



**UN EBOLA RESPONSE MPTF
PROJECT MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - VERSION 1
Period (Month-Year): March 2016**

Project Number and Title: #38- Title: Reintegration of Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) Volunteers Burial Teams	PROJECT START DATE¹: 23-06-2015	AMOUNT ALLOCATED by MPTF <i>(please indicate different tranches if applicable)</i> \$ USD 1,975,639.87	RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
Project ID: 00095545	EXTENSION DATE: 31-06-2016	FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS \$...	
Project Focal Point: Name: Jason Ian Lee E-mail: jason.ian.lee@undp.org	PROJECTED END DATE: 31-06-2016	EXPENDITURES as of 31/3/16 \$84,689.17	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER(S): The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) (CSO) Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) (CSO)
Strategic Objective (STEPP) Improved mental health of SLRCS volunteers through enhanced treatment and management of stress and/or trauma related disorders SLRCS volunteers that undergo the re-skilling, vocational training or business development stream having recovered livelihoods and are able to engage in income generation activities Improved access of SLRCS volunteers to financial services Improved Reskilling and reintegration programmes for the wider ERW			
Mission Critical Action MCA - Description			
Location: Sierra Leone, West Africa	Sub-National Coverage Areas: Full list of countries and/or districts Kenema District, Western Area, Port Loko District, Kambia district, Bombali District, Koinadugu District, Tonkolili District, Moyamba District, Pujehun District, Bo District, Kailahun District, Bonthe District and Kono District		

¹ The date project funds were first transferred



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MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT RESULTS MATRIX					
OUTPUT INDICATORS					
Indicator	Geographic Area	Projected Target (as per results matrix)	Quantitative results for the (one month) reporting period	Cumulative results since project commencement (quantitative)	Delivery Rate (cumulative % of projected total) as of date
<i>Description of the quantifiable indicator as set out in the approved project proposal</i>					
# of SLRCS volunteers completing psychosocial assessment	All the 14 Districts	800	0	800	100%
# Red Cross Staff trained in Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS)	All the 14 Districts	28	0	0	0
# of SLRCS volunteers trained in Psychological First Aid	All the 14 Districts	800	20	330	41.25%
# of SLRCS branches with a referral system to specialized mental health services	All the 14 Districts	14	0	0	0
# of SLRCS volunteers undertaking counselling sessions	All the 14 Districts	800	500	800	100%
# of SLRCS volunteers referred to specialized care and treatment and receiving ongoing support	All the 14 Districts	200	0	0	0
2) Assessment # of SLRCS volunteers completing skills/educational/interest assessment	All the 14 Districts	800	0	800	100%



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(3) Livelihood # of SLRCS volunteers receiving career skill development training	All the 14 Districts	62 ²	0	0	0
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers streamed through the career skill development training that successfully complete the training	All the 14 Districts	75%	0	0	0
# of SLRCS volunteers receiving vocational training	All the 14 Districts	216 ³	0	0	0
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers streamed through the vocational training that successfully complete the training	All the 14 Districts	75%	0	0	0
# of SLRCS volunteers receiving business development training	All the 14 Districts	417 ⁴	0	0	0
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers streamed through the business development training that successfully complete the training	All the 14 Districts	75%	0	0	0
Market assessment and analysis emergent industries/livelihood areas	All the 14 Districts	800	0	0	0
# of SLRCS volunteers returning back to tertiary studies	All the 14 Districts	105 ⁵	93	93	100%

² Finalisation of volunteer re-skilling assessment due for April 12th 2016. Revised targets shall be submitted to the MPTF for approval.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*



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(4) Financial inclusion # of SLRC volunteers receiving planning and advisory services	All the 14 Districts	800 ⁶	0	0	0
# of SLRC volunteers receiving financial management advice linked to UNDP's small and medium enterprise development and recovery programmes	All the 14 Districts	800 ⁷	0	0	0
# of SLRCS volunteers receiving training on financial inclusion and access to financial services such as savings, credits, insurance etc.	All the 14 Districts	800	0	0	0
EFFECT INDICATORS (if available for the reporting period)					
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers with signs of stress and/or trauma related symptoms reporting an ablation of said symptoms after treatment	Nationwide – 13 districts	50%	0	0	0
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers that require ongoing care	Nationwide – 13 districts	50%		0	0

⁶ Cross cutting guidance applicable to all re-skilling categories shall be made available to entire target group as a means of increased sustainability of the project. The initial target of 200 volunteers will be revised to include all 800 project beneficiaries following approval from the MPTF.

⁷ *Ibid.*



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for trauma and/or stress associated symptoms still receiving treatment			0		
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers that were referred to specialized mental health care that complete the treatment and management of their condition	Nationwide – 13 districts	50%	0	0	0
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers in the career skill development stream successfully joining the workforce	Nationwide – 13 districts	50%	0	0	0
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers in the vocational development stream gaining a vocational skill	Nationwide – 13 districts	50%	0	0	0
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers in the business development stream having established small or medium enterprises	Nationwide – 13 districts	50%	0	0	0
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers that resume their studies successfully complete their education	Nationwide – 13 districts	50%	0	0	0
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers able to access financial services and savings	Nationwide – 13 districts	50%	0	0	0
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers able to	Nationwide – 13 districts	20%	0	0	0



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access loan/micro-credit facilities					
Proportion of the wider ERW that are able to access future reintegration and reskilling programmes	Nationwide – 13 districts	50 percent of the entire ERW	0	0	0

NARRATIVE

Situation Update *(please describe critical changes, if any, in the situation that affect the project (1-2 paragraphs))*

The International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding Ebola virus disease (EVD) declared the end of the Public Health Emergency of International Concern regarding the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa on 29 March 2016. All the 3 countries have met the criteria for confirming interruption of their original chains of Ebola virus transmission. The Committee also noted that, although new clusters of EVD cases continue to occur as expected, including a recent and ongoing cluster in Guinea, all clusters to date have been detected and responded to rapidly.

The Red Cross continued in supporting SDB/IPC volunteers still experiencing problems of stream choice and continued to collect data on profiles of different sets of volunteer to support their choice of stream and continually improve support as per their identified unique needs.

105 volunteers have presented their acceptance letters from education institutions and are duly enrolled back into various institutions, awaiting their one year tuition fees to be paid. Additionally, 216 volunteers opting for vocational training have been enrolled and await payment of fees. The rise in the volunteers opting for tertiary and vocational streams is a result of continued engagement through workshops and counselling which has allowed the volunteers to review their options and the fact that there are limited opportunity in the previously selected Business Development Service(BDS).

The payment of fees has been delayed as the verification of the institutions is taking longer than expected, this is very important to ensure that the students are enrolled in reputable and accredited institutions. The verification process includes ensuring the accurate payment of fees as per the course studied, verifying the accreditation of each respective tertiary and vocational institutions and supporting the volunteers who are returning to their studies in developing a plan to continue payment of their studies after the year of tuition support is finished. Also to prepare a memorandum of understanding that will exist between the Red Cross and the 34 various Formal Educational Institutions and 30 vocational skills training institutions chosen by the Volunteers. Since the project is paying a year's tuition fees it is safer to go into an agreement



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wherein the responsibilities of each parties are clearly stated for effective implementation. It is hoped that the verification process and payment of respective fees will be finalised in the next couple of weeks.

The identified Business Development Service centres have been contacted to request for the training of volunteers who opted for the reskilling stream, this process is being led by UNDP. The criteria for selection of the volunteers for the reskilling option has been agreed upon (*1. volunteers are between 15-35 years of age; 2. have completed education stratified by level; 3. have run a business previously; 4. reside in the district where the BDS sites are based*). However, we have loosened the criteria selection of the BDS sites, in specific the geographical component of the criteria. This will allow more flexibility for Red Cross to stream the first batch of participants.

To address the issue of location and access to the proposed BDS, discussion are underway to utilise the Red Cross vocational training centres. The centres were in use before the EVD epidemic and currently being assessed to determining their feasibility in terms equipment and capacity.

Centres	Status
Moyamba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This centre is operational with other Red Cross activities and has available space to accommodate up to 50 reskilling volunteers. However, additional furniture and desks will be required. Adequate toilet facilities also available
Koinadugu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The centre has no active Red Cross activities. Additional classroom furniture and desks are required. Generator is also non-functional and should be replaced. Toilet facilities are OK. Can also accommodate up to 50 participants
Kailahun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The centre has furniture and desks, enough space, toilet facilities. Need to replace generator and some worn out furniture. Can accommodate up to 50 participants
Port-Loko	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The centre was renovated recently as it was used as a holding centre during the EVD operation. The renovation was done after the operation. Additional desks might be required depending on the number of intake. Can accommodate up to 50 participants
Kambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The centre is not operational and might require refurbishment to restore functionality.
Waterloo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The centre is not operational and might require refurbishment to restore functionality.

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Across session of workshop participants



Participants in Practical sessions

10 PSS facilitators and 14 PSS coaches attended a 5 days training of trainers workshop in Bo. These participants were drawn from all the 14 Red Cross branches. Topics covered included;

- Stress management
- Conflict Resolutions skills
- Lay counselling
- Caring for volunteers
- Facilitation skills.

The trainees are required to utilise the knowledge obtained and work closely with respective branch management to provide timely psychosocial support to SDB/IPC volunteers as and when the need arises. Their role will be to guide the SDB/IPC volunteers to arrive at solutions to their problems. This also is to let the volunteers go through their various choice of stream chosen successfully and to move ahead with their normal lives. A pre-test was conducted before the workshop to determine their level of understanding in the above named topics and a post test was also conducted to measure up impact of the training on the participants. An action plan was developed by all the workshop participants from all the 14 Branches for the months of April May and June on PSS activities with the SDB/IPC volunteers and their communities.

Follow up visits were made to volunteers who needed special attention such as sleeping difficulties, withdrawn and family pressure in all the branches (See table below). individual and group Counselling sessions were organised in all the 14 branches for SDB/IPC volunteers to guide them move away from their state of trauma and to move ahead with their lives and to successfully go through their livelihood activities, guide them in their choice of skill, share detail information of the project documents and the content of each of the stream category. These activities are ongoing as de-traumatization is a process and it takes time to completely move people to their normal lives. Sensitizations sessions in volunteer communities from 10 district headquarter towns were organised on stigmatizations especially for Ebola response workers, survivors and Ebola affected communities, proper hand washing, reporting of sick persons to health personnel's or the nearest health facilities and proper hygiene end environmental sanitation. The sensitizations were all successful and the number of indirect people reached is indicated in the table below.

This Table shows activities conducted in the branches with SDB/IPC volunteers and the number reached.



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DISTRICT:	ACTIVITY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
Bo	1. One to one and group counselling sessions, 2. psychological first Aid sessions 3. follow up visits	2	33	35
Bonthe	1. One to one and group counselling sessions, 2. psychological first Aid sessions 3. Follow up visits	2	30	32
Kailahun	1. One to one and group counselling sessions, 2. Stress management session 3. Follow up visits	3	10	13
Kambia	1. One to one and group counselling sessions, 2. psychological first Aid and 3. follow up visits	-	12	12
Kenema	1. One to one and group counselling sessions, 2. psychological first Aid and 3. follow up visits 4. Stress management session	5	13	18
Moyamba	1. One to one and group counselling sessions, 2. psychological first Aid and 3. follow up visits	1	26	27
Port Loko	1. One to one and group counselling sessions, 2. psychological first Aid and 3. follow up visits	-	12	12
Pujehun	1. One to one and group counselling sessions, 2. psychological first Aid and 3. follow up visits 4. Stress management	5	21	26
Western Rural	1. One to one and group counselling sessions, 2. psychological first Aid and 3. follow up visits	15	7	22
Western Urban	1. One to one and group counselling sessions, 2. psychological first Aid and	4	43	47



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	3. follow up visits 4. stress management				
	Total number of SDB/IPC volunteers reached	37	207	244	

Key Achievements (please use this section to highlight your key achievements for the month, using bullet points if preferred)

- Received acceptance letters from 105 volunteers who opted to continue their education from 34 institutions
- Received 216 acceptance letters volunteers who have opted to engage themselves into vocational skill from 30 vocational institutions
- Verification of these institutions still continues and it includes: i) supporting and ensuring each volunteer has developed a plan to continue payment of their study fees at the completion of one the year; ii) verifying that the institutions listed are reputable and accredited; and iii) checking that the invoiced fees are accurate.
- Since it is one year tuition fees, A memorandum of understanding between the Red Cross and learning institutions has been prepared for all institutions to read, accept and sign so that each of the parties are aware of their roles.
- 10 facilitators and 14 PSS coaches were trained from all the 14 branches to work with all the SDB/IPC volunteers in terms of giving them psychosocial support.
- 244 SDB/IPC volunteers were reached in all the 14 Branches listed above through one to one and group counselling sessions, follow up on their welfare, sensitizations sessions on Stress Management and psychological first Aid was rendered also to them.
- 3,615 indirect people from communities of SDB/IPC volunteers were reached through sensitizations on especially stagnation's, proper hygiene practices and reporting of sick people among their community.
- The market analysis is in the final stages and is due for submission in mid April 2014.

Gender and Environmental Markers (Please provide disaggregated data, if applicable)

No. of Direct Beneficiaries	
Women	172
Girls	
Men	628
Boys	
Total	800

No. of Indirect Community Beneficiaries		Cumulative
Women	1,332	6,486
Girls	499	5,462
Men	1,306	5,858
Boys	478	4,873
Total	3,615	22,679

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CASE STUDY

BEFORE THE EBOLA DISEASE OUTBREAK

The Ebola virus has divided families, societies and has created boundaries within the country, leaving immense social, economic and cultural impact on the country. This reflects on the stigma that has accompanied the virus at individual, community, national and international level. Ebola survivors, health workers, Red Cross personnel, including volunteers and family members of victims all suffer from related stigma.

Michael Moiforay, a committed and long standing member of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in the Bo branch was a Teacher and the Financial Secretary of the Possible Gym. He is also a Light Weight lifter of the Possible Gym Academy in Bo town. In 2012, Michael took part in the District Weight lifting competition and won the second best title. Michael as a committed and long standing member of the Red Cross Bo Branch have also served in the following capacities as a Branch youth chairman, Malaria Keep up coach, Disaster Management focal Person, National Youth chairman.

DURING THE EPIDEMIC SAFE AND DIGNIFIED BURIAL VOLUNTEER TAUNTED BY CLOSE FRIENDS



Michael Moiforay dressed up for SDB activities

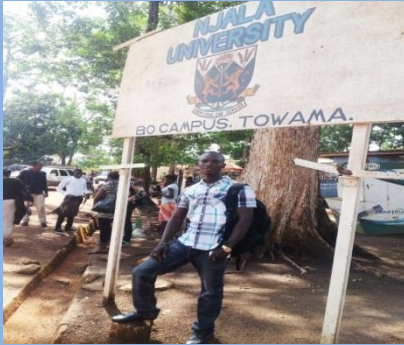
At the wake of the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone, Michael Moiforay decided to be part of the Dead Body Management (DBM) now called Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) team. During that time of the outbreak many people shied away from working with the Red Cross in Sierra Leone for fear of getting infected, especially when many health workers lost their lives to the disease. Because of his vigilance and hard work, Michael was appointed the SDB officer of the Bo District, overseeing the activities of five burial teams of 50 personnel. He Explained *“One day, after 21 days of stressful burial work, I went for a work-out at the gym. Upon arrival there all my mates stopped and started stirring at me, keeping their distance, surprisingly, the closest of my friends amongst them came forward in an unfriendly manner telling me to stop coming to the gym until I stop working with the Ebola Response burial team.”* I wonder whether my friends knew *how disastrous abandoning those Ebola corpses would be for our country.*” he mused.

“I have however, stop going to the gym and continue with my work as SDB, he said,” smiling “I went through a lot of stigmatizations, humiliations, rejections and was even abandoned by my own family members and close friends, because I was working with the response burial team. I thought within myself If I don’t do it who will

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do it?" Michael still continued to work with the SDB team until the 8th November 2015 when the government pronounced after 42 days of zero case that SDB activities to end.

AFTER THE EPIDEMIC



Michael now resumes his studies at Njala University college.

Michael continued his story: "When the government of Sierra Leone pronounced the end of burial activities, friends and community people started provoking me which leads to stigmatization. But I thank God, I was able to control my emotions with the basic psycho social support training I received from the "SLRCS" Psycho Social Support trainers. And I continue volunteering with the organization because volunteering is part of me. Moreover, I have enrolled again in the Njala University college that I was initially given acceptance to pursue my Bachelor's Degree in Social Science before the Outbreak. I want to appreciate the UNDP, SLRCS and IFRC for bringing back hope in my life paying a year tuition fees for my course which I have already started and I am sure my tuition will be paid as soon as possible.