



# UNFPA Sierra Leone

## COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT

JULY - AUGUST 2020



### COVID-19 UPDATES

AS OF 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

Total cases: 2,069

Female: 956

Male: 1,112

Total deaths: 72

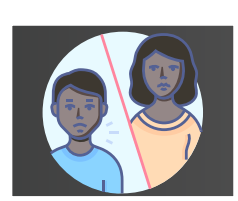
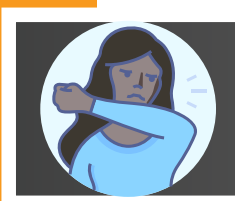
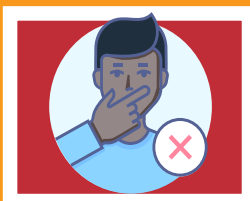
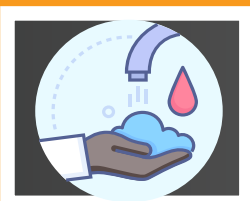
Case Fatality Rate: 3.5%

Recovered: 1,622

Total in quarantine: 247

UNFPA Sierra Leone continues to deliver a comprehensive programme on sexual and reproductive health, while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our programme focuses on:

- 01** Ensuring the availability of gender-based violence prevention and response services
- 02** Sustaining quality sexual and reproductive health services
- 03** Sustaining the supply of modern contraceptives and other life-saving reproductive health commodities up to the last mile
- 04** Increasing the demand for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services



# 01

## » Ensuring the availability of gender-based violence prevention and response services

### World Population Day

The poster for the UNFPA Sierra Leone High Level Panel Discussion is titled "UNFPA SL MARKS WORLD POPULATION DAY 2020 HIGH LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION". The theme is "PUTTING THE BRAKES ON THE SHADOW PANDEMIC OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN SIERRA LEONE: LET'S ACT NOW!". The event is scheduled for Friday, 10th July, from 3-5:00PM GMT. It is moderated by Isha Sesay, Founder of Women Everywhere in Lead. The host is Dr. Kim Eva Dickson, Country Representative UNFPA. The panelists include: Hon. Manty Tarawalli (Minister of Gender & Children's Affairs), Justice F. Bintu Alhadi (Judge, Court of Appeal), Dr. Olabisi Claudius-Cote (Chairperson, Rainbo Initiative), Cherner Bah (Co-Founder & Executive Director, Purposeful), Asmaa James (Journalist & Founder, Asmaa James Foundation), Agatha Ada Levi (Gender Activist, YALI Ambassador), Fatmata Sorie (President, LAWYERS), and Hon. Lesley Ni Bhriain (Ambassador of Ireland to Sierra Leone). The poster also provides contact information for Zoom, YouTube, Facebook, and TV/Radio.

To mark World Population Day on 11 July, UNFPA Sierra Leone organised a high-level panel discussion on 10 July with the theme "Putting The Brakes On the Shadow Pandemic of Gender-Based Violence in Sierra Leone: Let's Act Now!"

The event was held over zoom, and was moderated by renowned journalist and founder of Women Everywhere Can Lead, Ms. Isha Sesay. Bringing together experts, activists, politicians, judges and

ambassadors, the event resulted a lively discussion and call for action on tackling gender-based violence and harmful practices in Sierra Leone.

### Dignity kits

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNFPA Sierra Leone has been distributing dignity kits to vulnerable women and girls in Sierra Leone. On 20 August, UNFPA Sierra Leone distributed a further 500 dignity kits to the World Food Programme (WFP), as part of the United Nations response to the situation in the country. These kits contain sanitisers and masks, in addition to the routine contents of a UNFPA Sierra Leone dignity kit.

Figure 1. Contents of a UNFPA Sierra Leone dignity kit



### Gender-based violence services

UNFPA Sierra Leone is continuing to support and equip the One-Stop Gender-Based Violence Centre in the King Harman Maternal and Child Health Hospital in the capital Freetown, with the generous support of Irish Aid and the Government of China.

UNFPA continued to ensure the availability of free counselling and clinical services to gender-based violence survivors, through our implementing partner Rainbo Initiative at the centres in Bo district and Freetown. In July, a total of 185 survivors were provided with free services. In August, a further 177 individuals received services.

## » Sustaining quality sexual and reproductive health

# 02

### Continuity of services

In July and August, through the UK Aid funded Saving Lives in Sierra Leone programme, Doctors with Africa (CUAMM) supported maternal health services in three of the five main referral hospitals. The safe deliveries supported were as follows:

- 972 at Princess Christian Maternal Hospital
- 421 at Bo Hospital
- 420 at Makeni Hospital

# 03

## » Sustaining the supply of modern contraceptives and other life-saving reproductive health commodities up to the last mile

UNFPA Sierra Leone distributed reproductive health supplies worth USD 215,461 to 13 district medical stores and 24 hospitals in July and August.

These supplies were made up of ten types of contraceptive supplies and one life-saving maternal health medicine (Oxytocin). The contraceptive supplies distributed will protect more than 70,000 couples for a period of one year.

Two types of reproductive health supplies were also delivered to the Central Medical Stores. In the month of August contraceptive “two rod” implants (Jadelle) and Misoprotol were delivered. The implant sets will protect 248,000 couples for a period of one year.

# 04

## » Increasing demand for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services among women and girls

### Mama and baby packs

In July and August, 660 mama and baby packs were distributed to encourage expectant mothers to deliver in facilities with skilled support. These packs were distributed to seven hospital maternity wards around Sierra Leone.

Table 1. Distribution of mama and baby packs to facilities

Hospitals	Community Healthcare Centres
King Harman: 90	Regent : 60
Rokupa : 40	Ross Road: 50
Aberdeen Women’s Centre: 80	
PCMH: 110	
Makeni: 60	

## Vehicle donations

On 8 July, UNFPA Sierra Leone donated five motorbikes to the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE). One vehicle was also donated to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), to be used for monitoring and evaluation purposes.



UNFPA Country Representative Dr. Kim Eva Dickson hands over the vehicle keys to a representative of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation

## National life-skills radio programme



3 MBSSE "I am somebody" radio programme creators

Throughout July and August, the Life-skills radio programme continued to air regularly on Education Radio as part of the Radio Teaching Programme. The MBSSE engaged personnel in the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs and MoHS, who provided adolescent friendly information as regular guest presenters. These radio programmes included topics on ending child marriage and preventing teenage pregnancies.

In August, the 'I am Somebody – Life-skills podcasts' were launched presenting adolescents and educators with the opportunity to access over 80 life-skills lessons straight from their mobile phones.

The podcasts showcased over 40 hours of comprehensive content on key issues that affect adolescent girls and boys as they grow up in Sierra Leone, such as puberty, family planning, gender, mental health and leadership. Two age specific podcasts targeted younger adolescents aged 9-13 years and older adolescents aged 14-19 years.

## On the ground- real stories

### International Youth Day – Inspiration in action, Isatta's story.

The national youth service scheme works to reduce the country's high youth unemployment rate, as well as equipping young graduates with basic skills and work experience needed to make them attractive to employers. UNFPA supports the national youth service scheme and Youth Corpers like Isatta Cylvia Rashid. [Read Issata's story.](#)

### Improving quality obstetric care services to reduce maternal and newborn mortality in Sierra Leone.

As part of the UK Aid funded Saving Lives in Sierra Leone programme, UNFPA through CUAAM, is supporting the MoHS to improve quality services for pregnant women and post-natal women to prevent maternal deaths. [Read Memunatu Jalloh's story](#) on how her life was saved through the establishment of the High Dependency Unit at the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital in Freetown.

