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Catholic Relief Services Sierra Leone Country Program

STRATEGY 2020 – 2030

PROPOSITION

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 Catholic institutions and structures, as well as other organizations, to assist people on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality.

For over 57 years, CRS has been on the front lines in responding to emergencies and promoting health, education, agriculture and urban resilience in Sierra Leone.

The country strategic plan will contribute to the 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 will leverage its extensive experience, as well as in-country, regional and global expertise in programming, to deliver its 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.

THE ISSUE

COUNTRY CONTEXT (CHALLENGES)

Sierra Leone is blessed with numerous natural resources, however, more than 60% of the population in the country lives below the national poverty line. After the civil war ended in 2002, Sierra Leone was hit by an Ebola virus disease outbreak from 2014 to 2016, which was followed by a devastating mudslide that killed over 1,000 people in 2017.

Located in West Africa, the country has a population of 7,092,113 with 59% of the population living in rural areas. According to the 2018 Human Development Report, Sierra Leone has the lowest life expectancy globally at 52.2 years.

Even though the Government of Sierra Leone is making great efforts to promote economic development and improved provision of services, such as health, education and agriculture, Sierra Leone continues to face several development challenges.

AGENCY STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND INVESTMENTS

In a new development theory of change as the guide toward 2030, CRS Sierra Leone core strategic priorities are education, health, agriculture and livelihoods and urban resilience. For each of these result areas, concrete outputs and intended development outcomes have been defined.

PRIORITY GOAL 1 AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

- By 2030, smallholder farmers have access to financial services and linkages to market systems.
- Land and other natural resources are utilized in a sustainable manner. We will promote climate-smart agriculture with focus on natural resource management, water/soil conservation, agriculture and establishing linkages with afforestation/reforestation programs.

PRIORITY GOAL 2 EDUCATION

- By 2030, all children can reach their full health and development potential in safe and nurturing families.
- Government has the required capacity to formulate, implement and monitor cross-sector policies.
- McGovern-Dole school feeding program transitioned to national school feeding program sustainably managed by the government.
- Improved community advocacy to increase awareness of the importance of education, particularly for girls.

PRIORITY GOAL 3 HEALTH

- Increased resilience to maximize impact in the fight against malaria and TB.
- Integrated health programming through community systems is strengthened.
- Improved last-mile distribution of drugs and medical supplies through innovative and cost-effective approaches.
- Community-based nutrition supplementation and maternal death surveillance are improved.
- Maternal and child health practitioners have the needed training to deliver their work.

PRIORITY GOAL 4 URBAN RESILIENCE

- Communities can resist and recover from shock and stress.
- Urban disaster risks are reduced in the Western Area.

- Human settlement through slum regeneration improved.
- Residents in Freetown have access to sustainable water and sanitation services. CRS will establish a Water Fund in the Western Area with adequate funding and effective implementing partners.
- Freetown will have an enabling environment for WASH and solid waste management (policy and regulatory framework established).

WHERE WE WORK

CRS operates throughout Sierra Leone with our priority areas focus on specific regions based on needs.



Sierra Leone Districts

IMPLEMENTATION AND PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

Partnership is at the heart of CRS programming. The 2030 country strategic plan will be implemented in partnership and collaboration with relevant government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), national and international NGOs, community-based organizations, private sector partners and religious institutions. CRS approaches its agency values, vision, mission and goals through four strategic approaches: catalyze humanitarian and development outcomes at scale, expand and diversify resource mobilization, mobilize Catholic church action to combat global poverty, violence and injustice, and build a more agile, innovative and impactful organization.