



Flooded community

Appeal: MDRSL019	Hazard: Flood	Country: Sierra Leone	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 375,000	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 11,080 people	People Targeted: 5,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 13-09-2025	Operation Timeframe: 5 months	Operation End Date: 28-02-2026	DREF Published: 22-09-2025
Targeted Regions: Eastern, Northern, Southern			



Date when the trigger was met

05-09-2025

What happened, where and when?

Between 31 August and 5 September 2025, Sierra Leone experienced devastating flash floods across 17 communities in seven districts including Bonthe, Kenema, Bo, Moyamba, Kono, Falaba, and Koinadugu. The floods, caused by persistent heavy rainfall and overflowing riverbanks, have affected over 11,080 people from more than 2,216 households. Over 4,000 people have been displaced, seeking shelter in schools or with host families, while thousands of homes, buildings, and critical infrastructure, including schools and health facilities, have been damaged or destroyed. The floods have also submerged more than 2,500 hectares of farmland, threatening livelihoods and food security. Affected communities face urgent needs for safe water, food, hygiene items, shelter, and healthcare, with children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and displaced families among the most vulnerable.



Flooded community



Community affected by floods



Flooded home



Displaced community members in schools

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-
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:

Sierra Leone has experienced devastating floods in 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2024, which severely impacted lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure across several districts, particularly Western Area, Kambia, Port Loko, Bombali, and Tonkolili. These recurrent disasters revealed significant vulnerabilities but also provided critical lessons for strengthening preparedness and response. In the aftermath of these floods, the National Disaster Management Agency, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, and partners introduced a series of mitigation and preparedness measures. These included:

- Drainage cleaning and maintenance in high-risk flood-prone communities.
- Early Warning Systems (EWS) to improve forecasting, trigger alerts, and inform timely community action.
- Community awareness raising on flood risks, household preparedness, and safe evacuation practices.
- Capacity building for volunteers and responders, ensuring faster mobilization and local-level action.
- Improved coordination mechanisms between government, humanitarian actors, and communities.

These actions significantly reduced flood impacts in traditionally vulnerable districts. In fact, the current 2025 floods, Western Area, Kambia, Port Loko, Bombali, and Tonkolili historically the most affected have not experienced major flooding, demonstrating the effectiveness of these mitigation measures. However, prolonged and intense rainfall has triggered new flooding in districts that had not recently faced such disasters, underscoring the need to adapt strategies and expand preparedness to emerging hotspots.

The following key lessons now guide response planning for the current floods:

- Early Action Protocol (EAP): Clear triggers such as rainfall thresholds, river levels, and community reports are now being used to guide anticipatory actions. Defined roles and responsibilities across agencies enable quicker and more coordinated responses.
- Drainage and Waste Management: Recognizing that poor drainage and unmanaged waste exacerbate flooding, collaboration with local authorities is prioritized to sustain drainage maintenance and strengthen solid waste management.
- Information Dissemination: Timely communication is critical. Multiple channels including mobile alerts, local radio, community leaders, and the reactivated SLRCS toll-free line (115) ensure rapid dissemination of warnings and feedback collection.
- Community Engagement: Communities are no longer passive recipients but active participants in preparedness and decision-making, ensuring interventions are relevant, inclusive, and sustainable.
- Cash Transfer Programmes: Based on past success, cash transfers are part of the current response, allowing affected families to meet immediate needs while supporting local market recovery.
- Anticipatory Action and Infrastructure: Efforts now emphasize reinforcing drainage and flood barriers, updating flood risk maps to reflect urbanization trends, and investing in resilient infrastructure.
- Community-Based Volunteers: Volunteers remain essential for outreach, cash support, hygiene promotion, awareness raising, and disease prevention. Their rapid mobilization reduces response costs and increases effectiveness.
- Transparency and Communication: Clearly communicating assistance criteria and maintaining dialogue with affected populations reduces tensions, builds trust, and improves accountability.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?	No
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Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

05-09-2025

Multi Purpose Cash	The National Society (NS) has activated the Cash Working Group to review the cash values for the various cash-based interventions planned for this operation. The group comprises representatives from both headquarters and branch staff, as well as volunteers who have received comprehensive training and have successfully applied these skills over the past five years.
Health	Volunteers from the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) are actively providing psychosocial support and first-aid services to flood-affected communities, ensuring immediate care and comfort during this critical period. To date, 169 flood victims with severe injuries have received first-aid assistance, reflecting the National Society's dedication to addressing urgent health needs and delivering compassionate support to those impacted.



Coordination	<p>Since the onset of the disaster, the SLRCS has actively coordinated its efforts with both internal and external partners within the Red Cross Movement. Serving as an auxiliary to public authorities, the SLRCS maintains strong collaboration with government entities at both district and national levels. It participates in coordination meetings and working group forums organized alongside public authorities, which provide essential platforms for information sharing, planning, analysis, and strategic coordination. Response teams ensure continuous engagement, effective coordination, and close collaboration with government agencies and other stakeholders at all levels.</p>
National Society Readiness	<p>The SLRCS has a strong nationwide presence and well-established networks that allow it to reach vulnerable communities effectively, including those in remote and hard-to-access areas where other humanitarian actors often face challenges. Drawing on extensive experience across diverse humanitarian programs, the SLRCS benefits from the close support and collaboration of the wider Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, particularly the IFRC, ICRC, and Partner National Societies (PNS) such as the British and Finnish Red Cross.</p> <p>Well-prepared for rapid response and assessment, the SLRCS has over 24 trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members and more than 10 active Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members, supported by a volunteer network exceeding 16,000 individuals. The organization has also completed the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and worked with partners and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to create a multi-hazard plan that guides ongoing operations. With 14 branches nationwide, the SLRCS is strategically positioned to coordinate closely with government authorities, delivering both immediate relief and long-term resilience-building through comprehensive preparedness and response initiatives.</p>
Assessment	<p>A detailed, multi-sectoral assessment of the flood-affected communities, led by the National Society, is currently underway. The findings will provide comprehensive insights into the extent of the damage and the specific needs of affected households. Meanwhile, 40 Red Cross volunteers from the impacted branches, coordinated by members of the National Disaster Response Team, have conducted a rapid assessment. This preliminary data, together with the situation report from the NDMA, has delivered crucial information on immediate damage and urgent needs, forming the foundation for ongoing response efforts.</p>
National Society EOC	<p>With support from the IFRC through the MPOX response operation, the National Society has begun establishing the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at its national headquarters. The EOC has been set up with the necessary equipment, and while full functionality is still being developed, the Terms of Reference (ToR) are currently in progress to guide its operations. In the meantime, the EOC has already been activated to coordinate flood-related information management across the country, ensuring consistent data collection and analysis to inform the decision-making process.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC maintains a Country Delegation in Freetown, Sierra Leone, supporting the National Societies of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, capacity building, and National Society Development. Since the onset of the floods, the Delegation has worked closely with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society leadership to guide response prioritization. It has supported SLRCS in producing two situation reports, which have informed the regional team and updated the GO platform to share information with the wider humanitarian community. Frequent meetings have been held to track developments, and SLRCS teams have been encouraged to participate in national and district-level coordination meetings. The IFRC has also provided technical support for the development and submission of the DREF application to enable rapid mobilization of resources.</p>
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Participating National Societies

The Finnish Red Cross is currently the only Partner National Society (PNS) present in Sierra Leone, supporting the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in strengthening community-based health programming, tree planting and care initiatives, SGBV prevention and response, and disaster risk reduction activities. Although the Finnish Red Cross has not allocated funding for the current flood response, its ongoing engagement remains critical, particularly as the DREF operation alone cannot address all identified needs.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC lacks a physical presence in Sierra Leone but provides remote support through its Senegal Delegation. It works in partnership with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society to enhance the operational capacity of committees in regions affected by socio-political and inter-community violence. At the time the DREF was designed and submitted, the ICRC had not committed to providing assistance for the flood response.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance

Yes

National authorities

The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) is leading the overall coordination of Sierra Leone's flood response, working closely with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), district councils, the Office of National Security, ward councilors, and community stakeholders. Following the government's call for assistance, emergency meetings were convened to mobilize support from humanitarian organizations for affected populations. The NDMA has focused on conducting rapid multi-sectoral assessments to collect first-hand information on the scale and impact of the floods, facilitating search and rescue operations, and mobilizing resources from partners to support affected communities. Continuous communication and coordination mechanisms are maintained at both national and district levels to guide resource deployment, identify response gaps, and ensure timely assistance. Letters have also been sent to partners, including the SLRCS, requesting support for the affected population, though no formal assistance has yet been announced.

UN or other actors

Action to date has not been communicated

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

A National Inter-Pillar Coordination mechanism, led by the NDMA, has been established to manage all partners involved in the flood response. These meetings provide updates on the evolving disaster situation, discuss planned response actions, and coordinate efforts to avoid duplication of resources and activities. The SLRCS actively participates in both national and district-level meetings, providing field information, contributing to response planning, and supporting the prioritization of interventions. With new districts and communities continuing to report flooding, coordination remains critical to ensure that emerging gaps are addressed, additional sectors are integrated into response planning, and assistance reaches vulnerable populations efficiently.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The recent flooding in seven districts of Sierra Leone has caused significant losses within affected communities. An estimated 660 houses have been affected, either completely destroyed or rendered unsafe, requiring reconstruction. In addition, many homes that remain structurally intact have suffered the loss of essential household items, including furniture, bedding, cooking utensils, and kitchen kits, leaving families without the basic tools needed for daily living.



Immediate shelter needs are therefore twofold. First, households with destroyed or unsafe homes require reconstruction support to ensure safe and habitable living conditions. Second, families whose homes remain intact but whose belongings were damaged or lost need urgent assistance through essential household and non-food items (HHIs). Key items include blankets, sleeping mats, and kitchen kits, which are critical for maintaining hygiene, preparing food, and ensuring basic comfort and safety.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The communities affected by the recent floods are facing the compounded impacts of climate-related shocks, which have increasingly disrupted local livelihoods and income-generating activities. The recent flooding has further intensified these challenges, leaving many families in a precarious situation and undermining their capacity to maintain stable livelihoods.

The floods have caused significant losses, including the destruction of crops, damage to farming tools, and disruption of local markets. These impacts have severely affected households' ability to engage in their usual economic activities, resulting in critical shortages of food and income and heightening existing vulnerabilities. Families are currently enduring severe hardships, including limited access to food and resources needed for daily survival.

In response to these urgent needs, immediate assistance must prioritize restoring access to food and supporting livelihood recovery. Provision of food assistance is essential to help families recover from the immediate shock, stabilize living conditions, and prevent further deterioration of their livelihoods.

Without timely support, affected populations face an increased risk of food insecurity, loss of income, and long-term economic instability. Ensuring that families have access to adequate food and resources to resume economic activities is critical to enabling them to rebuild livelihoods, regain stability, and restore normal daily routines.



Health

The health situation among flood-affected populations is rapidly deteriorating, with heightened vulnerability to disease and malnutrition. Immediate interventions are required to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid, as well as malnutrition and other flood-related health complications that could severely impact overall well-being. The ongoing rainy season further increases the risk of malaria, particularly among children, pregnant women, and other vulnerable groups.

Given the region's history of waterborne diseases and malnutrition, urgent measures are needed, including the distribution of mosquito nets, access to safe drinking water, and the implementation of hygiene promotion, awareness campaigns, and community-based training programmes to prevent the spread of diseases. Strengthening healthcare access and providing essential medical supplies are also critical to managing immediate health risks.

Addressing these urgent health needs is essential to avert a public health crisis, protect vulnerable populations, and safeguard the overall well-being of flood-affected communities. Rapid, targeted interventions will help reduce disease risk, promote recovery, and support the resilience of affected populations.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The recent floods have severely disrupted water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in affected communities. Overflowing latrines, contaminated wastewater, and damaged water sources have created a critical shortage of safe drinking water, leading to a highly unsanitary environment. The situation has been further exacerbated by increased open defecation, heightening the risk of waterborne diseases.

There is an urgent need for essential WASH interventions, including the provision of hygiene and sanitation items such as soap, jerry cans, and water treatment solutions to ensure that available water is safe for consumption. The construction of emergency latrines and the physical sanitation of affected living areas are also essential to reduce immediate health risks.

Promptly addressing these WASH needs is crucial to preventing outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, and other waterborne diseases, while improving overall health, hygiene, and safety for flood-affected populations. Rapid, coordinated interventions will help stabilize living conditions, protect vulnerable groups, and support broader recovery efforts.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The response requires a thorough analysis of gender, diversity, disability, and minority considerations to ensure vulnerable households are effectively supported. Intervention teams also need essential personal protective equipment such as boots, flashlights, bibs, megaphones, and raincoats to operate safely in the affected areas.

Protection, gender, and inclusion are central to the response, ensuring affected communities can maintain dignity, access resources, participate in decisions, and remain safe. Women, girls, men, and boys of different ages, abilities, and backgrounds face unique needs, risks, and coping strategies that must be considered.

A comprehensive gender and diversity analysis will guide operational strategies, including distribution schedules and hygiene promotion activities, to meet the specific requirements of diverse populations. Neglecting these considerations could further marginalize vulnerable groups and reduce the effectiveness of the intervention.



Education

The recent floods have severely disrupted education, putting children's right to timely and continuous learning at risk. The new academic year, scheduled to begin on Monday, 8 September, faces major challenges due to extensive damage to school infrastructure. Many schools have been partially or completely destroyed, leaving classrooms unsafe and delaying the resumption of in-person learning.

Beyond structural damage, numerous families have lost essential school materials, including books, uniforms, and stationery, further jeopardizing children's ability to return to school on time. Without immediate support, these losses risk prolonging educational disruption, widening learning gaps, and increasing dropout rates, particularly among the most vulnerable children. Initial assessments have highlighted the urgent need for interventions to restore safe learning environments, provide essential school materials, and ensure that all children can resume their education without prolonged interruption.



Community Engagement And Accountability

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

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

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of this operation is to deliver timely and effective assistance to 5,000 individuals (1,000 households) affected by floods in five districts: Bo, Falaba, Kenema, Koinadugu, and Bonthe. The intervention aims to address immediate basic needs and support the restoration of livelihoods. Key areas of support include shelter assistance for 250 households, multipurpose cash transfers for 1,000 households, hygiene promotion, and Disaster Risk Reduction (flood preparedness and awareness) targeting the affected population. Additionally, psychosocial support and psychological first aid will be provided to individuals and families impacted by the floods.

The operation will be implemented over five months to ensure the timely and effective completion of all planned activities, enabling affected communities to restore living conditions, access essential services, and begin the recovery process.

Operation strategy rationale

This DREF operation will provide support in shelter and settlement, hygiene promotion and sanitation, access to safe drinking water through water treatment, and distribution of food and non-food items primarily via a multi-purpose cash transfer approach, while also



implementing flood mitigation activities.

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

This five-month intervention aims to provide comprehensive and targeted support to 1000 households (5000 people) in the five districts, focusing on those impacted by recent floods in Bonthe (176 households), Kenema (170 households), Bo (252 households), Falaba (275 households), and Koinadugu (127 households). The strategy is designed to address immediate needs and promote recovery through Four key areas: the provision of essential household and non-food items (HHIs), water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, food support through a cash transfer approach and engagement with school clubs and school authorities of flood prevention measures

1. Shelter: Target- 250 house owners

The shelter intervention will provide cash assistance to 250 house owners whose homes were completely destroyed. The identified beneficiaries will receive NLE 6,450 (CHF 255) per house owner, based on NDMA minimum shelter standards, which is the same that is used for the ongoing fire response (MDRSL018). The breakdown of affected house owners by district is as follows: Bonthe: 39 houses, Kenema: 44 houses, Bo: 57 houses, Falaba 61, Koinadugu 52. This cash support will cover essential reconstruction materials: Roofing zinc (NLE 4,500), 4-inch wire nails (NLE 250), 3-inch wire nails (NLE 250), Roofing nails (NLE 750), Sticks (NLE 700). This cash support will cover essential reconstruction materials: Roofing zinc (NLE 4,500), 4-inch wire nails (NLE 250), 3-inch wire nails (NLE 250), Roofing nails (NLE 750), Sticks (NLE 700). This assistance will enable families to rebuild their homes, replacing structures that were completely destroyed by the Floods.

The operation recognizes the importance of ensuring that cash for shelter is used appropriately and effectively. Building on lessons from past CVA initiatives, including the recent fire response, the NS will apply these learnings to improve current and future interventions. Community committees with beneficiary participation will support implementation and accountability, while trained volunteers will engage households on proper cash use and safe, resilient construction practices. Where feasible, households will be linked to pre-identified vendors of approved shelter materials to ensure availability and quality. NS staff will conduct follow-up visits to monitor household use of funds and provide technical guidance as needed. Key messages on safe and durable construction will be widely shared to strengthen households' capacity to rebuild. These combined measures of community engagement, vendor linkages, volunteer support, monitoring, and technical guidance will promote effective use of cash, ensure sectoral standards are met, and enhance accountability.

2. Multipurpose Cash: Target: 5,000 people (1,000 Households)

Each of the 1000 affected households will receive two rounds of multipurpose cash grant of NLE 4,700 (CHF 188) to help meet their livelihoods and basic needs, replace household items, WASH and Hygiene kits for early recovery from the flood. The funds will be distributed through the existing Financial Service Provider (FSP) and aim to promote dignity and flexibility in expenditure, reducing negative coping mechanisms. The value provided is composed of: 2,500 (CHF 100) to cover food/nutritional support to each household identified as most vulnerable, aimed at covering their nutritional needs for 02 months calculated based on the local expenditure basket that include cereals (NLE1,835), pulses (NLE435), vegetable oil (NLE221), salt (NLE9); NLE 1,200 to cover household items including bedsheets, drinking buckets, laundry bowls, cooking utensils, cups, sleeping mats, and three blankets to ensure families can quickly regain their standard of living; NLE 1,000 to cover WASH kits including buckets with lids, jerry cans, soap, chlorine, and hygiene kits to address basic sanitation needs.

In summary, beneficiaries will receive two cash transfers, namely cash support of NLE 6,450 (CHF 158) for 250 house owners to rebuild their homes, multipurpose cash assistance of NLE 4,700 (CHF 188) for 1000 households to cover food, household essentials and WASH needs. To ensure effectiveness, a market assessment will be conducted before cash distribution to assess price trends and feasibility. Additionally, post-distribution monitoring will evaluate the impact and inform necessary adjustments. IFRC will provide technical support for market monitoring to track local price fluctuations.

A two-day training session will be conducted for NS cash focal points, Disaster Management focal points, and key stakeholders involved in the DREF operation. The training will focus on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) principles, cash transfer mechanisms, and emergency response best practices. Awareness activities will be conducted before and after the cash disbursement to guide beneficiaries on appropriate fund utilization.

4. Awareness raising and Hygiene and Sanitation

The operation will implement comprehensive health and awareness activities targeting flood-affected communities, aiming to protect public health, prevent disease outbreaks, and promote resilience. Approximately 200 volunteers, including Branch NDRT members, will be deployed from all four branches, working four days a week over a 12-week period. They will conduct community awareness



campaigns across affected locations, markets, and beneficiary households, reaching 5,000 people across 1,000 households and surrounding villages. These campaigns will focus on flood prevention, health and hygiene promotion, and disease risk reduction, with messaging prioritizing waterborne and vector-borne disease prevention, hygiene practices, and flood risk awareness. In addition, school authorities and student clubs in the affected communities across the seven districts will be actively engaged in awareness and educational activities on flood prevention. This intervention aims to support continuity in education, enhance learning recovery, and strengthen the capacity of schools and students to respond to future flood risks.

Community-led initiatives will be central to the intervention, emphasizing the cleaning and maintenance of drainage systems, waterways, and waste disposal sites to reduce health risks and support a safer living environment. Health interventions will target the same population, ensuring affected households maintain their well-being and adopt improved health and WASH practices to reduce risks of malaria, acute watery diarrhea, and potential cholera outbreaks. SLRCS will also provide first aid and psychosocial support to families as needed.

To ensure effective delivery, a total of 200 volunteers will be trained in psychosocial support (PSS), community engagement and accountability (CEA), cash and voucher assistance (CVA), first aid, and health promotion. The combined efforts of trained volunteers and community engagement will help maintain functioning sanitation systems, disseminate critical health and hygiene messages, monitor emerging health risks, and rapidly identify potential outbreaks. These interventions will safeguard public health, strengthen community resilience, and support informed and proactive recovery in the aftermath of the floods.

This integrated response strategy combines Cash, WASH interventions, and health promotion to deliver immediate relief while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery and resilience. Local committees will oversee beneficiary selection and fund utilization processes to ensure transparency and community ownership. A market assessment will precede cash distribution to assess feasibility, while post distribution monitoring will evaluate the intervention's effectiveness and allow for necessary adjustments.

A robust community feedback mechanism will enhance accountability and responsiveness, facilitate complaint resolution and ensure that the response is tailored to community needs. This will include community-based committees to monitor activities and a team of trained volunteers skilled in complaint management. Comprehensive gender and diversity analysis will be conducted across all sectors to understand the impact on various groups and tailor the response accordingly. All sectors will adhere to IFRC's minimum standards for protection, gender, and inclusion in emergencies.

The Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) focal Point will ensure all volunteers complete online training on sexual and gender-based violence disclosure and referral. Compliance will be reported in the operation's activity report. Additionally, the Monitoring and Assessment Framework will integrate Essential Response Plan questions into future assessments to better identify needs and implement targeted actions.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The DREF application aims to assist 1,000 households (5,000 individuals) who have been most severely impacted by the floods in the five most affected districts. Overall, the floods affected 2,216 households (11,080 people). Assessments further revealed that an estimated 660 houses were damaged, of which 250 were completely destroyed and 410 partially damaged. While all affected households are in dire need of support, this operation will prioritize the 1,000 households (5,000 people) most severely affected.

Specifically, 1,000 households will receive multi-purpose cash support, while 250 households, whose houses were completely destroyed, will be provided with shelter support.

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

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

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	2,629	Rural	100%
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	2,371	People with disabilities (estimated)	7%
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	5,000		

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
The recurrence of flooding incidents in these districts highlights a high-risk pattern that must be factored into planning. These areas are prone to repeated exposure due to their geographical and environmental conditions, such as low-lying terrain, poor drainage, and proximity to water bodies.	SLRCS will continue to coordinate with the SLMeT and share alerts with trained community-based volunteers and stakeholders. SLRCS will ensure that communities are engaged on EWS signs during all sensitization sessions and meetings, especially for communities in Bonthe district.
Present Economic Challenges, especially high and unstable inflation may increase the cost of basic commodities and the	SLRCS staff and volunteers will continue to do price monitoring, and the procurement team will ensure that items to be procured



general cost of the response.	are bought within the first month of the operation. CVA staff and volunteers will also do Rapid Market Assessment before setting out the cash value.
Inadequate community engagement on planned activities may be a source of conflict.	Communities will be adequately informed of the response scope and selection criteria. Also, SLRCS-trained volunteers and staff in CEA will consistently engage community stakeholders prior to any major intervention such as household items distribution and cash.
<p>Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:</p> <p>Affected community members may be exposed to security risks such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), looting, theft of assets, and armed robbery, which could impact the operation. Red Cross teams are similarly at risk, including potential hostility from community members if the assistance provided is perceived as insufficient.</p> <p>To mitigate these risks, all volunteers and staff will strictly adhere to the security measures established by both the Movement and the Government. Security management will be guided by the RCRC Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values. Key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining visibility through the wearing of Red Cross jackets and ensuring regular communication during all movements. • Engaging communities to clearly explain the Red Cross role, the support provided, and the beneficiary selection criteria, incorporating lessons learned from previous operations. • Conducting regular briefings for volunteers on personal security and safety. All staff and volunteers involved in the response will complete the Stay Safe 2.0 Global Edition – Level 2 training to ensure familiarity with the safer access framework. • Continuous security assessment and risk monitoring by the operation team, supported by IFRC. <p>These measures aim to protect both affected populations and response teams, ensuring safe and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.</p>	
Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	No

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 65,571

Targeted Persons: 250

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households provided with cash for reconstruction of damage houses	250
% of households satisfied with the cash provided for reconstruction of damaged houses	80
% of households using cash for the purpose it was provided	80

Priority Actions

- Carry out an assessment and monitoring of market and prices.
- Registration and verification of beneficiaries.
- Discussions and active sensitization on the assistance through community group discussions and meetings with community stakeholders.
- Cash transfer to 250 house owners to procure necessary building materials for reconstruction.



- Safe construction promotion (2 months).
- Monitoring by volunteers in the communities to follow up on the use of the cash by beneficiaries.
- Post-distribution monitoring (PDM).



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 180,537

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of HHs supported with multi-purpose cash to cover food and WASH items transfer to support basic needs and food	1,000
# of volunteers trained on cash transfer and household registration using Kobo Collect platform	50
# of volunteers deployed to monitor cash transfer activities	50
% of beneficiaries reporting receipt and correct use of cash according to their needs	80

Priority Actions

- Train 200 volunteers on cash transfer and household registration through the Kobo Collect platform.
- Conduct market assessment.
- Registration and verification of beneficiaries.
- Set up targeting committees and brief beneficiary households.
- Deploy 200 volunteers to sensitize targeted beneficiaries on the details of mobile money transactions.
- Distribute multipurpose cash to 1000 households.
- Deploy volunteers to monitor cash transfer activities.
- Conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) for 3 days.



Health

Budget: CHF 37,733

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers trained on FA, PSS, EPIC and health promotion, Nyss platform, CEA and use of mosquito nets	200
# of affected households receiving mosquito nets	1,000
# of community health and hygiene awareness sessions conducted with participation from targeted households	36
% of targeted households reporting improved knowledge and practices on WASH and disease prevention	70

Priority Actions

- Train staff and volunteers on FA, PSS, EPIC and health promotion, Nyss platform, CEA and PGI for 4 days.
- Procure and distribute mosquito nets to 1000 affected households.
- Mobilize 200 volunteers to conduct health prevention awareness with messages on the prevention of waterborne diseases and malaria.
- Deploy volunteers to provide First Aid and psychosocial support (PSS).
- Provide continuous psychosocial support to affected families throughout the operation.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 6,413

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
% of targeted households, which receive support in terms of health promotion and hygiene awareness	80
# of households having access to safe drinking water	1,000
# of people reached with key messages of health promotion and personal and community hygiene	5,000

Priority Actions

- Conduct an initial assessment of the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) situation in target communities.
- Train 200 volunteers on water, hygiene, and sanitation promotion, waterborne disease prevention (including menstrual hygiene, Epidemic Control for Volunteers, and the use of MILDAs).
- Provide training to the population of the target communities on safe drinking water storage and the proper use of water treatment products.
- Organize six community sanitation campaigns (two campaigns per month during the first three months).
- Continuously monitor the WASH situation in target communities.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 8,166

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
% of targeted communities with functional feedback and complaint mechanisms established and used (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability).	80
# of volunteers trained on CEA and PGI principles and actively applying them in community engagement activities.	200
# of people reached with flood prevention messages.	5,000
# of awareness sessions and community meetings conducted on flood prevention, early warning, and response.	60

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.
- Engage a broad spectrum of community members, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, to ensure diverse perspectives and needs are addressed.
- Organize community meetings to validate the targeting criteria and the lists of beneficiaries.
- 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.
- Use multiple platforms (e.g., community meetings, social media, radio, etc.) to disseminate information and updates.
- Set up Community Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) for receiving and addressing community feedback, complaints, and suggestions, and use the feedback to adjust actions for greater effectiveness.
- Conduct regular awareness campaigns and educational programmes about flood risks, early warning signs, and appropriate response actions, to empower communities to act quickly and effectively during flooding.
- Ensure transparency in decision-making processes and the allocation of resources, keeping the community informed about how decisions are made and how resources are distributed.
- Undertake communication work to ensure media coverage of the volunteers' activities.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 18,037

Targeted Persons: 4

Indicators

Title	Target
# of technical support missions conducted by IFRC	3
# of coordination meetings attended	12
# of staff trained on PCM to support quality implementation and timely reporting	30

Priority Actions

- IFRC technical support mission and monitoring visits
- Participation in coordination meetings
- Volunteers insurance
- Conduct training for SLRCS staff (including programs, logistics, finance, PMER and Branch managers) on Project Cycle Management (PCM)



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 58,543

Targeted Persons: 20

Indicators

Title	Target
# of lessons learned, workshop conducted	3
# of monitoring conducted by SLRCS Head Quarter Office staff	5
# of documentaries produced (video and case studies)	1



Priority Actions

- Support Operationalization of EOC
- Coordination and public relations of floods activities
- Monitoring of response by branch and HQ team
- Ensure compliance with reporting and accompany the process
- Documentary production on flood response activities
- Organize a lesson learned workshop

About Support Services

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

A total of 200 volunteers from seven districts will be involved in the operation. The volunteers will engage in community engagement and awareness raising, assessment, distribution, and post-monitoring distribution exercises. They will also support during data collection verification and validation of the target communities. Ten (10) staff members will also be involved in full implementation of the DREF and coordination with stakeholders including the local and national, as well as other non-governmental partners.

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?

Volunteers' selection and deployment is based on available capacity but always follow an inclusive approach that considers gender and age.

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

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

How will this operation be monitored?

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

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

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

Third Level of Monitoring: The IFRC Freetown Office will conduct a series of three technical support missions throughout the operation timeframe. The initial mission, led by an Operations Officer, will concentrate on the early stages of response, specifically focusing on the selection criteria and the finalization of the beneficiary list. This step is vital for accurately identifying and prioritizing the most vulnerable populations. The second mission will occur during the cash transfer process to supervise the multipurpose cash transfer, ensuring that fund disbursement is managed efficiently and transparently, adhering to the highest standards of financial accountability. The third mission, led by the PMER team, will focus on post-distribution monitoring three weeks after cash disbursement. The Freetown Cluster Delegation will also participate in the lessons-learned workshop that involves all technical team members who contributed to the operation. This phase is crucial for assessing the intervention's effectiveness, gathering valuable insights, and ensuring that the final report accurately reflects the outcomes and impacts of the operation



Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The communication strategy for this operation is crafted to enhance visibility and engagement at every phase, effectively showcasing the actions and impact of the Sierra Leone Red Cross and its partners. To accomplish this, a comprehensive array of communication materials will be produced, including press releases to announce significant milestones, detailed progress reports to document the outcomes of various activities, and high-quality photos and videos that visually capture the operation's progress.

Additionally, a compelling documentary film will provide an in-depth exploration of the intervention's reach and effectiveness, further illustrating its importance. Social media platforms will be pivotal in amplifying the operation's visibility, utilizing regular updates, engaging content and real-time sharing of success stories to connect with a broader audience. This multi-channel approach not only fosters transparency but also builds a robust narrative around the operation, drawing in support and engagement from stakeholders and donors. By leveraging a diverse range of communication tools and platforms, this strategy ensures that the achievements of the SLRCS and its partners are widely recognized, reinforcing the necessity for ongoing support and investment in the intervention.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRSL016 - Sierra Leone
Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	298,420
Shelter and Basic Household Items	65,571
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	180,537
Health	37,733
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	6,413
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	8,166
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	76,580
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	18,037
National Society Strengthening	58,543
TOTAL BUDGET	375,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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