

Project Number and Title: PROJECT START **AMOUNT** RECIPIENT #38- Title: Reintegration of Sierra Leone DATE¹: ORGANIZATION ALLOCATED by MPTF Red Cross Society (SLRCS) Volunteers 23-06-2015 \$ USD 1.975.639.87 **United Nations Burial Teams** Development Program (UNDP) **Project ID:** 00095545 **Project Focal Point: EXTENSION DATE: FINANCIAL** Name: Ghulam Sherani 31-05-2017 **COMMITMENTS** E-mail: Ghulam.sherani@undp.org **IMPLEMENTING PARTNER(S):** PROJECTED END **EXPENDITURES Strategic Objective (STEPP) Recovery Strategic Objectives DATE:** as of [2016] The International Federation Improved mental health of SLRCS of Red Cross and Red 31-05-2017 volunteers through enhanced treatment Crescent Societies (IFRC) \$678,488.55 and management of stress and/or trauma Sierra Leone Red Cross related disorders Society (SLRCS) SLRCS volunteers that undergo the reskilling, 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: 8 Recovery and Economy** Location: **Sub-National Coverage Areas:** National Sierra Leone **Report Submitted by: Report Cleared by:** Name: (Head of Agency): Samuel Doe Name: Ghulam Sherani Title: Team Leader, Inclusive Growth Date of Submission: 03 April, 2017 Date of Submission:03 April, 2017 Participating Organization (Lead):UNDP Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP Email address: Samuel.doe@undp.org

OUTPUT INDICATORS

¹ The date project funds were first transferred.

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Indicator	Geographic Area	Projected Target (as per results matrix)	Quantitative results for the reporting period	Cumulative results since project commencement (quantitative)	Delivery Rate (cumulative % of projected total) as of date
D	escription of the	quantifiable indic	cator as set out in the d	approved project propo	sal
# of SLRCS volunteers completing psychosocial assessment	All 14 districts	800	800	800	100%
# Red Cross Staff trained in Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS)	All 14 districts	28	28	28	100%
# of SLRCS volunteers trained in Psychological First Aid	All 14 districts	60	60	60	100%
# of SLRCS branches with a referral system to specialized mental health services	All 14 districts	14	14	14	100%
# of SLRCS volunteers undertaking counselling sessions	All 14 districts	800	800	800	100%
# of SLRCS volunteers referred to specialized care and treatment and receiving on-going support	All 14 districts	200	1	1	$0.5\%^{2}$
2) Assessment # of SLRCS volunteers completing skills/educational/intere st assessment	All 14 districts	800	800	800	100%
(3) Livelihood # of SLRCS volunteers receiving career skill development training	All 14 districts	62	55	55	89%³
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers streamed	All 14 districts	75%	89% (55/62)	89%	89% 4

² The initial target was set for 200 volunteers, however, after conducting the psychosocial assessment only one volunteer was referred for specialized treatment. Sessions with the volunteers are still on-going and anyone requiring specialized care and support, as will be established through the session would be taken through the referral system.

³ 55 SLRCS SDB/IPC volunteers underwent career advisory placement training conducted at CAPs centers at Fourabay College in Freetown and Eastern Polytechnic Kenema in the first quarter of 2017. At the time of the training seven volunteers did not participate owing to the fact that three volunteers were already in employment and four did not attend because they had gone to their rural homes in remote villages and could not be reached.

⁴ Ibid.



through the career skill					
development training					
that successfully					
complete the training					
# of SLRCS volunteers	All 14		225		
receiving vocational	districts	225		223	99%5
training		223		223	9970
Proportion of SLRCS	All 14		57%		
volunteers streamed	districts		(128/223)		
through the vocational		75%		57%	57% ⁶
training that		7570		3770	3770
successfully complete					
the training					
# of SLRCS volunteers	All 14		405		
receiving business	districts	405		405	100%
development training					
Proportion of SLRCS	All 14		95%		
volunteers streamed	districts		(385/405)		
through the business		75%		95%	95% ⁷
development training		/5%		95%	95%
that successfully					
complete the training					
Market assessment and	All 14		800		
analysis emergent	districts	000		000	1000/
industries/livelihood		800		800	100%
areas					
# of SLRCS volunteers	All 14		108		
returning back to	districts	108		108	100%
tertiary studies					
(4) Financial inclusion	All 14 district		800		
# of SLRC volunteers					
receiving planning and		800		800	100%
advisory services					
# of SLRC volunteers	All 14		800		
receiving financial	districts	800		800	100%
management advice					

⁵ There two volunteers worked in Bombali district during the EVD response, however, the volunteers could not be reached during the start of the project. Recently, one volunteer showed up, and informed the team that he went to Liberia immediately after Ebola ended. IFRC have requested an acceptance letter from an institution of his choice

⁶ 75% of those streamed through vocational training are anticipated to successfully complete one year to six months training program depending on the course they selected. Currently, 57% of the volunteers that undertook vocational training have successfully completed the training. The bulk of the remaining volunteers are completing their training in April, May and July 2017.

⁷ 95% of the volunteers who opted for BDS stream successfully completed the training; however, the remaining 5% that never completed the training were noncommittal, citing reasons such as unavailability of transport refund, training allowance, meals during the training among others.



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linked to UNDP's small					
and medium enterprise					
development and					
recovery programmes					
# of SLRCS volunteers	All 14		800		
receiving training on	districts				
financial inclusion and					
access to financial		800		800	100%
services such as					
savings, credits,					
insurance etc.					
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	EFFECT	INDICATORS	(if available for the r	reporting period)	
Proportion of SLRCS	Nationwide		1		
volunteers with signs of					
stress and/or trauma					
related symptoms		50%		1	100%8
reporting an ablation of					
said symptoms after					
treatment					
Proportion of SLRCS	Nationwide		1		
volunteers that require					
ongoing care for trauma		# 00/			1000/0
and or stress associated		50%		1	100%9
symptoms still					
receiving treatment					
Proportion of SLRCS	Nationwide		1		
volunteers that were					
referred to specialized					
mental health care that		50%		1	100%
complete the treatment					
and management of					
their condition					
Proportion of SLRCS	Nationwide		5%		
volunteers in the career			(3/62)		
skill development		50%	, ,	5%	5% ¹⁰
stream successfully					
joining the workforce					
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⁸ It was estimated that 50% of the volunteers with signs of stress and/or trauma related symptoms would report ablation of said symptoms after treatment. One volunteers after psychosocial assessment shown signs of stress or trauma related symptoms and has received treatment and recovered.

⁹ The volunteer who was under treatment recovered fully, and currently there is no volunteer undergoing such treatment. ¹⁰5% (3/62) of the volunteers that opted for CAPS stream were already in employment at the time CAPS training was being conducted. 89% of the volunteers that opted for CAPS successfully completed the training and plans are underway to provide internship for them by linking them with some employment organizations. It is envisaged that the internship will provide an opportunity for the volunteers to gain work experience and also provide them the chance to showcase their skills, competencies and abilities hence improve their likelihood of being absorbed in the labour market.



Proportion of SLRCS volunteers in the vocational development stream gaining a vocational skill	Nationwide	50%	57%	57%	57% ¹¹
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers in the business development stream having established small or medium enterprises	Nationwide	50%	0%	0%	0%12
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers that resume their studies successfully complete their education	Nationwide	50%	12% (13/108)	12%	12%13
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers able to access financial services and savings	Nationwide	50%	100%	100%	100%14
Proportion of SLRCS volunteers able to access loan/micro- credit facilities	Nationwide	20%	0%	0%	0%15
Proportion of the wider (Ebola Response workers)ERW that are able to access future reintegration and reskilling programs	Nationwide	50% of entire ERW workforce	0%	0%	$0\%^{16}$

¹¹ 57% of the volunteers that opted for vocational training have successfully completed the training and the bulk of the remaining volunteers are completing their skills training in April, May, & July 2017.

¹²95% of the volunteers that opted for BDS stream successfully completed the training in 2016. The volunteers developed business plans that are going to be executed once start-up capital is provided which will be released, end of April, 2017. The start-up capital will initiate the process of setting up or expanding the small and medium enterprises envisioned in the business plans.

¹³ 12% of the volunteers that resumed their studies after the outbreak have completed their studies based on the level of education they were prior to the outbreak. From the reaming students, there some who will complete their studies in 2017, some in 2018 and the last batch that got registered in 2017 will complete their studies in 2019.

¹⁴ Financial inclusion training for 800 SDB/IPC volunteers was completed with support from Ecobank. All the volunteers have access to banking services with the bulk majority already having bank accounts with various banks across Sierra Leone. It is envisaged that the training will improve the volunteer's ability to manage their finances, and thus enhance their capability to access an array of other financial services.

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ The project is a pilot and thus the lessons learnt from implementation of reintegration and reskilling of the SLRCS burial and IPC teams will be invaluable in development of policy and reintegration of wider ERWs. This will be done once the project is completed.



ACRONYMS

SLRCS Sierra Leone Red Cross Society

IFRC International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

ERW Ebola Response Work Force

EVD Ebola Virus Disease

IPCInfectious Prevention ControlSDBSafe and Dignified BurialPSSPsyco-Social SupportPFAPsychological First Aid

CBPSS Community Based Psyco-Social Support
TVET Technical and Vocational Education Training

CAPS Career Advisory Placement Services
BDS Business Development Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This reskilling and reintegration project addresses the key priority of the Government of Sierra Leones post-Ebola response and recovery plan: to stimulate the economy by supporting livelihoods and the recovery of economic activities. The interventions are designed to simultaneously address priority areas as outlined in the Sierra Leone Ebola Recovery Strategy paper (the President Recovery Priorities). In addition, this project recognizes the efforts and contributions of the burial teams in the EVD response to ensure that they are supported for reintegration and provided alternative livelihood opportunities.

The primary outcome of the intervention correlating to the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) is that whereby low income and food insecure households have improved access to sustainable income generating opportunities, of which entails the following three outputs:

- 1) Improved mental health of Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) volunteers through enhanced treatment and management of stress and/or trauma related illness;
- 2) SLRCS volunteers that undergo the reskilling, vocational training or business development stream having recovered livelihoods and are able to engage in income generating activities; and
- 3) Development of policies, guidelines and reintegration programs for other Government and NGO burial teams and the wider Ebola Response Workforce (ERW).

The above outputs are aligned to the overarching objective to generate economic opportunities for inclusive and sustainable livelihoods especially for female headed households and youth at national and local levels. This project aims to reintegrate and support livelihood opportunities and employment creation schemes for the 800 SLRCS Ebola Response Workforce (ERW) volunteers via the provision of livelihood support and mentorship in the following areas; vocational training, higher education, business development, career advisory and financial literacy training. The project also offers the beneficiaries psycho-social support and where necessary, referral to specialised services for counselling therapy and /or treatment.

During the reporting period all 800 beneficiaries of the initial project target were placed in their various reskilling/upskilling option of choice with the identification of economies of scale allowing for the expansion of the project target to an additional 500 SLRCS volunteers who operated as ERW workforce during the EVD crisis. The additional volunteers will be allowed to access to all livelihood options and financial literacy with enrolment of courses scheduled for early January 2017.



Current Situation and Trend (please provide a brief introduction to the project and the related outcomes in relation to implementation of the project (1-2 paragraphs))

As part of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) response, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) was given the lead coordination role for Safe and Dignified Burials (SDB) of Ebola Victims at the UNMEER Conference in Accra, convened in October 2014. Within Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) mobilized, trained and deployed 54 burial teams across the country that were responsible for conducting approximately 50% of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) related burials in Sierra Leone. Subsequent disbandment of the Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) teams post EVD facilitated the development of a reintegration and reskilling program by UNDP in partnership with the IFRC in 2015/2016, targeting the 800 SDB burial team members under the auspice of the SLRCS.

Currently, the intervention has achieved impressive results in terms of target delivery with all 800 SLRCS volunteers entered into either Technical and or Vocational Education (TVET) courses, further education options, business development support, and or career advisory or placement services. In tandem with the psyco social support provided by trained SLRCS staff, both individual and group therapy sessions, the project has considerably alleviated socio-economic challenges faced by the volunteers and increased income generating opportunities for this low- income cohort. The fiscal savings captured in the project have facilitated the expansion of the initial target number from 800 to now 1300 SLRCS beneficiaries with these additional 500 beneficiaries who volunteered during the EVD crisis partaking in the livelihood support section of the project. In addition, 'support kits' will be provided to all 1300 SLRCS volunteers to further bolster the training component of their packages.

Narrative section (About 1,000 words):

Key Achievements:

Outcome: Low income and food insecure households have improved access to sustainable income generating opportunities.

Output 1: Improved mental health of SLRCS volunteers through enhanced treatment and management and/or trauma related disorders.

Target Deliverables:

1.1 Improved capacity of SLRCS to provide Psyco-Social Support (PSS) to their volunteers, sensitization and involvement of communities in the reintegration of burial team members

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) via support from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) underwent several training sessions to improve the capacity of the SLRCS to provide PSS to their volunteers and to sensitize and involve the relevant communities in the reintegration of the burial team members. During the reporting period the SLRCS organised training of its core branch staff in Psychosocial First Aid (PFA), Coping skills and Stress Management and Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS) which equated to the upskilling of 60 district SLRCS staff and volunteers in PFA approach and application and the schooling of 14 branch health officers and 14 PSS branch coaches in both CBPSS and Stress management. Such trainings are expected to improve the capacity of the core branch staff to identify and manage mental health issues affecting their volunteer workforce via early detection and preventative measures thus contributing towards a healthy work and community environment.

1.2 Improved mental health of SLRCS volunteers through improved treatment and management of stress and/or trauma related disorders

Contributing towards the improved treatment and management of stress and /or trauma related disorders amongst the 800 SLRCS volunteers, the SLRCS successfully established 105 counselling groups to undertake individual (2783; 2 sessions per month per beneficiary) and group counselling sessions (420) across the 14 SLRC district branches within Sierra Leone. The sessions was facilitated by the trained PPS volunteers, branch health officers and PSS branch coaches. The most common reported feelings expressed by the 800 SLRCS volunteers were isolated, loss of hope, stigmatization, sleepless nights. To support the mental health system provided by the SLRCS, trainings of 26 mental health nurses and 14 PSS focal persons across the 14 districts have successfully



Year: 2016

been arranged and rolled out aiding the PSS focal persons and nurses in the identification of cases requiring referral within the existing health care system . These trainings entailed district officials from the Ministry of Health.

<u>Output 2:</u> SLRCS volunteers that undergo the re-skilling, vocational training or business development stream having recovered and are able to engage in income generating activities.

Target Deliverables:

2.1 Improved understanding of skill sets, interests and livelihood plans of SLRCS volunteers

To achieve increased retention and participation in the intervention, a nationwide sensitisation campaign was conducted by SLRCS and IFRC that provided detailed information on the project and implementation strategy to each of the 13 SLRCS district branch units (not including headquarters branch in Freetown). In total, 13 district branch managers, 14 Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) district officers, and 8 Psychosocial Support (PSS) focal officers attended a one-day workshop and were sensitised by the IFRC and SLRCS team to further cascade and disseminate the information to the rest of the SLRCS. These SLRCS staff/volunteers further cascaded the information to the 800 SLRCS volunteers to educate and mobilise participants on pending project activities and reskilling/livelihood training options, whilst also debriefing each individual on the PSS support available. From this activity the SLRCS identified vulnerable individuals in need of PSS whilst compiling the total figures of volunteers appointed per reskilling/training option. From this exercise SLRCS volunteers were registered for the following reskilling/livelihood training streams; 405 business development training (BDS), 62 Career Development (CAPS), 225 Vocational Skills Development, 108 Continuing Education. Testament to the quality and thoroughness of the assessment was the high rates of successful completion of all training streams of the 800 volunteers.

2.2 SLRCS volunteers having recovered livelihoods and are able to engage in income generating activities

To contribute towards a greater number of Sierra Leoneans engaging in income generating activities, SLRCS supported a total of 225 volunteers in Vocational Skills and 405 volunteers in Business Development skills (8 week program) during the reporting period. The top three course choices of the vocational stream include the following; IT (102), Logistics (43), Auto mechanics (20). Vocational trainings are ongoing and expected for completion on or before April, 2017. SLRCS has planned to further support the vocational stream via the provision of 'start-up' kits for participants, planned for the second quarter of 2017. The Business development stream will also avail of additional support via the provision of 'start-up' capital for those individuals who successfully submit business development plans to the various service providers. Career Advisory Placement Services (CAPS) reported a total of 55 SLRCS volunteers undertaking career advisory training which entailed cv drafting and interview skills amongst others. IFRC is currently planning for these individuals to participate in a two month (2) paid internship within various employment sectors of the country.

2.3 SLRCS volunteers that were engaged in tertiary education prior to the EVD crisis are able to resume their studies

A total of 108 (91 Males/17 Females) volunteers opted to resume their studies with the support of the SLRCS during the reporting period. A one year tuition fee for all the volunteers was provided for this stream. Breakdown of the various education options included the following; Advanced academic college (68 volunteers), University (25 volunteers), TVET (9 volunteers) and Secondary Schooling (6 volunteers). Similarly to the vocational stream and Business Development stream, SLRCS will provide these volunteers with 'start-up 'kits which aim to further support the volunteers in their livelihood endevors.

2.4 Improved inclusion of the SLRCS volunteers in the financial sector.

Financial inclusion training for 800 SDB/IPC volunteers across all the 14 districts branches was completed with support from Eco bank. Currently, all the volunteers have access to banking services with all the volunteers having bank accounts with various banks across Sierra Leone. The training imparted skills, knowledge and information required by the volunteers to make prudent financial decisions regarding savings and lending schemes. It is envisaged that the volunteers will apply the skills acquired in improving their access an array of financial services and thus encourage long term engagement with banking and microcredit institutions. A second round of financial inclusion trainings has been arranged for the additional 500 volunteers in April 2017.

Output 3: Development of policies, guidelines and reintegration programs for other Government and NGO burial teams and the wider Ebola response workforce (ERW).



Year: 2016

Target Deliverables:

3.1 Completion and dissemination of the project evaluation; 3.2 Knowledge materials developed and are available and disseminated to all stakeholders; 3.3 Synthesis of lessons learnt in the formulation of policies, guidelines and reintegration programs for other cadres of ERW

Collection of relevant data continuous throughout 2016. Analysis and relevant synthesis expected in the second quarter of 2017. UNDP will pursue an assessment of the other cadres of ERW's during this period of time to ascertain the level of acquired need (if any) that may be required in the future. The assessment will then lead towards the creation of Policy.

Delays or Deviations – (Please indicate, if applicable, any reason that may have contributed to any delays or deviation, and describe the measures adopted to move forward to achieve the expected results)

- 1. Following the resurgence of EVD in January, 2016, the designated project beneficiaries were remobilised for the EVD response, thus causing the suspension of project implementation until the final end of EVD and subsequent demobilisation of the burial team work force.
- 2. Because activities were delayed during this period, a no cost extension was granted by MPTF until December 31st 2016.
- 3. In September, 2016, the project was visited by an MPTF Joint Monitoring Mission. Following this mission, UNDP and IFRC/SLRC reviewed project progress and future plans in detail. It was noted that through economies of scale, the project was able to make considerable savings that would enable the expansion of the project to those SLRC Volunteers who had participated in the EVD response but were not included in the first phase of project activities. Hence it was agreed that the project timeframe is extended for five months, from 1st January, 2017 to 31st May, 2017. During this extended period the additional 500 project beneficiaries will benefit from re-skilling and financial inclusion support.

Best Practice and Summary Evaluation – (*Please indicate what are the best practice guidelines adopted and the impact on the implementation process*

Lessons learned – (Please, share a couple of lessons learned that can be beneficial for future projects)

- 1. **Financial Inclusion:** The exposure of project beneficiaries to financial inclusion training was deemed highly important and a valued package by the target group. Aimed at increasing public awareness of available financial services such as savings and deposit services, payment and transfer services and credit and insurance offers, the training conducted by ECOBANK were deemed beneficial in increasing responsible usage and confidence of livelihood support in terms of cash startups. The trainings was also noted as an important factor in the securing of loans by SLRCS volunteers. Importantly, the volunteers requested that such trainings be incorporated into payment schemes (e.g. Ebola Response Workers Payment Scheme) as an obligatory training to increase payees' ability to save and forecast for family emergencies etc. This would capitulate on the opportunity such schemes offers and increase formal banking amongst vulnerable groups.
- 2. Partner Suitability: The compatibility of the project implementing partner with UNDP systems was seen as increasingly important in large scale, national coverage project. The IFRC project whilst developed jointly between UNDP and IFRC, implementation was initially slow and challenging. In terms of delivery the lack of compatibility between the UNDP financial system and the IFRC was noted as a substantive block for the effective release and usage of funds by both parties. Prior to agreement, analysis of such systems would be beneficial to aid effective and less challenging delivery of project targets.



Story from the Field – (*Please, provide one story from the field that has contributed to the success of this project*)

Case Study: Millicent N Gbangbaya, Female Safe and Dignified Burial Team Volunteer; Vocational Training Stream (computer software)



MILLICENT N. GBANGBAY, 24 years is a former volunteer of the Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) in Pujehun, Southern Sierra Leone. She is one of the eight hundred beneficiaries of the UNDP/Red Cross Re-skilling and integration project for Safe and Dignified Burial and Infection Prevention and control (IPC) volunteers who were the front-line fighters against the deadly Ebola virus that enveloped Sierra Leone and its immediate neighbors including Guinea and Liberia in 2014.

Millicent opted for one year computer soft and hardware package at the Growth Vocational Training Centre amidst numerous options available at the Centre. Reminiscing on her time as a SDB volunteer, she discussed the valuable role she played as a female volunteer in the burial process;

"As a female volunteer, I played a very unique role during the Ebola crisis in the burial team. Whenever there was any community female death I was always the first to enter and placed corpse in a dignified position before my male colleagues can proceed with the collection procedures. I was a petty trader before I joined SDB of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society" She revealed "Collecting dead"



Year: 2016

bodies in Ebola epidemic operations is a very risky job but I took the venture in order to give honor to the dead and to further draw the attention of the world to Red Cross humanitarian activities"

Disclosing her ordeal encountered with her community she mentioned, "Initially, when I joined the SDB my family and community members shunned me, I took refuge at a friend's house but they too turned against me and finally threw me out. I ended up renting a room where I stayed alone" She sobbed as she reflected on the past horrible days and added "My monthly incentive from the Red Cross really salvaged my situation".

Explaining her personal view of the UNDP/SLRCS Re-skilling and integration program she said, "The re-skilling project is a very good package for us and I have chosen computer application software as a skill". Appreciating the support provided she further noted the market need for computer skills in the economy, "I chose computer course because the prerequisite for all advertised job today is tied on an individual's basic knowledge in computer software applications"

"I am very grateful to the SLRCS and UNDP for all that I have achieved and the capacity development I am going through. I am currently living an independent and respectable life. I am not very rich but living an average life of my own and am more than sure that this will be an advantage to my career'.

In her conclusion she said "I am pleading to UNDP through the SLRCS to kindly extend this opportunity to colleagues who were in other pillars during the Ebola response like Social Mobilization, Contact Tracing and Psycho Social Support that have not benefited from this scheme so that we all have equal opportunity for an independent and sustainable life".