

# SIERRA LEONE

Children are among the most vulnerable during every crisis, and the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic is no exception.

An estimated 17,000 children in Sierra Leone have been directly affected by Ebola, according to reports from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs. More than 1,450 children contracted Ebola, and some 8,617 children have lost one or both parents. Child survivors face stigmatization and alienation. Schools were closed for almost a year, disrupting and delaying children's education. Families are facing food shortages and children are at risk of under nutrition and other health issues.



Key:

■ Operational Districts

People Reached;  
1.56 M

Staff:  
271

## PRIORITY PROGRAMS



Health



Education



Child Protection



Food Security



Livelihoods

## EBOLA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For almost 20 years, World Vision Sierra Leone has partnered with local communities, government ministries and other development organizations to improve health, education, food security and protection for children. World Vision works through 25 area development programs benefiting more than 58,000 children and their families.

When the EVD epidemic began in May 2014, we collaborated closely with our community partners. With the support of our donors, we reached 1.56 million people with life-saving interventions. We are thankful that not one child was lost to Ebola in our partner communities. (Data as of March 2015.)

However, if we are to protect children and their families from future health crises, we must invest equitably today. We must not only rebuild systems and infrastructure, but rather transform all our sectors—health, education, agriculture and food security, as well as social welfare and livelihood sectors.

## HEALTH

Working with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, World Vision is helping to prevent and control the spread of EVD through community engagement. We trained faith leaders and other influencers about EVD, improving local knowledge, attitudes and practices. World Vision led a consortium of NGOs that trained, equipped and coordinated burial teams to provide timely, safe and dignified burials in six districts. These 395 dedicated workers (including 10 women) have buried more than 6,000 people since November 2014. Early in the crisis, World Vision procured and delivered top-quality medical supplies (valued at \$500,000+), including personal protective equipment, surgical gloves and disinfectants, to hospitals and clinics across the country.



World Vision is training teachers and community members in psychosocial first aid skills to help children recover from the stress and disruption of the Ebola crisis.  
Sahr Njaugah/World Vision

## EDUCATION

When schools closed across Sierra Leone for almost a year, World Vision supported Ministry of Education radio classes for children, reaching 30,000 pupils. However, getting children back to school—safely and responsibly—is critical to their long-term well-being. Experience from other crises has shown that the longer children stay out of school, the less likely they are to return. Even prior to the crisis, primary school attendance stood at only 74 percent.

In partnership with the Government, UNICEF and parents' associations, World Vision is working to ensure that all school-age children return to class and that they are enrolled by age 6. Teachers and social workers are being equipped with psychological first aid skills so they can recognize and support children's psychosocial needs as they recover from the Ebola crisis.

## CHILD PROTECTION

World Vision is supporting interim care centres for orphaned and unaccompanied children, providing food and clothing, and refurbishing water and sanitation facilities in these shelters. We are collaborating with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs to place these children with extended families or foster care as quickly as possible. World Vision is also training local mothers' groups and community welfare associations to conduct home-based follow-up visits for vulnerable children to help ensure their safe reintegration into the community.

## PROGRAM PARTNERS

We are grateful for our partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone and support from our generous donors.

- Aktion Deutschland Hilft
- Austria Aid
- Department for International Development, U.K.
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
- Disasters Emergency Committee, U.K.
- Irish Aid
- Dutch Cooperating Aid Agencies (SHO)
- U.K. Band Aid
- United States Agency for International Development
- UNICEF
- World Food Programme
- World Vision Support Offices

## CONTACT:

World Vision Sierra Leone  
35 Wilkinson Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone  
Tel: +232 78 421 062/ +232 33 421 062

[www.wvi.org/SierraLeone](http://www.wvi.org/SierraLeone)



Children say they are eager to get back to school after the nine-month school closure.  
Karen Homer/World Vision

## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT FOR RECOVERY

Ebola has hurt economies and livelihoods, slashed gross domestic output, threatened food security, reduced opportunities for jobs and livelihoods, and slowed down foreign investment. World Vision's 450 savings groups across the country helped cooperative members — especially women — cope financially during the Ebola crisis. World Vision is developing additional livelihoods and economic-recovery interventions to support affected households. Programs will include training and equipping farmers to increase their crop production, and coaching entrepreneurs on small-business start-ups.

### FAST FACTS

5,379,850 personal protective equipment items (suits, gloves, face masks, goggles, etc.) distributed to hospitals and primary healthcare units

1,020 health care professionals and 950 community health workers trained in infection prevention and control

395 burial team members trained

6,000 safe and dignified burials conducted by WV burial teams

302 vehicles, including ambulances and burial team trucks, maintained

12 inter-agency Ebola-response Command and Control Centres managed across the country

30,000 pupils reached through broadcast classes

1,000 teachers trained in psychosocial first aid

460 faith leaders (imams, ministers) and 150 paramount chiefs trained in Ebola prevention

1,184 MT of food assistance delivered to 26,000 beneficiaries

450 community savings groups supported

302 mothers' groups engaged as "block parents" for orphaned children returning to their communities