

ChildFund International
Humanitarian Situation Report

Humanitarian Situation Report [1]
COVID-19 – Sierra Leone
25th March 2020

James Pimundu | Country Director | jpimundu@ChildFund.org 220 437 8078/79 | +23279876811
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FOR UPDATES, PLEASE HIGHLIGHT UPDATED SECTIONS IN RED

Part 1: The Overall Situation

COUNTRY

*The CORONA Virus Disease (COVID-19) has become a global pandemic that is affecting the socio-economic conditions of most countries of the world with only a few countries yet to register a confirmed case. **Over 100 countries and territories worldwide have been affected by the virus**, for which the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a public health emergency of global concern. As of March 24 2020, about **18,957** fatalities are associated with the disease with over 440,321 confirmed cases. Six continents are affected.*

Sierra Leone is yet to record any confirm case of COVID-19 but its neighbouring countries of Guinea and Liberia have both recorded cases. There is a likely escalation from either of these countries or both, given the close ties, including intermarriages, trade tradition, culture and ongoing free border movements.

The President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Retired Brigadier Dr. Julius Maada Bio, has slammed some restrictions and measures to prevent an outbreak, including instituting a 12-month public state of emergency starting from 24th March 2020 and the ban on all flights except for those related to an emergency.

The Sierra Leonean population is currently grappling with economic hardship. There are even greater potential economic hardships should COVID-19 hit the country. As it stands now, there is panic buying. Some jobs have been affected. Cross border trade is also being affected as international travel restrictions are instituted. Like other African countries, Sierra Leone relies heavily on imported goods from mostly the United States, United Kingdom and China. With the complete shutdown of these countries' air and seaports, the envisaged impact will be huge.

Total Number of COVID-19 Cases Reported	Number of Deaths	Number of Cases Recuperated
0	0	0
SOURCE:		

ChildFund-supported areas (Provide only if you have reliable data on this. You can report on a consolidated basis or by program state/region/province/etc. if you have this detail.)

Geographical area (country or state/region/province)	Total Number of COVID19 Cases Reported	Number of Deaths	Number of Cases Recuperated
Northern region	0	0	0
Southern Region	0	0	0
Eastern Region	0	0	0
Western Area	0	0	0
SOURCE: Ministry of Health and Sanitation			

Any relevant background information about areas affected.

- ***There is no affected area for now***

Host government posture: Have they declared a state of emergency and/or requested outside assistance? Which nationwide measures has the government taken, e.g., limitation on meetings, internal travel, school closures etc.

- **The President of Sierra Leone (Dr Julius Maada Bio) has declared a state of public emergency for 12 months to deal with the threat to lives and the economy by the coronavirus disease but insisted that there is no lockdown <https://statehouse.gov.sl/sierra-leones-president-julius-maada-bio-declares-a-state-of-public-emergency-says-there-is-no-lockdown/>**
- **There is also a ban on all public gathering exceeding 100 people. Usual religious communal prayers in churches and mosque have therefore been suspended**
- **All schools will be closed on 31st March 2020**
- **The West African Senior Secondary Examination that was due to begin in April has also been suspended**

What responses has the government put into place to address the health crisis and/or the economic impact?

- ***Activation of the National Emergency Operation Centre to level two***
- ***The government has set up quarantine centers for citizens and visitors coming from COVID-19 affected countries.***
- ***Government has set up three treatment centers in preparation for any reported case***
- ***Activation of the 117-emergency call center***
- ***Discouraging gatherings of over 100 people***
- ***Establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to guide on policy issues concerning COVID-19***
- ***In-country diagnostic capacity at three public health laboratory facilities with quality assurance linkages established with South Africa and the United States***
- ***Heightened Risk Communications, training and prepositioning of supplies at strategic locations across the country***
- ***Heightened security at border crossing points***

What travel restrictions has the government put in place for travelers entering the country?

- ***The government has imposed International Travel ban for all government officials***
- ***The government has encouraged all citizens to cancel all pending overseas travel arrangements***
- ***The airport is banned for all flights except for those related to an emergency***

Part 2: The Situation in Areas Where ChildFund Works

Partner Organization (Use Salesforce identifying code/name.)	# of Enrolled and Sponsored Children		COVID19 Cases Reported in ChildFund Communities (Y/N/Unknown) Provide number if available.	Number of Enrolled Children Reported with COVID19 (If available.)	Number of enrolled children diseased as result of COVID19
	Sponsored	Enrolled			
N'domakeh-Kailahun District 4251	2,783	4,000	No available information	No available information	No available information
Munafa M'patie-Bombali District 4103	4,397	6,123	No available information	No available information	No available information
Daindemben-Koinadugu District 4104	4,241	6,401	No available information	No available information	No available information

Child deaths: List any sponsored child (with Partner organization and child ID from salesforce) diseased as a result of COVID19. (Note: These need to be reported immediately following the regular sponsorship protocols.)

- *At the moment, there are no confirmed cases of COVID19 in Sierra Leone*

Partner Organization (Use Salesforce identifying code/name.)	What is the status of the program/sponsorship processes (operational/suspended)?					
	Program Implementation	CVS	M&E Level 2	Enrollment /Disaffiliation	Sponsorship Communication	DFC
N'domakeh-Kailahun District 4251	Operational	Operational	Suspended	Enrollment Operational	operational	Operational
Munafa M'patie-Bombali District 4103	Operational	Operational	Suspended	Enrollment Operational	operational	Operational
Daindemben-Koinadugu District	Operational	Operational	Suspended	Enrollment Operational	Operational	Operational

4104						
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Note: As a global measure, all sponsor visits have been suspended.

What issues are children in these areas facing (food shortages, safety concerns, schools closure, etc.)?

- **School closure, safety concerns, high prices of food, transportation constraints,**

Child protection risks caused or exacerbated by crisis situation.

- **The situation tends to increase child abuse, neglect, limited access to Child Protection Services and increase psychosocial distress among caregivers**

Part 3: ChildFund's Response

- Who is or will be leading/managing the response?
- **Victor Kamara (Programs and Sponsorship Director) will lead the preparedness and response efforts of ChildFund Sierra Leone**
- Planned, desired or ongoing response – inside or outside current operational areas.
- **ChildFund and its partners are currently developing a response plan which will envisage all response activities. This will be available and highlighted in the next sitrep**
- Who are we partnering or collaborating with to provide our response?
- **The main partner for ChildFund for the COVID 19 preparedness is the Government of Sierra Leone.**
- What kind of response activities or interventions are being provided? What support items are needed or have been collected/distributed? How is ChildFund linked with humanitarian coordination structures, i.e., in which clusters or working groups do we participate? The most recent/next meeting and who is representing ChildFund? Donor meetings we have attended, or missions that we are aware of related to the response?
- **ChildFund is currently active in two main government preparedness clusters (Child Protection and Health) which are leading the government's efforts in preparedness for any potential outbreak of the covid19 disease in Sierra Leone. The Country Director and SMT have appointed Victor Kamara (Programs and Sponsorship Director) to represent ChildFund at all coordination forums and provide an update to SMT on the outcome of all meetings and engagements. The most recent meeting attended was on the 22nd March 2020 at the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs to map out preparedness and response mechanism concerning children and women.**
Meanwhile, the Country Director, on the other hand, leads donor engagement on same as and when an opportunity exists. At the moment, the donor community is having engagement only with the government since they do not envisage NGO initial response considering the contagious nature of the disease. It is expected that all initial response will be lead by the government through the Ministry of Health and Sanitation
- Next steps.
- **ChildFund will continue to be active in the two forums**

- ***Encourage LPs to actively participate in district level preparedness and response coordination forums***
 - ***Prepare contingency emergency preparedness and response plans for both the CO and LPs***
 - ***Identify in-country funding opportunities and submit required applications***
 - ***Liaise with IO for possible funding of the contingency emergency preparedness and response plans***
- For sitreps submitted after ChildFund response has been initiated, what is the current progress of implementation vs. the established response plan?
- ***There is currently no confirmed case in Sierra Leone***

Below Sections for Internal Use Only

Part 4: Office and Staff Status

Office Status (Open/Closed)	Number of Staff:				
	Diagnosed with COVID19	Diseased from COVID19	Working from Office	Working from Home	On Special Leave
Open	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Notes:

- Any cases of staff diseased need to be reported immediately to RD and GHR.
- Special leave as per [COVID19 Administrative Guidelines](#).

Number of staff/partner organization staff completed WHO COVID online training
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/training/online-training>.

Part 5 Human Resources

- Which visitors are there in the country ? Please include names, functions, contact information and arrival/departure dates for both IO and RO staff (note: due to the travel ban, this will apply only once the ban has been lifted)
 - **There are no external visitors now in the country**
- Any gaps in staffing/need for deployment from other COs or Global Teams?
 - **None is needed for now**
- Are there any other major HR issues?
 - **None**

Part 6 Safety & Security

- Are police and other services functioning in the normal manner? - YES
- Are the courts still operating? - **YES**
- Are there reports of looting or increased criminality? - **NO**
- Have military personal being deployed to patrol towns or cities? – **No (Except along border crossing points)**
- Confirm the safety of staff and their families in the affected area. – **All staff and their families are safe for now**
- Have Safety and security risks/mitigation plans been updated to current environment? - **YES**
- Recommendations around any upcoming travel planned for staff or donors (note: Only once global travel ban has been lifted) - **This will be updated based on emerging trends**

Part 7 Grants

List all active grants:

Grant Job Code	Grant Name	Donor	Status of Implementation (Normal/Reduced/Suspended)	Any specific guidance received from donor? (Yes/No)
OXFAM/EULOT2-99-0256D	BAFS LOT 2 - Crops	EU	Normal	No
OXFAM/EULOT2-99-0257D	BAFS LOT 3 - Livestock	EU	Normal	No
DIP/SGBV-990254D	SGBV Prevention and Response for women and Girls	EU	Normal	No
P&G -25-04D	School and Community Health Support	Procter and Gamble	Normal	No
N/A	After Filming Support	ChildFund Korea	Normal	No

Provide any additional narrative on how the COVID19 crisis affects implementation of your major grants.

Part 8 Funding

Provide information about potential sources of funding, including grant donors, subsidy, Emergency Action Fund, Alliance members, GIK, etc., for these emergency response efforts using the chart below:

Donor	Program	Amount (USD)	Requested? (Y/N)	Confirmed? (Y/N)
Alliance Members	Preparedness and recovery activities	100,000	NO	No
Emergency Action Fund	Preparedness Activities	50,000	No	No
GIK	Recovery Activities	500,000	No	No
Subsidy	Preparedness and recovery activities	500,000	No	No
Grant Donors	Preparedness and recovery activities	100,000	NO	No

- Budget
 - Outline how we will use this funding with a rough topline budget.
- **This information will be available in the next SitRep. The COVID19 contingency emergency plans with related activities for both the CO and LPs are currently been developed**

Part 9 Media/Communications

- List of media who will be or have been contacted with press releases
 - ***The Sierra Leone country office has not created a press release for media. The CO is keeping ears to the ground for information or notification from the government for key actions***
- List of emergency CO spokespeople, including name, location, contact information, and languages spoken.
- **The Main Spokesperson for Country office is James Pimundu – Country Director / jpimundu@ChildFund.org 220 437 8078/79 | +23279876811 | English**

In his absence: Victor Kamara – Programs and Sponsorship Director | vkamara@childfund.org +23276847759 | English

- Plans for collecting photos/videos/stories, e.g., should an outside photographer be hired? – **The CO will collect based on need.**
 - Key points for messaging and visibility, particularly any host-government sensibilities that must be considered. – **All messaging will be done in line with approved government IEC materials.**
- Support needed or requested from IO, GSS or Global Teams – whether onsite or remote.
 - **The CO will require IO guidance on COVID 19 preparedness and response efforts in line with ChildFund’s policies and procedures.**