

SIERRA LEONE

Mission Critical Action 8



MCA8 Recovery and Economy



\$2.05M
Allocated

Coverage : 6 Districts: Bo, Bombali, Kailahun, Kenema, Moyamba, Port-Loko

Full including district areas

MPTF Project No:
00094514

Title:
Social Rehabilitation and Payments to Ebola Survivors and destitute families

Transfer Date:
13-Mar-2015

Amount:
\$2,055,470

Expenditures
30 Apr.15)
\$ 0

PRIORITY INTERVENTION

PLANNED

ACHIEVED

RESPONDING AGENCIES



Solidarity kits for survivors and destitute families

500

Final list of 2,050 beneficiaries established¹

UNDP
UNWOMEN



Social safety net arrangement

2,500

New arrangement reached merging stipend into final grants

UNDP
UNWOMEN



Skills development Services

2,500

Based on recent assessment, a new approach have been identified and is being developed

UNDP
UNWOMEN

¹ The project was designed with the assumption that the GoSL keeping and updating the list. The assumption was based on (i) the fact that MoHS and NERC were issuing regularly updated figures about survivors and assurance given by the same institutions that the list was available. The current list is dynamic and news entries are considered after verification.



Figure to be provided once reversal completed because funds are in the process of being made available.

Situation Update

The Social rehabilitation and payment to Ebola survivors and destitute families (SRPSF) Project was designed to provide support to Ebola victims: a discharge package composed of a one-off basic commodity package (food, toiletry, sanitation and basic house furniture) to 500 beneficiaries. This number is to be extended to 2,500 for the provision of financial support to help re-build their livelihoods for a better socio-economic re-inclusion. The financial support is composed of a monthly stipend and a grant to fund individual livelihood plans to be developed in the meantime with the beneficiaries. As of 30 April 2015, the number of survivors stood at 3,568. Regarding the destitute families, the number of target beneficiaries is to be determined while focus is being put on the survivors. Five districts were identified, initially keeping in mind that the final list will be decided with priority to the most impacted districts.

Early Achievements and Results

A Project Board meeting was held on 9 March 2015 with all stakeholders represented (GoSL, Local Councils, WB, UN WOMEN, UNDP). The main conclusions of the meeting were: (1) women should be given priority; (2) local authorities should be fully involved in list establishment and management; and (3) the term destitute family is to be understood as including Ebola widows/widowers and families hosting at least two Ebola orphans. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) is leading the process with support from UNDP and UN WOMEN.

While it was assumed that the GoSL, Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs (MSWGCA), and the National Ebola Response Commission (NERC) had an updated list of survivors and destitute families to be used by the project to identify beneficiaries, the list had not been established at the time of project start. As of 30 April 2015, a list of 1,200 survivors, 150 widows and 700 orphans fully verified has been consolidated with support from NERC, UNMEER, MSWGCA and MoHS.

Delivery of discharge package to 500 Ebola survivors and destitute families - The list of the 500 beneficiaries of the one-off basic commodity package has been finalized and agreed upon with national and local authorities. They are located in six local councils (Kenema, Bo, Bombali, Port-Loko, Kailahun and Moyamba). The distribution will be done in May 2015.

Delivery of financial support to 2,500 Ebola survivors and destitute families - During the mission by MLGRD, UNDP and UN WOMEN, discussions were held on the relevance of a monthly stipend, given its small size and the risk of dependency it could create despite the mitigation and exit strategy put in place by the project. Two strategic decisions were taken: (1) the monthly stipend would be put together and added to the grants to constitute a more substantial amount for the beneficiaries and (2) beneficiaries would be



clustered by location into associations and experts would be deployed to help develop a collective livelihood micro-project with the grant serving to fund the project.

Lessons Learned and Challenges

Despite all the prudence, the initial assumption that lists were being readied was not verified. Project management had to start the process of list establishment and assume the costs involved. Fortunately, UNDP has been able to support this added cost, but it has to be taken into consideration in terms of budget extension.

In addition, the context of Sierra Leone offers little guarantee in terms of authenticity of official documents. Many people are claiming to be survivors, presenting official certificates that are dismissed by authorities as fake or genuine, but obtained through fraudulent processes. This has made list establishment and management very difficult, lengthy and time consuming. However, some districts (Port-Loko) are better prepared and organized than others.

It has also been difficult to manage expectations at all levels. While MSWGCA has the mandate for supporting Ebola survivors, MoHS handles some lists while NERC is in charge of all Ebola matters. It has been difficult to receive data from all of these agencies. There are also ethical considerations, including the protection of survivors' data. However, project management has been able so far to bring everybody on board.