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## DREF final report Sierra Leone: Fire

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRSL 004  
GLIDE n° FR-2013-000003-SLE  
30 September 2013**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**Summary: CHF 167,769 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 15 January 2013 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 2,253 beneficiaries in four locations/districts affected by the fire disaster.**

The initial objective of Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) intervention was to support the impoverished fire disaster victims in Bo, Pujehun, Bonthe and Moyamba districts who were left languishing in neighbouring villages as a result of the disaster.

The lives of 2,253 people affected by the fire were changed when impacted with relief assistance from the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society with support from the IFRC after a fire disaster displaced them early this year. Change in the lives of these disaster affected people was realized and their dignity restored when 450 families were supported with NFIs and 279 houses rehabilitated. Since the Red Cross was the first humanitarian organization to respond to the emergency, a clear display of our roles and responsibility to the general public was realized and appreciated by the Government of Sierra Leone whose line institution responsible for disaster management later joined the efforts of the Red Cross.



In April 2013, RDRT Shelter (SLRCS) supported reconstruction of burnt houses in Blama Gbannie, Bo District. Photo: SLRCS

This response operation provided an enabling environment for the SLRCS to effectively coordinate with the central government, the local government in the four districts and other agencies and stakeholders.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

## The situation

As a result of the dry Harmatan wind that blew across the country, several villages were affected by the fire disasters between 2 to 28 January 2013. Blama Gbani in Bo district, Tiama camp in Moyamba district, Bompilia in Bonthe district and Rogbenk in Port Loko district were all affected. In total, 279 houses were burnt rendering 450 families homeless (over 2,257 affected individuals).

SLRCS initial intervention to the disaster victims was NFIs to all 450 families in the four different locations. This was followed by a thorough assessment by the RDRT shelter volunteers from the national society whose report recommended a rehabilitation of better quality local houses with reinforced structural rigidity, enough space per family in a house and enough space between houses to prevent the rapid spread of fire.

The major challenge in the rehabilitation process was the use of thatch roofs in some of the villages which still posed the threat of recurrence.

Following the relief and rehabilitation phases of the DREF operation, a massive risk reduction campaign was launched using a two prong approach. One was at each district headquarter town where awareness raising messages were aired to all the communities in the district through the local radio station, and the second approach was conducting individual awareness raising sessions in each of the affected communities ending it with a simulation exercise. These sessions have brought about the much needed awareness the community requires in their everyday existence in these fire prone areas.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

During emergencies of this nature, SLRCS always form a taskforce with the relevant expertise to support the respective district branches and coordinate with relevant stakeholders. It is always the responsibility of the taskforce to take decisions on the activities and progress of the DREF operation.

A series of activities were planned to salvage the situation of the affected families, primary of all was to bring relief and restore the lives of those affected. Many strategies were employed to achieve these objectives, but the use of SLRCS volunteers in assessing the disaster situation, distributing relief, providing technical support for the rehabilitation of houses and finally raising awareness to ensure future occurrences were mitigated was the backbone to the entire operation.

## Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome: The immediate sheltering needs of 2,253 displaced persons are met, during three months	
<b>Outputs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency shelter and basic household items provided to 450 displaced families</li> </ul>	<b>Activities planned</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>Distribute shelter and household items Assist target population in the construction process of emergency shelter</li> <li>Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>Develop an exit strategy.</li> </ul>

### Progress:

- A rapid needs assessment was conducted by the SLRCS branches in collaboration with the Office of National Security (ONS). Basic needs identified were shelter, NFIs and food as for some communities, their food storage units caught fire.
- Registration of beneficiaries in all locations was done by the respective branch volunteers supervised by the head of the branch. Beneficiaries were established by targeting the heads of

households affected by the fires. A total of 450 families were targeted for assistance. 2,253 beneficiaries were registered in four locations.

- Immediate needs identified were first aid, food, NFIs, psychosocial counselling and shelter rehabilitation. In summary, NFIs for 450 families were distributed. i.e. 960 pieces each of blankets, mats, soap, mosquito nets and plastic sheets, 480 buckets and 260 shelter kits including 100 bags of cement to support reconstruction.
- The head of SLRCS branches in each of the affected district, in collaboration with other members of staff and two RDRT-Shelter personnel supported the technical reconstruction of houses in the affected communities. Technical support was given in the following areas:
  - The use of the shelter kit tools
  - Best locations to erect local houses
  - Layout of house plan
  - Materials needed for construction of local houses
  - Type of houses suitable for the given location and terrain
  - Construction of a standard shelter by family size
- As part of our monitoring strategy, public opinion surveys were conducted by the press on the impact of SLRCS intervention on the lives of the fire victims. Widespread consensus was that since no humanitarian organisation responded the disasters SLRCS relief efforts were timely and helped a good number of the displaced population to return to their communities.

#### Challenges:

- Bad road terrain led to infrequent access and follow-up the affected communities

#### Emergency health

<b>Outcome: The adverse effects of the disaster on health of affected population are reduced</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results) and</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First aid services have been provided to injured persons affected by the disaster.</li> <li>• Referral services for the injured persons to health facilities for treatment</li> </ul>	<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Cross volunteers continue to provide First Aid to victims and referral of victims to appropriate Health Facilities.</li> <li>• Procurement of 10 first aid kits to be provided to the SL RC teams active in the affected communities.</li> <li>• Monitor and reporting of activities</li> </ul>

#### Progress:

- Due to the remoteness of most locations, medical assistance is usually hard to access and therefore those affected by the fires could not be easily assisted. First aid assistance for minor ailments was given during the initial assessment by the SLRCS team. A total of 23 persons received first aid treatment and or psychosocial support from SLRCS first aid teams.
- Since there were no major casualties other than minor ailment sustained from the fire disasters, it is now planned to reduce future risks in the communities, that each community be supplied with a first aid kit to ensure early response in the event that a similar event is repeated.

#### Challenges:

- Bad road terrain leading to infrequent access and follow-up the affected communities

#### NS Preparedness

<b>Outcome: SL RC better prepared to respond to fire disasters and have contributed to reduce the risks of fire outbreaks in high risk communities in the five affected districts, during high risk season.</b>	
<b>Outputs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SL RC preparedness and capacity to respond to and mitigate the effects of emergencies related to fires has increased.</li> <li>• High risk communities in the five affected districts have increased knowledge and are better prepared to mitigate and prevent</li> </ul>	<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train / retrain 60 volunteers on fire mitigation and prevention</li> <li>• Initiate social mobilization activities through the development of IEC materials and fire mitigation and prevention messages.</li> <li>• Provide to local committees the appropriate level of tools and equipment to carry out</li> </ul>

risks of fires	activities in the target areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor the situation and prepare a report</li> </ul>
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**Progress:**

- 80 volunteers, 20 from each community were trained on fire mitigation, prevention and bush fire fighting. These are some of the many capacities the communities have acquired after SLRCS intervention. They are charged with the responsibility to mitigate fire accidents and be the first responders to fire emergencies.
- 1,500 IEC materials on the prevention and mitigation of fire was produced and distributed to all four affected communities.
- Over ten sessions of awareness raising activities over the local community radios in each of the districts were conducted on fire prevention.
- Risk Reduction tools in the form of pickaxes, shovels, hoes, cutlasses etc. were supplied to aid cleaning in the communities.

**Logistics**

<b>Outcome: Timely and effective logistics support provided to the emergency operations</b>	
<b>Outputs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide effective logistical support that enables rapid assistance provided to targeted beneficiaries.</li> </ul>	<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport relief supplies to final distribution points.</li> <li>• Identify suitable warehouses for storage of relief items.</li> <li>• Maintain mobilisation table.</li> <li>• Local procurement of shelter items, NFIs, first aid kits (as specified under relief distribution/ emergency shelter and emergency health outcomes), in line with national procurement guidelines.</li> <li>• Procure kitchen sets from Dakar in line with IFRC procurement guide lines and transport to Sierra Leone for distribution by the national society</li> </ul>

**Progress:**

- Fuel and other logistics supported the operations of the DREF during monitoring and technical support visits to the communities.
- Vehicles (trucks) were hired for the transfer of NFIs from Freetown to the district branch offices. Shuttles were also available from the branch offices to the distribution sites.
- Building materials like timber, cement and construction tools were provided accordingly by logistics department.

**Challenges:**

- There was insufficient allocation of funds for the procurement of building materials.

## Contact information

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

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRSL004 - Sierra Leone - Fire

Timeframe: 15 Jan 13 to 15 Apr 13

Appeal Launch Date: 15 Jan 13

Final DREF Report

### Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2013/1-2013/4	Programme	MDRSL004
Budget Timeframe	2013/1-2013/4	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>A. Budget</b>		167,769				167,769	
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0	
<b>Income</b>							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		167,769				167,769	
<b>C4. Other Income</b>		167,769				167,769	
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)</b>		167,769				167,769	
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		167,769				167,769	

\* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

## II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0	
<b>C. Income</b>		167,769				167,769	
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-166,241				-166,241	
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		1,528				1,528	

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### III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>			<b>167,769</b>			<b>167,769</b>		
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	31,500		30,321			30,321	1,179	
Construction Materials	13,500		13,783			13,783	-283	
Clothing & Textiles	19,800		20,142			20,142	-342	
Food			1,778			1,778	-1,778	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			3,584			3,584	-3,584	
Medical & First Aid	4,000		5,204			5,204	-1,204	
Utensils & Tools	29,250		1,633			1,633	27,617	
Other Supplies & Services			25,296			25,296	-25,296	
<b>Total Relief items, Construction, Sup</b>	<b>98,050</b>		<b>101,741</b>			<b>101,741</b>	<b>-3,691</b>	
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	300		217			217	83	
Distribution & Monitoring	2,700		3,249			3,249	-549	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,600		6,045			6,045	-2,445	
<b>Total Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>6,600</b>		<b>9,510</b>			<b>9,510</b>	<b>-2,910</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	10,000		200			200	9,800	
National Society Staff	8,000		6,355			6,355	1,645	
Volunteers	14,600		14,329			14,329	271	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>32,600</b>		<b>20,884</b>			<b>20,884</b>	<b>11,716</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	8,500		14,875			14,875	-6,375	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>8,500</b>		<b>14,875</b>			<b>14,875</b>	<b>-6,375</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	5,000		3,682			3,682	1,318	
Information & Public Relations	3,880		3,886			3,886	-6	
Office Costs	1,000		1,516			1,516	-516	
Communications	900						900	
Financial Charges	1,000						1,000	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>11,780</b>		<b>9,084</b>			<b>9,084</b>	<b>2,696</b>	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Programme & Services Support Recove	10,239		10,146			10,146	93	
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>10,239</b>		<b>10,146</b>			<b>10,146</b>	<b>93</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>167,769</b>		<b>166,241</b>			<b>166,241</b>	<b>1,529</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>1,529</b>			<b>1,529</b>		

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**IV. Breakdown by subsector**

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
<b>BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people</b>							
Disaster response	167,769	0	167,769	167,769	166,241	1,528	
Subtotal BL2	167,769	0	167,769	167,769	166,241	1,528	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>167,769</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>167,769</b>	<b>167,769</b>	<b>166,241</b>	<b>1,528</b>	