COVID-19: How partners are safely getting food to school-age children and their families

Working with the Government of Sierra Leone to Respond and Adapt School Feeding Strategies for COVID-19, Lessons learned from Ebola Crisis

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Sierra Leone
About CRS – facts and figures

76 YEARS OF SERVICE
114 COUNTRIES
6,700 GLOBAL STAFF
127.3M PEOPLE SERVED
1,953 PARTNERS

$1 BILLION IN REVENUE*
93% PROGRAMS
7% FUNDRAISING, AWARENESS AND ADMINISTRATION

Sean L. Callahan
President & CEO

*Named Among Top Charities of 2018 by Forbes Magazine.

OUR PROGRAMMING

AGRICULTURE
- 4.7 million | PEOPLE SERVED
- 117 | PROJECTS
- 49 | COUNTRIES

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING
- 0.9 million | PEOPLE SERVED
- 212 | PROJECTS
- 53 | COUNTRIES

EDUCATION
- 4.9 million | PEOPLE SERVED
- 66 | PROJECTS
- 36 | COUNTRIES

EMERGENCY
- 9.9 million | PEOPLE SERVED
- 196 | PROJECTS
- 57 | COUNTRIES

HEALTH
- 94.4 million | PEOPLE SERVED
- 107 | PROJECTS
- 39 | COUNTRIES

JUSTICE & PEACEBUILDING
- 2.9 million | PEOPLE SERVED
- 64 | PROJECTS
- 34 | COUNTRIES

MICROFINANCE
- 2.8 million | PEOPLE SERVED
- 85 | PROJECTS
- 41 | COUNTRIES

WATER & SANITATION
- 72 million | PEOPLE SERVED
- 52 | PROJECTS
- 30 | COUNTRIES
In FY18, CRS implemented **66** education projects in **36 countries**, reaching **5 million** participants.
2.2M Teaching and Learning Materials Distributed
25,800 Teachers and School Administrators Trained
11-51% Increase in Literacy 2016-2018
130M School Meals Served
615,000 School Children Enrolled
Increase in literacy from baseline to end line

Sierra Leone
8% → 59%
(Δ=51%)

Benin
0.7% → 12.6%
(Δ=12%)

Honduras
18% → 29%
(Δ=11%)

Burkina Faso
15% → 33%
(Δ=18%)
CRS working in partnership during Ebola

The West Africa Ebola crisis of 2014-15 killed more than 11,000 people, caused economic and social disruption in a massive scale, leaving tens of thousands of children orphaned.

Schools were closed for nine months, resulting in a lost year of learning.

- Reduced health system access and utilization
- Household food insecurity
- Poor caretaking and infant young feeding practices
- Implementation challenges during nutrition response

“Ebola has made me stop going to school”

Schools used as holding centers
Factors that worked during crisis

- Political Will
- Increased funding
- Food assistance
- Enhanced Coordination*
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Partner support – eg. CRS/USDA intervention
COVID-19: Current Situation in Sierra Leone

Corona na bad bad sickness...

Earlier today, government announced the latest leg of measures which included that schools and other learning institutions throughout Sierra Leone will close today, indefinitely.
Government Response

- Providing Leadership and overall management of crisis
- Ensuring coordination at national and sub-national level
- Setting up specific working groups
- Trigerring restrictions and protocols are in place and enforced
- Providing information and public assurance
Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education Emergency Operating Centre

Strategic Coordination
Chaired by Hon Minister: Members: PS MBSSE, WB Country Head, EU Ambassador, UNICEF Country Rep, DFID Country Head, Irish Aid

Technical Focal Points (Co-Leads: MBSSE/Amara. S., and EDP Coordinating Agency/EU)
Responsible for comprehensive and coordinated response to the crisis and managing implementation of the plan and presenting decisions and activities by Working Groups to Strategic Coordination Unit

Communications WG (Co-lead: UNICEF)
1. Awareness raising, messaging and social mobilisation;
2. hardware for radio, and digital;
3. other infrastructure including billboards;
LEAD: MBSSE

Continuous Distance Learning (radio, TV, digital and distributed) WG (Co-lead: EU)
1. access to continuous learning opportunities using radio, digital and community learning centers;
2. content development and validation for continuous teaching and learning;
3. review, assess and evaluate teaching and learning via distance learning
LEAD: MBSSE/TSC

School Reopening Readiness WG (Co-lead: WB)
1. safe reopening of schools
   1. school safety protocol
   2. Supplies and logistics
2. Inclusion of guidance on psycho-social support
3. Gender focused activities
4. Construction, refurbishment (ramps, WASH, etc)
LEAD: MBSSE

Operations, Planning and Policy WG (Co-lead: DFID)
1. financing and tracking implementation and targeting
2. Policy development
   1. Subsidy
   2. School Health and school feeding
   3. Radical Inclusion
   4. Comprehensive Safety
   5. FQSE
   6. Teacher Incentivisation
3. Delivery team
LEAD: MBSSE
CRS Global response for COVID-19 in education

1. Prioritize health/well-being of learners, teachers, families (-> School Reopening Readiness WG & Operations, Planning and Policy WG);

2. Ensure continuity of learning (-> Continuous Distance Learning (radio, TV, digital and distributed WG))

3. Support safe return and ensure successful transition (-> School Reopening Readiness WG)
Implementing clear SoP and guidelines
Tenki Tenki