



Fire impact in Freetown

Appeal: <b>MDRSL020</b>	Hazard: <b>Other</b>	Country: <b>Sierra Leone</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Response</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 372,791</b>	
Glide Number: <b>-</b>	People Affected: <b>8,372 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>8,372 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>22-05-2026</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>5 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>31-10-2026</b>	DREF Published: <b>26-05-2026</b>

Targeted Regions: **Northern, Western**

## Date of event

14-05-2026

## What happened, where and when?

Throughout May 2026, several fire incidents and localized windstorms were reported across different parts of Sierra Leone. While many incidents were managed at community and district level, two major events in mid-May caused widespread destruction and humanitarian needs that required emergency support and coordinated response actions.

On 13 May 2026, multiple large-scale fire incidents occurred simultaneously in several communities in Freetown in the Western Area, as well as in Karene and Kono districts. The fires mainly affected densely populated settlements where overcrowded housing conditions, unsafe electrical connections, and highly flammable construction materials contributed to the rapid spread of flames. Preliminary reports from local authorities and rapid assessment teams indicated significant destruction of homes, household property, and small business assets, leaving many families displaced and in need of emergency shelter and basic relief assistance. Due to the scale and impact of the incidents, humanitarian response mechanisms were activated to support affected communities.

In addition, on 14 May 2026, a severe windstorm accompanied by heavy rainfall affected eight communities in Kono and Falaba districts. The storm caused extensive damage to shelters and public infrastructure, with strong winds ripping off roofs and collapsing weak structures. Schools, religious buildings, and other community facilities were also damaged, disrupting essential services and community activities. Initial rapid assessments confirmed that many households were left without adequate shelter and required immediate humanitarian assistance, including emergency shelter and non-food items.

The cumulative impact of repeated fire incidents and severe weather events during May has increased vulnerabilities among affected populations, particularly for displaced families living in temporary and overcrowded conditions. Limited access to shelter, safe water, sanitation, healthcare, and protection services has heightened the risk of communicable diseases, including measles, while also contributing to psychosocial distress and reduced access to basic services.



Damaged House impacted by the windstorm in Kono



Affected house by the windstorm in Falaba District



NDMA and SLRCS volunteers conducting assessment



SLRCS volunteers and NDMA staff at the incident site

## Scope and Scale

The large-scale fire incidents of 13 May 2026 and the severe windstorm of 14 May 2026 caused significant humanitarian impacts across four districts in Sierra Leone: Kono, Falaba, Freetown (Western Area), and Karene. Rapid assessments conducted by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs), and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) confirmed that a total of 1,270 households, representing approximately 8,372 people, were affected by the combined disasters.

The fire incidents affected 440 households (2,552 people) across Freetown, Karene, and Kono districts. The simultaneous outbreaks reported on 13 May caused extensive destruction in densely populated communities, where overcrowded settlements, unsafe electrical connections, and highly flammable housing materials contributed to the rapid spread of flames. The incidents resulted in 4 fatalities and 7 injuries, while 115 houses were destroyed, including 91 in Freetown, 13 in Karene, and 11 in Kono. The destruction of homes displaced hundreds of people, leaving affected families without shelter, household belongings, and other essential items. In addition to residential damage, small businesses and livelihood assets were destroyed, significantly reducing the coping capacity of affected households. Preliminary estimates placed economic losses at more than SLE 500 million due to the destruction of commercial goods, residential structures, and household property.

The severe windstorm that struck Kono and Falaba districts on 14 May 2026 affected approximately 830 households (5,820 people) across eight communities. Heavy rainfall and strong winds caused widespread destruction to shelters and community infrastructure, destroying 135 houses, including 98 in Kono and 37 in Falaba. The storm also damaged 6 schools and 2 religious structures, disrupting access to education and community services. A total of 12 injuries were reported, while many affected families were left homeless and exposed to continued rainfall and harsh weather conditions.

The combined impact of displacement, shelter destruction, loss of livelihoods, and damage to essential infrastructure has significantly increased humanitarian needs among affected populations. Many families are currently living in temporary and overcrowded conditions with limited access to shelter, essential household items, safe water, sanitation, healthcare, and protection services. These conditions are increasing the risk of communicable disease outbreaks, including measles, particularly among children and other vulnerable groups.

The scale and severity of the disasters have exceeded the coping capacity of affected communities and local response mechanisms, necessitating immediate humanitarian assistance to address urgent needs in shelter, health, livelihoods, protection, and basic household support.

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	No
Did the National Society respond?	No
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	No
If yes, please specify which operation	-
<b>If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:</b>	
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### Lessons learned:

Lessons learned from previous disaster response operations in Sierra Leone, including fire incidents, floods, windstorms, and public health emergencies, will inform the implementation of this response operation. Key lessons identified include the importance of rapid assessments, early community engagement, strengthened coordination mechanisms, and integrated multi-sectoral assistance to address the complex and overlapping needs of affected populations.

Previous operations demonstrated that timely deployment of assessment teams and volunteers is critical for collecting accurate disaggregated data and informing evidence-based response planning. As a result, this operation will prioritize rapid needs assessments and continuous field verification to ensure that assistance is targeted to the most vulnerable households and reflects evolving humanitarian needs.

Experience from earlier responses also highlighted the importance of pre-positioned relief items and decentralized response capacities to enable timely assistance during sudden-onset emergencies. Informed by this lesson, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) will leverage its branch network and trained community volunteers to support rapid distribution of shelter and household items, as well as community-based health and protection activities in affected districts.

Previous emergency operations further underscored the need for strong coordination with government authorities, local disaster management structures, and community leaders to avoid duplication, strengthen accountability, and improve access to affected populations. This response will therefore maintain close coordination with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs), local authorities, and humanitarian partners throughout implementation.

Lessons from past responses also showed that displaced populations living in overcrowded temporary conditions face heightened risks of communicable disease outbreaks, including measles, cholera, and other public health threats. Consequently, this operation will integrate community health promotion, hygiene awareness, psychosocial support, and protection measures alongside shelter and relief assistance to reduce health risks and strengthen community resilience.

In addition, previous operations highlighted the importance of community engagement and accountability (CEA), including clear communication with affected populations on selection criteria, available assistance, and feedback mechanisms. The operation will therefore ensure regular communication with communities and establish accessible feedback and complaints channels to strengthen transparency, inclusion, and accountability throughout the response.

Finally, experience from earlier disaster responses demonstrated that livelihood disruptions and loss of household assets can prolong recovery and increase dependency on humanitarian assistance. This operation will therefore prioritize early recovery considerations, including support to restore basic household functioning and strengthen the coping capacity of affected families where feasible.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?

Yes

## Current National Society Actions

### Start date of National Society actions

14-05-2026

<b>Health</b>	Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) volunteers are actively providing psychosocial support and first-aid services to fire and windstorm victims, ensuring immediate care and comfort during this critical period. To date, victims with severe injuries have received first-aid assistance, demonstrating the National Society's commitment to addressing urgent health needs and offering compassionate support to those affected.
<b>Coordination</b>	Since the onset of the disaster, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has been actively coordinating response efforts with both Movement partners and external stakeholders at national and district levels. In its auxiliary role to public authorities, the SLRCS maintains strong operational collaboration with government institutions, particularly the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs), local authorities, and sectoral ministries involved in emergency response coordination.



	<p>The SLRCS actively participates in coordination meetings and technical working group platforms established by the government and humanitarian partners, which serve as key mechanisms for information sharing, joint planning, analysis, and response coordination. Through its established presence and long-standing collaboration with the NDMA, the SLRCS was requested by the government to play a leading role in the initial rapid assessments and the ongoing detailed assessments in affected communities. This has enabled timely collection and validation of humanitarian data to inform response priorities and operational planning.</p> <p>SLRCS response teams and volunteers continue to work closely with government agencies, community leaders, and humanitarian actors to ensure effective coordination, avoid duplication of assistance, and strengthen the overall efficiency and accountability of the response across all affected districts.</p>
<p><b>National Society Readiness</b></p>	<p>The 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 may struggle to operate. With extensive experience across a wide range of humanitarian programming, the SLRCS benefits from strong support and collaboration within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the IFRC, ICRC, and Partner National Societies (PNS) like the British and Finnish Red Cross Societies.</p> <p>The SLRCS is well-equipped for rapid response and assessment, boasting more than 24 trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members and over 10 active Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members. This is further complemented by a volunteer base of over 16,000 individuals. In addition, the SLRCS has 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 will be instrumental in guiding ongoing operations. Operating through 14 branches, the SLRCS is strategically positioned to lead comprehensive preparedness and response efforts in close coordination with government authorities, ensuring both immediate relief and longterm resilience-building.</p>
<p><b>Assessment</b></p>	<p>A detailed multi-sectoral assessment of the Fire and windstorm-affected communities, led by the NS, is currently underway. The findings will offer comprehensive insights into the extent of the damage and the specific needs of the affected households. Meanwhile, 100 NS volunteers in the impacted branches coordinated by members of the National Disaster Response Team have conducted a rapid assessment. This preliminary data, along with the situation report from the NDMA, has provided essential information on the immediate damage and urgent needs, forming the basis for the ongoing response efforts.</p>
<p><b>National Society EOC</b></p>	<p>With support from the Sierra Leone IFRC Cluster Office, the National Society has upgraded its existing situation room into a fully equipped Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) with comprehensive ICT capabilities. The EOC will serve as the central hub for coordinating and managing the DREF emergency response operation.</p>

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<p><b>Secretariat</b></p>	<p>The IFRC operates 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 comprises 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 ensures that it is better equipped to handle future emergencies both efficiently and effectively.</p>
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	<p>The Delegation provides 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 coordinates 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 Windstorm and Fire response, the IFRC Country Delegation has worked closely with SLRCS leadership and the disaster management team to outline intervention areas, define roles, and establish responsibilities. This collaborative effort includes 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 enable real-time information sharing and decision-making, facilitating swift and coordinated actions on the ground.</p> <p>The IFRC utilizes 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 guarantees that the assistance from the IFRC's membership is 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 will continue to support the SLRCS throughout the implementation phase, ensuring ongoing capacity to meet both immediate and evolving needs. The Cluster Delegation will designate an operations focal point to aid in the initial response phase, while technical staff, including the PMER officer, will undertake support missions to improve operational efficiency.</p>
<p><b>Participating National Societies</b></p>	<p>The Finnish, Red, and Icelandic 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, their involvement will continue, especially since the DREF initiative will not fully meet the needs of all affected households.</p>

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC lacks a physical presence in Sierra Leone, but it offers remote support through its Senegal 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. At the time the DREF was designed and submitted, the ICRC had not committed to assisting in the Windstorm and Fire response

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<p><b>Government has requested international assistance</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>National authorities</b></p>	<p>Since the onset of the emergency assessment process, national authorities have taken a leading coordination role in mobilizing and organizing the initial response to the fire and windstorm incidents. The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), in collaboration with District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) and relevant line ministries, activated emergency coordination mechanisms and convened inter-agency meetings to assess the scale of impact and determine immediate priorities for response.</p>



Following early reports of widespread fire incidents on 13 May 2026 and the severe windstorm on 14 May 2026, the NDMA initiated rapid coordination with humanitarian partners, including the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), UN agencies, and other key actors. Emergency coordination meetings were held at both national and district levels to share preliminary assessment findings, consolidate available data, and identify urgent humanitarian gaps, particularly in shelter, health, and basic relief assistance.

In line with its mandate, the NDMA formally requested support from humanitarian organizations to complement government response efforts for affected populations. This included appeals for assistance in emergency shelter, non-food items, food support, and restoration of essential services for households affected by the fires and windstorm.

District authorities, through the DDMCs, supported the coordination of field-level assessments, facilitated access to affected communities, and assisted in the verification of initial reports on damage and displacement. Local government structures also played a key role in identifying affected households and coordinating immediate community-level response actions, including temporary shelter arrangements for displaced families.

Throughout the assessment and early response phase, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society worked closely with NDMA and district authorities, supporting joint assessments and providing technical and operational input. This close collaboration ensured timely information sharing, improved coordination of field activities, and strengthened the overall effectiveness of the initial emergency response.

UN or other actors

Action to date has not been communicated

#### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

A national inter-pillar coordination mechanism, led by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), is currently active to coordinate all humanitarian actors involved in the response to the fire and windstorm emergencies. This platform brings together government institutions, humanitarian partners, and key stakeholders to ensure a coherent, well-structured, and coordinated national response.

The coordination meetings function as the primary forum for sharing updated situation reports, consolidating findings from rapid and detailed assessments, and jointly planning and prioritizing response actions across sectors. These meetings also support harmonisation of interventions, strengthen accountability, and help ensure efficient use of available resources while preventing duplication of assistance in affected communities.

At present, the coordination mechanism is focused on supporting ongoing rapid response activities in affected areas, while simultaneously overseeing the continuation of detailed assessments as additional reports of impact emerge from new locations. This evolving situation requires continuous information sharing, real-time analysis, and regular adjustment of operational priorities to ensure that assistance remains targeted, timely, and aligned with the most urgent humanitarian needs on the ground.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

The combined impact of the 13 May 2026 fire incidents and the 14 May 2026 windstorm has resulted in extensive and multi-district shelter damage across Kono, Falaba, Freetown (Western Area), and Karene. In total, 1,270 households (8,372 people) have been affected, including 115 houses destroyed in fire-affected areas and 135 houses destroyed in windstorm-affected communities, leaving a significant proportion of the affected population without safe or adequate shelter.

In the fire-affected districts of Freetown, Karene, and Kono (440 households / 2,552 people), the most severe impact was recorded on 13 May, when multiple simultaneous fires led to the destruction of homes in densely populated settlements. In Freetown alone, 91 houses were destroyed, reflecting high exposure in informal and high-density urban communities where housing structures are typically made of highly flammable materials and are closely spaced. Additional shelter destruction was recorded in Karene (13 houses) and Kono (11 houses), resulting in the immediate displacement of households who have since moved into overcrowded host-family arrangements or makeshift shelters with limited protection from weather conditions and no guarantee of privacy or dignity.



In the windstorm-affected districts of Kono and Falaba (830 households / 5,820 people), the event on 14 May caused widespread structural damage, with 135 houses destroyed across eight communities (98 in Kono and 37 in Falaba). The strong winds and heavy rainfall not only destroyed housing structures but also rendered partially damaged shelters unsafe for continued habitation. Many households are currently residing in damaged structures or overcrowded temporary arrangements, exposing them to further risk during ongoing adverse weather conditions.

Across all affected areas, displaced families have also lost essential household items such as bedding, clothing, cooking materials, and basic furniture, further reducing their ability to establish safe and dignified living conditions. The lack of adequate shelter solutions is particularly critical given continued exposure to rain and poor weather conditions, especially in windstorm-affected rural communities where alternative housing options are limited.

The current shelter response gap is significant, with affected households relying primarily on overstretched host families, unsafe temporary structures, or partially damaged homes. There is limited availability of emergency shelter assistance, including tarpaulins, shelter kits, and tools for basic repairs, and no structured support yet in place at the scale required to match the level of destruction across the four districts.

Urgent shelter assistance is therefore required to ensure immediate protection from environmental exposure and to restore minimum living standards. Priority needs include emergency shelter support for displaced households, provision of shelter repair materials, and assistance to replace essential household items to enable families to re-establish safe, dignified, and protective living conditions during the emergency and early recovery phase.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The combined impact of the 13 May 2026 fire incidents and the 14 May 2026 windstorm has had severe and immediate consequences on household livelihoods across Kono, Falaba, Freetown (Western Area), and Karene districts. In total, 1,270 households (8,372 people) have been affected, with significant losses of income sources, productive assets, and small business infrastructure, particularly among fire-affected urban and peri-urban households.

The fire incidents in Freetown, Karene, and Kono (440 households / 2,552 people) on 13 May resulted not only in the destruction of 115 houses but also in the complete or partial loss of small businesses, petty trading stock, and household economic assets. In high-density urban areas of Freetown, where 91 houses were destroyed, many affected households were engaged in informal trading, food vending, and small-scale services. These income-generating activities were directly disrupted, leaving families without their primary or secondary sources of income. In Karene and Kono, similar losses of petty trade goods, stored food items, and farming-related assets have further reduced household coping capacity. As a result, many families are unable to meet immediate basic needs such as food, clothing, transport, and rental costs for temporary shelter.

In the windstorm-affected districts of Kono and Falaba (830 households / 5,820 people), the livelihoods impact is primarily linked to the destruction of productive household assets, disruption of small-scale agricultural activities, and damage to local market access due to infrastructure loss. The destruction of 135 houses, along with damage to community infrastructure such as schools and religious buildings, has disrupted local economic and social activities that support informal livelihoods. In rural communities, where livelihoods are largely dependent on subsistence farming and small-scale trading, the loss of tools, food stocks, and household assets has significantly weakened economic resilience.

Across all affected areas, displaced households are facing increased financial pressure due to the loss of income sources combined with higher costs of living, including the need to purchase food, pay for temporary accommodation, and replace essential household items. These combined pressures are pushing many families into negative coping strategies and increasing their vulnerability to food insecurity and longer-term economic decline.

The current livelihoods response gap is significant, with limited immediate access to income replacement mechanisms or structured livelihood recovery support. Affected households require urgent multipurpose cash assistance to meet basic survival needs and stabilize their living conditions in the short term. In addition, early recovery support will be essential to help restore small businesses, replace lost productive assets, and re-establish income-generating activities, particularly for informal workers, traders, and small-scale producers.

Protection considerations are also closely linked to livelihood impacts. The loss of income and displacement has increased vulnerability among women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities, particularly in overcrowded temporary shelters where access to resources and assistance is constrained. Many affected individuals are also experiencing psychosocial distress related to loss of livelihoods, assets, and economic insecurity, further reinforcing the need for integrated support that combines cash assistance, protection-sensitive programming, and referral to psychosocial support services.





## Health

The combined impact of the 13 May 2026 fire incidents and the 14 May 2026 windstorm has resulted in direct injuries, increased health risks, and significant disruption to access to essential health services across the affected districts of Kono, Falaba, Freetown (Western Area), and Karene. In total, 1,270 households (8,372 people) have been affected, with 4 fatalities and 19 reported injuries (7 from fire incidents and 12 from the windstorm), placing immediate pressure on already limited local health services.

In the fire-affected districts of Freetown, Karene, and Kono (440 households / 2,552 people), the 13 May incidents caused both physical injuries and significant psychological distress among affected populations. In densely populated urban settlements in Freetown, where 91 houses were destroyed, injuries occurred during rapid fire spread and evacuation efforts. The destruction of homes and livelihood assets has also contributed to heightened psychosocial stress, particularly among displaced families now living in overcrowded and unfamiliar environments. Limited access to basic healthcare services in some affected areas, combined with financial constraints following asset loss, is reducing the ability of households to seek timely medical care.

In the windstorm-affected districts of Kono and Falaba (830 households / 5,820 people), 12 injuries were reported following the collapse of structures and exposure to debris during the severe weather event on 14 May. In addition to trauma-related injuries, the destruction of 135 houses and damage to community infrastructure, including 6 schools and 2 religious buildings, has disrupted access to nearby health facilities and reduced community-level health outreach activities in some areas. Displaced families are currently residing in overcrowded temporary shelters or damaged structures, increasing their exposure to communicable diseases, particularly respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases, and vector-borne illnesses.

Across all affected areas, displacement has significantly increased public health risks due to overcrowding, poor sanitation, limited access to clean water, and inadequate hygiene conditions. These factors, combined with stress and trauma associated with sudden loss of homes and livelihoods, are contributing to both physical and mental health needs among affected populations. Children, pregnant women, older persons, and persons with disabilities are particularly at risk due to increased vulnerability and reduced access to services.

The current health response gap includes limited access to immediate first aid, psychosocial support, and continuity of essential primary healthcare services in affected communities. While the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society deployed 100 volunteers who provided initial rescue support, first aid, and psychosocial first aid services, there remains a significant need for sustained health interventions at community level.

Priority health needs include strengthening community-based first aid and referral systems, expanding psychosocial support services, and supporting health promotion activities to reduce disease risk in displacement settings. Additional interventions such as hygiene and disease prevention awareness, distribution of mosquito nets, and support to improve sanitation conditions in temporary shelters are critical to preventing secondary health impacts and reducing the risk of disease outbreaks in the post-disaster context.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The combined impact of the 13 May 2026 fire incidents and the 14 May 2026 windstorm has resulted in significant disruption to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions across affected communities in Kono, Falaba, Freetown (Western Area), and Karene districts. In total, 1,270 households (8,372 people) have been affected, with 440 households (2,552 people) impacted by fire incidents and 830 households (5,820 people) affected by the windstorm.

The fire-affected population, particularly the 115 households whose homes were destroyed across Freetown, Karene, and Kono on 13 May has been displaced into overcrowded living conditions, including host families and makeshift shelters. These settings have extremely limited access to safe water sources and adequate sanitation facilities. In densely populated urban settlements in Freetown, where 91 of the destroyed houses were recorded, pre-existing pressure on communal water points and latrines has been further exacerbated by sudden displacement. In Karene (13 destroyed houses) and Kono (11 destroyed houses), affected households are relying on unsafe or distant water sources, with limited availability of hygiene materials, increasing exposure to faecal-oral disease transmission.

In the windstorm-affected districts of Kono and Falaba, where 135 houses were destroyed across eight communities, the damage to household infrastructure has significantly reduced access to basic WASH services. The destruction of shelters has also resulted in the loss of household sanitation facilities, forcing displaced families to rely on shared or open sanitation practices. The collapse and damage of community infrastructure, including schools and religious buildings, has further strained already limited communal WASH facilities, particularly in rural communities where service coverage is low.

Across all affected areas, overcrowding in temporary shelters and inadequate hygiene conditions are major concerns. Displaced households lack essential hygiene items such as soap, water containers, and menstrual hygiene materials, limiting their ability to maintain basic hygiene practices. This situation significantly increases the risk of communicable disease outbreaks, including diarrhoeal diseases and measles, particularly among children under five, pregnant women, and other vulnerable groups.

The current WASH response gap is primarily related to insufficient access to safe drinking water, limited sanitation coverage in



displacement settings, and a lack of hygiene supplies and structured hygiene promotion activities. Existing local systems and household coping mechanisms have been overwhelmed by the sudden scale of displacement following both the fire and windstorm events. In many affected communities, there is currently no structured WASH support package in place to address the immediate needs of displaced populations.

Targeted WASH interventions are therefore urgently required, including the provision of safe water solutions, emergency latrine support where feasible, distribution of hygiene kits, and intensive hygiene promotion activities. These interventions are essential to reduce public health risks, prevent disease outbreaks, and support dignified living conditions for affected households during the emergency and early recovery phase.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The combined impact of the 13 May 2026 fire incidents and the 14 May 2026 windstorm has created significant Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) risks across the affected districts of Kono, Falaba, Freetown (Western Area), and Karene. With a total of 1,270 households (8,372 people) affected, including large-scale displacement in both urban and rural settings, pre-existing vulnerabilities have been significantly exacerbated, particularly for women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other at-risk groups.

Displacement following the fire incidents in Freetown, Karene, and Kono (440 households / 2,552 people) and the windstorm in Kono and Falaba (830 households / 5,820 people) has resulted in overcrowded living conditions in temporary shelters, host families, and partially damaged homes. In these environments, privacy and safety are severely reduced, increasing exposure to protection risks, including exploitation, abuse, neglect, and family separation. The destruction of 115 houses in fire-affected areas and 135 houses in windstorm-affected communities has further intensified these risks, as many households have lost not only shelter but also secure living environments.

Women and girls are particularly affected due to limited privacy in shelter and sanitation facilities, increased caregiving responsibilities, and heightened exposure to gender-based violence risks in overcrowded and unsafe living conditions. Children are also at increased risk of neglect, psychological distress, and interruption of education, particularly in windstorm-affected areas where 6 schools were damaged or destroyed, disrupting safe learning environments and child protection structures.

Persons with disabilities and older persons face significant barriers in accessing assistance due to the physical inaccessibility of temporary shelters, limited mobility support, and lack of targeted outreach services. In both urban fire-affected areas and rural windstorm-affected communities, these groups are at risk of being excluded from relief distributions and health and protection services due to mobility constraints and limited identification or registration systems that adequately capture their needs.

Across all affected areas, limited access to safe and confidential feedback and complaints mechanisms remains a critical gap, reducing the ability of affected populations to report protection concerns or request assistance safely. At the same time, communication barriers persist, particularly for persons with low literacy levels, persons with disabilities, and non-dominant language groups, limiting access to life-saving information on available services, risks, and entitlements.

Misinformation, fear, and low awareness of available services further contribute to exclusion and delayed access to assistance, particularly in rapidly evolving displacement settings. This is compounded by insufficiently inclusive community engagement processes, where participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups in decision-making and planning remains limited.

The current PGI response gap is therefore significant, with limited systematic integration of protection mainstreaming across sectors and insufficient targeted support for the most vulnerable groups. There is an urgent need to strengthen safeguarding measures, ensure inclusive access to services, improve safe and accessible communication channels, and reinforce community engagement and accountability mechanisms.

Priority actions include ensuring disability-inclusive and gender-sensitive programming across all response activities, strengthening community-based protection and referral systems, expanding accessible information dissemination, and establishing safe, confidential feedback mechanisms to ensure that all affected populations can access assistance safely, equitably, and with dignity.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

The combined impact of the 13 May 2026 fire incidents and the 14 May 2026 windstorm has affected 1,270 households (8,372 people) across Kono, Falaba, Freetown (Western Area), and Karene districts, creating an urgent need for strengthened Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) mechanisms to support an effective, transparent, and people-centred response.

In the immediate aftermath of the fire incidents, particularly the large-scale events on 13 May in Freetown, Karene, and Kono and the windstorm on 14 May in Kono and Falaba, affected communities have faced rapid displacement, loss of shelter, and disruption of normal



communication channels. In these contexts, access to timely, accurate, and understandable information on available assistance, targeting criteria, and ongoing response activities remains limited. This information gap is especially pronounced among displaced households living in overcrowded shelters, host communities, and hard-to-reach rural areas, where formal communication systems are weak or absent.

The lack of structured and consistent communication has increased the risk of misinformation, uncertainty, and misunderstanding about the scope and eligibility of assistance. Given the scale of impact, 440 fire-affected households (2,552 people) and 830 windstorm-affected households (5,820 people), this has the potential to generate frustration, perceived exclusion, and social tension within and between affected communities, particularly where humanitarian resources are constrained or phased.

Current feedback and complaints mechanisms remain insufficiently accessible and not yet fully established at scale across all affected districts. As a result, affected populations have limited safe and structured opportunities to raise concerns, provide feedback, or influence the response. This gap reduces accountability and limits the ability of responders to adapt interventions based on real-time community input.

In addition, meaningful community participation in decision-making processes remains limited. Women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups are not yet systematically engaged in planning, prioritization, or monitoring of response activities. This is particularly critical in windstorm-affected rural communities in Kono and Falaba and densely populated fire-affected urban settlements in Freetown, where vulnerabilities and access constraints differ significantly and require context-specific solutions.

There is also a gap in proactive disaster risk communication and preparedness messaging. Communities affected by repeated fire incidents and severe weather events have limited access to structured risk information, including fire prevention, safe shelter practices, evacuation planning, and early warning communication. This reduces community resilience and limits the ability to adopt preventive behaviours that could reduce future disaster impacts.

The current CEA gap therefore reflects the absence of strong two-way communication systems, limited feedback mechanisms, and insufficient community participation structures across all stages of the response. Addressing these gaps requires the establishment of clear, accessible, and inclusive communication channels, strengthened feedback and accountability systems, and systematic engagement of affected populations in decision-making processes.

Priority CEA actions include the rapid deployment of multilingual and accessible information systems, establishment of community feedback mechanisms across all affected districts, and structured engagement of community representatives in planning and monitoring activities. Strengthening these systems is essential to ensure that the response is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the evolving needs and priorities of affected populations.

## Operational Strategy

### Overall objective of the operation

The objective of this operation is to provide timely, targeted, and needs-based assistance to 1,270 affected households (approximately 8,372 people) impacted by the 13 May 2026 fire incidents and the 14 May 2026 windstorm across Kono, Falaba, Freetown (Western Area), and Karene districts, enabling them to meet urgent humanitarian needs and begin early recovery.

The operation will support affected households in restoring safe, adequate, and dignified living conditions following the destruction and damage of homes and assets. Shelter assistance will be delivered through cash-based interventions to enable families to repair or rebuild damaged housing in line with local construction practices and household priorities. This is particularly critical for the 115 households whose houses were destroyed by fire (91 in Freetown, 13 in Karene, and 11 in Kono) and the 135 households whose houses were destroyed by the windstorm (98 in Kono and 37 in Falaba). This approach promotes dignity, flexibility, and household ownership while supporting rapid recovery of adequate shelter conditions.

In addition, multipurpose cash assistance will be provided to the most affected and vulnerable households to address immediate basic needs arising from displacement, loss of livelihoods, and destruction of assets. This includes support for food, essential household items, hygiene materials, transport, and other critical expenditures during the emergency phase. The assistance targets households affected by both hazards, including 440 fire-affected households (2,552 people) and 830 windstorm-affected households (5,820 people), many of whom are currently displaced, living in overcrowded conditions, or residing in partially damaged shelters.

### Operation strategy rationale

This DREF operation aims to provide comprehensive and targeted support to 1,270 households (8372 people) in the four districts, focusing on those impacted by recent fire and Windstorm incidents in Kono (672 households), Falaba (158 households), Freetown (420 households), and Karene (20 households). Shelter and settlement, 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



supporting the implementation of disaster mitigation activities.

Based on feedback from past post-distribution monitoring, cash transfers have proven effective in helping affected individuals recover according to their specific needs, restoring their dignity by allowing them to choose what is essential for their families and supporting market recovery. The Sierra Leone Red Cross has an existing contract with both Orange and Africell, which was utilized during the 2020 Covid-19 response, 2021 floods, the Funkia fire response, the oil tanker explosion, the 2024 Sierra Leone Floods, and other response actions. This platform is also being used for ongoing projects supported by PNSs to facilitate cash interventions. This same contract will be utilized by the NS to support the current operation.

Continued assessments and monitoring will be conducted to ensure that the operation remains aligned with the evolving situation on the ground, considering forecasts and potential adjustments from partners that could impact current parameters.

The strategy is designed to address immediate needs and promote recovery through four 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. Shelter: Target- 250 house owners.

The shelter intervention will provide shelter cash assistance to 250 house owners whose homes were destroyed. The identified beneficiaries will receive NLE 6,450 (CHF 258) per house owner, based on NDMA minimum shelter standards. The breakdown of affected house owners by district is as follows: Western Area: 91, Falaba: 37, Karene: 13 and Kono: 109. This cash support will cover essential reconstruction materials: Roofing zinc (NLE 4,500), 4-inch wire nails (NLE 250), 3-inch wire nails (NLE 250), Roofing nails (NLE 750), Sticks (NLE 700). This assistance will enable families to rebuild their homes, replacing structures that were destroyed by the windstorm and fire incidents.

#### 2. Multipurpose Cash: Target: 1,270 Households (8,372 people)

Each of the 1,270 affected households will receive a multipurpose cash grant of NLE 4,700 (CHF 188) to help meet their livelihoods and basic needs, replace household items, WASH, and Hygiene kits for early recovery from the Windstorm and Fire impacts. The funds will be distributed through the existing Financial Service Provider (FSP) and aim to promote dignity and flexibility in expenditure, reducing negative coping mechanisms. The value provided is composed of: NLE 2,500 (CHF 100) to cover food/nutritional support to each household identified as most vulnerable, aimed at covering their nutritional needs for 2 months calculated based on the local expenditure basket that include cereals (NLE1,835), pulses (NLE435), vegetable oil (NLE221), salt (NLE 9); NLE 1,200 to cover household items including bedsheets, drinking buckets, laundry bowls, cooking utensils, cups, sleeping mats, and three blankets to ensure families can quickly regain their standard of living.

#### 3. WASH Support Target 8,372 (1,270 households)

The WASH component is critical for preventing health crises and ensuring the well-being of the affected population. Each household will receive cash of NLE 1,000 (CHF 62) to secure WASH kits, including buckets with lids, jerry cans, soap, and hygiene kits to address basic sanitation needs. The cash for WASH kits will be included in the MPCA. The operation will also procure and distribute Household water treatment chemicals and provide community training on correct use and safe storage. Additionally, community-led initiatives will focus on cleaning drainage systems, waterways, and waste disposal sites to prevent disease spread and promote a healthier living environment.

In summary, beneficiaries will receive two types of cash assistance. First, 250 homeowners will receive unrestricted conditional cash grants of NLE 6,450 (CHF 158) to support the reconstruction of their houses. Second, all 1,270 affected households will receive multipurpose cash assistance of NLE 4,700 (CHF 188) to address essential needs, including food, household items, and WASH services. The total caseload of 1,270 households includes the 250 homeowners supported under the shelter intervention.

To ensure the effectiveness of the intervention, a market assessment will be conducted before cash distribution to evaluate price trends and determine feasibility. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) will also be carried out to assess the impact of the assistance and inform of any necessary adjustments. The IFRC will provide technical support for market monitoring to track fluctuations in local prices. Additionally, production of hygiene promotion posters (IEC) for awareness and sensitization activities that will be implemented both before and after cash disbursement to promote appropriate and effective utilization of the funds by beneficiaries.

#### 4. Health: Target 1270 households (8372 people)

The operation will focus on strengthening community health capacity by training 120 volunteers and staff on hygiene promotion, waterborne disease prevention (including menstrual hygiene), Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV), proper use of mosquito nets, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). It will also include the procurement and distribution of two Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs) and Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) per household to each of the 1,270 targeted households to reduce vector-borne disease risks. Awareness raising session will be done using hygiene promotion posters (IEC) that will be developed and produced by this operation. Throughout the implementation period, volunteers will provide continuous psychosocial support to affected families, while also being deployed at the community level to deliver first aid services and MHPSS, ensuring timely health and psychosocial assistance to those in need.

Addressing both urgent health and psychosocial needs is essential to protect the well-being of affected populations. Strong collaboration with local health authorities, community volunteers, and humanitarian partners is key to delivering inclusive and accessible health services, restoring dignity, and enabling early recovery. A holistic approach that integrates both physical and mental health care will help prevent further complications and strengthen the resilience of affected communities.

#### 5. Disaster Risk Reduction: Target 1270 households (8372 people)



The operation will strengthen community awareness of fire risks and windstorms by promoting appropriate preparedness actions and mitigation measures to address identified gaps in risk awareness, prevention, and overall community readiness. To support this objective, the strategy emphasizes the enhanced dissemination of public awareness materials and standardized key messages, developed in close coordination with the Sierra Leone Fire Force and the NDMA to ensure alignment with national guidelines and fire risk reduction priorities.

In addition, targeted training on fire safety and emergency response will be provided to Community development committees, covering fire hazards, early warning indicators, and appropriate response protocols. This capacity-building effort is designed to equip communities with the knowledge and skills needed to respond swiftly and effectively, thereby reducing potential harm during disasters.

6. Awareness Messages on fire and windstorm prevention. Hygiene and health risk prevention: 100 volunteers and NDRT branch members will conduct awareness campaigns targeting affected locations, markets, and beneficiary families. These efforts will target 8,372 people across 1,270 affected households and the surrounding villages. The messages will focus on health and hygiene, and on fire and windstorm risk and prevention. Health-related messages are critical in the aftermath of such disasters, where health risks are heightened. Sensitization efforts will emphasize fire prevention, management, and associated health risks.

7. Engaging the community and ensuring inclusion and protection. An important use of Community engagement will be necessary to meet the above output. NS plans encompass the inclusion of community-led processes and rigorous monitoring. Using the CEA approach, these efforts aim to increase the acceptance and ownership of the messages by local representatives, village authorities, and the affected communities. This approach aligns with best practices in humanitarian response and enhances the credibility and accountability of the operation. Among the main actions, NS will ensure that:

- A robust community feedback mechanism will be established to further enhance accountability and responsiveness. The mechanism will employ two primary communication channels: first, by setting up community-based committees that monitor the progress of activities and manage grievances, and second, by mobilizing a team of trained volunteers for direct complaint management through visits and focus groups. The visits and meetings with groups, with the facilitation of the community committees, were learnt to facilitate the collection and resolution of complaints and claims from beneficiaries.
- The messages are tailored to the local audience and delivered in the required languages.
- Local representatives' inclusion in the planning and decision-making. As they were engaged during the assessment, the local committees Continue to oversee the beneficiary selection and fund utilization processes, ensuring transparency and community ownership.
- Integrating community feedback and actively involving stakeholders

A comprehensive gender and diversity analysis will be conducted across all sectors, including WASH and shelter, to understand the impact on various groups and to tailor the response accordingly. All sectors will adhere to the IFRC's minimum standards for protection, gender, and inclusion in emergencies.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

The DREF application aims to assist 1,270 households (8,372 individuals) impacted by the fire and windstorm in the four most affected districts. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society will focus on identifying and prioritizing support for vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and marginalized communities. Community engagement will play a crucial role in effectively addressing the basic needs of the affected population. A comprehensive registration and profiling system will be established to gather data on family size, income, housing conditions, and specific vulnerabilities. This information will facilitate the creation of detailed beneficiary profiles, allowing for the categorization and prioritization of aid based on the severity of needs. SLRCS will utilize these profiles to ensure that the most vulnerable individuals receive priority support

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

As usual, the criteria for selection will be co-formulated with community stakeholders, beneficiary representatives and NDMA representatives at district level. However, SLRCS will use its experience from previous DREF operations to propose the following criteria for inclusion into the beneficiary selection criteria:

As assessed:

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

Priority Considerations:

- Households classified as poor or near-poor in the latest assessments.
- Households that have not received assistance or have only received minimal support from other agencies.



- Households lacking a sustainable source of income or livelihoods.
- Households with individuals living with disabilities or chronic illnesses.
- Households 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	2,543	Rural	40%
Girls (under 18)	2,215	Urban	60%
Men	1,762	People with disabilities (estimated)	5%
Boys (under 18)	1,852		
Total targeted population	8,372		

## Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

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

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Community tensions and protection risks during targeting and assistance distribution, particularly where large numbers of affected households are competing for limited resources	To mitigate this, strong community engagement will be conducted before distributions, beneficiary selection will be transparent and validated at the community level, and feedback and complaints mechanisms will be established to ensure accountability and trust.
Risk related to access constraints and logistical challenges, especially in Karene and rural parts of Kono, where road conditions may be poor, particularly during or after heavy rainfall.	To reduce this risk, the operation will rely on decentralized implementation approaches, pre-positioning of volunteers, and close coordination with local authorities to identify safe and accessible routes and distribution points.



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.

There is a risk that women-headed households, persons with disabilities, older persons, and marginalized groups may be unintentionally excluded due to barriers in registration, documentation requirements, mobility constraints, or lack of information—particularly in overcrowded displacement settings following the 13 May fires and 14 May windstorm.

- Use inclusive and community-verified beneficiary selection processes with representation from women, persons with disabilities, and community leaders.
- Apply simplified registration procedures with minimal documentation requirements where appropriate.
- Conduct targeted outreach in affected communities, including door-to-door verification where access is limited.
- Ensure sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data (SADD) is used to identify gaps in coverage.

**Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:**

The affected community members could be exposed to some security risk as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), looting, theft of assets, and armed robbery, among other criminal activities, which could affect this operation in several ways. Likewise, Red Cross teams are equally exposed to these crimes, in addition to potentially having the affected community attack them if they deem the support provided is not sufficient.

To mitigate such incidents during the operation, all security measures of both the Movement and the Government will be strictly adhered to by all volunteers and staff involved in the operation to reduce risks. The security management as part of this operation will be based on the RCRC's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values. The following actions related to security will be implemented:

These measures include

- The respect of visibility through the wearing of jackets and regular communication on all movements.
- Ensure community engagement to provide clear explanations of the role of the Red Cross, the support being provided, and beneficiary selection criteria to be clearly communicated. This also follows the learnings from previous operations.
- Regular briefings will be organized to remind volunteers of personal security and safety. All concerned staff and the volunteers will be engaged in the response to complete the Stay Safe 2.0 Global Edition-level 2, so they are briefed on the framework of safer access.
- Security assessment and monitoring of security risk will be ensured by the operation team with the support of IFRC.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

**Yes**

# Planned Intervention



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

**Budget:** CHF 56,319

**Targeted Persons:** 250

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of House owners supported with cash assistance for reconstruction of damaged houses	250



% of house owners who used cash as the primary source for reconstruction activities.	80
# of volunteers provided with training on cash to support cash distribution and monitoring	50

## Priority Actions

- Carry out an assessment and monitoring of the market and prices.
- Registration and verification of beneficiaries.
- Cash transfer to 250 house owners to procure necessary building materials for reconstruction.
- Monitoring by volunteers in the communities to follow-up on the use of the cash by beneficiaries.
- Safe construction promotion 2 months
- Discussions and active sensitization on the assistance through community group discussions, meeting with community stakeholders.
- Post distribution monitoring (PDM)



## Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 185,441

**Targeted Persons:** 8,372

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of HHs supported with multi-purpose cash to cover food and WASH items	1,270
% of HHs confirming to have received cash support and using it for purpose it was provided support	100
# of PDM Conducted	2

## Priority Actions

- Registration and Verification of Beneficiaries
- Train 50 volunteers on cash transfer and household registration through the Kobo collect platform
- Conduct market assessment
- Set up targeting committees and a briefing of beneficiary households
- Distribute multipurpose cash to 1,270 households
- Deploy volunteers to monitor cash transfer activities
- Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) for 3 days
- Deploy 100 volunteers to sensitize targeted beneficiaries on the details of Mobile money transactions
- Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM)



## Health

**Budget:** CHF 22,729

**Targeted Persons:** 8,372



## Indicators

Title	Target
# of HHs reached with mosquito nets	1,270
% of targeted households, which receive support in terms of health promotion and hygiene awareness	90
# of staff and volunteers trained on MHPSS, EPIC, Health promotions	120
% of households that received the planned number of LLINs.	100

## Priority Actions

- Train 120 volunteers and staff on water, hygiene, and sanitation promotion activities, waterborne disease prevention (including menstrual hygiene), hygiene, Epidemic Control for Volunteers, and the use of Mosquito nets), MPHSS.
- Procure and distribute treated mosquito nets to the affected 1,270 HHs.
- Provide psychosocial support to affected families by volunteers for the entire period of the operation.
- Deploy volunteers to carry out First Aid and PSS.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 13,359

**Targeted Persons:** 8,372

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of people who reported using cash for WASH-related purposes.	1,270
% of people using cash for WASH purpose	100
% of households demonstrating correct use, dosage, and safe storage of water treatment products.	80
# of PDM conducted	5

## Priority Actions

- Train 100 volunteers on water, hygiene, and sanitation promotion activities and waterborne disease prevention (including menstrual hygiene, Epidemic Control for Volunteers, and the use of MILDAs).
- Conduct an initial assessment of the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation in target communities
- Continuously monitor the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation in target communities.
- Determine the appropriate method of home/ community water treatment for each community based on efficiency and user needs preferences.
- Transfer of cash to 1270 households for support for the purchase of WASH items (included in the MPC)
- Provide training to the population of the target communities on the storage of drinking water, hygiene, and environmental cleaning
- Mobilize 100 volunteers to conduct health promotion awareness with a message on the prevention of water-borne diseases
- WASH- provision of water purification tablets



- Conduct post-distribution monitoring to evaluate the proper use, correct dosage, and safe storage of household water treatment chemicals.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 10,884

**Targeted Persons:** 8,372

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of PGI risk assessment conducted	1
% of people reached through PGI awareness sessions for frontline responders	60
# of staff and volunteers trained on PGI minimum standards, safeguarding, and PSEA.	120
# of vulnerable individuals (children under five, pregnant/lactating women, persons with disabilities) reached through response activities	8,372
# of outreach sessions conducted using inclusive and accessible communication approaches	20
% of identified community members safely referred through established protection and safeguarding referral pathways	60
% of activities using Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) for planning and reporting	90

### Priority Actions

- Conduct rapid PGI risk and needs assessment to identify heightened vulnerabilities and protection risks
- Organize regular, field-based PGI briefings and awareness sessions for frontline staff and volunteers, focusing on safe identification of protection risks, inclusion of at-risk groups, and respectful engagement with affected communities.
- Create safe, accessible, and culturally appropriate spaces for women, girls, and other at-risk groups
- Use Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) to inform inclusive planning, prioritization, and monitoring.
- Map and share confidential referral pathways for SGBV, child protection, and other services.
- Establish safe, culturally appropriate spaces and provide basic psychosocial support in coordination with MHPSS.
- Orient staff and volunteers on PGI standards, safeguarding, PSEA, and accountability mechanisms.
- Set up community protection committees or focal points with gender and diversity balance
- Support peer groups (women, youth, persons with disabilities) to strengthen resilience and cohesion.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

**Budget:** CHF 2,684

**Targeted Persons:** 8,372



## Indicators

Title	Target
# of staff and volunteers provided refresher TOT training on fire drill	120
# of consultation engagements held with community committees	4
# of fire drill, windstorm preparedness, and mitigation training sessions conducted for Community development committees	5
# of people reached with fire and windstorm prevention messages	8,372

## Priority Actions

- Provide refresher TOT for SLRCS staff and volunteers on the fire drill, Windstorm preparedness, and mitigation
- Conduct regular awareness campaigns and educational programmes about fire hazards, early warning signs, and appropriate response actions
- Provide training to the community development committees on fire hazards, early warning signs, windstorm preparedness, and appropriate response actions
- Consultation engagement with community committees to incorporate local knowledge and practices related to the prevention of wildfire management, windstorm mitigation, and response.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 19,979

**Targeted Persons:** 8,372

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers trained In CEA and PGI	100
% of feedback treated	90
# of community session held	20

## Priority Actions

- Train volunteers on CEA and PGI to support operations' activities. Involvement can enhance accountability and ensure that actions are aligned with community needs and priorities.
- Organize a community meeting to validate the targeting criteria and the lists of beneficiaries.
- Engage a broad spectrum of community members, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, to ensure diverse perspectives and needs are addressed.
- Incorporate local knowledge and practices related to the prevention of Fire and windstorm mitigation, management, and response
- Establish clear and continuous two-way communication channels between authorities and the community
- Use multiple platforms (e.g., community meetings, social media, radio, etc.) to disseminate information and updates
- Setting up Community Feedback Mechanisms for receiving and addressing community feedback, complaints, and suggestions, which should be used to amend early actions to be more effective
- Conduct regular awareness campaigns and educational programmes about re hazards, early warning signs, and appropriate response actions. This would empower communities to act quickly and



effectively during a windstorm and Fire incidents

- Ensure transparency in decision-making processes and the allocation of resources. Keep the community informed about how decisions are made and how resources are distributed
- Undertake communication work to ensure media coverage of the volunteers' activities.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 12,196

**Targeted Persons:** 8,372

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of technical support missions conducted by IFRC	4
# of Lesson learnt workshop conducted	1

### Priority Actions

- IFRC technical support mission and monitoring visits
- Participation in coordination meetings
- Volunteers insurance



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 48,900

**Targeted Persons:** 8,372

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of monitoring visits conducted by NS	6
# of lesson learned workshop facilitated	1

### Priority Actions

- Programme Monitoring conducted by the NS team
- Organize a lesson learned workshop
- Ensure compliance with reporting and accompany the process
- Support the full functioning of the EOC



# About Support Services

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

A total of 100 volunteers will be trained and deployed across the four districts of operation to support the implementation of the DREF activities. These volunteers will participate in community engagement and awareness-raising, assessments, distribution activities, and post-distribution monitoring. They will also support data collection, verification, and validation processes within the targeted communities to ensure accurate beneficiary identification and effective program delivery.

In addition, 20 staffs members (HQ and Branch staff) will support the overall implementation and coordination of the DREF operation. Their responsibilities will include operational oversight, coordination with local and national authorities, and engagement with other humanitarian and nongovernmental partners to ensure effective collaboration and alignment of response efforts

## Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

yes

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

The operation will include limited procurement of essential items, such as treated mosquito nets and information, education, and communication (IEC) materials. Procurement will be managed by the SLRCS National Headquarters in Freetown, with technical oversight and monitoring provided by the IFRC Freetown Cluster Delegation, logistics Officer to ensure compliance with established procurement policies, standards, and procedures.

## How will this operation be monitored?

Monitoring of the operation will be structured and performance-driven to ensure accountability, transparency, and continuous learning. The SLRCS operations team and leadership will oversee implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, in close coordination with the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Freetown to maintain a results-based management approach.

The SLRCS PMER framework will guide monitoring through standardized tools and regular tracking of key indicators. Field teams will conduct routine monitoring of shelter reconstruction, distributions, cash transfers, and PGI activities, while collecting community feedback to ensure responsiveness. Weekly field updates will be consolidated at headquarters to support timely, evidence-based decision-making.

The IFRC CCD will provide technical support through four monitoring missions. Early missions will focus on strengthening planning, monitoring systems, PGI integration, and distribution processes, while subsequent visits by the Head of Delegation and Finance team will ensure quality assurance, financial compliance, and risk management.

Monthly progress reports will be shared to maintain transparency and accountability. Data on reach, feedback, and recovery progress will be regularly reviewed to inform adjustments. At the end of the operation, a lesson learned workshop will be conducted with key stakeholders to capture best practices and strengthen future response capacity.

## Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The SLRCS communication strategy for this operation aims to promote transparency, accountability, and strong community engagement throughout the response. At the community level, the branches team will engage trained volunteers to share accurate information with affected households, collect feedback, and address misinformation. Regular coordination between branch offices and SLRCS headquarters will ensure consistent messaging and alignment with operational priorities.



Communication will also be supported through PMER reporting, with weekly data updates and periodic reports shared with IFRC and SLRCS management to maintain accountability to partners and donors. In addition, media and public outreach, including press releases, radio programs, and community meetings, will highlight operational progress, challenges, and key achievements to ensure visibility of the response.

An operational learning workshop will be organized to document and share lessons learned internally and with partners, strengthening future responses. Communication activities will integrate Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) principles, ensuring channels are inclusive, accessible to persons with disabilities and low-literacy households, and supported by safe and responsive feedback mechanisms.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRSL020 - Sierra Leone Red Cross Society Windstorm & Fire

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>311 694</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	56 319
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	185 441
Health	22 729
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	13 359
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	10 884
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	2 982
Community Engagement and Accountability	19 979
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>61 097</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	12 196
National Society Strengthening	48 900
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>372 791</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

