ChildFund International
Humanitarian Situation Report Template

Humanitarian Situation Report # 3
COVID-19 – Sierra Leone
April 8, 2020

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April 2 2020-April 8 2020

Part 1: The Overall Situation
COUNTRY

The first case of COVID-19 was detected in Sierra Leone on the evening of March 30, 2020. Two days later on Wednesday, April 1 2020, a second case of the virus was confirmed in the country. As of Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 7 cases of the virus have been confirmed by health officials. Most of the cases are among those who traveled into the country from overseas and were quarantined accordingly.

The country had a 3-day lock-down which started on Sunday April 5, 2020 and spanned through Tuesday, April 7 2020. Some medical doctors in Sierra Leone have urged the government to institute a 14-day lockdown across the country in order to effectively obstruct further spread of the virus, as it is now clear that transmission of the virus in Sierra Leone is communal.

Many people observed the lockdown with mixed feelings. Some of the major challenges associated with the lockdown are that, vast majority of the Sierra Leonean population relies on daily wages possibly after sale of their products, or days job, to survive. As such, they are grappling with food shortages and water crises. Shortages of water especially in Freetown, has left many tongues wagging. Water is crucial to practicing good hygiene, and ultimately, fighting the pandemic. In rural communities, people rely on water from the stream. But since they can't go out, it becomes a challenge.

There are also challenges in procuring Infection, Prevention and Control materials. There is, for instance, a spike in trade of veronica buckets. There is, at least, a 20 percent hike in the cost of buckets and hand sanitizers. Pharmacies ran out of standard surgical protection. At the Ola During children's hospital, sick children have been turned away since the 100-strong staff went into self-isolation, following a doctor testing positive.

There is heightened sensitization by government officials and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) across the country. CSOs are doing nationwide monitoring of government's actions with regards fighting the pandemic.

President Bio has in a press conference with journalists, informed the nation that 100% of contacts of cases (those who encountered infected persons) have been identified, and 75% of those that came very close to these contacts have also been identified.

There is heightened fear by Sierra Leoneans to visit hospitals and health centers across the country, for which the government has sensitized there are separate beds for persons infected with the virus.

Neighboring Guinea is expected to announce 11 new cases today, Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Total Number of COVID-19 Cases Reported	Number of Deaths	Number of Cases Recuperated
7	0	0
SOURCE: Ministry of Information and Communication		

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	2	0	0
Southern Region	0	0	0
Eastern Region	0	0	0
Western Area	5		

- Any relevant background information about areas affected.

- Host government posture: Have they declared a state of emergency and/or requested outside assistance? Government has requested donor and development partners' assistance in dealing with the pandemic The country is still on a state of emergency.

- World Bank Group approved a $7.5 million grants for COVID-19 response in Sierra Leone See related link: https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/02/sierra-leone-to-receive-75-million-for-covid-19-response

- Which nationwide measures has the government taken, e.g., limitation on meetings, internal travel, school closures etc. There is school closure across the country. Travel bans to and from Sierra Leone are still very active. At the local government level, Paramount Chiefs are considering instituting local bye-laws in their respective chiefdoms across the country. This was proven to be very effective in obstructing the transmission of the Ebola virus in the country.

- What responses has the government put into place to address the health crisis and/or the economic impact?
  In order to address the health crisis, a 3-day lockdown was being observed across the country. The 3-day lockdown was instituted with a view to:

  - Obstructing the transmission of the virus
  - Locating all contacts identified with the infected persons, in order to isolate and monitor them

- Identifying all secondary contacts and also placing them under surveillance
- Map out the spread of the virus

- 205 people are currently being quarantined, some of whom came from overseas over the last couple of weeks
- 174 health care professional trained
- 4 million Leones worth of food to vulnerable groups, including the disable
- Treatment beds increased to 70, from 40
- 5 treatment centers around the country
- Social Mobilization nationwide
- Increased Internet connectivity to the Public National Emergency Operation Center (PNEOC)

- Sierra Leone had challenging economy before COVID-19. But COVID-19 is worsening the situation. Currently, most big businesses are on a complete standstill. Government revenue generation is also affected as lockdown is instituted across the country. The country is weak on exports. In the rural settings, people rely on farming, petty trading, animal husbandry. All of this is on a complete halt. The mining sector is grounded.
- What travel restrictions has the government put in place for travelers entering the country? The air, land and seaports are closed in Sierra Leone, except for essential items for fight against the virus. Soldiers are manning the borders with Guinea and Liberia.

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			
Partner 1	N'domakeh-Kailahun District 4251	2,783	4,000	No available information	No available information
Partner 2	Munafa M'patie-Bombali District 4103	4,350	6,124	No available information	No available information
Partner 3	Daindembe n-	4,226	6,401	No available information	No available information

	Koinadugu District 4104				
etc.	N'domakeh-Kailahun District 4251	2,783	4,000	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, none of our enrolled children has been infected.*

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
Partner 1	N'domakeh-Kailahun District 4251	Operational	Operational	Suspended	Enrollment Operational	operational
Partner 2	Munafa M'patie-Bombali District 4103	Operational	Operational	Suspended	Enrollment Operational	operational
Partner 3	Daindembe n-Koinadugu District 4104	Operational	Operational	Suspended	Enrollment Operational	Operational
etc.	N'domakeh-Kailahun District 4251	Operational	Operational	Suspended	Enrollment Operational	operational

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, high prices of food, transportation constraints, Child protection risks caused or exacerbated by crisis situation, limited access to Child Protection Services and increased psychosocial distress among caregivers, child abuse, neglect, teenage pregnancy, Child protection risks caused or exacerbated by crisis situation.

Part 3: ChildFund's Response

- Who is or will be leading/managing the response? Victor Kamara, Programs and Sponsorship Director
- Planned, desired or ongoing response – inside or outside current operational areas.
- ChildFund on Thursday, April 2 2020, donated essential medical supplies to the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS)to support ongoing effort to prevent further spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the country. The donation took place at the Central Medical Drug Store at New England in Freetown and was received by Dr. Mark-Manager, Health Systems Strengthening MoHS and Mr. Jack Lansana, Head of Logistics, MoHS.
- The donated items include assorted essential drugs and other relevant medical supplies (hand gloves, respiratory and normal masks among others). The donation by ChildFund came a day after a second case of COVID-19 was announced. Health officials at MoHS say ChildFund was the first International Non-governmental Organisation to make such donations to the fight against the virus in Sierra Leone. Some of the items donated by ChildFund such as: the N95 respiratory mask, is in short supply in the international market, for which the MoHS staff were so appreciative. As of Sunday, April5 2020, 6 cases had been recorded in the country.

Photo caption: Donation of essential medical supplies to MoHS

- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)materials (veronica buckets, handwash) donated by ChildFund are currently being used by children in the various communities targeted within the organisation's operational areas in the Koinadugu, Bombali and Kailahun districts.

Photo caption: Veronica buckets donated by ChildFund being utilised

- Who are we partnering or collaborating with to provide our response? Government of Sierra Leone and our Local Partners
- What kind of response activities or interventions are being provided? Medical supplies and IPC materials 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? 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 arises. 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 led 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?
  3.a. Cash Transfers

-Is your CO planning or implementing cash transfers as part of COVID19 response? Yes
- If so, brief description of progress to date. Discussions have been held with LPs to understand lessons learned from previous cash transfer initiative during the 2015 Ebola response. It has been agreed that unconditional cash transfer will be made to most vulnerable children in our operational areas for an initial period of 3 months. The timeline will be reviewed based on emerging trends in the covid 19 response.
Previously, mobile money was used but proved to be ineffective since the service providers lacked the relevant infrastructure to reach remote communities with payments. This led to the cancellation of the contract. Unfortunately, the same service providers and infrastructure are the only available mobile money options in the country that has wider coverage and reach.
Together with the LPs, we have decided to explore the possibility of moving on with community banks this time. Enquiries are currently ongoing and more details on progress will be provided in the next report.

Cash transfers executed

Beneficiaries			**Amount transferred (US$)**	**Transfer mechanism (i.e. mobile money, banking system other financial service provider etc,**
Total	*Gender (if available)*			
	Female	Male		
0			None	None

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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, but experienced a 3-day lockdown recently	0	0	0	All	

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

A good number of ChildFund staff have completed the emergency training on novel CoronaVirus 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) No visitors at the moment
- Any gaps in staffing/need for deployment from other COs or Global Teams? Not yet
- Are there any other major HR issues? No

Part 6 Safety & Security

- Are police and other services functioning in the normal manner? Yes
- Are the courts still operating? Yes, except for lockdowns
- Are there reports of looting or increased criminality? No
- Have military personal being deployed to patrol towns or cities? Yes, but only during lockdowns and to man the borders with Guinea and Liberia. Checkpoints are being mounted by military and police personnels on highways, to enforce/enhance handwashing before entering and exiting major district head quarters and the capital city, Freetown.
- Confirm the safety of staff and their families in the affected area.
  All ChildFund staff are save in the affected areas. In keeping with the government's lockdown measures, all our staff are asked to stay home. Prior to the lockdown measures, ChildFund staff observed a two-day work-from home simulation that ended on Friday, April 3 2020. A pass has been secured for one of our vehicles in case there is a staff emergency. We have also supplied our staff veronica buckets, soap, hand sanitizers, each for their homes.

- 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)

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	EU	Normal	No

	and Response for women and Girls			
P&G -25-04D	School and Community Health Support	Procter and Gamble	Normal	No
N/A	After Filming Support	ChildFund Korea	Normal	No
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

Provide any additional narrative on how the COVID19 crisis affects implementation of your major grants. As it stands now, everything (including our operation) rest with what government suggests. Citizens envisage continued lockdowns. State of emergency is still very active. Business is not as usual. The country's concentration is on COVID-19

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)**
Donor	Program	Amount (USD)	Requested? (Y/N)	Confirmed? (Y/N)
Alliance Members	Preparedness and recovery activities	100,000	N0	No
Emergency Action Fund	Preparedness Activities	50,000	No	No

- Budget
  - Outline how we will use this funding with a rough topline budget.

Part 9 Media/Communications

- List of media who will be or have been contacted with press releases.

ChildFund had one media mention on Africa Young Voices (AYV) Television— the most widely watched television in Sierra Leone that also has wider national and international online presence and coverage. See related link: https://childfundintl.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/programs/AfricaWest/SierraLeone/Ea_1onTTPulGuKZrxFXoBDMBKn9rIIEiYfhsRuMkyn-1Aw?e=zadaEA

-Social media is also being updated on a regular basis and has been effective in communication our interventions and also helping views with helpful tips for staying safe during the pandemic.
-Regional Director Op-Ed on the COVID-19 pandemic is also being considered for publication
-A press release has been drafted for release immediately the lockdown is lifted.
-Also, in order to engage Sierra Leoneans during lockdown, an article (capturing donation to the ministry of health) was developed, designed and disseminated via whatsapp and got a wider reach. The article in question (with photo folder) has been uploaded to Sierra Leone's page on Sharepoint. See related link: https://childfundintl.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/programs/AfricaWest/SierraLeone/Ea9LL7CDTxZIh7cToXfY-dIB7nBJ1mqNuLvciAgK5Cit9A?e=dg0LeA

- 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? We will hire outside photographer only if the need arises.
  Photos and short videos of ChildFund's donation of essential medical items were captured in-house and some have been used for Social Media updates and on articles.

-Key points for messaging and visibility, particularly any host-government sensibilities that must be considered.

- Messages and guideline must be in compliance with the government's standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- Politically suggestive comments must be avoided by all ChildFund staff. Sensitive information, facts and figures on COVID-19 must be sourced from the government of Sierra Leone's site and confirmed before releasing

- Support needed or requested from IO, GSS or Global Teams – whether onsite or remote. Global
- The CO requires continued IO guidance on COVID 19 preparedness and response efforts in line with ChildFund's policies and procedures.