

## Highlights

- Mobile Storage Units assembly in Kenema and Bo – 25 – 29 April 2022
- Import Clearance Working Group Meeting – 19 May 2022
- NDMA Flood Mitigation and Preparedness Plan – 24 May 2022
- National Disaster Management Agency Standard Operating Procedure on Relief Items – 25 May 2022
- Warehouse Management Workshop – 6 – 8 June 2022



**Kenema Brigade**



**Bo Brigade**



**Warehouse Management Workshop**



## Background

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The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) was established in November 2020 by the President and Members of Parliament as a new Agency through the National Disaster Management Act 2020. Prior to this, the Disaster Management Department was under the Office of National Security (ONS) and logistics coordination was led by the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF). The NDMA is the Government lead agency for the Logistics Field Based Preparedness Project (FBPP).

A warehouse of relief items donated from the 2017 mudslide was transferred to NDMA for administration, along with items stored in three shipping containers at Joint logistics Unit from the Susan's Bay fire in March 2021. With its priority to support the community for the flood and storm season (June – September), the NDMA requested the FBPP to include logistics capacity strengthening activities in the early phase of the project, to enhance its ability to account, warehouse and supply the stockpiled donations to affected households. The implementation of early activities was supported to provide tangible benefits to the lead agency and vulnerable communities, whilst simultaneously setting up the project foundations in the first six months.

Presently, the NDMA has recruited over twenty (20) staff including regional coordinators and district personnel to aid in their operations across the country. The recruitment has projected an aura of development and growth within the agency which will lend credence to the work that they do.

## Coordination

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In emergency environments, coordination is pivotal in bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a clear and organized response to emergencies. It mitigates the gaps and addresses the needs of the affected persons or households in providing the necessities of life and in so doing turning the tide of disaster to a minimal incident. The Field Based Preparedness Project continues its constant coordination through regular pillar meetings, working group interactions, workshops, and field activities. One of such instances is the recently held warehouse management workshop conducted to strengthen the capacity of regional coordinators, district staff and country office personnel including the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society.

## Information Management

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- Through information management, an inception meeting was held over a year ago in Sierra Leone to identify gaps and needs that are prevalent in the country thus bringing about the five National Preparedness Action Plan that is being critically analysed by humanitarian bodies to find lasting solutions and information sharing tools that will lessen cost, time, and increase collaboration in pushing the agenda of development within the country context.
- The Google drive, a valuable tool to courier information to partners, now stores information relating to holding centres or evacuation sites, warehouse training slides, supplier list, transport assets including riverine transport, mobile storage units dismantling and assembling exercises, training manuals and warehouse locations already mapped on the Log i.e., to make the information accessible to partners.

## Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening

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For an institution or a nation to reach its full capacity, it presupposes that local or national actors should embark on a positive skillset strengthening trajectory to build their operational, tactical, and strategic knowledge base to be better prepared in addressing issues bordering development and collaboration through problem solving skills. The Field Based Preparedness Project through real time capacity building exercises for the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society has dismantled eight mobile storage units from the Port Loko Hub and assembled six of these MSUs in Bo, Kenema and Makeni. Two of these MSUs were assembled in each of these locations for the storage of food and non-food items in line with the NDMA Prepositioning Strategy for the wet season. The two-remaining dismantled MSUs will be later assembled at the Joint Logistics Unit in Murray Town. In continuation of the prepositioning strategy, a warehouse management training was conducted by WFP for NDMA and SLRCS to prepare local actors for the receipt of relief items in the stated storage locations using warehouse principles to actualize lessons learned and swiftly respond to affected persons or communities during a crisis.

## Challenges & Next Steps

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- Relief items for the 5,000 household not yet procured
- 12 Mobile Storage Units have deteriorated in Port Loko Hub due to extreme weather conditions
- Nathaniel Kelly will be on BIS from July 1 - 31 2022
- NDMA will be taking ownership of the project till end of July
- Assembled MSUs still empty
- Major Prince Sesay is set to return to Sierra Leone by end of the month
- Partners not too consistent in attending the logistics pillar meetings
- National Revenue Authority has still not reverted with Import Clearance Meeting outcome

## Contacts

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