



Flooded houses at Bonga Town Community

Appeal: MDRSL022	Hazard: Flood	Country: Sierra Leone	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 370,924	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 8,915 people	People Targeted: 5,100 people	
Operation Start Date: 13-08-2026	Operation Timeframe: 4 months	Operation End Date: 31-12-2026	DREF Published: 18-08-2026
Targeted Regions: Western			

Description of the Event

Date of event

08-03-2026

What happened, where and when?

On the night of 3 August 2026, Freetown experienced approximately six consecutive hours of exceptionally heavy rainfall, triggering widespread flash flooding, severe soil erosion, and multiple slope and structural failures across several densely populated urban and peri-urban communities. The most severely affected areas included Portor Community (Juba Hills), Metchem Community, 44 Femi Turner Drive (Goderich), Regent Road-Lumley, Bonga Town, and settlements along the Cain Water Stream, where floodwaters rapidly inundated homes, businesses, and critical community infrastructure.

The intensity and duration of the rainfall overwhelmed drainage systems and exceeded the absorption capacity of flood-prone low-lying areas and hillside settlements. The resulting flash floods caused extensive destruction of homes, public infrastructure, and community assets, while saturated soils triggered erosion, retaining wall failures, and structural collapses in several locations. As the event occurred overnight, many residents had little time to evacuate or protect their belongings, contributing to fatalities, injuries, displacement, and significant losses of household assets and livelihoods.

While flooding is a recurrent seasonal hazard in Sierra Leone, the August 2026 floods were exceptional in both scale and impact and exceeded the level of localized flooding typically experienced during the rainy season. Freetown has not experienced a flood emergency of this magnitude since 2022, largely due to sustained investments in drainage improvements, environmental management initiatives, and other flood mitigation measures implemented by the Government and its partners. However, the intensity of the rainfall on 3 August 2026 exceeded the capacity of existing mitigation measures and generated humanitarian impacts far beyond normal seasonal flooding patterns.

The severity of the event was amplified by its impact on densely populated urban and hillside communities, where high population concentrations, vulnerable housing conditions, and proximity to waterways significantly increased exposure to flood hazards. Unlike the localized flooding commonly experienced during the rainy season, this event affected 1,763 families (8,915 people), damaged or flooded more than 700 houses, including over 300 houses in Portor Community alone, caused four fatalities, displaced thousands of people, contaminated 18 community boreholes, damaged a community school, and disrupted livelihoods and access to essential services. The scale and concentration of impacts demonstrate that this event exceeded normal seasonal flooding patterns and overwhelmed the coping capacities of affected households and communities.

Rapid assessments conducted by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), and partners confirmed extensive humanitarian impacts across the affected communities, including loss of life, displacement, damage to critical infrastructure, livelihood disruption, and heightened public health risks arising from contaminated water sources and deteriorating environmental conditions.

The crisis has been further compounded by continuous rainfall across Freetown and other parts of Sierra Leone from 4 to 7 August 2026, which has caused additional flooding in other communities and continues to increase pressure on drainage systems, waterways, and unstable slopes. Persistent rainfall has maintained high levels of soil saturation, increasing the risk of further flash flooding, erosion, and localized landslides. As a result, communities already affected remain highly vulnerable, while additional communities across Freetown and other districts face an elevated likelihood of flooding as the rainy season continues.

As of the time of the DREF request, affected households continue to face urgent humanitarian needs, including safe water, sanitation services, shelter support, essential household items, health services, protection assistance, and livelihood recovery. With 8,915 people affected, more than 700 homes damaged or flooded, four confirmed fatalities, contamination of critical water sources, and continued heavy rainfall across the country, the scale of humanitarian needs exceeds the coping capacities of affected communities and available local response resources. Immediate humanitarian assistance is required to save lives, alleviate suffering, prevent further deterioration of living conditions, and reduce the risk of additional losses during the remainder of the rainy season.

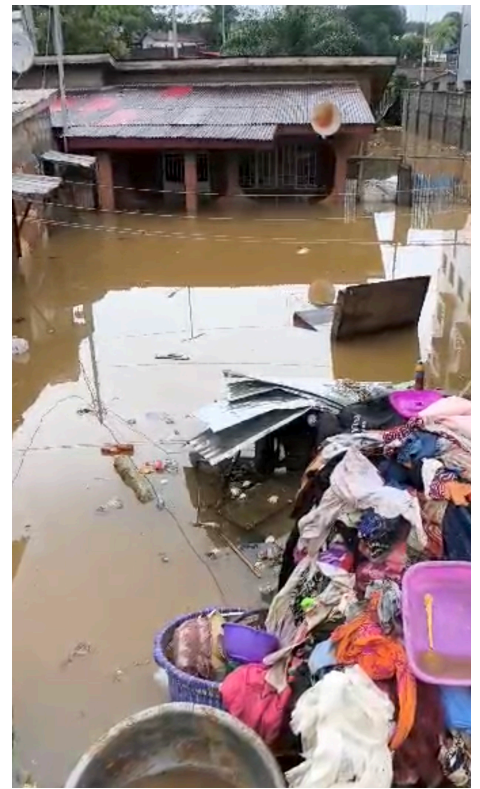




Mitchem



Fumie Tuner



Flooded Community



Fumie Tuner

Scope and Scale

The flash floods that affected communities across the Western Area Urban District constitute a significant humanitarian emergency with severe consequences for lives, livelihoods, shelter, public infrastructure, and access to essential services. The worst-affected communities include Portor Community (Juba Hills), Metchem Community, 44 Femi Turner Drive (Goderich), Regent Road-Lumley, and Bonga Town, where flooding, erosion, and structural failures caused widespread destruction and displacement.

Rapid assessments conducted by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) indicate that more than 1,763 families (8,915 people) have been affected by the floods. Across the affected communities, more than 700 houses were flooded or damaged, including over 300 houses in Portor Community alone, forcing many families to seek temporary shelter with relatives, neighbours, or within their communities. The scale of housing damage has left thousands of people exposed to inadequate living conditions, loss of privacy, and heightened protection and health risks.

The floods have resulted in the loss of life and widespread destruction of household assets. Four fatalities have been confirmed, including three members of the same family in Metchem Community, who lost their lives when a retaining wall collapsed onto a makeshift shelter during the heavy rainfall. An additional fatality was reported in Portor Community. Many affected households lost furniture, bedding, clothing, food stocks, cooking utensils, personal belongings, and livelihood assets, significantly reducing their ability to meet basic needs and recover without external support.

The event has had devastating impacts on livelihoods and household economies. Many affected residents depend on small-scale trading, informal labour, and other daily income-generating activities. The destruction of businesses, productive assets, and household resources has eroded coping capacities and left many families struggling to access food, healthcare, education, and other essential services. The impact is particularly severe for low-income households that have limited savings and few recovery options.

Critical infrastructure and essential services have also been severely affected. A community school in Portor Community sustained major structural damage, disrupting learning for affected children and increasing the risk of prolonged educational interruptions. In addition, at least 18 community boreholes, which serve as primary drinking water sources for affected populations, were contaminated by floodwaters and declared unsafe for use. This has significantly reduced access to safe drinking water and increased the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks among already vulnerable populations.

The humanitarian consequences are particularly severe because many of the affected settlements are densely populated urban and hillside communities characterized by inadequate housing, limited drainage infrastructure, environmental degradation, and close proximity to waterways. These conditions amplified the impact of the flooding and increased the exposure of residents to floodwaters, erosion, and structural collapse. Vulnerable groups, including children, older persons, pregnant and lactating women, persons with disabilities, female-headed households, and people with chronic health conditions, face heightened risks due to displacement, loss of livelihoods, reduced access to essential services, and increased protection concerns.

The situation remains highly concerning as continuous rainfall from 4 to 7 August 2026, and ongoing precipitation across Sierra Leone, have maintained high levels of soil saturation and pressure on drainage systems. Communities already affected remain exposed to further flooding, erosion, and structural failures, while additional communities in low-lying and hillside areas face an increased likelihood of being affected should heavy rains continue during the remainder of the rainy season.

The combination of 4 confirmed fatalities, over 8,915 affected people, more than 700 damaged or flooded houses, contamination of 18 community water sources, damage to educational infrastructure, displacement of thousands of people, and continuing flood risk demonstrates that the impacts of this event exceed the coping capacities of affected communities and local response mechanisms. Without immediate humanitarian assistance, affected households face worsening living conditions, increased disease risk, prolonged displacement, loss of livelihoods, and further humanitarian deterioration as the rainy season continues.

Source Name	Source Link
1. National Disaster Management Agency Situation Report.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxUUPEy4qe4
2. Social Media platforms	https://sierraloaded.sl/news/ndma-three-dead-two-missing-300-houses-flood/

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	No
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-



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:

-

Lessons learned:

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has had flood-related DREFs in 2022 (MDRSL013), 2024 (MDRSL016) and 2025 (MDRSL019). However, the most recent flood DREF (MDRSL019, in 2025) affected and targeted Bo, Moyamba and Bonthe, not Freetown. The last flood DREF focused on Freetown/Western Area specifically was MDRSL013 in 2022. Despite various locations for the floods, NS has incorporated key lessons from all these previous Flood Response operations into the design and implementation of this operation to enhance effectiveness, accountability, and the overall impact of assistance provided to flood-affected households.

1. Market assessments are essential for effective cash assistance: The 2024 operation demonstrated that conducting market assessments prior to cash distributions helped establish appropriate transfer values and confirmed that local markets could absorb increased demand without significant disruption. Informed by this lesson, the current operation will continue to utilize market assessment findings to guide the design of multipurpose cash assistance and livelihood recovery support, ensuring that transfer values are adequate and responsive to prevailing market conditions.

2. Community engagement and transparent targeting strengthen acceptance and accountability: Previous operations highlighted the importance of involving community representatives and local committees in beneficiary identification and validation processes. This contributed to greater transparency, reduced complaints, and increased community trust in the response. In this operation, SLRCS will maintain strong community engagement throughout targeting, implementation, and monitoring, while ensuring that beneficiary selection criteria are clearly communicated and understood by affected communities.

3. Cash assistance provides flexibility, dignity, and better alignment with household priorities: Experience from the 2024 floods response showed that cash assistance enabled households to address their most urgent needs according to their individual circumstances, resulting in high levels of beneficiary satisfaction and appropriate use of assistance. Given the diverse needs arising from the current flooding emergency and the functionality of local markets, multipurpose cash assistance has been selected as a core response modality to allow affected households to prioritize their own recovery needs with dignity.

4. Well-trained volunteers improve the quality, accountability, and effectiveness of operations: Lessons from previous responses demonstrated that comprehensive training of volunteers on cash programming, first aid, psychosocial support, safeguarding, accountability, and community engagement significantly improved service delivery and operational performance. As a result, the current operation includes refresher training and capacity strengthening for staff and volunteers to enhance the quality of implementation, monitoring, and community outreach activities.

5. Continuous community feedback and monitoring improve programme quality and responsiveness: Previous operations showed that regular monitoring, post-distribution monitoring, and real-time feedback collection enabled early identification of challenges and facilitated timely adjustments to improve programme outcomes. In addition, communication challenges experienced in hard-to-reach locations underscored the importance of using multiple communication channels and locally appropriate messaging. Accordingly, this operation will strengthen Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) mechanisms, establish accessible complaints and feedback channels, and conduct regular monitoring to ensure that the response remains relevant, accountable, and responsive to evolving community needs.

These lessons have directly informed the design of the current DREF operation and will contribute to more effective targeting, stronger accountability, improved community acceptance, and better humanitarian outcomes for flood-affected households.

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

Yes

What was the risk level for Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis?:

Yes.

A Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis (CSRA) was completed during the previous flood response operation (MDRSL016). The overall risk level was assessed as Medium, reflecting the increased vulnerabilities faced by children during emergency response operations, including risks associated with distribution activities, community interactions, and population displacement.



Mitigation measures included volunteer screening, safeguarding orientation, supervision of activities involving children, application of the Child Safeguarding Policy, establishment of complaints and feedback mechanisms, and strengthening community awareness on child protection concerns. Lessons from the previous operation have informed the design of the current response, with safeguarding measures integrated across all programme sectors and staff and volunteers receiving orientation on safeguarding, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI).

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

03-08-2026

Health	The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has mobilized trained volunteers to provide first aid and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to people affected by the floods, helping address immediate physical health needs while providing emotional support to individuals and families impacted by loss, displacement, and trauma. As part of the initial response, SLRCS volunteers have conducted outreach in affected communities, delivering psychological first aid, offering basic emotional support, and facilitating referrals for individuals requiring additional care. To date, 15 flood-affected individuals with minor injuries have received first-aid assistance, helping to prevent complications and ensuring timely access to essential health services. Given the fatalities, displacement, destruction of homes, and loss of livelihoods resulting from the floods, psychosocial needs are expected to increase, particularly among children, older persons, bereaved families, and those who have lost homes or possessions. SLRCS continues to monitor the evolving health situation in affected communities and remains committed to providing lifesaving first aid, psychosocial support, health promotion, and referral services as part of its humanitarian response.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has deployed trained staff and volunteers to conduct rapid Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assessments in the affected communities to determine the extent of damage to water sources, sanitation facilities, and hygiene conditions. These teams have been instrumental in identifying priority needs and informing the overall response strategy. Leveraging capacities developed through previous DREF operations, deployed volunteers have assessed the condition of community water points and sanitation infrastructure, including the impact of floodwaters on access to safe drinking water. Initial findings indicate that several water sources, including community boreholes, have been contaminated, heightening the risk of waterborne diseases among affected populations. Given the scale of the flooding, the contamination of water sources, and the continued risk posed by ongoing rainfall, refresher training for staff and volunteers is required to strengthen their capacity in hygiene promotion, community engagement and accountability, epidemic prevention and control, and emergency WASH interventions. This will ensure the delivery of consistent, timely, and quality hygiene messaging and support efforts to reduce public health risks, particularly among children, older



	persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. SLRCS continues to closely monitor WASH-related risks in affected communities and is preparing to scale up hygiene promotion and community awareness activities to help prevent disease outbreaks and protect the health and well-being of affected households.
Coordination	Since the onset of the floods, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has been actively coordinating its response within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and with national and local authorities to ensure a timely, complementary, and well-coordinated humanitarian response. As an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, SLRCS maintains strong working relationships with government institutions at both national and district levels, particularly the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), local councils, sector ministries, and community leadership structures. SLRCS has been actively participating in emergency coordination meetings, assessment missions, and technical working groups convened by NDMA and other stakeholders. These platforms facilitate information sharing, joint analysis, operational planning, and the coordination of response activities, helping to minimize duplication and ensure that assistance reaches the most affected and vulnerable populations. At the field level, SLRCS response teams continue to work closely with government agencies, Movement partners, UN agencies, community leaders, and other humanitarian actors to support needs assessments, response planning, and service delivery. This coordination has strengthened situational awareness, enabled the timely identification of priority needs, and supported evidence-based decision-making throughout the response. As the situation continues to evolve due to ongoing rainfall and the potential for additional flooding, SLRCS will maintain active engagement in all relevant coordination mechanisms to ensure effective collaboration, resource mobilization, information management, and a coherent response aligned with national priorities and the needs of affected communities.
National Society Readiness	The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has a strong nationwide presence and extensive community networks that enable it to rapidly access and support vulnerable populations, including those living in hard-to-reach and disaster-prone areas. As the country's largest humanitarian organization and an auxiliary to the Government in the humanitarian field, SLRCS maintains trusted relationships with communities, local authorities, and national institutions, allowing for effective preparedness, early action, emergency response, and recovery interventions. The National Society has substantial experience in responding to floods, epidemics, population movements, and other emergencies, supported by strong partnerships within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Partner National Societies such as the British Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross. SLRCS maintains a well-established emergency response capacity, including more than 24 trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members, over 10 active Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members, and a network of more than 16,000 volunteers distributed across the country. These human resources provide surge capacity for assessments, relief distributions, community engagement and accountability, health interventions, WASH activities, shelter support, and emergency preparedness actions. The National Society has also strengthened its institutional preparedness through the successful completion of the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and the development of a Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Response Plan in collaboration with

	the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and other partners. These investments have enhanced SLRCS's operational readiness, coordination mechanisms, emergency planning, and response capacities. Through its network of 14 branches nationwide, including a strong operational presence in the affected areas, SLRCS is well positioned to lead and scale up emergency operations in coordination with government authorities and humanitarian partners. The Society's established Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), trained personnel, volunteer base, and community reach provide a solid foundation for delivering timely, effective, and accountable humanitarian assistance to flood-affected populations while supporting preparedness measures in communities at risk of additional flooding during the ongoing rainy season.
Assessment	In coordination with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) is undertaking a detailed multi-sectoral assessment in flood-affected communities to determine the full extent of the humanitarian impact and identify priority needs across sectors, including shelter, health, WASH, livelihoods, protection, and education. The assessment is also examining the effects of continued rainfall and the potential risks facing communities vulnerable to further flooding. To support immediate response decision-making, the National Society rapidly mobilized 100 volunteers from affected communities, coordinated by members of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), to conduct rapid needs assessments and collect initial data on the impact of the floods. These efforts enabled the timely identification of affected households, immediate humanitarian needs, and emerging risks within the most severely impacted locations. The preliminary assessment findings, complemented by situation reports and field verification conducted jointly with NDMA, confirmed significant damage to homes, community infrastructure, water sources, and household assets, as well as the displacement of affected families and heightened public health concerns. This information has informed the prioritization of response activities and the targeting of the most vulnerable households. As rainfall continues across Freetown and other parts of the country, assessments remain ongoing to monitor evolving needs, identify newly affected communities, and support evidence-based planning and response. The results of the comprehensive multi-sectoral assessment will provide a clearer picture of the overall scale of the disaster and guide the adjustment and expansion of humanitarian interventions as required.
National Society EOC	With support from previous DREF operations, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has established and maintains a functional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), which was activated immediately following the flooding event. The EOC has played a central role in coordinating response efforts, consolidating and analysing assessment data, facilitating information management, and supporting operational decision-making across affected communities. Since the onset of the floods, the EOC has worked closely with branch teams, volunteers, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), and other partners to monitor the evolving situation, track humanitarian needs, and coordinate field activities. This has enabled the timely deployment of assessment teams, rapid reporting from affected communities, and the identification of priority humanitarian needs. Given the continued rainfall being experienced across Freetown and other parts of the country, the EOC remains fully operational on a 24/7 basis to support ongoing surveillance, information sharing, and response coordination. The EOC will continue to monitor weather developments and flood risks, provide real-time situational updates, support operational planning, and ensure preparedness for potential flooding in additional communities during the remainder of the rainy season. This capacity is

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) maintains a Country Delegation in Freetown, providing strategic, technical, and operational support to the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) and serving as a key partner in strengthening preparedness, response, and organizational development capacities. The delegation forms part of the IFRC's broader support architecture in the region and comprises experienced technical personnel specializing in disaster management, National Society Development, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (PMER), finance, logistics, resource mobilization, and emergency operations.

Since the onset of the floods, the IFRC Country Delegation has worked closely with SLRCS leadership and operational teams to support emergency response planning, needs analysis, operational strategy development, and coordination within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Through this close collaboration, the IFRC has supported the National Society in defining priority intervention areas, strengthening response coordination mechanisms, and ensuring alignment of the operation with identified humanitarian needs and national response priorities.

Throughout the operation, the IFRC will provide technical and operational support across all aspects of implementation. This includes assistance in disaster management and emergency response programming, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (PMER), financial management, reporting, information management, communications, logistics, procurement, risk management, and compliance with IFRC standards and procedures. The IFRC will also support quality assurance and accountability processes to ensure that assistance reaches the most vulnerable populations in a timely, efficient, and accountable manner.

As part of its Secretariat services, the IFRC will provide dedicated support in PMER, finance, administration, logistics, security, procurement, and National Society Development (NSD). The IFRC technical team will work closely with SLRCS to monitor implementation progress, strengthen data collection and analysis, support donor reporting requirements, and ensure sound financial management and operational accountability throughout the response.

The IFRC will also facilitate coordination within the Movement, ensuring complementarity between the efforts of the SLRCS, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Partner National Societies (PNS), while supporting engagement with government authorities, humanitarian actors, donors, and other stakeholders. Through its global network, the IFRC will help mobilize technical expertise, operational support, and resources to address emerging needs and strengthen the overall effectiveness of the response.

Under this DREF operation, the IFRC Country Delegation in Freetown will continue to provide sustained accompaniment to the SLRCS throughout implementation. An operations focal point will support overall response coordination, while technical specialists from PMER, finance, logistics, communications, and disaster management functions will provide ongoing remote and in-country support as required. This support will help ensure that the operation remains responsive to evolving needs, particularly given the continued rainfall across Sierra Leone and the risk of further flooding in additional communities during the ongoing rainy season.

Participating National Societies	The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) maintains close coordination with its Partner National Societies (PNSs), particularly the Finnish Red Cross and Icelandic Red Cross, which support ongoing programmes in community health, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, protection, and community preparedness. Following the flooding emergency, the SLRCS shared the Situation Report, preliminary assessment findings, and proposed response plan with Partner National Societies to ensure they are informed of the evolving humanitarian situation, identified needs, and planned response actions. This information-sharing supports Movement-wide situational awareness and promotes coordinated engagement among partners. At the time of reporting, neither the Finnish Red Cross nor the Icelandic Red Cross has committed funding to support the current flood response operation. However, both remain engaged partners of the SLRCS through existing programmes and regular operational coordination. The National Society will continue to provide updates on the situation and response progress, while engaging Movement partners on emerging humanitarian needs and potential funding gaps, particularly given the continued rainfall across Sierra Leone and the risk of additional flooding affecting more communities during the ongoing rainy season. SLRCS will continue to work closely with Partner National Societies to ensure complementarity of efforts and to explore opportunities for technical and resource support should the humanitarian situation worsen, or recovery needs exceed the scope of the current DREF operation.
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ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) does not have a permanent presence in Sierra Leone and provides support through its regional delegation in Dakar, Senegal. The ICRC works with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) to strengthen operational capacity, particularly in areas affected by socio-political tensions and inter-community violence. Following the floods, the SLRCS shared the Situation Report, assessment findings, and proposed response plan with the ICRC as part of Movement coordination and information sharing. At the time of submitting this DREF application, the ICRC had not committed financial or operational support to the flood response. However, regular coordination and information exchange will continue throughout the operation.	
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Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), as the lead government agency for disaster response, has been coordinating the national response since the onset of the floods. Working closely with local authorities, the Ministry of Health, and humanitarian partners, the NDMA conducted rapid assessments in affected communities to determine the scale of the impact, identify priority needs, and guide response planning. In response to the emergency, the NDMA convened coordination meetings with humanitarian actors and development partners to mobilize support for affected

	populations, strengthen information sharing, and enhance response coordination. The agency has also supported search and rescue efforts, verified casualty and damage reports, and continued to monitor the evolving situation as rainfall persists across the country. The Ministry of Health is actively monitoring public health risks associated with the floods through the existing Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system. Surveillance for priority epidemic-prone diseases, including cholera, acute diarrhoeal diseases, and malaria, is ongoing through health facilities and community-based reporting mechanisms. Health authorities continue routine disease surveillance, case reporting, alert management, and risk communication activities to support the early detection and response to potential outbreaks in affected communities. In addition, government protection services remain operational and are supporting vulnerable populations affected by the floods. Existing referral pathways are available through the Ministry of Social Welfare, health facilities, child protection services, gender-based violence (GBV) support services, psychosocial support services, and other specialized protection actors operating in the affected areas. These mechanisms provide referral and support services for individuals requiring protection assistance, including women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and other at-risk groups. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has worked in close collaboration with NDMA, the Ministry of Health, and other government authorities throughout the response, supporting assessments, first aid services, community awareness activities, and humanitarian coordination efforts. During the implementation of this operation, SLRCS staff and volunteers will coordinate closely with health authorities to support community health promotion, disease prevention messaging, and referral of suspected cases where required. Staff and volunteers will also be oriented on safe identification and confidential referral procedures for protection cases and will coordinate with the Ministry of Social Welfare and relevant protection partners to ensure that individuals requiring specialized support are referred through established services. While the Government and partners continue to mobilize resources to address the needs of affected communities, significant humanitarian gaps remain. Continued coordination between national authorities, SLRCS, IFRC, and humanitarian partners will remain critical to addressing immediate needs, supporting early recovery, and preparing for the risk of additional flooding during the ongoing rainy season.
UN or other actors	-



Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

A National Inter-Pillar Coordination Mechanism, led by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), has been activated to coordinate the flood response. The platform brings together government ministries, agencies, humanitarian organizations, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), and other response partners to facilitate information sharing, joint planning, resource mobilization, and operational coordination.

At the national level, regular coordination meetings are convened by the NDMA to provide situational updates, review assessment findings, identify priority needs, and coordinate response interventions. Similar coordination structures are operational at district and community levels, involving local authorities, community leaders, and frontline responders to support information flow and response planning.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, the SLRCS is an active participant in these coordination mechanisms, contributing assessment data, operational updates, and technical inputs to support evidence-based decision-making. The National Society is also working closely with the NDMA and other partners to support joint assessments, identify vulnerable households, and ensure that response efforts are complementary and do not duplicate assistance.

At present, no major coordination gaps have been identified. However, the response remains heavily focused on conducting detailed assessments as reports of flood impacts continue to emerge from additional communities and districts. Continued coordination will be essential to monitor evolving humanitarian needs, address emerging gaps, and ensure a timely and coordinated response throughout the ongoing rainy season.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The floods have significantly disrupted livelihoods and household economies across the affected communities, leaving many households unable to meet their immediate basic needs. Floodwaters damaged or destroyed small businesses, market stalls, food stocks, household assets, and productive resources, resulting in substantial income losses for affected families. The impact has been particularly severe for petty traders, daily wage earners, and female-headed households who depend on informal economic activities and have limited savings or alternative income sources to absorb such shocks.

Rapid assessments conducted by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) found that many affected households lost essential possessions, including furniture, bedding, clothing, cooking utensils, food supplies, and business inventory. For many families, these assets represented the accumulation of years of investment and constituted their primary means of sustaining household well-being and generating income. The loss of these resources has severely reduced the ability of affected populations to cope and recover independently.

Food security has emerged as a critical concern. Many households reported the loss or contamination of stored food due to floodwaters, while disruptions to livelihoods have reduced their purchasing power and ability to replenish depleted supplies. Displaced families and those living in damaged homes face additional financial pressures associated with temporary accommodation, transportation, healthcare, and household repairs. As household resources continue to be depleted, affected populations face increasing difficulty in meeting essential needs such as food, clothing, hygiene items, and other basic requirements.

The economic impact of the floods extends beyond immediate household losses. The destruction of small businesses and income-generating activities threatens the recovery prospects of affected communities, particularly among vulnerable households that rely on daily earnings for survival. Without timely support, families may be forced to adopt negative coping strategies, including reducing food consumption, taking on unsustainable debt, selling remaining productive assets, or withdrawing children from school to contribute to household income.

The humanitarian situation remains particularly concerning given the continued rainfall being experienced across Freetown and other parts of Sierra Leone. Households that have already suffered losses remain highly vulnerable to further shocks, while additional flooding could result in further damage to livelihoods, household assets, and food supplies. The ongoing rainy season limits recovery opportunities and increases the likelihood that humanitarian needs will continue to grow in the coming weeks.

The identified gaps in livelihoods and basic needs support therefore remain substantial, particularly among low-income households,

female-headed households, older persons, persons with disabilities, and families whose primary sources of income have been disrupted by the floods. Immediate assistance is required to prevent further deterioration of food security, protect household livelihoods, and support the early recovery of affected populations.



Multi purpose cash grants

The floods have left many affected households with multiple and overlapping urgent needs that cannot be adequately addressed through a single-sector intervention. The loss of homes, household assets, food stocks, clothing, livelihood resources, and income-generating activities has significantly reduced the capacity of affected families to meet their immediate basic needs. Many households are now facing competing priorities, including the purchase of food, drinking water, medicines, hygiene supplies, clothing, transportation, temporary shelter, and materials for minor household repairs.

Assessments indicate that the needs of affected households vary considerably depending on the extent of damage experienced, household composition, displacement status, and livelihood losses. Vulnerable groups, including female-headed households, older persons, persons with disabilities, households caring for chronically ill family members, and families with young children, face particularly high levels of financial stress as they struggle to cover essential expenses while coping with the aftermath of the floods.

The flooding has also resulted in the temporary displacement of many households, creating additional expenditures related to accommodation, transportation, healthcare, and replacement of essential household items. At the same time, the loss of income and livelihood opportunities has reduced household purchasing power, leaving many families unable to meet their priority needs without external support. As savings are depleted and recovery opportunities remain limited during the ongoing rainy season, affected populations are increasingly vulnerable to negative coping strategies, including reducing food consumption, accumulating debt, selling productive assets, or foregoing critical health and education expenditures.

Market observations conducted in affected areas indicate that local markets remain functional and accessible, with essential commodities available despite localized disruptions. However, the main constraint facing affected households is a lack of financial resources to purchase these goods. Consequently, a significant gap exists between the availability of basic commodities in local markets and the ability of affected households to access them.

Given the diversity of needs, varying levels of impact, and the continued uncertainty posed by ongoing rainfall and the risk of further flooding, affected households require flexible assistance that enables them to prioritize their most urgent needs according to their individual circumstances. Multipurpose cash assistance has therefore been identified as a critical humanitarian need to restore access to basic goods and services, support household dignity and choice, reduce reliance on negative coping mechanisms, and contribute to the early recovery of flood-affected populations.



Health

The floods have created significant health risks for affected populations, both immediately and in the aftermath of the disaster. Loss of life, displacement, destruction of homes, and the loss of livelihoods have exposed many individuals and families to considerable psychological stress and emotional trauma. This is particularly evident among bereaved families, including those who lost relatives during the flooding, as well as households that have lost homes, assets, and sources of income. Children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups are especially at risk of experiencing prolonged psychosocial distress and may require targeted support to cope with the emotional impacts of the disaster.

The flooding has also heightened public health concerns due to the contamination of water sources and the deterioration of environmental sanitation conditions in affected communities. Initial assessments confirmed that more than 18 community boreholes have been contaminated, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, and other acute gastrointestinal infections. The risk is further exacerbated by continued rainfall, stagnant floodwaters, overcrowding among displaced households, and limited access to safe water and adequate hygiene facilities.

In addition, flood-affected communities face heightened exposure to vector-borne diseases, particularly malaria, as standing water creates favourable breeding conditions for mosquitoes. Pregnant women, children under five, older persons, and individuals with underlying health conditions are particularly vulnerable to the health consequences associated with disease outbreaks and reduced access to preventive measures.

Although no major disease outbreak has been reported to date, the evolving situation requires continued health surveillance, risk communication, community awareness, and early detection measures to prevent the emergence and spread of communicable diseases.



The combination of psychosocial distress, increased disease risk, disrupted living conditions, and continued exposure to flood-related hazards underscore the need for sustained health support and public health interventions to protect affected populations and prevent further deterioration of their wellbeing.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The floods have significantly affected access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services in the most affected communities, creating conditions conducive to disease outbreaks and further deterioration of public health. Preliminary assessments indicate that more than 18 community boreholes serving affected populations have been contaminated by floodwaters, debris, and surface runoff, severely limiting access to safe drinking water for affected households.

As a result, many families are relying on potentially unsafe water sources for drinking, cooking, and domestic use, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, and other acute gastrointestinal illnesses. The risk is particularly high among children under five, older persons, pregnant and lactating women, persons with disabilities, and individuals with underlying health conditions, who are often the most vulnerable to disease outbreaks and related complications.

The flooding has also damaged household hygiene conditions through the loss of water storage containers, hygiene supplies, and sanitation materials. Many affected households reported the loss of essential items such as buckets, soap, and other hygiene commodities, reducing their ability to safely store water and maintain adequate hygiene practices. In some locations, accumulated debris, stagnant water, and poor waste disposal conditions have further increased environmental health risks and created favourable conditions for disease transmission.

The situation remains concerning as continued rainfall across Freetown and other parts of Sierra Leone increases the likelihood of additional flooding, further contamination of water sources, and worsening sanitation conditions. Communities already affected by the floods remain exposed to recurring WASH-related risks, while other vulnerable communities may face similar challenges should the rains persist.

Assessments further identified limited community capacity to undertake preventive environmental sanitation activities, while existing community-based disaster management structures require additional strengthening to support preparedness, risk reduction, and response efforts. There is also a critical need for comprehensive assessment and monitoring of affected water sources to determine contamination levels, identify rehabilitation requirements, and ensure that affected populations regain access to safe and reliable water supplies.

Without timely intervention, the combination of contaminated water sources, inadequate hygiene conditions, disrupted sanitation services, and continued rainfall could lead to a significant increase in public health risks and disease outbreaks among affected populations. The identified gaps therefore underscore the urgent need for safe water, hygiene support, sanitation interventions, and community-based prevention measures to protect the health and well-being of affected households.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The floods have disproportionately affected vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, and female-headed households, who face heightened risks during and after displacement. The loss of homes, disruption of family and community support structures, overcrowded temporary accommodation arrangements, and reduced access to basic services have increased protection concerns across affected communities.

Many affected households are currently living in compromised conditions with limited privacy and inadequate separation of living spaces. Such conditions can increase the risk of exploitation, abuse, neglect, violence, and other protection concerns, particularly for women, girls, unaccompanied children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. In addition, the destruction of livelihoods and household assets has placed significant economic and psychosocial stress on families, potentially exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and protection risks.

The flooding has also created barriers to accessing assistance for vulnerable populations. Persons with disabilities, older persons, pregnant women, and individuals with mobility limitations may face greater challenges in accessing relief services, information, healthcare, safe water sources, and other essential support. Without deliberate inclusion measures, these groups risk being excluded from humanitarian assistance and recovery efforts.

The loss of homes, livelihoods, and personal belongings has further contributed to psychosocial distress among affected populations.



Children who have experienced displacement, witnessed flood-related incidents, or suffered disruption to their education and daily routines may require additional support to mitigate the longer-term impacts of the disaster. Women and girls may face increased safety concerns, particularly in overcrowded settings and areas with limited lighting, privacy, and protection mechanisms.

Furthermore, assessments indicate the need for stronger community-level awareness and capacity to identify, prevent, and respond to protection risks, including sexual exploitation and abuse, safeguarding concerns, and gender-related vulnerabilities. As the rainy season continues and additional communities remain at risk of flooding, protection concerns may increase if displacement, service disruptions, and humanitarian needs expand further.

The identified gaps highlight the need for a protection-sensitive and inclusive response that ensures safe, equitable, and dignified access to humanitarian assistance for all affected populations, with particular attention to those facing the greatest vulnerabilities and protection risks.



Education

The floods have disrupted access to education for children in the affected communities, compounding the humanitarian impact on already vulnerable households. Preliminary assessments identified significant damage to a community school in Portor Community, where classrooms and learning materials were affected by floodwaters and structural damage. The destruction of educational resources has reduced the school's capacity to provide a safe and conducive learning environment for students.

Many affected families also reported the loss or damage of children's school supplies, including books, notebooks, school bags, uniforms, and other essential learning materials. For households that have lost homes, livelihoods, and household assets, replacing these items is unlikely to be an immediate priority given competing needs for food, shelter, healthcare, and other basic necessities. Without support, many children risk prolonged interruptions to their education, potentially affecting attendance, learning outcomes, and overall wellbeing.

The impact is particularly concerning for children from low-income and displaced households, who face increased barriers to returning to school. Prolonged disruption of education can expose children to additional protection risks, including child labour, neglect, and other negative coping mechanisms adopted by households facing economic hardship.

With the rainy season ongoing and some families continuing to experience displacement and financial uncertainty, restoring access to learning materials and supporting the continuity of education remains a critical need. Addressing these gaps will help children return to learning, promote a sense of normalcy following the disaster, and reduce the risk of long-term educational setbacks among affected students.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The August 2026 floods have highlighted the increasing exposure of communities in Freetown to extreme rainfall events and the limitations of existing coping capacities when faced with prolonged and intense precipitation. Although significant investments in drainage improvement, environmental management, and flood mitigation have reduced flood risk in recent years, the severity of this event demonstrates that vulnerable communities remain exposed to recurring flood, erosion, and landslide hazards, particularly during periods of continuous rainfall.

Many of the affected communities are located in low-lying flood-prone areas, along waterways, or on unstable hillsides where unplanned settlements, inadequate drainage infrastructure, environmental degradation, and poor waste management practices contribute to elevated disaster risk. Assessments found that blocked drainage channels, accumulated debris, and erosion have increased the likelihood of further flooding during subsequent rainfall events and may worsen impacts on lives, livelihoods, housing, and critical infrastructure.

The continuous rainfall experienced across Sierra Leone following the initial flooding event has further exposed the need for strengthened community preparedness and anticipatory actions. Communities currently face heightened risks of additional flooding, soil erosion, slope failures, and water source contamination as the rainy season continues. Without improved risk awareness and preparedness measures, vulnerable households are likely to experience repeated losses, increasing humanitarian needs and prolonging recovery.

Assessments also identified gaps in community-level disaster preparedness, early warning dissemination, and local response capacities. While community structures exist in some locations, their ability to effectively monitor hazards, organize preparedness activities, and support timely community action remains limited. Strengthening community-based disaster risk management mechanisms is therefore essential to improving preparedness, reducing vulnerability, and enabling communities to respond more effectively to future shocks.



There is a critical need to enhance risk awareness, strengthen community-based early warning and preparedness systems, and support locally led risk reduction initiatives. Investments in community resilience are particularly important given the growing frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards, which continue to threaten the safety, wellbeing, and livelihoods of vulnerable populations across Freetown and other parts of Sierra Leone. Without targeted risk reduction and climate adaptation measures, affected communities will remain highly vulnerable to future flood events and their associated humanitarian consequences.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The rapidly evolving nature of the flooding emergency has created a significant need for timely, accurate, and accessible information for affected populations. Many households require clear guidance on available assistance, eligibility criteria, response activities, health risks, safe water practices, and actions they can take to reduce their exposure to further flooding and related hazards. In the absence of reliable information, affected communities may face uncertainty, misinformation, heightened anxiety, and reduced ability to make informed decisions regarding their safety and recovery.

The continued rainfall across Freetown and other parts of Sierra Leone, coupled with the possibility of additional flooding, further underscores the importance of ensuring that communities receive regular updates on emerging risks, preparedness measures, and available support services. Effective communication is particularly critical for vulnerable groups, including women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and marginalized households, who may face barriers in accessing information and assistance.

Assessments also indicate the need for stronger mechanisms to ensure that community voices inform the response. Affected populations require safe, accessible, and trusted channels through which they can ask questions, provide feedback, report concerns, and participate in decision-making processes affecting their communities. Without adequate feedback and accountability mechanisms, there is a risk that assistance may not fully reflect community priorities, vulnerabilities, and protection concerns.

Beyond immediate humanitarian needs, the floods have highlighted persistent gaps in community awareness of disaster risks and risk-reduction practices. Many affected communities remain highly exposed to flooding, erosion, infrastructure collapse, and landslide hazards, particularly those located along waterways, in low-lying areas, and on unstable hillsides. In addition, poor waste disposal practices, blocked drainage systems, and unregulated construction in hazard-prone locations continue to increase disaster risks and exacerbate flood impacts.

There is therefore a critical need for sustained community engagement and risk communication efforts that promote awareness of flood and landslide risks, support community preparedness, strengthen trust between affected populations and responders, and encourage protective behaviours. Strengthening accountability to affected populations will be essential to ensuring that humanitarian assistance remains relevant, inclusive, responsive, and aligned with the priorities and concerns of communities affected by the floods.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

While rapid assessments conducted by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) have provided critical information to guide the initial response, several gaps and limitations remain due to the evolving nature of the emergency and the continued rainfall affecting Freetown and other parts of the country.

Assessment coverage remains incomplete. The rapid assessment focused primarily on the most severely affected communities, including Portor Community (Juba Hills), Metchem Community, 44 Femi Turner Drive (Goderich), Regent Road-Lumley, and Bonga Town. However, continuous rainfall since the flooding event has resulted in additional reports of flooding and localized impacts in other communities. As a result, the full geographical extent of the disaster and the total number of affected people are still being verified.

Significant humanitarian needs remain unmet across multiple sectors. Preliminary findings indicate urgent gaps in livelihoods and basic needs, shelter, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, education, and disaster risk reduction. Many affected households continue to lack adequate resources to meet basic needs, restore livelihoods, replace lost household assets, access safe water, and recover from the impact of the floods.

Resource constraints continue to limit response coverage. Although assessments have identified substantial humanitarian needs, available resources remain insufficient relative to the scale of the impact. At the time of assessment, no large-scale relief assistance had yet been mobilized to address the full range of identified needs, leaving many affected households without support. Additional funding and resources are required to ensure timely assistance and prevent further deterioration of living conditions.

Continued rainfall presents operational challenges. Persistent rainfall across Sierra Leone continues to affect access to some communities,



complicate assessment efforts, and increase the likelihood of new incidents. The evolving situation requires continuous monitoring and reassessment as additional households and communities may become affected during the ongoing rainy season.

The specific needs of vulnerable groups may not yet be fully captured. While initial assessments identified vulnerable populations, including children, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, female-headed households, and displaced families, more detailed analysis is required to fully understand their protection concerns, recovery priorities, and barriers to accessing assistance. Additional sector-specific assessments will be necessary to ensure that response interventions adequately address their needs.

Recovery and resilience needs are likely underrepresented in current assessment findings. The immediate focus of rapid assessments has been on life-saving and urgent humanitarian needs. Further analysis is required to quantify longer-term recovery requirements, including livelihood restoration, rehabilitation of community infrastructure, restoration of water systems, and community-based disaster risk reduction measures.

Given the ongoing rainfall, the possibility of additional flooding, and the dynamic humanitarian situation, assessment activities will continue to be updated to ensure response planning remains evidence-based and responsive to emerging needs. These limitations highlight the importance of flexible emergency funding and ongoing monitoring to address both current and evolving humanitarian needs.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of the planned response is to mitigate the humanitarian impact of the August 2026 floods on 1,020 affected households in Freetown through timely, targeted, and integrated assistance that addresses immediate needs and supports early recovery in livelihoods and basic needs, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, education, and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI). The operation will place particular emphasis on multipurpose cash assistance to enable affected households to meet their most urgent priorities with dignity, while reducing reliance on negative coping mechanisms. The response will also strengthen community resilience through Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and recovery actions, while building the capacity of staff, volunteers, and communities to better prepare for and respond to future flood-related emergencies.

Operation strategy rationale

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) will implement a people-centred, integrated, and needs-based response to address the immediate humanitarian needs and support the early recovery of 1,020 flood-affected households (5,100 people) in the most affected communities of the Western Area Urban District following the August 2026 floods. The operation is informed by rapid assessments conducted jointly with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), which identified significant losses of livelihoods, household assets, food stocks, access to safe water, and basic services, leaving affected households with urgent unmet needs and limited coping capacity.

The response strategy recognizes that affected households face multiple and interconnected challenges that cannot be effectively addressed through a single-sector intervention. The operation will therefore combine multipurpose cash assistance, livelihood recovery support, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and community preparedness activities to address immediate humanitarian needs while supporting recovery and strengthening resilience.

The response will prioritize 1,020 of the most vulnerable flood-affected households. Priority will be given to households that have experienced significant losses and face heightened vulnerability, including female-headed households, child-headed households, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, and households with limited capacity to recover without external assistance.

Given that local markets remain functional, adequately supplied, and accessible in the affected communities, cash assistance has been identified as the most appropriate response modality. A rapid market assessment confirmed the availability of essential commodities and services, while a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) analysis was conducted using prevailing market prices to estimate the minimum cost required for households to meet their essential needs, including food, hygiene items, healthcare, transportation, communication, and other priority expenditures during the immediate recovery period. Before finalising the cash transfer arrangements with FSP, the beneficiary registration process will be done concurrently to another check on inflation and transfer modality feasibility check will be performed by branches with guidance from IFRC cash focal person. This will support a final confirmation of the beneficiary mobile



transfer details, confirm all households' requirements for account ownership and specific set-up to manage vulnerabilities during distributions.

Cross-cutting components including PGI, CEA, MHPSS, safeguarding, and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) will be mainstreamed throughout the operation to ensure that assistance is safe, accessible, accountable, inclusive, and responsive to community needs.

Under this DREF operation, SLRCS will implement interventions in the following sectors:

1. Multipurpose Cash Assistance (Target: 5,100 people / 1,020 households)

Rapid assessments identified widespread loss of household assets, food stocks, income sources, and essential belongings, leaving many families unable to meet their immediate basic needs. Given that local markets remain functional and accessible, SLRCS will provide cash assistance to enable affected households to meet their most urgent needs according to their own priorities while supporting early recovery and reducing harmful coping mechanisms.

Based on the findings of the rapid market assessment and Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) analysis, 1,020 households (5,100 people) will each receive a one-off unconditional multipurpose cash transfer of NLe 4,700. The transfer value was determined using prevailing market prices and assessed household needs following the floods and is intended to support food security, essential household items, water, sanitation and hygiene needs, and other immediate recovery priorities.

The transfer value is composed as follows:

- NLe 2,500 for food and nutritional support, calculated to cover essential food needs for a period of approximately two months based on the local expenditure basket. This includes cereals (NLe 1,835), pulses (NLe 435), vegetable oil (NLe 221), and salt (NLe 9).
- NLe 1,200 for the replacement of essential household items lost or damaged during the floods, including bed sheets, drinking buckets, laundry bowls, cooking utensils, cups, sleeping mats, and blankets, enabling families to restore minimum living conditions and dignity.
- NLe 1,000 to support other immediate recovery needs, including hygiene supplies, water treatment and storage needs, healthcare costs, transportation, communication, and other priority household expenditures identified by affected families.

The assistance package was designed to reflect the priority needs identified during assessments and to provide households with the flexibility to address their most pressing needs according to their individual circumstances. The use of cash assistance will preserve dignity and choice while promoting local market recovery.

SLRCS has an existing contractual agreement with a Financial Service Provider (FSP) currently supporting cash transfers under the ongoing Windstorm and Fire Response Operation. The same FSP will be utilized under this operation to ensure timely, efficient, and accountable delivery of assistance. Cash transfers will be delivered through mobile money, providing beneficiaries with safe and convenient access to assistance while minimizing operational risks and supporting rapid implementation.

To promote the appropriate utilization of assistance, 50 trained volunteers and 10 staff members will conduct community sensitization and beneficiary orientation sessions prior to distributions. These sessions will explain the purpose of the cash assistance, targeting criteria, transfer mechanisms, priority household expenditures, beneficiary responsibilities, and available feedback and complaint mechanisms. The sensitization activities will encourage households to utilize the assistance for the intended purposes, including food, hygiene needs, healthcare, transportation, and replacement of essential household items required for recovery.

To ensure quality implementation, staff and volunteers will be supported on beneficiary registration, targeting, verification, cash programming, community engagement, and monitoring. A Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise will be conducted two weeks after cash distributions to assess beneficiary satisfaction, expenditure patterns, market functionality, protection concerns, utilization of cash for intended purposes, and the overall impact of the assistance on household recovery and wellbeing. Findings will be used to strengthen accountability, document lessons learned, and inform future cash-based interventions.

2. Livelihoods Support (Target: 355 people / 71 households)

The floods severely affected the livelihoods of many households, particularly petty traders, small business owners, and informal workers who lost productive assets, business stock, equipment, and sources of income.

To support early economic recovery, 71 households (355 people) will receive a one-off livelihood recovery grant of NLe 6,000 per household. These households are included within the overall target of 1,020 households receiving multipurpose cash assistance and therefore will benefit from both interventions. Beneficiaries will be selected based on the severity of livelihood losses and vulnerability criteria established through the assessment process.

The livelihood recovery grant value was determined based on assessment findings regarding the average level of business losses and the resources required to restart small-scale income-generating activities. The assistance will enable affected households to replace lost stock,



restore productive assets, restart small businesses, and recover household income more quickly.

Livelihood recovery grants will be delivered through the same contracted Financial Service Provider using mobile money transfers, ensuring efficient, transparent, and accountable delivery. Post-distribution monitoring will assess the utilization of grants and their contribution to livelihood restoration and household recovery.

3. Health (Target: 5,100 people / 1,020 households)

The floods have increased the risk of communicable diseases, malaria, injuries, and psychosocial distress among affected populations. Health interventions will focus on health promotion, disease prevention, first aid, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

SLRCS will support the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, community health awareness campaigns, dissemination of key health and hygiene messages, and capacity strengthening of volunteers in First Aid and MHPSS. Volunteers will also support referrals of individuals requiring specialized medical or psychosocial services. These interventions will contribute to reducing disease risks and improving the overall wellbeing of affected communities.

4. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (Target: 5,100 people / 1,020 households)

The floods contaminated community water sources and increased the risk of waterborne diseases. Assessments indicate that more than 18 water points have been affected, reducing access to safe drinking water for large numbers of people.

WASH interventions will focus on restoring access to safe water through assessment and rehabilitation of damaged water sources, water quality testing, household water treatment support, and hygiene promotion activities. Community awareness sessions will promote safe water handling, sanitation, and hygiene practices to reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. These interventions will contribute to improved access to safe water and healthier living conditions for affected households.

5. Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) (Target: 5,100 people / 1,020 households)

Protection, Gender and Inclusion will be mainstreamed throughout the operation to ensure that assistance is delivered safely, equitably, and without discrimination. Particular attention will be given to the needs of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, and other vulnerable groups.

Staff and volunteers involved in the operation will receive orientation on PGI, safeguarding, PSEA, and protection principles to strengthen safe programming and ensure that assistance remains accessible and appropriate for all targeted populations.

6. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

CEA will be integrated throughout the operation to ensure meaningful participation of affected communities in planning, implementation, monitoring, and decision-making processes.

SLRCS will conduct community consultations, provide timely information on the response, and establish accessible feedback and complaints mechanisms. Feedback received from communities will be analyzed and used to inform operational decisions and adapt interventions where necessary. These measures will strengthen accountability and ensure that the response remains responsive to community priorities and concerns.

7. Community Preparedness and Early Recovery

Recognizing that the floods occurred during the peak rainy season and that further rainfall may trigger additional flooding, the operation will support community preparedness and early recovery actions aimed at strengthening local resilience.

SLRCS will work with communities to promote risk awareness, preparedness actions, and local mitigation measures that can reduce vulnerabilities to future flood events. These activities will contribute to strengthening community capacities to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from future disasters.

8. Operational Support

Strong operational support will underpin the effectiveness, quality, and accountability of the response.

Logistics and Supply Chain: Procurement and delivery of goods and services will be undertaken in line with SLRCS and IFRC procurement procedures and standards. Where feasible, procurement will be carried out locally to promote timely implementation and support local market recovery.



Security: The operation will be implemented in accordance with the SLRCS Security Manual, Safer Access Framework, and IFRC Minimum Security Requirements (MSRs) to ensure the safety and security of staff, volunteers, and affected communities.

Administration and Finance: Financial management will be supported by the IFRC Country Delegation, ensuring compliance with DREF procedures, financial accountability standards, expenditure monitoring, and timely reporting.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER): SLRCS will conduct regular field monitoring, post-distribution monitoring, supervision visits, and operational reviews to assess progress, track results, and ensure accountability. A lessons-learned workshop involving SLRCS, IFRC, NDMA, and other key stakeholders will be organized at the conclusion of the operation to capture good practices, challenges, and recommendations for future emergency responses.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Rapid assessments conducted jointly by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) identified 1,763 flood-affected households (8,915 people) across the most severely impacted communities of the Western Area Urban District. While all identified households have been affected by the floods, the severity of impact and recovery capacity vary significantly between households.

Given the scale of humanitarian needs and the resources available under this DREF operation, it is not possible to provide assistance to all affected households. Therefore, the operation will prioritize 1,020 households (5,100 people) assessed as having the highest level of humanitarian need and the lowest capacity to recover without external support. The target was determined through analysis of assessment findings, vulnerability data, estimated operational resources, and the funding available under the DREF allocation.

The selected 1,020 households represent those whose lives and livelihoods have been most severely disrupted by the floods. These households experienced substantial losses of income, productive assets, household belongings, food stocks, and access to essential services, leaving them unable to meet their immediate basic needs. Many have exhausted available coping mechanisms and remain highly exposed to the risk of further hardship due to ongoing rainfall and the continued threat of flooding.

The targeting approach is guided by the principle of prioritizing households facing the greatest vulnerability and protection risks. Particular attention will be given to households that combine severe flood impacts with pre-existing vulnerabilities that limit their ability to recover independently.

While shelter was identified as a significant need during assessments, the Government and other humanitarian partners have indicated plans to support shelter-related interventions. To avoid duplication and maximize the overall coverage of humanitarian assistance, SLRCS will focus its DREF response on priority gaps in multipurpose cash assistance, livelihoods recovery, health, WASH, education support, protection, and community resilience, where unmet needs remain significant.

Beneficiary selection criteria will be developed and validated jointly with community leaders, beneficiary representatives, local authorities, NDMA, and relevant sector stakeholders to ensure transparency, accountability, and community ownership. Priority will be given to households meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Households whose homes, livelihoods, businesses, food stocks, or household assets were severely damaged or destroyed by the floods.
- Households that have lost their primary source of income or means of livelihood.
- Households displaced by the floods or currently living in unsafe, damaged, or temporary accommodation.
- Female-headed households, particularly those caring for dependent children.
- Child-headed households.
- Households with persons with disabilities or caring for persons with disabilities.
- Older persons living alone or with limited family support.
- Pregnant and lactating women facing significant flood-related losses.
- Households with high dependency ratios, including households with multiple young children.
- Widows and widowers facing heightened vulnerability.
- Petty traders and small business owners whose productive assets, business stock, or income-generating activities were destroyed by the floods.
- Households identified through community validation processes as among the most vulnerable and least able to recover without assistance.



Targeting of Children for Education Support

Education support will prioritize school-aged children from the most severely affected and vulnerable households targeted under the operation. Selection will consider the extent of flood-related impacts on the household, disruption to children's access to education, loss or damage of learning materials, school attendance risks, household vulnerability status, and the family's ability to replace educational materials without external support.

The target for education assistance will be disaggregated by sex (female and male) during registration, implementation, monitoring, and reporting to ensure equitable access to assistance and to enable tracking of coverage among girls and boys.

The educational material package will include essential learning and school supplies required for children to resume and continue their education following the floods. Depending on identified needs and age group, the package may include items such as school bags, exercise books, pens, pencils, mathematical sets, erasers, sharpeners, and other basic learning materials identified through consultations with schools and affected households.

SLRCS will coordinate closely with school authorities, local education authorities, School Management Committees (SMCs), community leaders, and relevant education stakeholders to identify and validate affected learners, avoid duplication with other education responses, and ensure that assistance is aligned with priority educational needs. Coordination with education authorities will also support the verification of beneficiary lists, agreement on package contents, and appropriate scheduling of distributions to minimize disruption to learning activities.

Community-based targeting and verification exercises will be conducted to ensure fairness, transparency, and acceptance of the selection process. Preliminary beneficiary lists will be validated by communities, local authorities, educational authorities where relevant, and NDMA before final registration. To maximize coverage and prevent duplication, each targeted household will be registered and supported only once under the operation.

Continuous coordination with NDMA, local authorities, education authorities, and humanitarian partners will be maintained throughout implementation to ensure complementarity of assistance, avoid overlaps, and ensure that the limited resources available under the operation reach the 1,020 households assessed as the most severely affected and vulnerable among the 1,763 households impacted by the floods.

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.

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	2,343	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	997	Urban	100%
Men	1,291	People with disabilities (estimated)	15%
Boys (under 18)	469		
Total targeted population	5,100		

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
Continued heavy rainfall leading to additional flooding and an increase in the number of affected households beyond the planned target.	Continuous monitoring of weather forecasts and flood trends through the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC); close coordination with NDMA and local authorities; regular review of targeting and response priorities; contingency planning to allow adjustment of response activities if the situation deteriorates.
Safety and security risks affecting staff, volunteers, or beneficiaries during field operations.	Compliance with the SLRCS Security Manual, Safer Access Framework, and IFRC Minimum Security Requirements (MSRs); regular security briefings; coordination with local authorities; continuous risk monitoring throughout the operation.
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. Among other objectives, that assessment will inform any need for cash value revision or changes on proposed intervention.
Deterioration of public health conditions due to contaminated water sources, poor sanitation, and potential outbreaks of waterborne diseases.	Implementation of WASH interventions, hygiene promotion, water quality testing, distribution of water treatment supplies and hygiene kits, community health awareness activities, and close coordination with health authorities for surveillance and referrals.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The flood-affected communities continue to face a range of protection, safety, and security risks that may affect both affected populations and response personnel. Displacement, loss of livelihoods, destruction of assets, and increased economic hardship may heighten the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), exploitation and abuse, theft, looting, and other forms of criminal activity, particularly among vulnerable groups such as women, girls, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

The operation may also face challenges related to community expectations and perceptions, especially if humanitarian needs exceed available resources. There is a potential risk of tension or dissatisfaction among community members who may feel excluded from assistance or perceive support to be insufficient. Such situations could affect the safety of volunteers and staff and disrupt planned response activities.

In addition, continued heavy rainfall, flooding, eroded roads, unstable slopes, and damaged infrastructure may pose physical safety risks to both communities and response teams during assessments, distributions, monitoring visits, and other field activities.

To mitigate these risks, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) will implement the operation in accordance with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles, the Safer Access Framework, the SLRCS Security Manual, and IFRC Minimum Security Requirements (MSRs). Key mitigation measures will include:

- Ensuring clear visibility and identification of volunteers and staff through the use of Red Cross protective clothing and identification materials.
- Maintaining regular communication and movement tracking for all field teams.
- Conducting continuous community engagement and awareness activities to clearly explain the role of the Red Cross, the available support, beneficiary selection criteria, and complaints and feedback mechanisms.
- Establishing and promoting accessible feedback and complaints channels to address concerns and reduce community tensions.
- Providing regular security and safety briefings to staff and volunteers throughout the operation.
- Ensuring staff and volunteers are oriented on Safer Access, personal safety, safeguarding, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) principles.
- Conducting ongoing security risk assessments and context monitoring, with support from the IFRC, to inform operational decision-making and adapt activities as required.
- Coordinating closely with local authorities, NDMA, community leaders, and other stakeholders to facilitate safe access to affected communities and enhance acceptance of the operation.

While the security environment remains manageable, continuous monitoring, strong community engagement, and adherence to established security protocols will be essential to ensuring the safety of affected populations, volunteers, and staff throughout the operation.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	Yes
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Planned Intervention



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 23,413



Targeted Persons: 355

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers trained in cash transfer interventions	50
# of Business owners receiving cash grants	71
% of supported businesses that have resumed operations within three months of receiving the grant	80
# of people reached with Livelihood support	355

Priority Actions

- Train 50 volunteers in cash-based interventions
- Provision of seed grants to 71 vulnerable small business owners to restart their business
- Train small business owners in basic bookkeeping, savings, and investment
- Post Cash distribution monitoring and case studies



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 219,620

Targeted Persons: 5,100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people supported with multi-purpose cash to cover food and WASH items transfer to support basic needs and food.	5,100
% of HHs confirming to have received and using multipurpose cash support without difficulties	80
# of volunteers trained on cash transfer process	50
% HH reporting cash helped meet priority needs, reduce/avoid negative coping mechanisms	80
# of PDMs conducted	1

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 brief beneficiary households
- Distribute multipurpose cash to 1,020 households



- Deploy volunteers to monitor cash transfer activities
- Deploy 50 volunteers to sensitize targeted beneficiaries on the details of Mobile money transactions
- Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM)



Budget: CHF 21,742

Targeted Persons: 5,100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of HHs reached with mosquito nets	1,020
% 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	60

Priority Actions

- Deploy volunteers to carry out First Aid and PSS.
- Conduct training on MHPSS for staff and volunteers.
- Train 50 volunteers and staff on water, hygiene, and sanitation promotion activities, waterborne disease prevention (including menstrual hygiene, Epidemic Control for Volunteers, and the use of Mosquito nets), MPHSS.
- Procure and distribute mosquito nets to affected 1,020 HHs (2 per HHs)



Budget: CHF 6,579

Targeted Persons: 5,100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached with cash transfer for WASH support (included in MPC)	5,100
% of people using cash for WASH purpose	90
# of communities supported with cleaning tools	5
# of community water source assessment, testing and rehabilitation conducted	18

Priority Actions

- Mobilize 50 volunteers to conduct health promotion awareness with a message on the prevention of water-borne diseases
- Provision of cash for WASH kits through cash transfer
- Provision of Community cleaning tools



- Conduct community water source assessment, testing and rehabilitation
- Conduct regular water-quality checks both at the water sources and at the household level



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 7,639

Targeted Persons: 5,100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of PGI assessment conducted	1
# of briefing conducted for staff and volunteers	4
# of staff and volunteers trained on PGI minimum standards, PSEA and Safeguarding	60
# of people reached through awareness sessions on SGBV prevention, Mitigation and response and PSEA as well as child safeguarding.	5,100

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
- Train staff and volunteers on PGI minimum standards, PSEA and Safeguarding
- Awareness sessions for communities on SGBV prevention, Mitigation and response and PSEA as well as child safeguarding.
- Map out safe referral pathways and disseminate the same to staff, Volunteers and communities.
- Create Safe spaces for children to ensure continuity of education and prevent risks that are bound to be faced due to the floods.



Education

Budget: CHF 16,999

Targeted Persons: 250

Indicators

Title	Target
# of pupils receiving educational materials to affected school children	250

Priority Actions

- Verification and validation of pupils (250 School Children)
- Procure and distribute educational materials to affected school children



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 18,876

Targeted Persons: 5,100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers trained In CEA and PGI	50
# of people reached with flood prevention messages	5,100
% of operation complaints and feedback received and responded to by the SLRCS	90
# of TV discussion conducted	5
# of Radio discussion conducted	5

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 community meetings 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 prevention of flooding, management and response
- Establish clear and continuous two-way communication channels between authorities and the community
- Produce Assorted IEC materials
- Set 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 flooding
- 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
- Conduct TV & Radio discussion



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 7,824

Targeted Persons: 5,100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of technical support missions conducted by IFRC	3
# of coordination meetings attended	8



Priority Actions

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



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 48,231

Targeted Persons: 5,100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of lessons learned, workshop conducted	4
# of monitoring conducted by SLRCS Headquarters Office staff	8
# of documentaries produced (video and case studies	1

Priority Actions

- Ensure coordination and public relations
- Programme Monitoring conducted by NS team
- Documentary production on flood response activities
- Organize a lessons 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.

The operation will be implemented by a dedicated team of 10 staff and 50 volunteers from the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), supported by its branch structures, National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), and technical departments.

The 50 volunteers will serve as the frontline responders and will be responsible for community mobilization, beneficiary identification and registration, needs assessments, community engagement and accountability (CEA), hygiene promotion, distribution support, post-distribution monitoring, first aid, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and awareness-raising activities in the target communities.

The 10 staff members will be responsible for overall operational management, coordination, technical supervision, logistics, finance, procurement, communications, monitoring and reporting, and ensuring compliance with IFRC and SLRCS standards and procedures. Staff members will also provide technical oversight for sectoral interventions, including livelihoods and basic needs, health, WASH, protection, and community engagement.

The operation will be overseen by the Secretary General of SLRCS, with day-to-day leadership provided by the Disaster Management Coordinator/Operation Manager. Technical support will be provided by staff from the PMER, Finance, Logistics, Communications, Health, WASH, and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) units. NDRT members will support field coordination, supervision of volunteers, assessments, distributions, and monitoring activities.



This combination of experienced staff, trained volunteers, and technical support personnel will ensure the timely, accountable, and effective implementation of the operation while maintaining a strong presence within the affected communities.

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

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) volunteer network reflects the diversity of the communities it serves and includes men and women, young people, adults, and volunteers drawn from the affected communities themselves. For this operation, volunteers will be mobilized primarily from the Western Area Urban District and surrounding branches, ensuring that response teams have a strong understanding of local languages, cultural norms, community dynamics, and the specific needs of affected populations.

SLRCS recognizes that a diverse volunteer base is essential to delivering safe, inclusive, and effective humanitarian assistance. Particular emphasis will be placed on ensuring adequate representation of female volunteers throughout the operation to facilitate engagement with women and girls, support gender-sensitive programming, and promote safe access to assistance for vulnerable groups. Volunteers with experience in community health, protection, psychosocial support, community engagement, and disaster response will be prioritized to ensure quality service delivery.

While the National Society has a diverse volunteer base, there remain some gaps in specialized capacities, particularly in Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), safeguarding, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and support for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. To address these gaps, staff and volunteers engaged in the operation will receive refresher training and orientation on PGI, PSEA, safeguarding, community engagement, and inclusive humanitarian programming before and during implementation.

SLRCS will also work closely with community leaders, women's groups, youth representatives, and persons with disabilities to ensure that the perspectives and specific needs of diverse population groups are adequately reflected in planning, targeting, implementation, and monitoring. This approach will help ensure that assistance is accessible, culturally appropriate, gender-sensitive, and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable flood-affected households.

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

Procurement for this operation will be undertaken by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), with technical oversight and support from the IFRC Country Delegation, in accordance with SLRCS procurement policies, IFRC procurement procedures, and DREF requirements. The National Society has the operational capacity and experience to manage local procurement and service contracting required for the implementation of the response.

Where feasible, goods and services will be procured locally to support timely delivery, cost-effectiveness, and local market recovery. All procurement processes will be conducted through competitive, transparent, and accountable procedures to ensure value for money, quality assurance, and compliance with applicable procurement standards.

The IFRC will provide technical guidance, oversight, and compliance support throughout the procurement process to ensure adherence to IFRC regulations, financial controls, and donor requirements. Regular procurement reviews and monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that all goods and services are delivered efficiently, meet required quality standards, and support the timely achievement of operational objectives.

How will this operation be monitored?

The operation will be implemented under a robust monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and reporting framework to ensure effective delivery of assistance, adherence to quality standards, and accountability to affected populations. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), with technical support from the IFRC Country Delegation, will oversee all monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning components of the operation.



Monitoring will be led by the SLRCS Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) unit in close collaboration with operational teams, branches, and volunteers. Progress will be tracked against approved indicators, targets, and implementation plans using standardized monitoring tools and regular field visits. Routine monitoring will assess the relevance, effectiveness, quality, timeliness, and coverage of interventions, while identifying emerging needs and operational challenges requiring adjustments during implementation.

Community feedback and complaints mechanisms will be integrated throughout the operation to ensure accountability and provide real-time information on beneficiary satisfaction, targeting, service quality, and emerging concerns. Feedback received from affected communities will be regularly reviewed and used to inform operational decision-making and adaptive management.

Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) will be conducted following cash assistance and other distributions to assess the effectiveness, appropriateness, and utilization of assistance, measure beneficiary satisfaction, and identify lessons for future interventions.

The IFRC Country Delegation will provide ongoing technical support, oversight, and quality assurance through regular monitoring and support missions. Joint field monitoring visits by SLRCS and IFRC teams will be conducted throughout the operation to verify progress, monitor compliance with DREF standards and procedures, and support evidence-based decision-making.

Regular operational updates will be shared with SLRCS and IFRC management to facilitate timely decision-making, risk management, and accountability. Reporting will be undertaken in accordance with IFRC requirements, including the submission of an operational update and a final report detailing achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and the overall impact of the intervention.

At the conclusion of the operation, SLRCS will organize a lessons learned workshop involving staff, volunteers, IFRC, and relevant stakeholders to capture best practices, identify operational challenges, and generate recommendations to strengthen future emergency preparedness and response operations.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) will implement a communication strategy that promotes transparency, accountability, and meaningful engagement with affected communities, partners, authorities, and other stakeholders throughout the operation. The strategy will support timely information sharing, strengthen community trust, and ensure that affected populations are informed about available assistance, beneficiary selection criteria, response activities, and feedback channels.

At the community level, SLRCS volunteers will conduct regular awareness and information-sharing sessions in affected communities, providing accurate and timely information on the response while collecting community feedback, concerns, and suggestions. This two-way communication approach will help ensure that community perspectives and emerging needs inform operational decision-making and enable the National Society to adapt interventions as required.

The operation will mainstream Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) principles by establishing accessible feedback and complaints mechanisms and ensuring that affected populations can safely raise concerns, seek clarification, and provide input on response activities. Particular attention will be given to ensuring that women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups have equitable access to information and communication channels.

Externally, SLRCS will use a combination of radio programmes, social media platforms, community outreach activities, press releases, and stakeholder meetings to provide updates on the flooding situation, response progress, humanitarian needs, and key operational achievements. Communication activities will also support public awareness on flood risks, disease prevention, hygiene practices, and community preparedness measures as the rainy season continues.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) considerations will be integrated into all communication activities to ensure messaging is inclusive, accessible, culturally appropriate, and understandable to diverse audiences, including low-literacy populations.

The IFRC Country Delegation will provide technical support to SLRCS in communications, media engagement, and visibility, ensuring consistent messaging, enhanced accountability to affected populations, and appropriate visibility for the DREF-supported response. Lessons learned, good practices, and operational achievements will be documented and shared to inform future preparedness and emergency response efforts.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRSL022 - Sierra Leone Redcross Society Flash floods Freetown

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	314,868
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	23,413
Multi-purpose Cash	219,620
Health	21,742
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	6,579
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	7,639
Education	16,999
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	18,876
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	56,055
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	7,824
National Society Strengthening	48,231

TOTAL BUDGET	370,924
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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](#)

