

**ChildFund International  
Humanitarian Situation Report Template**

**Humanitarian Situation Report # 4  
COVID-19 – Sierra Leone  
April 15, 2020**

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**April 8 2020-April 15 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 15, 2020, 13 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.

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. **Meanwhile, a 14 day inter-district lockdown has been imposed starting from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in order to curtail the spread of the disease across the country.**

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.

Total Number of COVID-19 Cases Reported	Number of Deaths	Number of Cases Recuperated
13	0	0
<p><b>SOURCE:</b>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/mic.gov.sl/photos/pb.229960890925264.-2207520000../610756979512318/?type=3&amp;theater">https://www.facebook.com/mic.gov.sl/photos/pb.229960890925264.-2207520000../610756979512318/?type=3&amp;theater</a>   <a href="https://www.facebook.com/mic.gov.sl/photos/pb.229960890925264.-2207520000../610698412851508/?type=3&amp;theater">https://www.facebook.com/mic.gov.sl/photos/pb.229960890925264.-2207520000../610698412851508/?type=3&amp;theater</a></p>		

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	4	0	0
Southern Region	0	0	0
Eastern Region	0	0	0
Western Area	9		

- Any relevant background information about areas affected.
- Host government posture: Have they declared a state of emergency and/or requested outside assistance? Sierra Leone is still in a State of Emergency. Government is still calling on donor and development partners to fill in the gaps by giving their expertise and human, financial and material resources in the fight against the pandemic.
- Sierra Leone is among 25 countries with immediate debt relief from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). See related link: <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/04/13/pr20151-imf-executive-board-approves-immediate-debt-relief-for-25-countries>. Also, quite recently, the World Bank Group approved a \$7.5 million grants for COVID-19 response in Sierra Leone. This, many people believe, will cushion some of the burden on government and is expected to reduce the hardship in so far as the Sierra Leone economy is concerned.
- Which nationwide measures has the government taken, e.g., limitation on meetings, internal travel, school closures etc. There is still school closure across the country. Travel bans to and from Sierra Leone are still very active. Additionally, government has instituted a 14-day partial lockdown as one of the containment measures starting from 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020. This partial

lockdown means travel within Sierra Leone from one district to another is restricted. A nationwide curfew order has also been announced from the office of the President starting from 9:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M.

- What responses has the government put into place to address the health crisis and/or the economic impact?
  - Sierra Leone’s Public National Emergency Operation Center (PNEOC) is still very functional, as Government together with its partners has paid keen attention to thorough disease surveillance, epidemiology, social mobilization and logistics
  - 675 people are currently being quarantined
  - 767 people discharged after 14 days quarantine
  - There is an alteration in the official working hours (8:00 AM -5:00 PM now 9:00 AM-4:00 PM) for government agencies. 8:00 AM -5:00 PM
  - Social Mobilization nationwide
  - Nationwide night curfew from 9:00 PM-6:00 AM is in effect
  
- COVID-19 keeps worsening the economic situation in Sierra Leone. Every day comes with new challenges, as government institutes new measures. The recent partial lockdown by government is affecting business. Freetown, for instance, relies on produce from the provinces. With this new measure, business/market women suffer the most, as they are the ones mostly engaged in producing and selling crops. The transport sector is also affected if passengers are not there to carry from one place to another. Big businesses are still very constrained. Government revenue generation is now snail paced, compared to how things were before COVID-19.
- 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 4251/ N’domakeh	2755	3999	0	No available information	No available information
Partner 2 4103/ Munafa M’patie	4330	6116	0	No available information	No available information
Partner 3 4104/	4219	6396	0	No available information	No available information

Daindemben					
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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-4251	Operational	Suspended	Operational	Suspended	Enrollment Operational	operational
Partner 2 Munafa M'patie-4103	Operational	Suspended	Operational	Suspended	Enrollment Operational	operational
Partner 3 Daindemben-4104	Operational	Suspended	Operational	Suspended	Enrollment Operational	Operational
etc.						

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.
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- 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, April 5, 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.
- ChildFund Sierra Leone has developed a comprehensive COVID-19 plan with complementary proposal and budget for potential donors. The key areas of proposed response intervention include: Direct Cash transfers to vulnerable households, Education support to pupils through provision of solar powered radios to follow ongoing radio learning programs, community awareness through IEC materials, IPC materials and support to coordination efforts by Ministries Departments and Agencies



*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 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs to discuss ongoing response mechanism concerning children and women at national and district levels.** Meanwhile, the Country Director, on the other hand, leads donor engagement on same, as and when an opportunity arises. Currently, the donor community is focused on support government to compliment gaps within the national COVID-19 response budget. Meanwhile, ChildFund Sierra Leone is tracking and in constant touch with key donors for any potential opportunity that may arise.
- 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**
- **Implement contingency emergency preparedness and response plans for both the CO and LPs**
- **Develop concept notes to be submitted to any funding opportunities that may emerge**

- Continue to 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. **LPS are currently engaged in beneficiary selection for the cash transfer. It is expected that the first payment to beneficiaries will be done before the end of April 2020.**

**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

**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, 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 in their districts of operations. Prior to the lockdown measures, ChildFund staff observed a two-day work-from home simulation that ended on Friday, April 3 2020. **Staff are been encouraged to observe all measures in line with government and WHO regulations in order to keep the themselves and families safe**
- 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 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
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 response activities	270,000	Yes	No
Emergency Action Fund	Preparedness Activities	50,000	No	No

- Budget
  - o 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\\_1onTTPulGuKZrxFXoBDMBK9rIIeiYfhsRuMkyn-1Aw?e=zadaEA](https://childfundintl.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/programs/AfricaWest/SierraLeone/Ea_1onTTPulGuKZrxFXoBDMBK9rIIeiYfhsRuMkyn-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 on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

-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/Ea9LL7CDTxZlh7cToXfY-dlB7nBJ1mqNuLvciAgK5Cit9A?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](mailto:jpimundu@ChildFund.org) 220 437 8078/79| +23279876811| English

In his absence: Victor Kamara – Programs and Sponsorship Director | [vkamara@childfund.org](mailto: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.

