



# Catholic Relief Services 2021 Annual Report

DELIVERING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19 IN SIERRA LEONE



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## Message from the Country Representative



In 2021, CRS programming reached 4,791,712 people in over 2,500 communities across the 16 districts of Sierra Leone. Regardless of the effect of COVID-19 on our programming activities, 2021 was impactful. In early 2021, CRS launched its Vision 2030 Strategy which focuses on four key development sectors for Sierra Leone.

We completed Sierra Leone's first-ever Western Area Peninsula Water Fund business case report and played a convening role in the feasibility study and validation of the home-grown school feeding program strategy for Sierra Leone. Due to our high quality and impactful programming, CRS successfully completed NFM 2 of the Global Fund Malaria project, and we are excited to have started NFM 3 which focuses on Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV and AIDs prevention and containment as well as supporting COVID19 vaccination.

Looking ahead, we thank our committed staff and partners for their dedication serving vulnerable people in Sierra Leone. Their resilience and collaborative efforts amidst the COVID-19 pandemic has been key in achieving our strategic goals. CRS will continue to work shoulder to shoulder with the government of Sierra Leone, Caritas and the Church, our development partners, and communities to deliver high quality and sustainable programming in Sierra Leone.

Paul Emes

Country Representative



## Abbreviations

<b>CRS</b>	Catholic Relief Services
<b>MSG</b>	Mothers Support Group
<b>NFM</b>	New Funding Model
<b>MBSSE</b>	Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education
<b>CAAM</b>	Community Action Against Malaria
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>SILC</b>	Savings and Internal Lending Community
<b>MIYCF</b>	Mother Infant and Young Child Feeding
<b>HGSF</b>	Home-Grown School Feeding
<b>MOHS</b>	Ministry of Health and Sanitation
<b>SBCC</b>	Social Behavior Change Communication
<b>MGD</b>	McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program
<b>HESCA</b>	Hygiene and Economic Support for Communities Affected by COVID-19
<b>WAPWF</b>	Western Area Peninsula Water Fund





## Summary of CRS Vision 2030 Strategy

Catholic Relief Services started work in Sierra Leone in 1963 carrying out the commitment of the Catholic Bishops and the Catholic community of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. As part of the universal social mission of the Catholic Church, we work with local, national, and international institutions and structures to assist people based on need, not creed, race, or nationality.

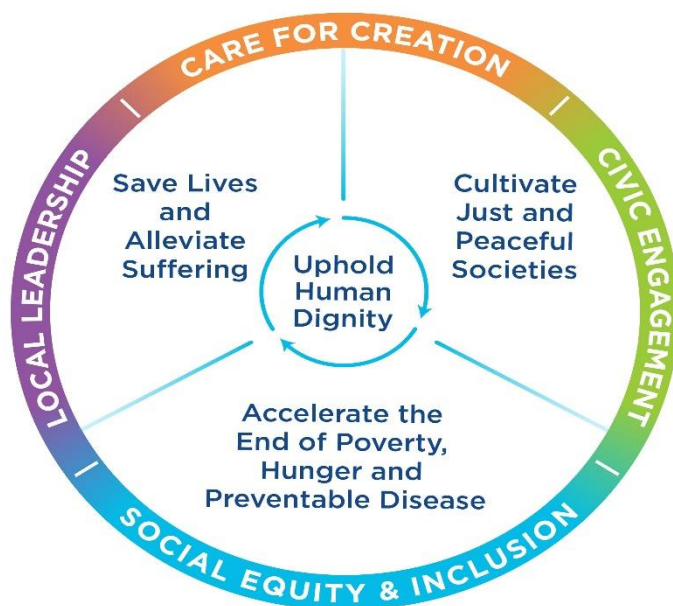
During the 1970s and 1980s, CRS Sierra Leone focused efforts on supporting education and health centers for mothers and children. Between 1991 and 2002, In response to the Sierra Leone civil war, CRS Sierra Leone changed its strategy from development aid to emergency relief. In March 2004, CRS and other international agencies launched a three-year development program to restore livelihoods and improve the food security and health status of rural households. For over 58 years, CRS has been in the front lines in responding to emergencies and promoting health, education, agriculture, and urban resilience in Sierra Leone.



In 2021, CRS launched its Vision 2030 Strategy which focuses on promoting quality education, health, urban resilience, agriculture, and livelihoods in Sierra Leone. The Vision 2030 Strategic Plan will contribute to the Government of Sierra Leone national development priorities as established in the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2019-2023 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

CRS Sierra Leone is leveraging our extensive experience, as well as in-country, regional and global expertise in programming to deliver our vision 2030 strategy. Our diplomatic status in Sierra Leone provides significant benefits and comparative advantages, as well as access to the policy and strategy discussions that afford ample opportunities for influence and advocacy.







## Our Programs and Impacts in 2021

### 2021 AT A GLANCE

**In 2021, CRS programming reached approximately 4,791,712 Sierra Leoneans.**



2,910 residents of Freetown reached through CRS Urban Resilience Programs.



66,105 people reached with our Education Programming in Falaba and Koinadugu districts.



4,270,768 people reached with our Global Fund Malaria Program across all 16 districts in 2021.



451,929 people reached through CRS COVID-19 response programs.



## CRS Education Programming

### *McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program*



For over a decade, CRS has implemented the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition “All Pikin for Learn” program, which seeks to increase the literacy of schoolboys and girls and improve health and dietary in Koinadugu and Falaba districts. This program provides direct support to the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE), putting a premium on the provision of universal primary education and improved standards for quality education. The program also promotes the government’s Girls Education Strategy, through which girls are empowered through learning. This has led to an almost equal ratio of boys to girls attending schools in the target districts. (52% male and 48% female).

In 2021, CRS won a US\$25,000,000 award from the United States Department of Agriculture to start phase 5 of the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition program. Phase 5 of the program will focus on achieving the following objectives:

- Improve literacy of school age children by building teachers and school administrators’ skills and knowledge, by improving teachers’ attendance and their access to school supplies and improved literacy instruction materials.
- Improve students’ attentiveness by increasing access to food and improving nutrition and health practices to reduce hunger and absences.





- Improve students' attendance by providing nutritious meals, take home rations and presenting parents with economic incentives and address cultural practices that may be detrimental to school attendance.
- Increase the use of health and dietary practices by increasing students and communities' knowledge of health and hygiene practices, by training food preparers on safe food preparation and storage, by increasing access to clean water and sanitation, by increasing access to deworming medications, and by increasing access to the requisite food preparation and storage facilities.

CRS currently feeds over 5,000 students a day through its Food for Education program in Kabala and Koinadugu districts. CRS is working with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to ensure that at the end of this phase, the program will be managed independently by the government of Sierra Leone, and that school feeding will continue sustainably. This will be achieved by establishing a partnership between Ministries, Donors, UN Agencies and implementing partners to develop a sustainable nationwide home-grown school feeding program. Farmers, communities, and schools will be supported to grow extra food, which will be purchased locally and fed into the school feeding program in each district using locally sourced produce appropriate to the seasons and the variations in local production.

### ***Key Achievements of The McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program In 2021***

#### **Promoting Quality Education and Retention Through School Feeding**



Quality Education is a priority for the government of Sierra Leone and of CRS' 2030 strategic goals. CRS has been implementing the McGovern-Dole Food for Education program for over 15 years in Sierra Leone. In 2021, CRS provided over 9,916,410 daily meals to over 53,577 students in Falaba and Koinadugu districts. Throughout this period, we have supported the placement of 32 Teach for Sierra Leone Fellows (TFSL) in 16 project-supported schools in Falaba and Koinadugu districts. TFSL Fellows is one system that CRS is ensuring supportive supervision and coaching to teachers, more sustainable as Fellows are establishing learning groups with their teacher colleagues. In 2021, CRS supported the MBSSE in the elaboration of a national school feeding policy and a feasibility study on Home-Grown School Feeding. This led to the first-ever HGSF policy to be approved in May 2021, and the feasibility study was validated.

### **Strengthening Skills of Teachers and Communities for Quality Education**



To ensure a conducive environment for optimal staff performance and to increase routine field-monitoring, CRS conducted a restructuring and complementary training on data collection for 44 Field Monitors and 16 School Liaison Officers in Koinadugu and Falaba districts. We also organized a stakeholder meeting with chiefs, religious leaders, school administrators, and community opinion leaders on menstrual hygiene management. The engagement presented CRS' model of supporting schoolgirls with re-usable hand-made sanitary pads, using the cultural and religious dimensions to this approach, and elicited their support in leading the sensitization of the population on the use of these pads.

Enhancing teacher's capacity is essential to promoting quality education. CRS has trained over 350 teachers from 114 project-supported schools on Diagnostic Teaching Methodologies (DTM) for the 2020-2021 school year across 9 clusters. The training focused on learner-centered approaches that allow teachers to help students learn more while understanding their effectiveness. The DTM training is coupled with concepts in classroom management, literacy, and COVID-19 guidance for schools, using the guidance from Sierra Leone's Operating Safe and Protective Learning Environment in the COVID-19 Outbreak.



### **Supporting Health and Nutrition Through Mother's Support Groups.**



In collaboration with the Directorate of Food and Nutrition (DFN) and the District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) of both Koinadugu and Falaba, and Caritas Makeni, CRS conducted a Training of Trainers on Mother Infant and Young Child Feeding (MIYCF), and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in COVID-19 context. The trained PHU staff paired with CRS staff cascaded down the training to a total of 620 Mother Support Group (MSG) members in both Falaba and Koinadugu districts through 31 clusters. During the training, all the 620 MSG members and the 31 trainers from PHUs received from CRS the newly designed MIYCF in COVID-19 colored and plasticized booklet for young childcare-givers counseling and a reviewed data collection booklet. Mothers Support Group members are using these tools to counsel caregivers and collect relevant data to inform both USDA and the Government of Sierra Leone's nutrition indicators, under the supervision of both CRS and PHU staff.

### ***Distributing de-worming medications, vitamins & minerals in primary schools***

CRS collaborated with the National Neglected Tropical Disease program of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) DHMTs of both Falaba and Koinadugu district and other partners to support de-worming activities that targeted 69,700 pupils in pre-primary and primary schools in all 15 project chiefdoms. The activity contributed to enhance the control and elimination of schistosomiasis and other soil related transmitted Helminthes. When not treated in time, it may lead to anemia in children and hinder children's



schooling through learning disabilities, absenteeism, and early school dropouts.

### ***Enhancing Safe Food Preparation and Storage Practices***



In 2021, CRS trained over 930 cooks and 620 food handlers in 24 clusters across the 15 operational chiefdoms in Falaba and Koinadugu districts on safe food preparation and storage practices. This training equipped the cooks in preparing quality and safe school meals, especially in the COVID-19 context. It will help the food handlers to ensure better commodity accounting and food store management. These cooks and food handlers have helped CRS provide 9,916,410 daily school meals to pupils and 25,568 meals to teachers under the Food for Education program.

In addition to direct support to CRS supported schools, CRS also extended support to Government unassisted schools in Koinadugu and Falaba districts. In December 2020, we distributed over 5,500 boxes of chalk, 18,000 core textbooks for 4th-6th grades, 33,000 notebooks, and 34,000 pencils were distributed to 126 Government unapproved and 50 approved but unassisted schools for students in 4th-6th grades for the 2020-2021 school year.





*“As the current Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE), I want to thank CRS on behalf of the President and Government of Sierra Leone for using the USDA MGDIV resources to fully fund the development of the first Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) model for Sierra Leone. I am particularly excited because the support provided demonstrates CRS’s continuous commitment towards achievement of the development aspirations of the President.*

*The development of this HGSF model was timely and reaffirms the commitment and readiness of the Government in providing all necessary support to make national school feeding achievable and sustainable in Sierra Leone.*

*The Government of Sierra Leone through the MBSSE will lead and coordinate the successful implementation of this unique and well-designed Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) model, which will undoubtedly contribute to the achievement of a sustainable school feeding in the country, diversify dietary needs of school children, improve food security at the household level, spur Job creation and boost the local agricultural markets.”- **Dr. David Moinina Sengeh; the Honorable Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education – MBSSE.***

## CRS Health Programming

### Global Fund Malaria Program



CRS has worked together with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation for over 10 years as Co-Principal Recipients for the Global Fund in Sierra Leone. In previous years, the Global Fund program focused on prevention and control of malaria across Sierra Leone, with a focus on Social Behavior Change Communications (SBCC) to increase knowledge and improve health outcomes in the country. In the Global Fund New Funding Model 2 which was implemented between (July 2018 to June 2021), CRS and our sub recipients established and trained over 9,600 school health club members from 960 schools across the 16 districts of Sierra Leone. The project reached over 576,000 school children with malaria prevention and control messages, while 1,259 traditional births attendants with CRS' support administered sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine to 43,199 pregnant women.

### Fighting Malaria Through Communities

As a leader in health and behavior change efforts in Sierra Leone, CRS is the second Principal Recipient (PR) alongside the Ministry of Health and Sanitation who is the largest PR of the Global Fund Malaria grant in Sierra Leone. Through this grant CRS focuses on leading the implementation of behavior change activities related to malaria treatment and prevention; these include the training of community members and nationwide multimedia campaigns.







In 2021, CRS trained over 2,700 partners and community members on the positive deviant approach towards malaria prevention and control in 6 districts. We have also trained 960 teachers in all 16 districts of Sierra Leone on establishing and maintaining school health clubs. CRS together with our partners has also trained 35 Social Behavior Change Communication agents and 4,500 Community Action Against Malaria (CAAM) members across communities in 15 districts.

In July 2021, the President of Sierra Leone his Excellency Brigadier Julius Maada Bio launched the third new funding model of the Global Fund grant which focuses on prevention and containment of malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV and AIDS. To mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fight against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, CRS and the Government of Sierra Leone were awarded the COVID -19 Risk Mitigation Grant (C-19RM) to strengthen health and community systems towards the government's universal health coverage. The C-19RM is being implemented together with the NFM3 grant covering all 16 districts of Sierra Leone.

#### *Key Achievements of CRS Sierra Leone Global Fund Program*



School health clubs for malaria prevention were established in 180 schools in 4 districts, while 780 were revitalized in the [other 12](#) districts. The school health clubs reached 576,000 school children with malaria prevention messages in their respective communities.



CRS implemented face to face negotiated behavior change programs in 2,236 communities through Community Health Clubs (CHCs). The CHCs referred a total of 138,498 under five children across the country.



CRS partnered with 25 radio stations across the country to air radio spots, skits, and phone in programs on malaria prevention and control for 42 weeks reaching approximately 3,467,142 people.



A total of 43, 199 pregnant women received one dose of intermittent preventive treatment (IPTP) for malaria, out of whom 17,839 received three or more doses during their pregnancies in remote communities.



At community level, prompt care was sought within 24 hours for 138,498 under five children. Through CRS CAAM members, caregivers of children were encouraged and referred to Peripheral



Health Units or Community Health Workers for treatment. This action prevented the risk of children developing complicated malaria.



In addition to our Global Fund programs, in 2021, CRS through our discretionary funding started an Urban Malaria research project titled ***“Assessing and reducing malaria transmission in urban-poor areas of Freetown through improvements to housing, water, sanitation, and the environment”***. This research aims to study the effect of providing effective water, sanitation, and health (WASH) and improved housing services to urban poor areas of Freetown.

CRS is conducting the urban malaria research together with College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences – University of Sierra Leone (COMAHS-USL), Sierra Leone Urban Research Center (SLURC) and CRS is working together with support from the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), Statistics Sierra Leone, Western Area District health management team and Freetown City Council (FCC).

## CRS Urban Resilience Programming in Freetown

### *Establishment of the Western Area Peninsula Water Fund*



In January 2021, CRS conducted the business case for the Western Area Peninsula Water Fund (WAP-WF), bringing together key relevant stakeholders in the validation process. The WAP-WF business case is now finalized with the Water Fund set to be launched in 2022. Also, in March 2021, CRS in collaboration with the National Water Resources Management Agency (NWRMA), Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning, National Protected Areas Authority (NPAA), Freetown City Council (FCC), Western Area Rural District Council (WARD-C), Guma Valley Water Company (GVWC), and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) established and trained four community Catchment Management Committees. Catchment Management Committees are frameworks through which stakeholders at community level can plan and implement water catchment protection and water resources management in a coordinated manner. Catchment Management Committees were established in four catchments which have been identified as critical due to the high threat of encroachment.

The Water Fund has been developed in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. The fund aims to protect the rainforest in the Western Area Peninsula National Park, in order to provide a sustainable water supply to Western Area. Western Area gets 90% of its water from the forest, and there is no viable alternative water source for the growing city. The trees hold the water back like a sponge, allowing a steady year-round supply of water to communities throughout Western Area. The forest is being cut





down rapidly, for housing, charcoal and agriculture ; if the forest is destroyed, Western Area will have six months of mudslides and six months of drought.

To prevent this disaster, CRS is working with an Inter-Ministerial Committee, UN Agencies, Donors, Communities, Implementing Partners and the Private Sector to create a governance and funding mechanism to save the National Park and to ensure the future supply of water to Western Area.

The Business Case shows that for every \$1 invested in the Water Fund, we will reap \$2.70 in benefits from the program. CRS with our partners has already started installing perimeter fences in key areas around the National Park.

### *Improving Solid Waste Management in Freetown*



Freetown is under tremendous pressure to cope with the growing amount of waste generated from both households and businesses, particularly in Hard-To-Reach areas (HTRA). Freetown City Council (FCC) estimates that only 32% of the total solid waste (rubbish) produced from households and commercial premises is being disposed of properly. Uncollected waste gathers in drains, blocking them and causing flooding in the rainy season. Plastic waste washed into the sea creates marine

pollution and spoils the beaches for residents and tourists. Uncontrolled burning of waste leads to increased incidence of respiratory illness and the accumulation of rubbish attracts flies and vermin.

In 2021, CRS successfully completed the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office funded Improved Solid Waste Management project in collaboration with Freetown City Council, central Government Ministries and Concern Worldwide. The project constructed six transfers stations across the various blocks in Freetown, one weighbridge platform, 463-meters of access road/paths in three HTRA communities to ease access for primary waste collectors in door-to-door waste collection, three waste sorting platforms used to sort recyclable material from the general waste and four community composting sheds to improve solid waste management in Freetown. Most of the transfer stations were built on areas of illegal waste dumps. This has resulted to an improvement in the

aesthetics and cleanliness of target communities in Freetown and reduced the amount of plastic waste that enters the sea.

As a result of the reduced travel distance to the dumpsite, the project increased income for tricycle operators and reduced fuel use as part of CRS climate change approach. Drastic improvement has been made on the safer management of increased waste generation during COVID-19 pandemic. As part of sustainability effort, the constructed facilities were handed over to



the Freetown City Council and the HTRA communities in May 2021 who will own and operate the facilities.

### **Transforming Lives Informal Settlement Upgrading**

CRS, together with Freetown City Council and partners, is developing a program to upgrade the informal coastal settlements of Cockle Bay (in Aberdeen Creek) and Kolleh Town (near King Tom dumpsite); extensive research and community engagement has led to the development of pilot projects, which will redevelop selected areas of these communities, providing improved protection from fire and flood, improved sanitation and road access, more dignified and safe housing; this will allow CRS to advocate for larger funding to upgrade further areas within the informal coastal settlements, which house over 300,000 people, many living currently in dangerous and insanitary conditions.

## Partners Capacity Strengthening

Partnership is at the heart of our programming. To ensure our partners have the capacity to deliver effective and quality programming, in 2021, CRS provided training on safeguarding to over 92 Caritas staff in Sierra Leone. This is to ensure the safeguarding and utmost respect of the people and communities we serve.



In a bid to support the work of the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and the National Water Resources Management Agency (NWRMA), CRS donated 25 Yamaha motorbikes with critical spare parts, 50 sets of uniforms, 50 pairs of leather boots, 50 pairs of rain boots, and 50 belts at a cost of about US\$ 96,200 to the NWRMA. These resources are used to strengthen the ministry's capacity to deliver on one of its core priorities by empowering forest rangers to be more operational and effective in carrying out their functions and protecting the Western Area Peninsula National Park, the primary watershed for Freetown and its surrounding area.





## Catholic Relief Services COVID-19 Emergency Response Projects in Sierra Leone



### Hygiene and Economic Support for Communities Affected by COVID-19 – HESCA Project

Ensuring community resilience to shocks and outbreaks such as the coronavirus disease is a key priority of CRS programming. Sierra Leone confirmed its first COVID-19 case in late March 2020. CRS has played a leading role working with local and national government on COVID-19 response. In early 2021, we completed the Hygiene and Economic Support for Communities Affected by COVID-19 project which reached over 98,421 people in Sierra Leone. Through this project funded by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance/BHA/USAID, CRS in collaboration with our Caritas partners provided:

- Two hundred and ninety thousand USD (\$290,000) of cash assistance to 2,887 beneficiaries in Bo, Kenema, Bombali and Western Area Rural Districts. A total of 58,415 individuals received direct hygiene promotion support.
- Over 4,000 individuals are directly utilizing improved water services provided by the project in the four districts.
- The project has established and maintained 740 handwashing stations in the four districts.

- A total of 11 market associations have been created and implemented plans for promoting an enabling environment for COVID-19 preventive behaviors.

### #EUstandwithSalone- Supporting Freetown Residents to Confront COVID-19



In 2021, CRS through funding from the European Union and in partnership with Freetown City Council completed the #EUstandwithSalone- supporting Freetown residents to confront COVID-19 project. Through this project CRS provided COVID-19 preventive messages to over 353,508 Freetown residents. We have trained and provided farming tools and seeds to 300 households in three communities through the urban farming initiative. CRS provided over USD 40,000 worth of dry food rations to quarantine homes in Freetown. These are part of our efforts to ensure Sierra

Leoneans are resilient and adopt key preventative behaviors to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 and its economic effects.

As a result of the successes from the #EUstandwithSalone- supporting Freetown residents to confront COVID-19 project, CRS and Freetown City Council received additional support from UN Habitat to expand the project through the UN Habitat funded Community-led Response to COVID-19 project.

Addition to our COVID-19 programming, CRS integrated COVID-19 response activities into all our existing programs.

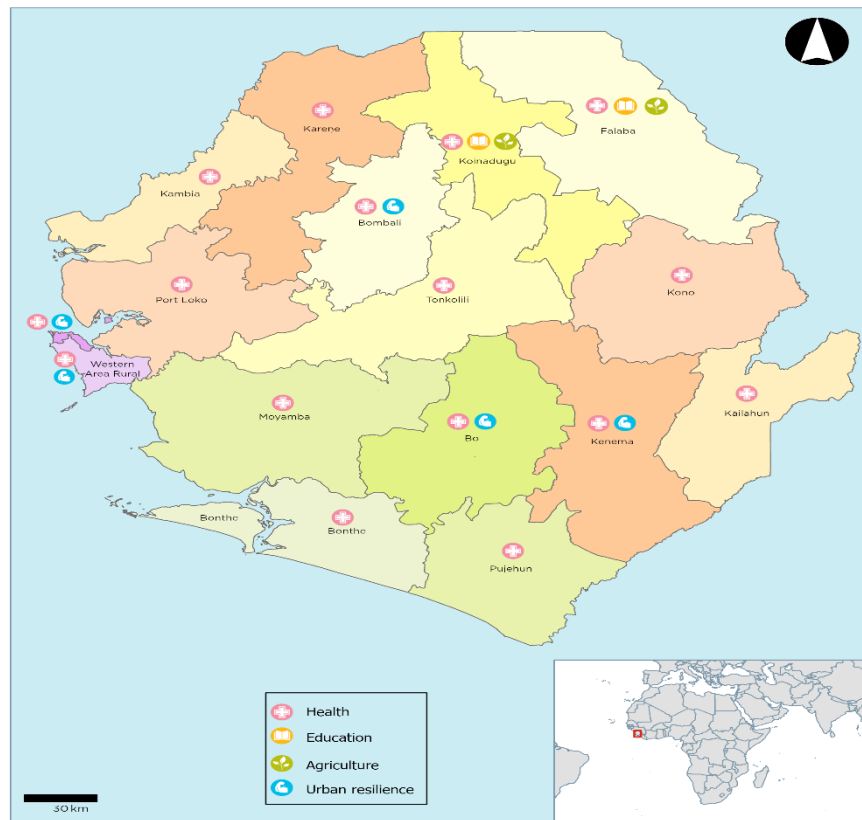


- Through the McGovern Dole Food for Education program, CRS helped children through radio learning. We provided 670 metric tons of dry food rations to over 54,379 children, partners, and teachers during the school closure.

- Our NFM2 Global Fund malaria project has supported District Health Management Teams and community health clubs across the 16 Districts of Sierra Leone to reach communities with Government and World Health Organization approved COVID-19 prevention and control messages.
- The ISWASTE project constructed and operated 4 temporary transit points in response to the need to safely manage waste during the pandemic with a volume of 1,280 tonnes of waste safely disposed through the transit points. 1,266 waste workers were engaged and supported with a total cash compensation of USD 300,000 for the period of six (6) months.



## Sierra Leone (Districts)



### Where we work

crs.org | The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by CRS.



## Testimonies and Project Participants Spotlights

**58 years promoting livelihoods, quality education, health and resilient in Sierra Leone**

### Hygiene and Economic Support for Communities Affected by COVID-19



Isatu Kanu is a single parent with two children. During the COVID-19 lockdown as part of Government containment measures, Isatu spent all her small business capital to purchase household materials and food for her family. After the lockdowns, Isatu was constrained to provide a single meal for her children. Isatu is a participant of USAID funded HESCA project which provided household basket cash transfer to over 93,000 people in Bo, Kenema, Bombali and Western rural districts.

“The money given to me by CRS and Caritas has helped me because my business cannot afford to pay for my children’s school fees and provide food at home. During the COVID-19 lockdown, I used all my business capital to purchase food stuff for my kids. After the lockdown, things had been tough with my family – Thanks to USAID, CRS, and Caritas for the cash assistance, I am now able to provide for my children.”

– Isatu Kanu, Bombali District

### Global Fund Malaria Program



“As a community stakeholder, I am happy that CRS recognized us as key partners and drivers for change in our communities. CRS has provided several trainings for us on malaria prevention. Before CRS intervention, the cases of malaria were high, but through the Community Action Against Malaria (CAAM) approach, we have increased awareness of malaria and its prevention in our community. Pregnant women are now visiting PHUs for their preventive medication, and we are ensuring that our community is always clean to prevent mosquitoes which lead to malaria. Thanks to CRS for their innovative approach and for involving communities

in the fight against Malaria.” - *Abubakarr Kamara, CAAM member in Malaka Community, Kambia District.*



## Water Security in Freetown

Mariatu is the community Chairlady of Berry Street Community. In the past, Mariatu used to walk long distances to get clean water. This has been a day-to-day domestic routine for her and her family. With the intervention of the RAIN project in the community, CRS and partners have renovated water infrastructures which has changed the water struggle story of Mariatu and her family in the Berry Street Community.



“As the community chairlady I am excited that CRS renovated and improved the water point for easy access to water in the Leicester area. Prior to the installation of the water pipe, we used to experience many constraints to fetch water. Our children always walk miles to access water facilities, and this has been affecting their productivity in school. In some worst instances we go for days without clean water. We appreciate CRS and its partners for this great venture, now we can easily access clean water through the facilities. This is not only benefitting Berry Street community, but other nearby communities are also using the facilities to get clean water for drinking and other domestic work” - **Mariatu Samura, Berry Street Leicester Road**

Like Mariatu, many families and communities in the Western Area face significant water shortages in the dry season despite experiencing frequent and intense floods in the rainy season. Residents of Freetown have limited access to clean safe water, with a majority depending on streams and rainfall harvesting.

CRS is working with the Government of Sierra Leone, Private Sector, and the communities to establish nature-based solutions through the Western Area Peninsula Water Fund.







## THANKS TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS



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