



**Ministry of Planning
and
Economic Development**
Office of the Minister



**INGOs
COVID 19
Response package
for Sierra Leone**

16th April 2020

Introduction

Following the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic and its subsequent confirmation in Sierra Leone in March, 2019 INGOs have put in place a COVID 19 Response package to complement the effort of the Government of Sierra Leone in the fight against the Corona Virus in addition to their ongoing interventions. This response package by INGOS is a show of solidarity as partners in development.

Currently, INGOs operate and provide supports across all 16 districts of Sierra Leone. They are working in close collaboration with line ministries, DHMTs, and national NGOs. Furthermore, INGOs are adapting their approaches to respond to social distancing measures pronounced by the Government of Sierra Leone. The Steering Committee of the INGOs has established an Emergency Preparedness Group to ensure their efforts are aligned with approaches undertaken by the GoSL. At district level the INGOs' work is guided by the DHMTs.

The global effect of the COVID19 has made access to new stand-alone funding very challenging and therefore INGOs have had to repurpose and mobilise support from their headquarters or from existing donors.

Major areas of intervention for INGOs COVID Response package

The key areas this response package will address are:

A. Support to Health and personal safety

- i. Logistical support to district-level DHMTs;
- ii. Training of frontline medical staff on IPC, in collaboration with MoHS;
- iii. Provision of IPC supplies to hospitals;
- iv. Supplying of masks and food to vulnerable families;
- v. Establishing handwashing stations in communities;
- vi. Large-scale soap distribution to vulnerable & border communities;
- vii. Health systems strengthening and provision of PPE materials to hospitals;
- viii. Supporting NEMS ambulance service & provision of PPE materials;
- ix. Setting up screening stations in line with DHMT requests;
- x. Training healthcare workers and frontline PSS workers on psychological first aid;
- xi. Support to contact tracing

B. Support to Social Mobilization

- a. Mobile sensitization campaigns and dissemination of IEC materials in line with government messaging;
- b. Media awareness and jingles in multiple languages, reinforcing government messages;
- c. Orientation of traditional healers on COVID19;
- d. Support to Paramount Chiefs/Traditional Leaders/Religious leaders on alert raising and messaging;
- e. Community sensitization (while respecting social distancing measures).

C. Protection & Livelihoods Support

- i. Supporting dignified quarantine through provision of food and non-food items, running water, electricity, etc;
- ii. Complaints handling mechanism established for quarantine facility in Kambia district;
- iii. Food supplies to vulnerable households and populations during lockdown.
- iv. Well drilling for households and communities to promote water access

Composition and Budget for the INGOs COVID 19 Response package

Twenty-six (26) INGOs have put together a budget of **Le 232,196,747,519** as COVID 19 Response package (see Annex for details) in the fight against the Corona Virus in Sierra Leone in addition to their ongoing interventions. **Most** of the funds have been secured already from existing grants (repurposed) and efforts are continuing to mobilise additional resources from their headquarters and donor countries. In a related development, INGOs have successfully secured **START Network funding** (a grant of 180,000 British Pounds Sterling to support preparedness and prevention in Freetown).

Current approach of INGOs in supporting their teams

During this COVID 19 prevalence, INGOs are adopting series of measures and approaches to support their teams including but not limited to:

- Disseminating MoHS messages to staff, for sharing with their families;
- Putting mechanisms in place to support staff to confront shocks (e.g. advanced pay);
- Handwashing facilities in offices and many staff homes.
- Reduced office presence or working from home modalities in place to reduce transmission risk;
- Modifications to ongoing development projects and repurposing existing donors funds to COVID-19;
- Efforts to support staff mental health and well-being during an uncertain period;
- Commitment across INGOs to remain in Sierra Leone and support throughout the response.

Challenges the INGOs are facing in delivering the response package

The INGOs have listed the following as challenges they are facing:

- ✓ INGOs are unable to move between districts
- ✓ The definition of essential services during the COVID 19 fight has been limited to health which needs to be broadened to include support in other areas like WASH, food and non- food items provision, livelihoods, protection, psychosocial support, food security;
- ✓ INGOs are not currently represented at the national Emergency Operational Centre (EOC);
- ✓ Closure of airspace restricts possibility for medevac in the case of life-threatening emergencies.
- ✓ School closures and restrictions on grouping sizes mean that planned activities cannot proceed leading to high potential for suspension or closure of development project/programmes;

- ✓ INGO re-registration (renewal) has not been finalized for all organizations which presents institutional risks

Opportunities for the delivery on the COVID 19 Response package

Amidst the above challenges, certain opportunities have also been identified including:

- Establishing a coherent pass system that can be used in this and future emergencies.
- Essential services can be applied more broadly (health, WASH, food and non-food items provision, livelihoods, protection, psychosocial support, food security);
- A collective M&E framework can be developed to capture all supports provided during COVID-19;
- INGO inclusion in key meetings (EOC) would support intervention design and delivery, in line with GoSL approaches.
- Potential for opening emergency/medevac flights- INGOs request the procedure for this so that it can be communicated to all INGOs;
- Finalizing INGO re-registration for all organizations (or providing temporary registration to those that require it during the emergency period);
- **Increased potential to contain the virus and as such improved preparation should caseload increase.**

Presentation of package

In formally presenting their package to Minister of Planning and Economic Development -Dr Francis M Kaikai on behalf of the INGOs in the Conferencing Room of MoPED, the executive in the persons of Austin Kannen (Director of Concern Worldwide) and Heather Campbell (Country Director Save the Children) recognised the effort of the Government of Sierra Leone and the measures it has instituted including Closing of airspace – a necessary measure to restrict entry of the virus into SL; Clear messaging to the population has been very helpful; lockdowns & limiting inter-district travel - effective prevention/containment measures; Cooperation of the general population with government communications is admirable; Quarantine facilities identified and operational; Contact tracing ongoing; Very good IEC materials that many agencies are using and disseminating; Considerable scope for complementarity to support these efforts.

Dr Francis M Kai-kai thanked the representative of the INGOs for complimenting His Excellency Retired Brigadier Dr Julius Maada Bio's Government and the people of Sierra Leone in the fight against the pandemic Corona Virus. He assured them of government's recognition and appreciation of INGOs as worthy partners in development. He informed them that his doors are opened and will welcome a continuous and constructive engagement with the INGOs on development issues generally. Dr Kai-kai informed the INGOs that their proactive move in making a swift response package is in the spirit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 which emphasizes partnership. Further, he used the occasion to assure the INGOs that the Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 of Sierra Leone is not abandoned as its full implementation is on the radar of Government even though the COVID 19 is brought this obstruction. In concluding the discussion, the Minister of Planning and Economic told the INGOs representatives he will find an occasion for INGOs to meet with HE President Bio who is eager to discuss his development aspirations of this country with them.

Key observations and conclusions

Due to the repurposing of funds, there will be delays or suspension of development programming.

Other INGOs are working hard for them to be included in the current arrangement
The spirit of partnership in pursuit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Development Cooperation Framework (DCF) guiding the implementation of the Mid-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 is demonstrated



Austin Kannen (Director of Concern Worldwide) and Heather Campbell (Country Director Save the Children) jointly present INGOs COVID 19 Response package to Dr Francis M Kai-kai, Minister of Planning and Economic Development



Senior Management of MoPED listen to INGOs COVID 19 Response Package for Sierra Leone presentation in the Conference Hall at NAO Building Tower Hill on Thursday 16th April 2019

Annex: Breakdown of INGOs COVID 19 Response Package for Sierra Leone

NO	Name	COVID 19 Interventions	Geographic coverage	Operating budget for intervention		Source of funding
				(Forex)	Leones (LE)	
1	ActionAid Sierra Leone	Awareness raising, livelihood support, Strengthening DHMT, build community structures	Kambia, Bombali, Tonkolili, Kono, Moyamba, Bo and Western Area		200,000,000	Not stated
2	AVSI Foundation	Provision of IEC materials, mobile sensitisation campaigns, livelihood and psychosocial support to vulnerable communities	Western Area, Bombali, Port Loko and Tonkolili	25,000 Euros	262,500,000	
3	CARE International	Supply of IPC materials to DHMTs in two international entry points (Lungi Airport and Gbalamuya), Social mobilization, Awareness raising and sensitization, Support surveillance and monitoring activities at chiefdom level, printing of IEC materials, Provided 86 infrared thermometers to surveillance pillar at national level, Media awareness and jingles in different languages	Kambia, Port Loko, Western Area Urban and Western Area Rural	100000 US Dollars	1,000,000,000	KfW and CARE emergency fund
				5 milliom Euros	52,500,000,000	
4	Concern Worldwide	Community engagement on hygiene, messaging and hand washing, Health systems strengthening in PHUs and other health facilities, Support Ministry of Basic Education on its radio education work	Western Area Urban & Rural, Port Loko, Tonkolili	2.1 million Euros	22,050,000,000	
5	COOPI	Distribution of IPC materials in communities, Community awareness campaigns	Western Area and Kono, Port Loko, Kambia, Karene and Bombali		70,000,000	

6	Doctors with Africa CUAMM	Distribution of IPC material (hand sanitizers, soaps, disinfectants..) and PPEs (gloves, gowns, masks, boots..), Installation of an isolated tent for triage in PCMH; Dedicated ambulance for confirmed cases and support to equip the isolation units in Regional Hospitals	Bo, Bombali, Western Area Urban, Pujehun	200,000 US Dollars	2,000,000,000	
7	EMERGENCY NGO	Provision of training to staff on dressing and undressing procedures, proper screening etc; Development of a response manual that is shared with stakeholders in the COVID-19 fight; Procurement of IPC materials and fabric to produce useable PPE.	Western Rural (Goderich Hospital)	180,000 Euros	1,890,000,000	
8	GOAL	Support hand washing stations for 18 PHUs, Supported slumps communities with basic food commodities during the three days lockdown, Support with protective equipment and community sensitization on COVID-19, Supporting the FCC on the media campaign for the COVID-19 messages, Support to DHMT and the command centre and DSO on Surveillance, Tracing and follow up, Orientation of Paramount chiefs, CHWs, Traditional Healers and Supervisors on COVID19, Support public health Emergency coordination meeting and training of Health staff on the principle of COVID-19, Support reinforcing of public health education and airing of jingles on COVID-19	Western Urban, Kambia, Bombali, Kenema, Moyamba	350,000 Euros	3,971,925,964	
9	Health Poverty Action	Awareness raising and campaigns, Strengthen and provision of logistical support to community structures, Social Mobilization and Psychosocial at district level, Chiefdom mentorship	Bombali, Karene	US \$120,000	1,320,000,000	
10	Humanity and Inclusion- Handicap International,	Promoting preventive action through personal hygiene sensitization, Providing handwashing materials to health centres and the community level, Train healthcare workers (CHW, CHO) and community stakeholders on psychological first aid, Support behavioural change about sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as gender-based violence prevention during COVID-19 outbreak, Support distance learning through airing of radio teaching sessions, Procurement and distribution of radios. Procurement and distribution of learning material	Western Area Urban & Rural, Port Loko, Kenema, Kailahun, Kono, Moyamba, Karene, Bo, Bombali	\$300,000	3,000,000,000	

11	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Community engagement and sensitisation on COVID-19, Procure IPC supplies for districts such as veronica buckets, hand sanitizers, soap, etc.; Airing radio jingles and radio talk shows; facilitating cross border community meetings; orientation of PHU staff and peer supervisors on preventative measures against COVID-19; Train clinical and non-clinical staff at hospitals and PHUs on IPC; Facilitate sensitization meeting for District and community stakeholders; Logistical support for specimen collection & transport of COVID-19 samples, Extended DHMT and hospital operations support during COVID-19 preparedness & planning	Kono, Bo, Kenema, Kailahun		1,927,939,000	DFID
12	Living Water International Sierra Leone	Provision of hygiene and handwashing materials such as veronica bucket, trash bins, tissue, liquid soap, hand sanitiser; Drilling two bore holes at two health centres in Moyamba district; Maintenance on 7 PHUs solar bore hole systems; Providing hygiene and sensitization training through DHMT and councils	Moyamba, Western Rural		250,000,000	HQ
13	MSF Holland	Health Promotion and sensitization campaigns in MSF supported PHUs and chiefdom, Training of Health staff on preventive measures and case management, Equip isolation units in Magburaka, Supply of basic IPC and PPEs on a case by case bases; Logistical support to DHMTs on surveillance, referrals and case management	Tonkolili, Bombali			
14	Oxfam International	Cash grant transfers to vulnerable persons; Hygiene promotion, SGBV awareness raising and out of school education; Provision of handwashing facilities and support to temporary quarantine centres in Koinadugu; Support to local partners and staff with basic hygiene items basic hygiene items	Western Area, Kono, Koinadugu, Port Loko	100,000 euros. for another \$2 million for proposals response activities for next 6 months	21,050,000,000	
15	Partner In Health	PPE, equipment and supplies to MoHs and PIH supported facilities, Operationalised isolation Units and provided training to clinical and non-clinical staff on IPC, isolation and testing protocols; Support MoHS for direct clinical management for all confirmed COVID-19 cases at 34 Military Hospital, provide logistical support to Emergency operation	Kono, Western Rural			

		centre in Freetown and District Emergency Operation Center in Kono; safety of the PIH/MoHS community-based workforce				
16	Restless Development	Providing logistical support, training and distribution of 600 community-based youth volunteers nationwide; Provide IEC materials to communities and strengthen awareness raising	All 16 districts		200,000,000	DFID
17	Save the Children International	Training health workers and Community Health Workers (CHWs) Case definition, surveillance and contact tracing; Logistical support to DHMT, DECO with mobile phone communications, fuel for surveillance, IPC materials, megaphones etc; Support to radio education/distance learning program; Establish and provide training for community structures on basic COVID-19 prevention and response	Kailahun, Pujehun and Western Area	\$650,000	6,500,000,000	
18	Solidaridad West Africa-Sierra Leone	Train community health workers and community structures on COVID-19 case management, surveillance and contact tracing; Support to radio education/distance learning program; Support sensitization and awareness raising campaigns at community level; Logistical support to DHMT and community structures	Kailahun, Pujehun and Western Area		550,000	
19	Solthis	Train community health workers and community structures on COVID-19 case management, surveillance and contact tracing; Support to radio education/distance learning program; Support to Ministry of Social Welfare to respond to specific case of abuse, neglect or separation; Logistical support to DHMT and CHWs	Kailahun, Pujehun and Western Area		110,000,000	
20	Trócaire	Provide training for DHMT and CHW on COVID-19 Case, surveillance and contact tracing across the two districts of Kailahun and Pujehun; Logistical support to DHMTs and community COVID-19 structures; Supporting the radio education/distance learning program; Support Ministry of Social Welfare to respond to specific cases of abuse, neglect or separation	Kailahun, Pujehun and Western Area		15,000,000,000	
21	VSO	Engage community sensitization at regional level; Engage community sensitization at regional level; Airing Jingle and organize radio discussions in 5 local languages; Set up handwashing stations in target communities; Outreach and assistance for street children/unsheltered individuals; Equip isolation centres in selected health facilities	Bo, Bombali, Kenema, Western Urban/Rural		517,000,000	

22	Welthung erhilfe (WHH)	Massive community sensitization around VID-19; Distribution of IEC materials; Training of traditional authorities COVID-19 preventive measures; Drilling of 500 manually household wells and strategic places at the borders	Bonthe, Kailahun, Kenema, Koinadugu, Kono, Western Rural	350,000 Euros	3,675,000,000	
23	World Vision	400 health facilities and 1600 MoHS (PHU/CHC) staff supported with IPC supplies; Mobile Training Services (MOTs) for five thousand Community Health Workers in five districts will be supported; Provision of clean portable water (18 boreholes with 24 hours sola powered mechanized systems in institutions and communities) coupled with sanitation and hygiene interventions; Support the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) to conduct refresher training for 42 scriptwriters for the Radio education programme; Provision of hygiene kits, for children in remand and correctional centres in Freetown and 6 districts (GIK); Support the food assistance and Nutrition pillar with RUTF (GIK); Orientate and partner with 120 faith leaders for COVID-19 messaging for community orientation; Training of Child Monitors/Community Volunteers on CP risks and PSS in COVID-19	Bo, Bonthe, Pujehun, Kambia, Falaba and Kono	US \$1,464,000	14,136,808,560	
24	Christian Aid Sierra Leone	COVID-19 messages through posters radio discussions; COVID-19 messages through posters radio discussions; Engagement with religious and traditional leaders on COVID-19 awareness raising. Promoting behaviour change through community engagements with DHMTS to support CHWs; Engagement with religious and traditional leaders on COVID-19 awareness raising. Promoting behaviour change through community engagements with DHMTS to support CHWs; Support to hygiene and sanitation within communities and selected health facilities (mostly PHUs); Economic support to vulnerable group (22 communities in Pujehun); Equipping PHUs with WASH solar lighting and delivery rooms; Engagement with DHMT on PHU monitoring – including IPC; Support community and ward action planning on how to deal with COVID-19.	Pujehun, Kono, Bombali, Kailahun, Port Loko, Kambia	€266,516.31, £1,927,846.43	25,829,423,994.6 5	

25	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Radio jingles, panel discussion and skits on COVID-19; Engagement with religious and traditional leaders on COVID-19 awareness raising; Production of handwashing buckets, liquid soap and hand sanitizer within communities and selected health facilities; Support to 16 DHMT- 3 staffs and 3 SR - 2 staffs in field activities; Training and development of SBCC agents in all 16 districts. Support to local production of face mask; Support contact tracking through community structures; Food provision for 35,000 vulnerable people through unconditional food vouchers; Procurement and disbursement of thermometers to PHUs. Provision of PPE to market keepers, bailiff team, sanitary team, communication team; Provision of locally developed WASH IEC materials. Procure and distribute 40,000 books and solar-powered reading light	All 16 districts	Euro1.5m	14,735,600,000	
26	Plan International	Distribution of 25,000 radios & production of radio programmes to support the radio teaching programmes; Community engagement on COVID-19 messaging (Supporting the social mobilization pillar); Distribution of 3,500 handwashing kits; Distribution of 10,000 Menstrual Hygiene Management kits; Distribution of teaching & learning materials; Procurement and ditribution of 10 water tanks to communities; Support for development of community bye-laws on child protection; Support the running of the Toll-Free number (116) for reporting and referral of SGBV incidents; Community food distribution to 83,000 people			40,000,000,000	
TOTAL					232,196,747,519	