



**SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**January 2 – December 31, 2022.**



**Submitted by: Kpawuru Sandy, Secretary General**

Foreword/Secretary General’s

Table of Content

Acronyms .....3

Executive Summary.....4

1. Operational Context analysis.....5

2. Background .....6

2.1. SLRCS Profile- Mission/Vision.....6

2.2. Define NSD for SLRCS.....6

2.3. Define the core programs and approaches.....6

3. Major achievements.....7

3.1. National Society Development (provide illustrations) .....7

- Finance .....7
- HR.....7
- RM.....7
- Communication.....7

4. Program Development and Management.....8

4.1. Development programs.....8

- BRIDGE.....8
- CP3.....8
- IRP.....8
- TPC.....8
- ICRC.....8
- Civil Unrest DREF.....8
- Flood DREF.....8
- PGI.....8
- CEA.....8

5. Programs Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting.....9

6. Coordination.....10

7. Challenges and mitigation.....11

8. Lessons Learnt from 2022.....12

Annexes.....12

9. How you can help.....13

## Acronyms

SLRCS – Sierra Leone Red Cross Society

BRC – British Red Cross

FRC – Finnish Red Cross

IceRC – Icelandic Red Cross

HDI – Human Development Index

COVID-19 – Corona Virus Disease

CCVI - Climate Change Vulnerability Index

SLRCS – Sierra Leone Red Cross Society

NSD – National Society Development

IFRC – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

NS – National Society

CEA – Community Engagement and Accountability

NGB = National Governing Board

OCAC – Organizational Capacity Assessment

BOCA – Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment

JSC – Joint Statutes Commission

ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross

BRIDGE – Building Resilience Inclusive Development and Gender Equity

PMER – Program Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

DREF – Disaster Emergency Relief Funds

IRP – Integrated Resilience Program

CP3 – Community Epidemic Pandemic Preparedness Program

TPC – Tree Planting and Care

RM – Resource Mobilization

FGM – Female Genital Mutilation

PGI – Protection Gender and Inclusion

CEA – Community Engagement and Accountability

## **Executive Summary**

SLRCS has been working in Sierra Leone since 1962 and are currently operational in 13 branches in the 16 districts across the country. Our integrated programming approach aims to tackle all dimensions of poverty, focusing on the overlapping areas of health, gender discrimination and livelihoods while maintaining our response to emergencies including floods and fires, in our operational areas.

In strengthening the auxiliary roles of the society to the Government, the society through its partners supported floods and fire disasters across the country, especially in Freetown. The NS also supported the fight against Covid-19 Pandemic strongly across the country. The COVID-19 response was embedded in all program's activities. To ensure effective collaboration, the SLRCS worked with other partners such as CDC, WFP, CARE, NDMA etc. in all responses in the country by working together with other partners for the promotion and campaign for covid-19 vaccination.

## 1. Operational Context analysis

According to United Nations data, Sierra Leone is a small but densely populated country on West Africa's North Atlantic coast, with an estimated population of 7,976,983 as of mid-2020. 43.3% of the population is urban (3,453,971 in 2020) and the remainder is rural. Poverty rates are high, with 53% of the population living below the income poverty line (US\$1.25 a day), and unemployment and illiteracy rates remain high, especially among women and youth. The country has experienced decades of economic decline due to 11 years of civil war, Ebola outbreak, landslides, and COVID-19 dramatically impacting the economy. The country remains one of the poorest in the world, ranking 155 out of 162 countries in 2019. (HDI 2019).

Inequality is high and growing in Sierra Leone. In 2018, the richest 10% accounted for almost half of the national income (46.2%), while the poorest 50% accounted for only about 16%. Unfortunately, this gap between the rich and the poor is only widening. With a GII score of 0.644, Sierra Leone ranks 155th out of 162 countries in the 2019 United Nations Human Development Index. The HDI defines gender inequality in the country. Despite significant progress, many women still suffer exclusion and discrimination, especially in the areas of education, employment, political participation, and social justice. Factors such as girls' early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) continue to exacerbate inequalities between boys and girls. In addition, women continue to suffer from gross inequalities in literacy, access to land, and legal protection. Gender-based violence perpetrated against women and girls continues to be one of the most prevalent and pervasive problems in post-conflict Sierra Leone.

More than 4.7 million people are food insecure, of which about 963,000 are severely food insecure, according to the 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA). Since 2015, the number of people suffering from food insecurity has increased by more than 500,000. The 2020 CFSVA showed that the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact are contributing to further deterioration of living conditions and reduced access to basic amenities. It found that 3.3 million food-insecure people live in rural areas, compared to 1.4 million in urban areas. The 2020 CFSVA data was collected during the harvest season when better conditions are expected. The 2021 Food Security Monitoring System, conducted in August-September, also shows declining trends in food security indicators, food consumption figures, self-sufficiency management strategies, and share of food expenditure. FCS in poor households shows significant deterioration compared to his previous FSMS and CFSVA. The previous FSMS and CFSVA recorded 37% of households in the poor food consumption assessment category, indicating a low food variety to meet dietary needs. The percentage of households spending more than 75% of their spending on food also jumped to 74%, indicating high levels of economic vulnerability during the poor season.

Sierra Leone faces multiple risks from climate change that threaten key economic sectors and increase the likelihood of broader environmental degradation. The country's high dependence on agriculture and natural resources, combined with high poverty, unemployment, and environmental degradation make Sierra Leone vulnerable to climate change. Climate forecasts for Sierra Leone include rising temperatures, extreme weather including more intense rainfall, and rising sea levels. The residents of the Western Area's informal urban and rural settlements face new dangers because of today's rapid urbanization and the effects of climate change. The most susceptible to flooding and landslides are those residing in rapidly growing informal settlements, and they are also the least able to adapt. The worst affected are probably poor women and children, who are already marginalized because of structural and pervasive gender inequality. Particularly in informal settlements, where residents' ability to participate in initiatives to build resilience is severely limited by extreme poverty, more funding, information, and support are required. It is urgent to fund

policies and initiatives that combine development, gender equality, disaster risk reduction, and climate adaptation goals.

## **2. Background**

### **2.1 SLRCS Profile- Mission/Vision**

In 1962, the British Red Cross was succeeded by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), which was established by an act of parliament. Within the 4 provinces and 16 Districts of Sierra Leone, it has a national structure and a widespread grassroots presence. Within Sierra Leone's 16 Districts, there are 13 Branches of the National Society. Currently, the National Society is in charge of an updated Excel database that lists more than 16,200 volunteers from all of the branches. With the help of these volunteers, SLRCS can continue being a powerful and efficient national responder that works alongside governmental authorities in times of disaster, emergency, and humanitarian need.

The mission of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society is to create a "viable, transparent, and accountable National Society that builds resilient communities.". The mission focuses on collaborating with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, other important humanitarian and development actors, and our volunteers to deliver timely services to vulnerable people to meet their immediate and long-term needs, which are essential for their wellbeing. To avoid crises, deal with them, and meet the needs of vulnerable communities throughout Sierra Leone for a living, we wisely use the limited resources available. The seven guiding principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntarism, universality, and unity served as the national society of Sierra Leone's Road map for achieving the vision and mission. Furthermore, implementing these principles increases sensitivity to inclusion, gender, diversity, and protection.

### **2.2 National Society Development**

The National Society Development (NSD) plan is concerned with the foundational elements that will ensure the National Society's stability and sustainability. The plan aims to build on the achievements of the 2018 "Transformation Plan," the 2019 "Due Diligence" implementation, and the outcomes of the Organizational Capacity study. Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) and Assessment and Certification (OCAC) evaluations.

The NSD Plan, as outlined in the IFRC guidelines, is not an end in and of itself; rather, it is a tool for influencing the elements that constitute a National Society (NS) that functions effectively. The National Society's "foundation, capacity, performance, and effectiveness" are among these components. The plan's overarching objective is to "increase Organizational Capacity for Effective and Efficient Service Delivery to the Most Vulnerable Persons and Communities.

### **2.3 Core programs and approaches**

During the reporting period, and to address both short-term and long-term needs, as well as to increase community resilience, the national society concentrated on disaster risk reduction, health, water and sanitation, livelihoods, and food security programs, capacity building, awareness, and sensitization programs on sexual and gender-based violence.

The disaster risk reduction program ensured effective preparedness and response to disasters, including training of volunteers and community-based disaster management committees (CBDMC) on community disaster prevention structures, fire incidents, early warning signs, and flooding throughout the nation. The development of community health infrastructure, such as water and sanitary facilities, as well as capacity and resilience building were all part of the health, water, and sanitation programs supported. The program support for livelihoods and food security included training volunteers in cash feasibility assessment, national society capacity assessment on

livelihoods and food security, financial inclusion, income-generating activities, and cash-based assistance to vulnerable households and individual disaster victims in various parts of the country.

Community Engagement & Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) are the main overarching strategic approaches for all SLRCS interventions. These are the primary techniques used to connect with and gather feedback from communities, conduct joint monitoring events with other partners, program reviews, and lessons learned workshops.

To support climate change effects mitigation activities and advocacy at local and national levels, the national society's new strategy has combined disaster risk reduction with climate change. Additionally, to strengthen its youth empowerment programs and prevent internal and external migration while integrating returnee migrants into the larger Sierra Leonean community, migration and shelter have been added to the national society's core programs.

### **3. Major achievements**

#### **3.1 National Society Development**

The National Society Development (NSD) plan focuses on the building blocks of stability and sustainability of the National Society. The NSD Plan is not an end, but a means to impact the ingredients that define a well-functioning National Society (NS) as provided in the IFRC's guidelines. These ingredients include 'the foundation, capacity, performance, and effectiveness' of the National Society.

To achieve Goal 3 of its Strategic Plan 2023-2027, the overall goal of this more detailed NSD Plan 2023- 2027 is to "increase organizational capacity for effective and efficient service delivery to the most vulnerable persons and communities".

##### **3.1.1 Finance and Procurement**

###### **Procurement**

Despite existing procurement challenges during the reporting period, the team was successful in managing vendor contracts and maintaining relationships with suppliers to ensure completeness of deliverables outlined in the contracts, support in preparing monthly, quarterly, and annual procurement plans, and progress reports as required, while also ensuring effective lines of communication to guarantee timely delivery of supplies using the most appropriate procurement procedures.

The team effectively worked closely with the admin unit in supervising and arranging the refurbishment of SLRC premises and maintenance of equipment therein, ensuring that processes are completed to the required standard. Ensure permanent functioning electrical supply through EDSA power and generator backups by guaranteeing a minimum stock of fuel and electricity bills paid in good time. As per policy, the Committee on Contract (COC) sittings occur where the threshold is above Ten thousand leones (old leones – ten million) for every procurement contract. About 30 sittings were held during the reporting period across all projects and programs implemented by the NS following due diligence. The team managed all warehouse processes, including receiving, storing, distribution, and maintenance operations. The fleet is well monitored, and fuel consumption is strictly controlled.

##### **3.1.2 Human Resources and Records Management**

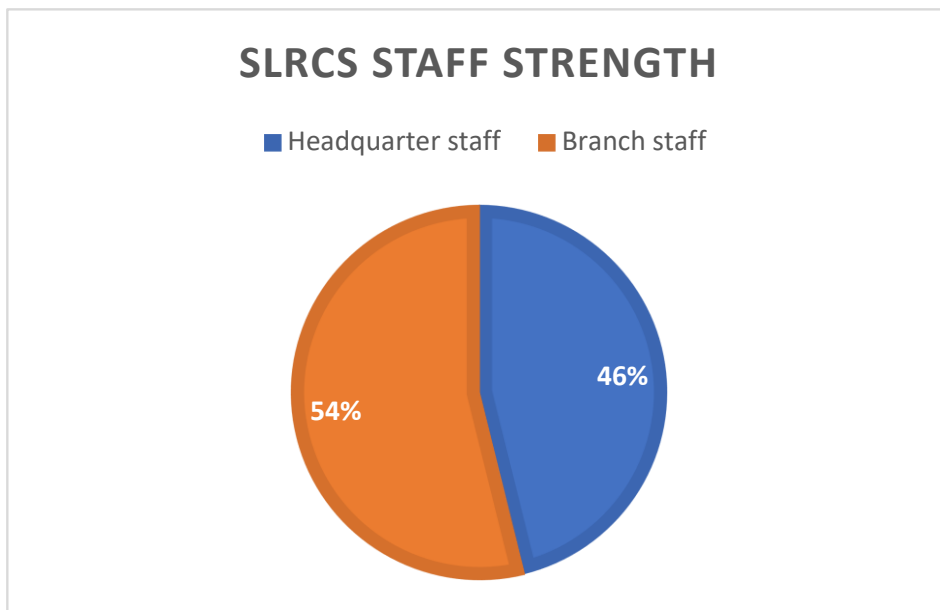
###### **Employee relations**

For the period under review, we were able to attend to various concerns and queries of staff as and when required more professionally and proficiently.

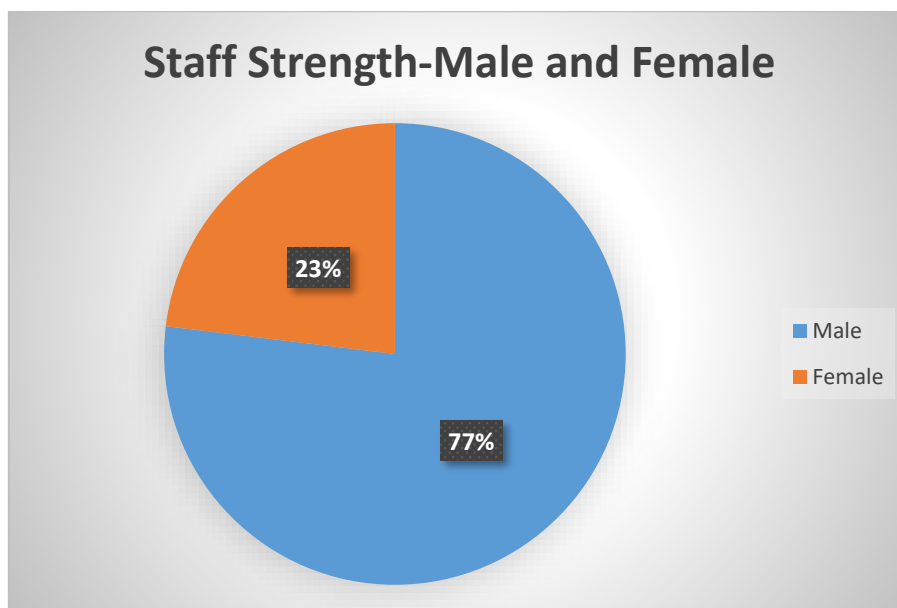
Staff strength as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 is 60 employees.

### Summary

	Total Staff Strength	65
	Staff at Headquarters	30
	Staff at Branches	35
	Female Staff	15
	Male Staff	50

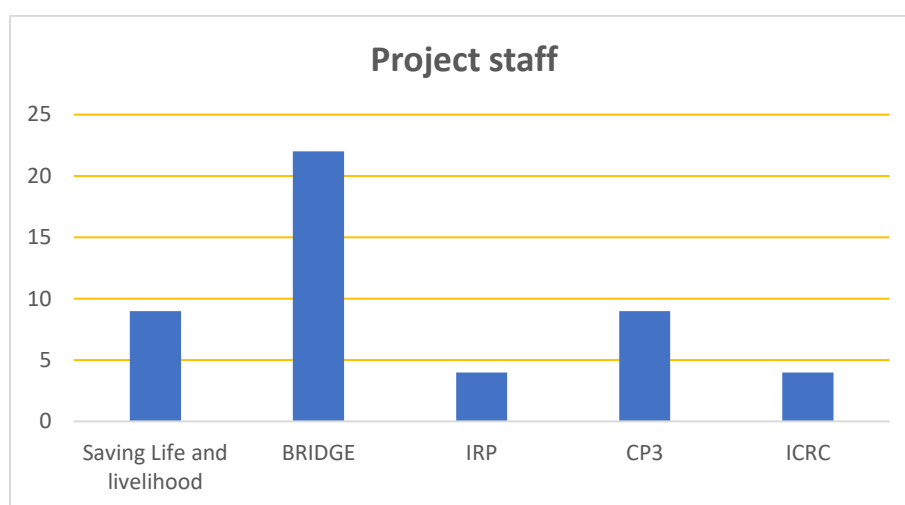


Disaggregated data for males and females



## Summary of Staff per Projects

No	Project Name	Number staff
1	Saving Life and Livelihood	9
2	BRIDGE	22
3	BRC	4
4	CP3	9
5	ICRC	4



**Termination:** From the table above and the period under review, no staff was terminated. However, four staff resigned prior to the cumulation of this data; the Director of Programs, CP3 Manager, Procurement Manager and SG's Driver

**Recruitment: Four (4) Staff were recruited during the period under review:**

1. Two (2) Drivers for Kambia and Kailahun under CP3 Project
2. Project Coordinator (Tree Planting and Care)
3. Project Finance Officer (Tree Planting and Care)
4. Project Coordinator (Integrated Resilience Program)

**Transfers:** The Field Health Officer (FHO) attached to Portloko was transferred to the Bonthe Branch due to the retirement of the former FHO.

**Performance Appraisal:** These appraisals give people feedback on how well they are doing in their jobs, ensuring that they are managing and achieving the goals set for them and assisting them if they fall short. This also helps the NS to review the Performance of employees and their managers in identifying areas for improvement and career advancement, as well as in developing a strategy for the employee's development through extra training and more responsibility. This has helped the NS to accurately gauge every employee's performance and confirm that they are working in the right area and doing the job they were hired for.

**Internship Programs:** SLRCS receives applications from various university students every year to have experience in the project activities of the National Society. In a bid to ensure that internship programs are of mutual benefit to the Interns and the National Society, the HR department accepted

students from these universities and colleges for a period. They are attached to various project activities at the headquarters and the branches to learn from colleagues for a better career choice. Over the years, some of these interns have turned to become employees in the organization after completing their studies.

**National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT):**

By the statutory instrument of NASSIT, “A person who assumes responsibility as an employer of an establishment shall be held responsible for the payment of any contribution or other monies due and the submission of any document to the Trust in respect of which the previous employer was in default” An employer shall keep records of social security contributions indicating in respect of every employee the name of the employee, the employee’s social security number, the earning of the employee and the deductions of the contribution to the Trust.

Over the years, the SLRCS faced numerous challenges with NASSIT by former employees with missing payments in the payroll (gaps) of NASSIT. Learning from this experience, the HR Department is leading the search for all NASSIT payments made by the society on behalf of staff as a way in addressing the gaps in the payment of staff contributions. The HR department succeeded to amend all files and missing gaps in staff especially those almost reaching retirement.

**Personnel File and Data Base Management**

The SLRCS maintains personnel information for each employee to have a complete, accurate and current record of the employee's salary and job history. These employee Personnel Files include the application for employment and records which are used or have been used to determine an employee's qualifications for promotion, compensation, termination, or disciplinary action. To ensure easy access to all staff documents for future reference, the HR department created special files in an archival storage facility for safekeeping so that no thread of information of staff is lost.

Administration:

Activity	Indicators	Achievements
Facilitate Renovation (Liverpool Street Office)/ repairs on SLRCS’ assets	Renovation/ repairs carried out throughout First Quarter	To ensure the working environment is conducive for employees and other stakeholders, renovation/repairs have been carried out on the Society’s Office Space at Liverpool Street and on fleet and generators etc.  Fleet status: The Society has 22 vehicles functional, 3 boats and 189 motorbikes

**3.1.3 Resource Mobilization**

- **Internal Resource Mobilization**

**Ambulance Services**

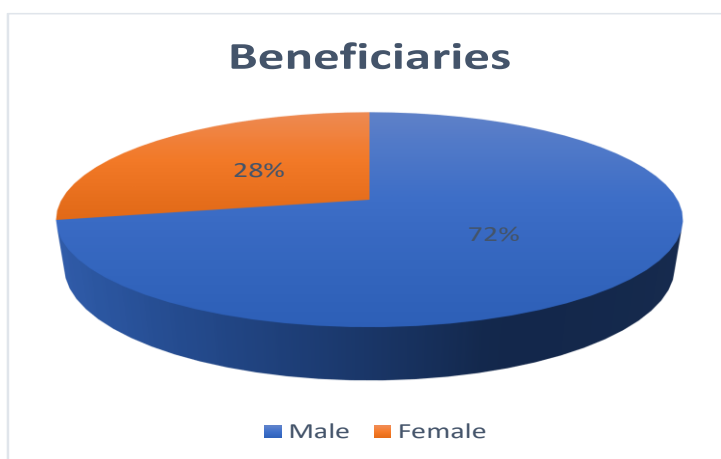
**First Aid Services**

The First Aid unit is part of the Department of Resource Mobilization, and its function is to market first aid to the public as well as plan and conduct quality first aid training for clients opting for the pieces of training and services. It also supports the department in its day-to-day running (marketing of other fundraising activities and implementations including placement and management of Donation Boxes at various business centers across Freetown). The unit, through other programs, provided first aid kits in all SLRCS vehicles to support road accidents and other emergency first aid. It also supports and attends to other all programs when necessary.

**The following assistance/responsibilities were rendered/carried out:**

- ❖ With support from the team, the unit has so far been able to conduct First Aid training for Eleven (11) organizations (Gemfair, British High Commission, Sky Handling Partners, Freetown Terminal-Bollore, Living Water International, FG Gold, IRC, Seli Hydro, UNICEF, EIFFAGE, And EU Delegation) from January to December 2022
- ❖ Created, printed, and distributed all end-of-training certificates to the concerned organizations.
- ❖ Compiled all end-of-training reports and shared them with the director of resource mobilization for review and further distribution to clients.
- ❖ Also, with support from the team, the unit also led the marketing and management of donation boxes at its various destinations.
- ❖ Supported with the training of 150 volunteers from NaCSA on first aid and personal health hygiene (including IPC) for the implementation of their COVID-19 Support to petty traders Across Freetown, deployed and monitor Volunteer first aiders across the verification and distribution centers across Freetown and successfully processed and submitted all liquidations as per finances received from NaCSA to aid the process, as per requirements. A two-pager Report was prepared and filed accordingly.
- ❖ Conducted orientation sessions on CPR and First Aid Basics for 80 school pupils in two different secondary schools in Freetown (Methodist Boys High School and Limount College). Also conducted CPR training for volunteers who were assigned to the NaCSA project in commemoration of World Restart the Heart Day.
- ❖ Supported the HR team with First aid Orientation for more than 200 SLRCS volunteers through the Civil Unrest and Funkia Fire DREF in Bombali and Freetown respectively.

Targeted Beneficiaries			
Male	Female	Children	Total
406	158	NA	564



**3.1.4 Communications**

The national society made exceptional efforts to profile SLRCS to enhance its reputation and visibility. Through effective media (electronic and print) and social media platforms (Facebook,

Twitter, Instagram, and WhatsApp) engagements, the NS was exposed to a larger audience, with established credibility. These engagements also enhanced the NS clientele's reach and created room for more opportunities and connections.

The communication unit also created and established a TikTok account that profiles SLRCS activities through short video content.

Increased public engagement, awareness, and sensitization were achieved through the production and sharing of flyers and posters that contain lifesaving information and updates (SGBV, Blood donation, First Aid, Misuse of emblem, health alerts, mental health, Pics of the week, and climate change) on social media handles.



## 4. Program Development and Management

### 4.1 BRIDGE

In 2019, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, Finnish Red Cross, and Icelandic Red Cross developed a consortium model program to consolidate the gains made in the previous CBHP project interventions and address the recommendations identified in the mid-term review report and end-of-program evaluation.

The BRIDGE program was developed to improve the health-seeking behaviors of pregnant women and lactating mothers, increase access to health care in communities, increase awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRH), and provide support funds for income-generating activities in the beneficiary communities. The program is promoting behavioral change communication (BCC) in health and hygiene promotion, emergency and disaster preparedness, climate change, community resilience, and capacity building of SLRCS's staff and volunteers. The focus is more on sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, women's rights, inclusion, and disaster risk reduction.

BRIDGE is also working to improve WASH facilities in beneficiary communities in participatory and innovative ways to ensure community ownership and sustainability. Climate Change Adoption, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) are cross-cutting themes in all the program activities. In addition to the program activities communities are sensitized to prevent and control COVID-19. BRIDGE also supports branch development activities in the operational branches as well as National Society Development activities.

To improve good working relationships and trust, the program adequately coordinated with national and local stakeholders and partners such as the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), and Ministry of Water Resources (MWR); reached out to community members with messages on maternal health, malaria prevention a, and control, improved the capacity of community volunteers, coaches, Mothers' and Fathers' clubs, teachers, and SLRCS staff on various health-related interventions, project cycle management, and improved livelihoods of mothers clubs through income generating activities.

In the period under review, despite some accessibility concerns and funds transfer challenges, the project remains on track as significant achievements were realized leading to improved budget

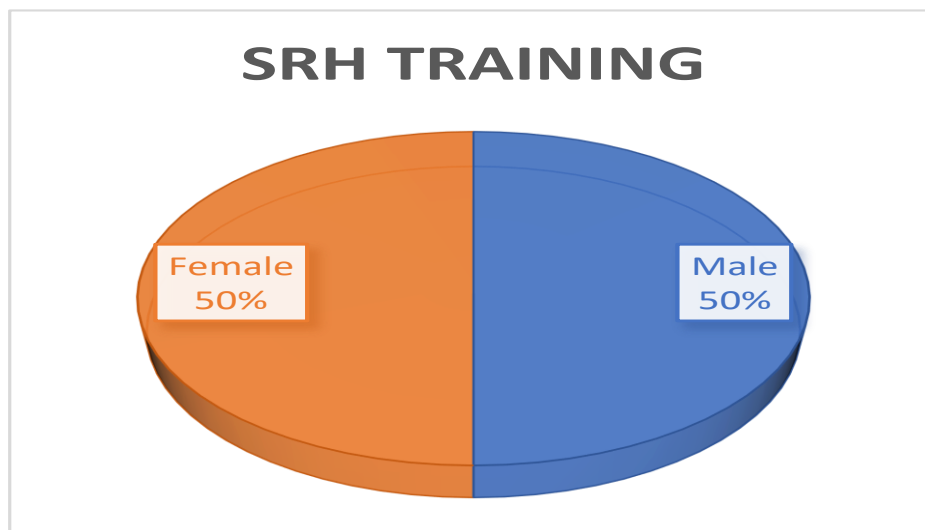
spend and reach community groups. To empower motor drivers to provide First Aid assistance to passengers who may sustain an injury in the event of an accident or emergency until professional medical help arrives, Sierra Leone Red Cross conducted three days of First Aid training for 60 motor drivers across the 6 BRIDGE operational branches. Furthermore, to enhance the effectiveness of the disaster management committees (CBDMCs) and to provide them with the necessary Knowledge and skills that will enable them to provide basic First Aid and psychological support to assist injured persons or affected family members in a disaster, 124 committee members received a two-day training in the thematic area. The company which was contracted to drill the pilot borehole in Kono has confirmed that they will start the drilling in mid-November 2022 and complete the facility before the end of the year.



The BRIDGE program teams at HQ and the branches attended coordination meetings organized by the relevant government line ministries both at national and district levels programme activity updates, experiences, and challenges were shared to enhance effective coordination and collaboration amongst different agencies and to ensure that nongovernmental organizations adhere to government policy and priorities. The program teams also conducted effective monitoring of program activities in the operational communities to ensure compliance and value for money.



SRH TRAINING		
Male	Female	TOTAL
60	60	120



Three-day training on Menstrual Hygiene Management and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) was conducted for 120 peer educators (60 male, 60 female) on different dates in the month of June 2022. The pieces of training were held in 6 chiefdom headquarters towns in the various operational communities in the 6 branches. Key topics covered were puberty, menstruation, menstrual hygiene management, Sexuality, adolescence, abortion, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, family planning, contraceptives, sexual violence, and harmful traditional practices. Different training methods were used ranging from brainstorming, questions, and answers, group work and presentations, role play, and demonstration. During the training some participants attested that they had little information about menstrual Hygiene Management, they confirm that their first menstruation was a shock and surprise to them, which made them seek information from their peers who were also not well informed about the subject matter. They informed the facilitators that with the knowledge gained from the training they will dispel myths and misinformation about menstruation and SRH. They promised to educate their peers and parents to ensure that the correct and adequate information is disseminated. The training helped the participant to understand the unique physical, psychological, and social characteristics of young people, understand why young people require special attention to achieve positive sexual and reproductive health outcomes, and recognize how gender norms affect the sexual and reproductive health outcomes of youth.



The program constructed 11 hand-dug wells, rehabilitated 10, and constructed 6 intuitional latrines were constructed 1 in each of the six branches and 1 borehole powered by solar and fitted with 3 standpipes.



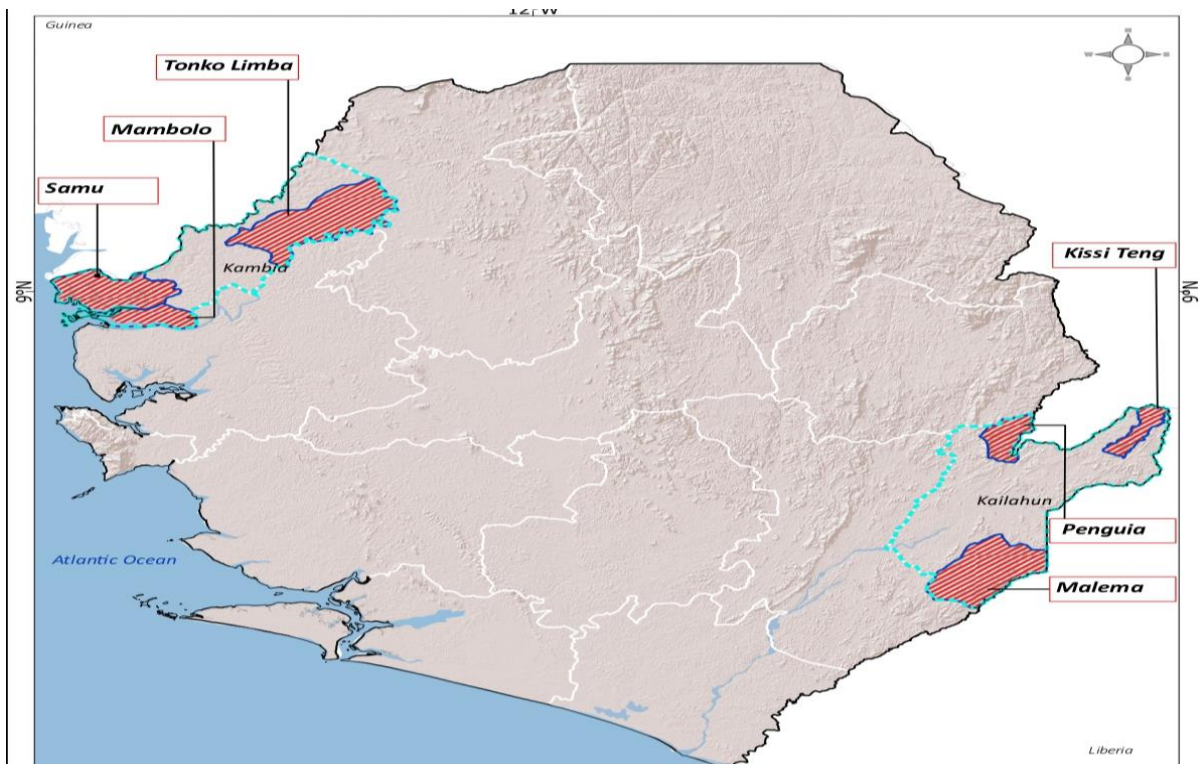
The branch staff in Bonthe and Moyamba referred 3 Fistula patients to the Aberdeen Women's Center for free treatment. The 3 patients had successful treatment and were re-integrated back into their various communities by SLRCS volunteers.

SLRCS supported the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in carrying out social mobilization activities during HPV and surge 11 COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in the operational branches. The branch and HQ teams conducted quarterly joint monitoring visits with the relevant line ministries' program communities.



#### **4.2 Community Epidemic Pandemic Preparedness Program (CP3)**

Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in collaboration with IFRC is implementing a USAID-funded Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3) in Kailahun (Kissy Teng, Malema, and Penguia) and Kambia (Samu, Mambolo, and Tonko Limba) chiefdoms.

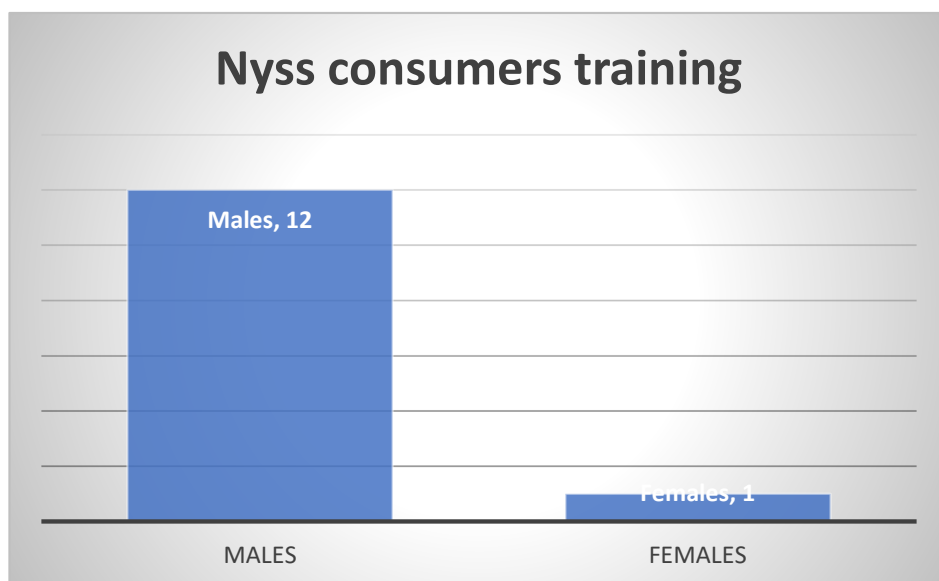


The overarching goal of the CP3 is “Strengthen epidemic and pandemic preparedness through a whole-of-society, all-hazard approach”, using community-based volunteers. Within the framework of achieving this goal, three (3) objectives with corresponding activities are developed to be implemented throughout the project duration.

The CP3 project is in the process to transition from Kobo collect reporting tool to new software called Nyss, a software platform to conduct Community Based surveillance activities more efficiently as it automatically analyses epidemiological alert data for decision-making.

The Nyss software has been approved by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation under the One Health platform through the Directorate of Health Security and Emergency and the World Health Organization. The following has been achieved for the period under review.

- Conducted Nyss’s data consumer training for stakeholders (MOHS, MOE, MAFF, CDC Africa, and WHO)



Nyss data consumers training was conducted on the 5th & 6th of May 2022 in Bo City for Government stakeholders and partners to familiarize themselves with the operations of the Nyss

platform. Since the CBS activity is intended to support the government using the One Health approach, it is important that the One Health partners who will have to investigate and take needed action on alerts reported through the Nyss software be familiar with it and how to use it. Participants of this training are therefore referred to as Data Consumers, external parties, granted access to Nyss, e.g., local/regional health authorities, other governmental authorities, or other partners/organizations we collaborate with. The objective of training Nys's data consumers was to enable them to monitor the dashboard for effective decision-making.

The two-day engagement hosted 13 participants (12 males, 1 female) and it was fruitful as it creates a platform where the One Health partners could report on different health risks/events using the same platform and collaborate more effectively in disease prevention and control. The lower in females' representation is not on the side of the SLRCS but the partner's choice on whom to represent them.



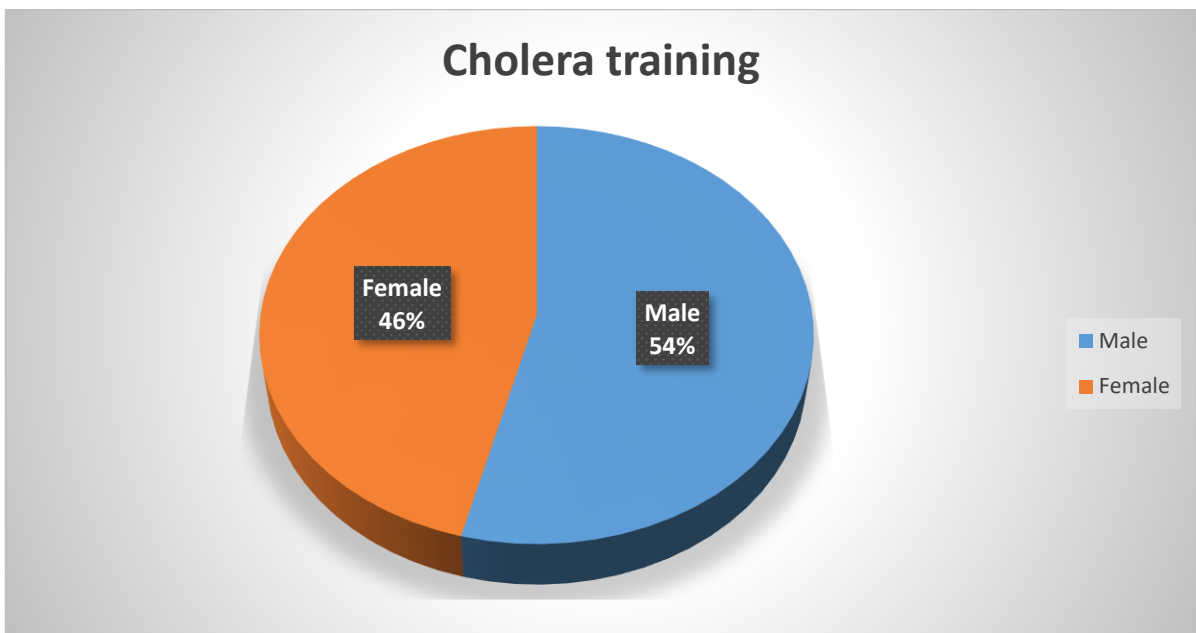
- Conducted Training of Trainers for Branch staff and Partners at the district and national levels on the new Nyss software

The CP3 project is in the process to transition from Kobo collect reporting tool to new software called Nyss, a software platform to conduct Community Based surveillance activities more efficiently as it automatically analyses epidemiological alert data for decision-making.

Participants of this training are drawn from SLRCS CP3 Staff from the branches, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAF), Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), Ministry of the Environment (MoE), and One Health national and district coordinators in our project's operational districts. The training will be cascaded to Supervisors and volunteers in Kambia and Kailahun.



- Conducted training on Oral Cholera vaccines.



As a follow-up to the Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) training conducted in 2021 and to further strengthen the capacity of RC volunteers to prepare and respond to cholera outbreaks, the SLRCS with funds from CDC Atlanta and support from the IFRC conducted a training of trainers (TOT) on Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCV) and campaign strategies for SLRCS HQ and branch staff, MOHS representative, and IFRC who later rolled out the training.

Sierra Leone is prone to flooding and has experienced cholera outbreaks in the past with devastating consequences which was the more reason why this training was conducted to further build the capacity of the RC volunteers to adequately respond to any eventual cholera outbreak. The activity was conducted to build the capacity of the National Society for effective response to outbreaks of cholera.

SLRCS district branches; Kambia, Kono, Pujehun, and Kailahun were the focused branches due to the main borders shared with Guinea and Liberia. The training lasted for one day in each of the districts from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. A total of 100 (54 Males, 46 Females) Community-based volunteers, 25 in each district were trained.



- Conducted Screening interviews for 25 CP3 Volunteers in the new operational chiefdoms, but only 14 were fortunate to become new Supervisors.

You could recall that the CP3 Project extended to three new chiefdoms in its operational districts (Kambia; Mambolo Chiefdom, Kailahun; Penguia, and Malema Chiefdom) respectively. The addition of these chiefdoms calls for the identification of new volunteers and concurrently led to the addition of new Supervisors.

This activity was an interview screening test for Supervisors who will be responsible for supervising the activities of the volunteers as well as sending alerts and reports through the Nyss software. The interview targeted volunteers whose performances were highly pleased during the Epidemic

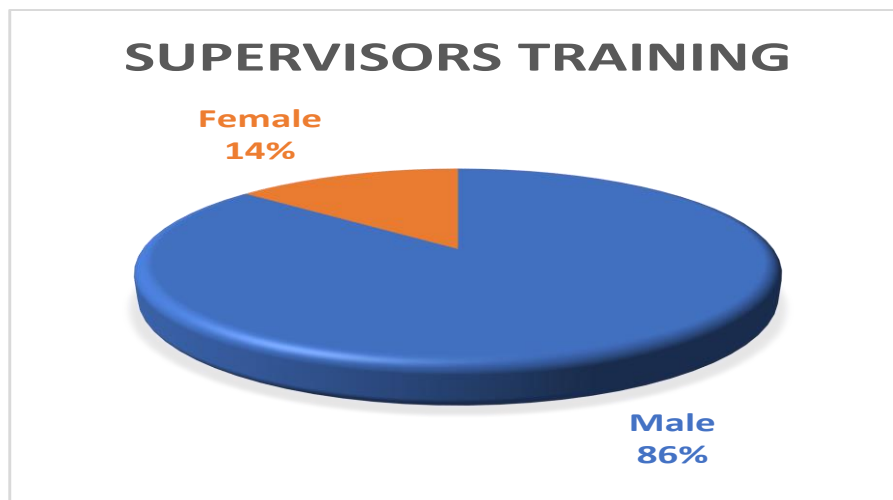
Control for Volunteers, Community Based Health First Aid, and Community Engagement and Accountability (ECV, CBHFA, and CEA) from both new and old chiefdoms who were eye marked during this training for having scored highest grades for both Pre and post-tests and through their participation during training sessions.

This activity was conducted to screen shortlisted candidates during the training for the position of supervisor in our new localities. The candidates were assembled at each of the Chiefdom headquarters towns of the new chiefdoms in a convenient atmosphere. The scrutiny process was done by HQ Staff (the two Managers: SLRCS and IFRC, and branch colleagues (the 2 Managers, the Project Officer, and the SLRCS Chiefdom executive chairmen)

A total of 25 volunteers were called for the screening interview at each of the chiefdom's headquarters in town. After a thorough screening of their qualifications, commitment, and leadership skills, 14 were shortlisted as new Supervisors.



- Conducted training for CP3 Supervisors on CBS and Nys's software.



CP3 Volunteers and Supervisors have been using the Kobo Collect software to send reports and alerts of disease threats since the inception of the project in 2018. Recently, it was agreed that there should be a platform where stakeholders and partners will be able to preview all reports and alerts sent by volunteers so that early action will be taken by each consumer who will be added to the new platform to avoid delays in response activities. This was why a new software called Nys allows the aforementioned to be used as a replacement for the Kobo collects.

To ensure this transformation works efficiently, all those concerned must receive adequate training to have a vast knowledge of the operations of the software. Since early April of this year, a series of training has been held, thus, this training is for Supervisors who will be receiving alerts from volunteers and then escalate it to the platform. 22 Supervisors (Male 19, Female 3) were trained in Bo City for four days starting from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022



Supported MAFF during the Anthrax outbreak investigation to collect specimens of sick animals from both branches.

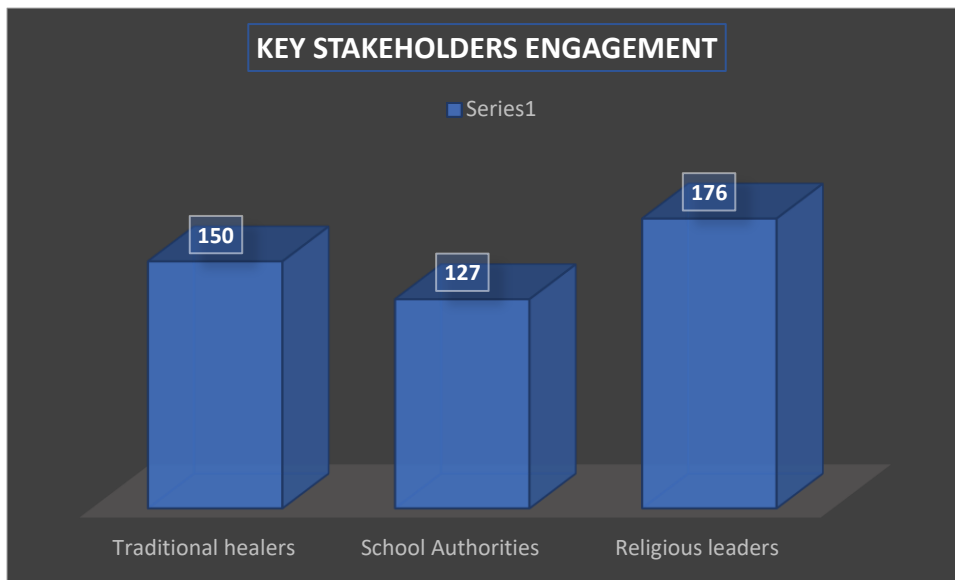
Anthrax, an infectious bacterial disease of animals and humans, caused by a spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*, is a notifiable & priority zoonotic disease, was suspected in Sierra Leone in March 2022 following unusual mortalities among ruminants in Port Loko District

In response—the Ministry of Agriculture investigated on 6th May 2022 and collected fifty-four (54) samples and sent them to the Central Veterinary Laboratory for laboratory confirmation one sample was confirmed positive for *Bacillus anthracis* on 11th May 2022.

In another development, an unusual animal death was reported in Kamasasa village, Thonkor Limba Chiefdom in the Kambia district. These death alert reports were investigated by MAF and proved to be Peste des Petits Ruminant (PPR) Treatments were provided for the sick animals and awareness-raising activities were conducted by RC volunteers through community group meetings and house-to-house visits. A joint radio program was also conducted with the DHMT social mobilization unit.



- **Engagement of Key Stakeholders by volunteers**

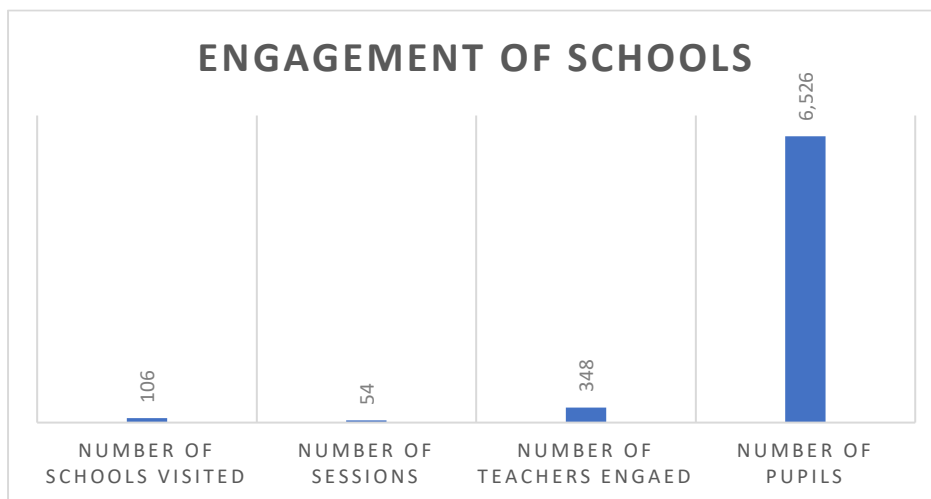


For the period under review, 176 religious' leaders, 150 traditional leaders, and 127 school authorities were engaged. The engagements were geared towards environmental sanitation, COVID-19 vaccine uptake, Anthrax outbreak, Peste des Pestes Ruminant (PPR), Measles, and hygiene at homes and in schools. Stakeholders were also reminded to inform the CP3 volunteers of any unusual events in their communities, especially on humans, animals, and environmental disasters as prompt measures will be taken to address them.



- Engagement of schools by volunteers

Number of schools visited	Number of Sessions	Number of teachers engaged	Number of pupils
106	54	348	6,526

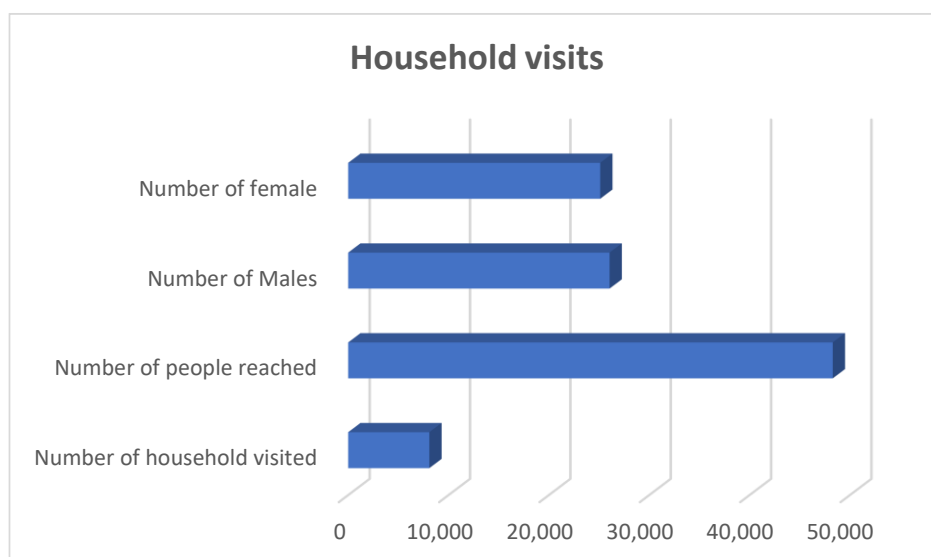


Members of each school's health clubs meet once a month under the supervision of Link Teachers and volunteers to plan and carry out health activities for the benefit of the entire school and its surrounding communities.

For the period under review, linked volunteers visited 106 new schools in both Kambia and Kailahun districts, with 54 sessions held, 348 Teachers, and 6,526 pupils engaged in personal and environmental health hygiene. The pupils aged 12 and above were encouraged to take their COVID-19 vaccines and always maintain good sanitation and hygiene measures in schools. pupils were engaged in the causes, mode of transmission, prevention, and control of Anthrax disease which is a zoonotic disease that has killed hundreds of animals in Port Loko, Karene, and Kailahun and has infected humans for which the government and partners are responding to curtail its spread.

- **Household visits**

Number of households visited	The number of people reached	Number of Males	Number of females
<b>8,089</b>	<b>48,291</b>	<b>26,050</b>	<b>25,116</b>



CP3 volunteers continued their epidemic preparedness activities in communities by engaging households and influential groups on key health promotion messages and community-based surveillance activities with a special focus on Covid-19, Anthrax, Cholera, Avian Influenza, personal and sanitation hygiene, and other priority diseases. The volunteers used key messages provided by the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Pillar of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the diseases tool kit on the IFRC website.

Recently, Guinea has reported an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza, commonly called bird flu, on farms in the western part of the country. Since CP3 operational branches are sharing borders with Guinea, volunteers engaged communities closer to the border crossing points especially places where no security are placed for screening human and animals before entering the country. The volunteers use microphones to sensitize these communities about the diseases. Some engaged the religious houses; mosques and churches whilst others engaged made shift markets and parks. For the period under review, 8,089 visits were conducted, and 48,291 people were reached (Men 26,050, Women 25,116). Also, 739 group sessions with 13,705 people reached (Men 22,738, Women 6,325)

- Conducted Monthly Radio Discussion Programs

The usual monthly collaborative radio discussion programs continue to create impacts in the lives of the people in our districts of operations. For the period under review, the panellists focused on the continuous sensitization of parents and caregivers to ensure a complete vaccination of their children to avoid Measles. People were also encouraged to be aware of diarrhea diseases as the rainy season approaches and ensure keep their drinking water safe. The panelists made it clear that this is the season for acute diarrhea diseases, therefore, people must be aware of regular handwashing, washing fruits and vegetables before eating, cleaning utensils thoroughly, covering food and water, cleaning their environments, covering latrines as well as protecting their children from cold weather. For the period under review, 48 radio programs were held with approximately 561,905 listeners.

- Conducted training for 522 volunteers and supervisors on the Nyss Software



Since the beginning of the CP3 project, the Volunteers have been using the Kobo Collect software to send alerts of disease threats. 500(96%) and 22 (4%) of new volunteers and supervisors were trained in the Kambia and Kailahun districts on Community-Based Surveillance and the use of the new software system called Nyss. Recently, the donors together with IFRC, SLRCS, and the Ministry of Health thought it fit to introduce a new software system called Nyss which will enable staff, government officials, and other partners who will be included in the system to have the opportunity to look whatever information shared by volunteers in any part of the CP3 Operational branches. This is more efficient for CBS reporting as disease/events alert increase will notify Government stakeholders in real time for action to be taken.



### 4.3 Integrated Resilience Program (IRP)

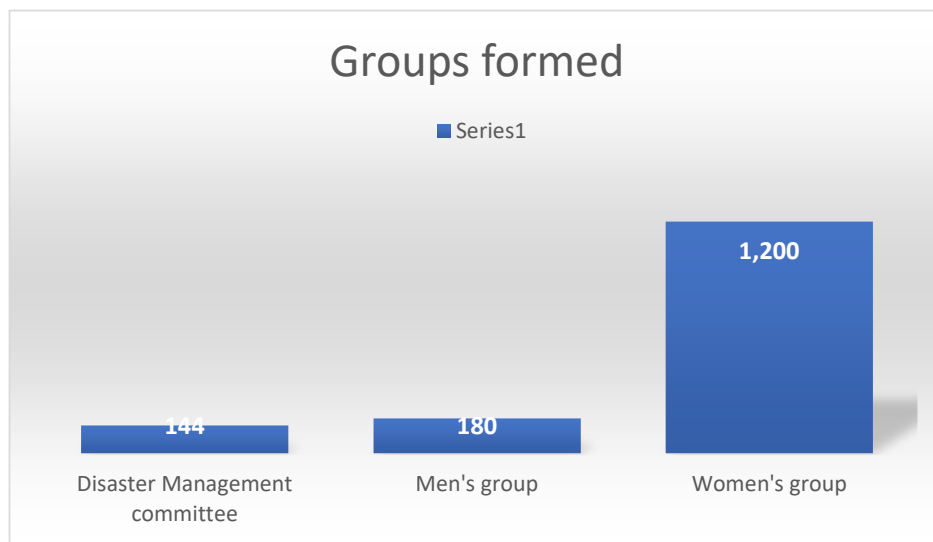
Supported by the British Red Cross (BRC) and implemented by the SLRCS, the Integrated Resilience Programme (IRP) is aligned to both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sierra Leone National Medium Term Development Plan (MTNDP) with a specific focus on four key themes namely Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), Gender Based Violence (GBV), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Financial Inclusion (FI).

Implemented in 12 communities in the Western Area Urban/Rural (Tombo, Mammah Beach, Kissi Town, Fullah Town, Rokel, Old Wharf, Culvert, Susan’s Bay, Kroo Bay, Kaningo, Goderich, and Aberdeen), the key focus was to empower women and girls, ensure men and boys are adequately engaged in the processes of addressing issues of sexual and gendered-based violence, and build resilient communities through diverse capacity building and livelihood support.

During the reporting period, the project operational communities were engaged through the process of employing principles and techniques of community mobilization and participation. Prior to the project implementation, different inception meetings were held with stakeholders at the community level and with strategic partners at the national level. The essence of these meetings was to nurture, secure and sustain the interest of stakeholders in all aspects of the Integrated Resilience program. This process helped the project team to gain support from the stakeholders and established a good working relationship for the sustenance of the project implementation process.

To enhance sustainability, sixty (60) community-based volunteers were selected to play an integral role by giving an insight into the existing community structures within their respective communities thereby providing a vital support link in the selection of the various groups such as the 144 community-based disaster management committee, 180 men and boys, and 1,200 women groups.

Disaster Management committee	Men's Group	Women's group
<b>144</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>1,200</b>



The programme's aim of establishing and strengthening of CBDMCs was to place more emphasis on preparedness initiatives with regard to the timing, effectiveness, efficiency, and reliability of resources to reduce the effect of disasters in the operational communities. The 144 CBDMCs were trained, on DRR, which improved their knowledge and understanding of the various DRR concepts. They were also provided with basic cleaning tools to prepare, prevent, or mitigate the occurrence of disaster within their communities at their request as part of their community-based actions. The CBDMCs developed their own action plans which had a range of activities starting with mapping hazards and risks within their communities; identifying existing early warning systems and gaps within their communities, and actions for preparing and mitigating the hazards and risks to mention a few.

The IRP team also engaged 180 men and boys as change agents to take full responsibility, working side by side with women and girls, to redress the dynamics that hinder progress towards attaining positive gender norms which will ultimately contribute to gender equality. Additionally, the agents of change engaged with their peers (men and boys) in promoting positive gender norms by addressing the prevailing negative gender social norms, unequal power relations, and masculinities.

Activities related to establishing or strengthening the women and men groups were held including training them on key concepts of SGBV prevention and promoting positive gender norms. The SLRCS staff and volunteers engaged the community stakeholders and members through CBVs who disseminated the selection criteria of who was targeted for selection including sharing dates of when the selection process will be held over 3 days. Community meetings were held on the selected dates, where the criteria were reiterated and community members including relevant stakeholders were asked to sign up voluntarily to be part of the men and women groups.

The community stakeholders and members responded positively, and more people wanted to join these groups than the targeted numbers which were encouraging as it showcased their willingness to take part in the program and contribute to their community's resilience in the longer term. The target IRP program seeks to achieve the same starting with 1,200 women organized into 48 SLAs who will be trained on the SLA concept, basic financial literacy including uptaking of formal financial services

and linked to financial institutions offering pro-poor financial services that meet their needs. In turn, the women's groups encouraged other women across their communities to engage in similar groups using their success as role models. This approach had a greater impact and addressed multiple barriers to increase women's agency and shift social norms which were limiting their control over income and access to formal finances.

Within the project's operational communities, households were provided with the necessary resource which includes financial, physical, human, and social resources. This was done to meet the socioeconomic equality in food security goal which is a major component in ensuring that vulnerable communities live in a dignified and safe environment as the availability of resources is an important aspect determining the resilience of households against shocks and as such their economic and social vulnerability.

After a series of conducted assessments and selection criteria to ascertain the level of need of petty traders' households etc., SLRCS disbursed the sum of one thousand three hundred and sixty Leones (Le 1,360) as a seed grant to two hundred women petty traders using mobile money as a cost-effective, straightforward, and simple method that is common amongst traders. This was also in line with the petty traders' preference as well as encouragement for those who were not using formal financial services to start using simple and less costly formal financial services in contribution to the project's financial inclusion agenda., AfriMoney inducted the beneficiaries on how to use mobile money including tips to avoid falling victim to fraud before the beneficiaries received their cash support.



Four hundred women within the four new project communities were provided with an unconditional social safety net through cash transfer with the sum of two hundred and seventy-five leones Leone each (Le 275). This cash voucher assistance aimed to give these women an opportunity to meet their different basic needs. It was also anticipated that this cash transfer will increase the bargaining power of women when they provide more resources to the home.



#### 4.4 Tree Planting and Care (TPC)

SLRCS is currently implementing a climate change initiative through a tree-planting project in Six districts in Sierra Leone: Kono, Moyamba, Bo, Kenema, Pujehun, and Bonthe respectively.

These effects of climate change informed the society to embark on this project to support the efforts of government in addressing these issues through afforestation and strengthen communities to embark on best environmental practices.

The Community-Based Forest Landscape Restoration for Environmental Sustainability program overarching goal is to improve the environment. This project's ensuing two or three phases will contribute to a long-term anticipated change. The initiative builds upon the BRIDGE program, which is currently being carried out in Sierra Leone. Therefore, this project aims to encourage tree planting and maintenance in the six BRIDGE program-targeted districts of Moyamba, Bo, Pujehun, Bonthe, Kenema, and Kono.

During the period under review, the SLRCS TPC project has organized 7 sessions (1 National, 6 Districts) of project start-up workshops with staff, partners, line ministries, and volunteers at HQ and with stakeholders in operational branches/districts. Key issues raised included [a] recommendations to adapt the free and prior informed consent approach to prevent conflict and promote cohesion over project land use. [b] Projects investigating the adoption of mixed-cultivation approaches to enhance diversification and environmental adaptation. Additionally, the conference allowed us to set up a project support team to provide technical advice on program implementation.

For sensitization and community awareness raising, jingles and radio announcements on climate change effects and mitigation were produced for airing on community radios and sharing on online platforms.

#### 4.5 ICRC

The ICRC and SLRCS have been partners ever since the formation of SLRCS. They (ICRC) have continually contributed to the strengthening of the SLRCS capacities in the field of Communication and the service of Restoring Family Links (RFL) in Sierra Leone. Through their financial and technical support, SLRCS implemented the following programs and activities to amplify the overall visibility of the NS and ensure objectives are met.

- **Quarterly Dissemination**

Among the project's key objectives is it ensure all operations and programs of the NS are guided by the seven fundamental principles and values of the Movement, emblems recognized and respected. Hence the quarterly dissemination was organized in the Western Area Urban/Rural to provide volunteers with information on the FP, Emblems, and Acts of SLRCS. The media was thoroughly engaged and fully involved during the implementation of this activity. There were three newspapers invited, two radio stations, and three television stations.



- **May 8 Celebrations**

In celebration of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day and in line with SLRCS' 60<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration, the national society on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May this year 2022 held a press conference with journalists and media practitioners from both print and electronic media at the headquarters' board room. The purpose of this press conference was to update the press about the national society's 60<sup>th</sup> years in existence since it was in 1962 formed by an act of parliament and its operations.



During the press conference, the Secretary General of the national society, Kpawuru E T Sandy pointed out key efficient and successful interventions the society has undertaken over the decades. In his statement, he said the society depends on movement and donor partners who provide funds for the society to intervene during emergencies or any form of crisis, Which is why the society through the public and volunteers has embarked on fundraising activities to generate a set-aside fund that will be used to restock the SLRCS' warehouses across the country in readiness to respond to disasters of any type. This was concluded by an appeal to the public to show kindness and support the national society in whatever way to foster humanity and support the needy.



On the evening of the same day 6<sup>th</sup>, May 2022, Staff, and volunteers from all over the country embarked on a torchlight parade at their various branches dressed in their Red Cross at 60 T-shirts. This was an opportunity for the national society to raise more awareness in the public about previous and ongoing interventions. For HQ and the Western Area branch, the torchlight parade started around 5:00 pm at the Western Area First Aid Post (FAP) at Aberdeen Beach to Liverpool Street (the SLRCS Headquarters) in central Freetown. This walk consisted of Red Cross staff and volunteers, a representative from the ICRC regional office, the national Governing board, and a few of our business partners.



After undertaking various activities at branch and HQ levels, the HQ with support from all the branches had the Red Cross at 60 fundraising dinner launch held at the Radisson Blu Mamy Yoko Hotel at Aberdeen. The fund-raising dinner included members and representatives from Finish Red Cross, British Red Cross, National Disaster Management Association (NDMA), Big Fives, ICRC, Red Cross staff, volunteers, Branch managers from various branches, and invitees from the public.



- **Joint Monitoring Visits to Branches**

To network and ascertain branches' effectiveness in their operations, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society team – The Secretary-General Kpawuru E. T. Sandy, the Communications Officer Madlyn Sharkah, and ICRC Movement Cooperation Officer Angelo Asse jointly embarked on a monitoring and familiarization activity in Kambia, Tonkolili, Kono, and Kenema.

This activity was about engaging branch executives and volunteers to understand their challenges in their everyday operations and highlight their success stories in their interventions within their areas of operations.

It was also necessary to encourage local branches that they're not alone in their struggles but should keep working hard to ensure the presence of the Society is continually felt in communities saving lives.



- **Mini-Movement Induction Course Workshop**

SLRCS in collaboration with the ICRC and IFRC conducted a 4-day induction training – Mini Mic with participants inclusive of members of the National Governing board, Senior Management team, Branch Executives, Youth Representatives, and staff of the NS. The MINI-MIC was geared towards enhancing participants' knowledge and understanding of the RCRC Movement's mandate, mission, coordination, and status, the ICRC functions, structures, promoting respect for the Red Cross values, ensuring compliance with the principles, and promoting protection and respect for emblems.



- **Safety and Security Training**

Rising conflicts can negatively affect SLRCS's primary information collection and management activities. Incidents related to access are noted during these troubles in certain hot zones, as well as the difficulty of communicating with the forces of order, leads us to ask ourselves an essential question on the perception, the acceptance of the SLRCS as well as the management of security information during our interventions in the field.

To make the Operational Command Posts in the local branches more dynamic, the SLRCS together with the ICRC strengthened the capacities of the Branch Manager and have focal points in the management of security information. These well-equipped local committee managers will analyze and respond to the risks incurred by their staff and volunteers during their field trips during crises.



- **First Aid Training**

A 2-day training (November 22 and 23, 2022) designed to capacitate volunteers to become capable First Aid service providers to vulnerable people in their various locations. The training package provided detailed updates on best practices for the prevention and management of illnesses and injuries. More specifically, the course prepared these volunteers to:



They were provided with comprehensive practical knowledge and skills in First Aid and environmental-related health emergencies; this has equipped them with the expertise to respond to life-threatening emergencies (unresponsive casualty, arterial bleeding, shock, poisonings, etc), respond to non-life threatening conditions (wounds, minor burns, musculoskeletal injuries, frostbite, etc), properly communicate with higher level care in terms of asking for assistance, properly communicate with the victim, victim's relatives and colleagues, and properly and appropriately identify and use the necessary personal protection.



#### 4.6 Civil Unrest – DREF

- **Description of the disaster**

The capital city of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Freetown experienced demonstrations since the first week of July 2022 that subsequently led to the humanitarian crisis in the eastern part of the city and selected towns and districts of Sierra Leone. The situation triggered a demonstration on the 8th and 9th of August 2022 by an organized group of civilians operated under social media platforms by unknown Sierra Leoneans in and outside Sierra Leone who requested a sit-home action across the Country. On 10th August 2022, these organized group of citizens took over the streets of Freetown, Waterloo, Makeni, and Kamakwei towns to demonstrate against the Government of Sierra Leone for unemployment, economic hardship, and injustices, demanding reductions in fuel prices, economic relief for indebted families, fair prices for agricultural products, employment and labour rights, security, and protection. Thousands of people mobilized themselves around the country and blocked main supply routes and other roads. Although the mobilizations began peacefully in the Eastern Part of Freetown, the situation deteriorated rapidly because of confrontation between security forces and demonstrators across the country which led to a high number of casualties. The deadly engagement started with tear gas canisters, which were followed by live bullets as the situation deteriorated further in less than three hours. Regulatory measures were imposed in attempting to control the crowd, including a curfew. The authorities arrested and detained some of the protesters and conducted property searches and restrictions on the Internet and social media. A cross-section of the population was impacted, with a high casualty rate reported for young people.

On 13 August 2022, the protest extended to three other districts and more than five towns with more than 20 concentration points and road blockades. As a result of these demonstrations, public and private property was damaged, people were injured and some are still in detention at the state maximum prison (Pa Demba Road), according to media sources. Additionally, in some of the locations in Freetown such as Shell, Kissy, Wellington, and Calaba town in the Western Rural District, the protesters burnt down government facilities such as police stations, and school buses, injured and killed some security personnel and attacked key political figures in these locations. A state of emergency was declared by the vice president of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and this was followed by a nationwide.

The rapid assessment provided an estimated number of 458,133 people affected at the national level, including direct demonstrators impacted as well as people in the immediate vicinity, who were

exposed to violence and other traumatic situations beyond physical injuries. According to data provided by the Office of National Security, over 34 people were injured, 30 deaths (including 3 police officers), and many were detained in different parts of the country. The National Society branch response teams reported clear evidence of injuries sustained by many people that were not documented and these people are presently in hiding because of fear of being arrested by the police.

Experiences from the August 2022 demonstrations and sudden eruptions of violence that followed, it is anticipated that more demonstrations and violence will be associated with the next presidential and parliamentary elections planned for June 24, 2023. Preparedness on the part of SLRCS to support rapid response teams to reach victims of unforeseen riots is critical, especially when the electioneering process is about five months away.



- **Overview of Host National Society**

Though the situation was very tense as some demonstrators were shot on site on August 10, 2022, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society an auxiliary to the Government of Sierra Leone reactivated its National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) and provided first aid services to injured persons, collected dead bodies and conveyed them to the mortuaries in Freetown and Makeni, and volunteers donated safe blood to support 29 injured people admitted in Connaught hospital. Similar support was provided to injured people at Rokupa Hospital in Freetown, a regional hospital in Makeni, and the Wesleyan Missionary Hospital in Kamakwei. In addition to the services mentioned above, the National Society (NS) deployed 6 ambulances and 7 vehicles in Freetown, Makeni, Kamakwei, and Port Loko districts respectively to enhance effective response from responders and the affected population. A total of 5 staff and 35 volunteers helped to reduce human suffering from the protest.

The national society, as part of its staff and volunteers' capacity-building process, series of training workshops were conducted on various relevant topics such as High Insecurity Training (HIT), Emergency First Aid Services, stress management, Psychological and Psychosocial support, during and after violent protests, community engagement and accountability, principles, and use of community feedback systems, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and use of the Emblem. The pieces of training were provided for 120 staff members and volunteers, 200 Sierra Leone Police Officers, and 200 Military personnel. The training has helped to prepare the national society very well for June 24, 2023, parliamentary and presidential elections in Sierra Leone.



In collaboration with the Ministry of Information, the national society developed, printed, and distributed flyers with peace messages in Freetown, Makeni, Kamakwei, and Portloko to reduce the chances of the recurrence of violent demonstrations. Also, staff and volunteers were provided visibility items such as jackets and aprons as quick identifiers which protect them from harm from the security personnel and demonstrators. Security briefing sessions were organized by the national society with facilitation support from the IFRC Freetown cluster team, which enhanced staff and volunteers' safety and security.



The national society provided basic needs and livelihood assistance in the form of cash to 150 victims who were victims of circumstance but suffered severe injuries or lost the breadwinner of the family through the August 10, 2022, deadly demonstration. According to the post-distribution monitoring facilitated by the IFRC cluster team, 81.7% of beneficiaries interviewed indicated excellent for the timeliness and cash amount and 18.3% rated very good for the cash value and restoring their lives. The lessons learned workshop session also emphasized the timeliness and mode of support as the beneficiaries revealed that they found it easier to access their support through mobile money transfer.

#### **4.7 Flood - DREF**

Following the Freetown flash floods and Mudslide incident on Sunday 28 August 2022, heavy rains caused associated impacts, including flooding in low-lying areas as well as new episodes of landslides on a low scale in which major roads in the city center were rendered impassable due to the flood waters, heavily constraining vehicles and pedestrians having to find alternative routes. The city experienced more heavy rains which caused flooding in communities and affected a considerable number of people in Kanikay, Culvert, Kaningo, Tengbeh Town, Looking Town, Cassava Town, Mount Aureole, Kolleh Town, and Brooks Field.

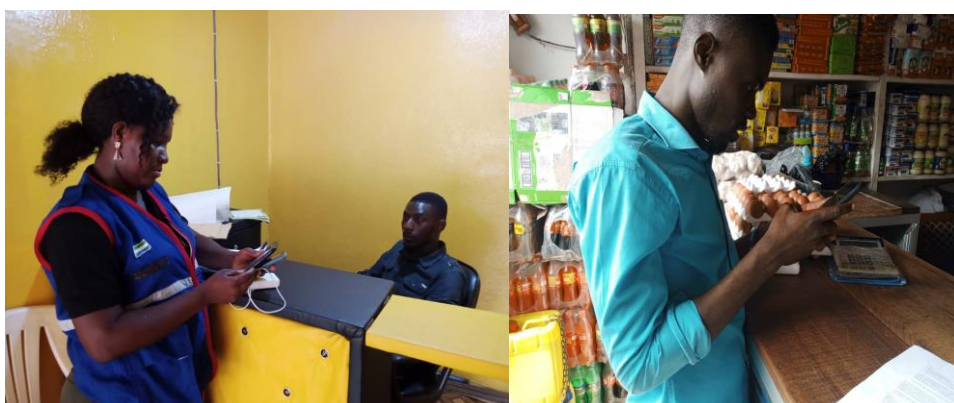
To complement Government's effort in the response to this disaster, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society through its RCRC movement partners provided immediate rescue assistance to victims in the affected communities.



- **750 households (5,250 people) received unconditional cash assistance.**

Cash transfer was part of the intervention to relieve the flood victims from their loss. To achieve this, a Rapid Assessment of the Market (RAM) was conducted to identify the present economic situation of the market. A team of staff from SLRCS together with the senior logistics officer of the IFRC conducted a survey in ten (10) markets with proximity to the flood/landslide locations. Wholesalers, retailers, financial services providers, and market representative heads were all interviewed. Most of the retailers interviewed were female, with an average age of 36 years old, and a quiet number of them are heads of a household. Approximately three-fourths of verified petty traders who are household heads from the shock communities reported having experienced a lack of food or money to buy it, as well as resorted to applying diverse food consumption-related coping strategies (e.g., reducing the number of meals per day or portion sizes). Among the food and non-food consumption-related coping strategies, the most common one was buying food on credit or borrowing money to buy food and taking loans from microfinance companies. Households reduced their non-food essential expenditures, such as clothes, sanitary kits, household utensils, etc. whilst trying to save for daily bread. Most of them lived on more severe coping strategies, such as child labor, begging, or accepting illegal and high-risk jobs for survival. Therefore, providing unconditional cash to them as a start-up business to feed themselves from their savings is a key intervention strategy.

Presently, according to the estimates from the SLRCS RAM report under development, the inflation rate was noted to have increased significantly thus increasing the food basket cost in Sierra Leone from 94.73 USD in April 2022 to 132 USD in December 2022/January 2023.



The RAM report better informed the unconditional/multipurpose cash transfer. The SLRCS used accredited data from the National Disaster Management (NDMA).

**50 volunteers trained and engaged in cash activities.**

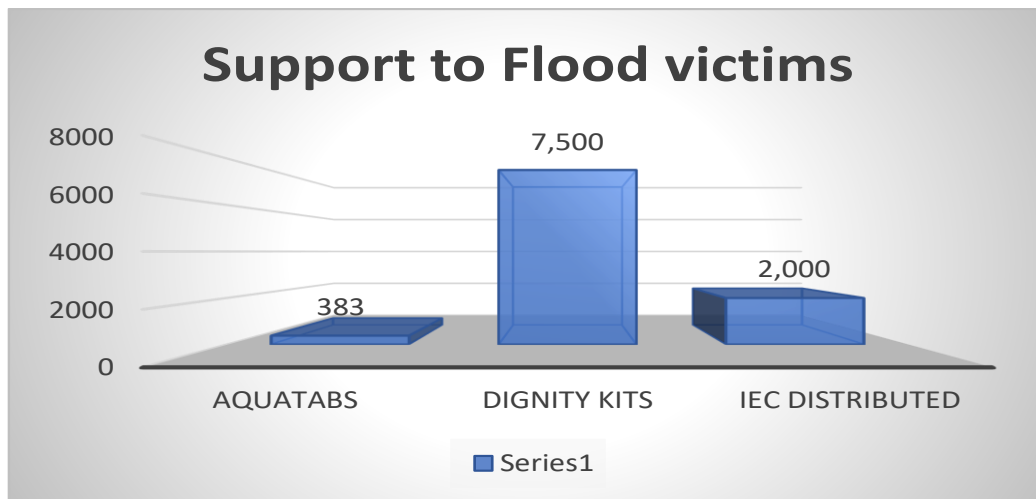
Volunteers were engaged to understand the processes involved in cash transfer. A one-day training to equip volunteers on the verification and validation of registered beneficiaries was conducted. A list of the NDMA that were victims was registered immediately after the disaster was used for this process. Below are the findings from the verification exercise:

- 80% of the households visited were headed by females with more than 3 children under 18 years old and 4 elderly (above 60).
- According to the verification, three main sources of income were income from labour, cash derived from assistance/begging or gifts, and debts or loans.
- The average household size was found to be above 6 persons per household.
- Half of the verified households live in apartments or independent houses with more than 3 people sleeping on the same bed.
- The proportion of households living in the worst housing is almost 70% of the population interviewed.
- 80% of the households visited pay rent for unfurnished shelters or live in shelters that are unroofed.
- 76% of the households depend on assistance to be able to reside in each place.
- 72% of verified households reported not having access to soap or hygiene items and not having access to sufficient water for all essential needs.
- Regarding access to toilet facilities, 46 percent used traditional pit latrines without slabs and 8 percent used rubber bolls and plastics to defecate and through in gutters.
- However, 65% of the verification questionnaires were conducted with the head of the household, 22% were conducted with the wives of the head of the household, and the remaining 13% were conducted with other members of the household.



**Distribution of items**

Community	Dignity Kits	Aqua tabs	IEC
Culvert	150	1,570	350
Kaningo	30	850	200
Tengbeh town	25	450	200
Kamayama	20	700	150
Kroobay	20	800	270
Amadu Lane, Lumley	23	730	140
Mount Aurel	25	500	100
Looking down, Kissy	20	400	200
Wellington	50	900	230
Kolleh town	20	600	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>2,000</b>



## Program Approaches

### 4.8 Protection Gender and Inclusion

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) describes the IFRC's approach and way of working to address the causes, risks, and consequences of violence, discrimination, and exclusion in an integrated way.

People affected by disasters can have very different experiences. A person's sex, gender identity, age, physical ability, race, nationality, and many other factors can influence how they are vulnerable to, and affected by disasters, conflicts, and crises. They can also affect how they respond and recover.

By delivering gender-and diversity-sensitive humanitarian services, there is greater potential to reach the most vulnerable, to involve them systematically in all decision making and to ensure that their needs inform the strategic planning of all services. This would mean that staff and volunteers understand the diverse needs of community people, vulnerabilities, and capacities of women, men, boys, girls, and the disabled according to their age and background for properly informed programming planning and implementation.

Using a PGI analysis ensures programs and interventions are appropriate and do not discriminate against people or reinforce existing disparities in the communities. It requires strengthened structures, capacities, and programs to ensure that PGI is mainstreamed effectively.



For this reason, induction training was conducted to equip SLRCS staff and volunteers with adequate knowledge of PGI and the essence of merging PGI in all programs, services, and tools. It was also necessary to establish the importance of incorporating practical structures/solutions that will enforce Society's commitment to 'not harm'. This training was followed by a landscape review whose significance was to enable the Society to self-access from an honest place with the knowledge acquired, to identify PGI gaps in all implementations, and where the NS is doing well.



Following the PGI induction training and landscape review which took place in early February 2022, it was important to assess the organization's capacity for PGI further. This was followed by an organizational assessment that was relevant to establish a baseline, the current situation of the administration in terms of policies and actions geared toward the creation of a gender and all-inclusive responsive administration.

The self-assessment provided an opportunity to discuss and reflect on current strengths and how to improve processes that drive positive change in the NS through projects and organization. It enabled participants to identify strategies to strengthen gender equality/diversity and social inclusion, consider strategies to make a change and highlight opportunities for improvement within their work.



Attention was paid to the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that each person has regarding gender equality, safeguarding, diversity, and the empowerment of women and the integration of these into their daily work. The information gathered entails how much they know and understand about PGI concepts, policies (such as organizational gender strategy, gender policy, PSEA Policy, etc), and procedures (how equality and fairness should be reflected in procurement or recruitment processes, among others), as well as how capable they are of implementing all these and other processes.

#### **4 Programs Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting**

##### **5 Opportunities/Emerging Issues**

- Training of 100 volunteers on Oral Cholera vaccines to four (4) SLRCS branches with funds from CDC Atlanta and support from the IFRC. This further built the capacity of the RC volunteers to adequately respond to any eventual cholera outbreak.
- Assisting the MOHS and MAFF, both national and at the district level, to respond to the Anthrax outbreak. The Ministry of Agriculture was provided with funds (Perdiem, accommodation, and Fuel) to investigate and collected fifty-four (54) samples which were sent to the Central Veterinary Laboratory for laboratory confirmation of which one sample was confirmed positive for *Bacillus anthracis* on 11th May 2022.

- In another development, an unusual animal death was reported in Kamasasa village, Thonkor Limba Chiefdom in the Kambia district. These death alert reports were also investigated by MAF and proved to be Peste des Petits Ruminant (PPR). Treatments were provided for the sick animals and awareness-raising activities were conducted by RC volunteers through community group meetings and house-to-house visits.

## 6 Coordination

- ***Internal Coordination***

The SLRCS hosted the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) work plan finalization workshop in Freetown from the 26th to the 28th of May 2022.

Preparing for disasters saves vulnerable lives and can speed up the recovery process. Sierra Leone Red Cross Society with support from the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and Canadian Red Cross Society has ended the Preparedness for Effective Response workshop on revalidating key findings and finalization of the National Society's work plan. The workshop was held at the Family Kingdom Resort in Freetown with Red Cross staff from its headquarters and the branches with staff from the IFRC, and the Canadian Red Cross.

As an auxiliary to the Government, this is part of the national society's continual process to improve local preparedness capacity and limit the impacts of disasters among vulnerable people in the country. To review the NS's 2021 PER assessment, and response plan, revalidate key findings on the national society's six (6) components which include Disaster Management strategy (with gaps in documenting strategy, coordination, communication with partners, and Health/WASH risks), Hazard context and Risk analysis (which includes mapping or identification of hazards, community committees at the local level and mapping of local partners not to duplicate activities) Monitoring and early warning. Emergency Response Procedures. Pre-disaster Agreements. Emergency Operation Centers, Finance and admin policy emergency procedures, and Response and Recovery system.

With intense facilitation and discussion sessions championed by Anastasiia Kiseleva from the Canadian Red Cross as an expert to guide and supported finalized its work plan, review, and make relevant changes. Bring recommendations to reality for expedition procedures during emergencies.

As a National Society, this will enhance effective response to vulnerable people during emergencies, visibility of disaster management, capacity to perform and deliver services, and contribute to accountability to the NSD goal in communications.

The approach is based on the Red Cross Movement standards for National Societies to objectively measure preparedness and response capacity over time. To provide a practical approach that is adaptable and accessible solutions to accommodate various contexts and circumstances a National Society may face. The PER also optimizes financial and technical resources through the harmonization of plans and tools.

The SLRCS PER has so far undergone a couple of stages which include the Orientation phase the NS deliberated and identified key external and internal needs and analysis of hazards and risks. In the Assessment stage where the NS prioritized six (6) components out of the 37 overall prioritized components which require attention and resources to effectively respond to disasters and emergencies on time. The Work plan phase is currently what the NS is presently doing to identify the root cause for strengthening its response capacity, including outcomes, outputs, activities, timeliness, targets, and a clear accountability framework. The Action and Accountability stage is where the national society implements the work plan and monitors and reports on progress and successes.



- ***External Coordination***

The NS partners are drawn from a diverse mix of entities to maximize diversity, ranging from the volunteers, community stakeholders, Rainbo Initiatives, Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs, Family support units, Ministry of social welfare, Restless Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, NDMA, WHO, WFP, Limkokwing University of Sierra Leone, Orange Mobile Money, Afri-Mobile Money, BRC, IFRC, IceRC, FRC, ICRC, and other PNs. During the reporting period, all activities implemented were coordinated with relevant internal and external stakeholders who participated through pieces of training, attending meetings, and during community engagement at the community level.

Various meetings held with staff, volunteers, key community-level representatives, and national strategic partners contributed positively as all parties were clear on the different program’s goals, objectives, areas of implementation, and planned activities including who the direct and indirect beneficiaries were, areas of synergy and collaboration were identified with strategic partners and the duration of the programs and projects. This increased understanding and ownership of the program, especially at the community level as Chiefs pledged their support and commitment to their people in enabling smooth program implementation as it was for building their resilience.

In addition, monitoring of activities was conducted which further strengthened a clearer understanding of internal stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities which in turn contributed to improved and effective community engagement processes. Likewise, community stakeholders were kept abreast of activities being implemented at the community levels before the implementation date. Targeted beneficiaries were responsive and attended meetings or pieces of training on time as well as participated meaningfully. Thus, the establishment and strengthening of diverse groups such as the CBDMCs, Men & Boys Groups, and the women groups had little to no barriers and created a pathway of the local network of community members in operational communities and this has increased trust and accountability at the community level.

The One Health National Secretariat is on the verge of formulating One Health for Sierra Leone. Key Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Donors, and Partners were involved, especially the Ministry of Health and Sanitation; the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; the Environment Protection Agency; and the Office of National Security. The leadership of these MDAs showed commitment to the One Health approach and appreciated the urgent need for a National One Health Policy (NOHP); Participants included representatives from SLRCS-CP3, WHO, USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats 2 project, FAO, Breakthrough Action, PREDICT University of California-Davies, Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone, Njala University, University of Makeni, China CDC, Tulane University, CDC Atlanta, FOCUS 1000, Health Alert/Action for Humanity-SL and FUTUREKARE-SL

## **7 Challenges and Mitigation**

- Piracy has also been another challenge as there are few people out rendering the same services for less price. So undue competition has been another challenge.
- Fluctuation of fuel prices affected the budget and thus, delay both the branch and HQ project implementation of activities and monitoring process.
- Increase in prices of goods and services by Vendors.
- Poor vehicles for branches to conduct thorough monitoring.
- Adjustment of budget to fit the current prices.

## **8 Lessons Learnt/Recommendations**

- SLRCS to procure appropriate manikins for first aid training there be funding.
- SLRCS to also procure the bag valve mask for first aid pieces of training as well as the world is now moving from the close contact to less contact approach.
- SLRCS to procure more FIRST AID KIT as the demand from the public is getting high.
- SLRCS to have an assistant for the First Aid unit to help the unit reach out to more clients with first aid Services.
- Miscellaneous in the next budget must be huge to respond to economic trends.
- Standby funds are needed for unexpected outbreaks and emergencies.
- Conduct effective and practical training on how to collect feedback mechanisms for staff and volunteers.
- Volunteers to have a quarterly schedule plan of activities.
- Agents of change and CBDMC should be constantly engaged to motivate them whilst making an impact.
- Innovative implementation strategies to be developed by the project teams to ensure that activities planned are implemented taking into consideration safe and inclusive programming.
- SLRCS to assist the program teams with project tracking tools.

## **9 Annexes**