-house visits, mobile cinema outreach and other participatory approaches, communities were actively involved in programme design, implementation and monitoring. Feedback and complaints mechanisms, including hotlines, suggestion boxes, WhatsApp platforms and community focal points, enabled two-way communication and ensured that community perspectives informed programme adaptation and decision-making. These efforts strengthened trust, ownership and the relevance of humanitarian interventions while promoting behavioural change and community resilience.

The National Society further strengthened accountability systems through enhanced safeguarding, financial management, risk management and programme monitoring processes. Safeguarding and PGI capacities were reinforced through training on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), disability inclusion, gender-sensitive programming and protection principles. Financial transparency and compliance were strengthened through improved reporting systems, fraud prevention measures, anti-corruption policies and enhanced internal controls. Risk management approaches were integrated into programme planning and operations to support safer and more effective humanitarian action.

Significant progress was also made in strengthening Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) systems. The establishment of a dedicated PMER structure, supported by headquarters staff and branch focal points, improved data quality, programme monitoring and evidence-based decision-making. Digital data collection tools and strengthened reporting systems enhanced operational efficiency and accountability to communities and partners. Additional institutional milestones included the development of a PMER Training Manual and the initiation of a Core Cost Policy to strengthen organizational sustainability and consistency across branches.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society continued to advance its digital transformation agenda through investments in information and communication technology infrastructure, internet connectivity, digital equipment and staff capacity development. These efforts strengthened communication, coordination and information management across the National Society and enabled more effective emergency response, programme delivery and operational oversight.

Innovation and adaptive leadership were promoted through the adoption of flexible and community-centred approaches across programmes. The National Society encouraged locally driven solutions in health, WASH, disaster preparedness and inclusion programming while strengthening organizational learning and adaptive management. Leadership development initiatives for management and governance structures further enhanced institutional resilience, strategic decision-making and preparedness for future humanitarian challenges.

Through strengthened accountability systems, enhanced community engagement, improved digital capacities and stronger organizational structures, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society improved service quality, operational effectiveness and accountability to affected populations while reinforcing its long-term sustainability and responsiveness.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical support to the National Society strengthen monitoring systems, accountability mechanisms, data management and institutional capacity in line with Movement standards and Strategy 2030.

The **Finnish Red Cross**, through the BRIDGE Programme, supported the integration of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches across programmes, while contributing to safeguarding and capacity-building initiatives.

The **Icelandic Red Cross**, through the Digital Divide Initiative, supported investments in information and communication technology infrastructure, digital connectivity and organizational digitalization, strengthening branch-level communication, coordination and reporting capacities.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** provided support for institutional strengthening initiatives, including the development of key organizational tools and policies aimed at improving financial sustainability, planning and operational management.

The ICRC supported organizational preparedness, safeguarding, humanitarian principles and institutional strengthening initiatives, contributing to stronger governance, protection systems and operational readiness.

Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)

See cover pages

Q5. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT

This information is not available in Annual Reports

Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

See Strategic Priorities or Enabling Local Actors, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

- Early and continuous community engagement improves programme relevance, participation and accountability, ensuring interventions remain responsive to local priorities
- Integrated, multi-sector approaches enhance impact and resilience, highlighting the importance of strong coordination and clear roles across programme areas
- Investment in volunteer capacity strengthens community-level service delivery, while ongoing training, mentorship and succession planning are essential to maintain quality and continuity
- Digital tools improve monitoring, reporting and feedback management, but continued investment in digital infrastructure and capacity building is needed to maximize their effectiveness
- Strong partnerships and early coordination increase efficiency and reduce duplication, reinforcing the value of joint planning and clearly defined responsibilities
- Sustained community engagement is critical for lasting behaviour change, particularly in health, hygiene, environmental protection and disaster preparedness
- Flexible programming and risk-informed planning improve adaptability, enabling timely responses to emerging threats and changing humanitarian contexts

SUCCESS STORIES



1

Early detection prevents the spread of animal-borne disease

In Bubuya Hamlet, Kambia District, community volunteers played a vital role in identifying and reporting signs of a contagious disease affecting livestock. Their timely action enabled veterinary authorities to intervene quickly, preventing wider transmission and protecting both animal and human health. The case demonstrated the value of community-based surveillance and the important role of volunteers in strengthening early warning systems.

2

Strengthening maternal and child health through community partnerships

In Bubuya Hamlet, Kambia District, community volunteers played a vital role in identifying and reporting signs of a contagious disease affecting livestock. Their timely action enabled veterinary authorities to intervene quickly, preventing wider transmission and protecting both animal and human health. The case demonstrated the value of community-based surveillance and the important role of volunteers in strengthening early warning systems.

3

Expanding access to safe water and sanitation

Communities in operational districts benefited from improved access to safe water and sanitation through investments in WASH infrastructure combined with community hygiene promotion. These interventions strengthened community health, reduced risks associated with waterborne diseases and encouraged the adoption of safer hygiene and sanitation practices.

4

Building stronger community preparedness for epidemics

Through the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3), trained volunteers strengthened disease surveillance and community awareness in high-risk areas. Early identification and reporting of health threats improved coordination with health authorities and enhanced community preparedness and resilience to epidemic risks.

5

Promoting adolescent health and menstrual hygiene management

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society supported adolescent girls and community groups with menstrual hygiene management education, sexual and reproductive health awareness and practical skills development. These activities improved knowledge, reduced stigma and strengthened support for the health, wellbeing and inclusion of young people within their communities.

ANNEX 1. IFRC APPLICATION OF THE 8+3 REPORTING TEMPLATE

The IFRC network structures its result-based management along five Strategic priorities and four Enabling functions, developed based on the IFRC network's [Strategy 2030](#):

IFRC network Strategic Priorities	IFRC network Enabling Functions
SP 1 - Climate and environment	EF 1- Strategic and operational coordination
SP 2 - Disasters and crises	EF 2 - National Society development
SP 3 - Health and wellbeing	EF 3 - Humanitarian diplomacy
SP 4 - Migration and displacement	EF 4 - Accountability and agility
SP 5 - Values, power and inclusion	

The Federation-wide results matrix provides a standard way for the IFRC network to measure its progress towards Strategy 2030 implementation and supports consistent quality of the IFRC network planning, monitoring and reporting. To further advance coherence in monitoring across the IFRC network, a [Federation-wide Indicator Bank](#) has been developed and integrated into the Federation-wide monitoring systems for emergencies and longer-term work, structured along the Federation-wide results matrix as well. Signatory of the Grand Bargain Agreement, the IFRC has committed to its monitoring and reporting standards through integration of the 8+3 reporting template contents into its results-based management approach. The following mapping demonstrate the way in which this report aligns with 8+3 reporting:

8+3 template	IFRC network Annual Report (with variance in structure in red)
Core Questions	
1. Overall Performance	Overall Performance
2. Changes and Amendments	Changes and amendments
3. Measuring Results	Measuring Results
4. Affected Persons	Cover pages with indicators values
5. Participation & AAP	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 5: Values, power and inclusion – Community Engagement and Accountability
6. Risk management	Risk management
7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability	Under Q3 sub-sections by Strategic Priority/Enabling Function where relevant
8. Lessons Learned	Lessons learned
Additional Questions	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in annual reports
2. Visibility	Not included in annual reports
3. Coordination	Under Q3 Enabling Function 1: Strategic and operational coordination
4. Implementing Partners	Cross-cutting, with a focus on support to localization through the Q3 Enabling Functions 1 to 4
5. Activities or Steps Towards implementation	Cross-cutting in Q3 Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions
6. Environment	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 1: Climate and environment



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

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

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods, and may be incomplete. 'Not reported' could sometimes mean 'not applicable'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2025 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities.
 - » Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
 - » Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
 - » IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [SL_Sierra Leone Financials.pdf](#) (Note: This financial report link will be fed when the report is available. For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see [MDRSL016](#), [MDRSL018](#) and [MDRSL019](#))
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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