



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SIERRA LEONE YMCA RESPONDS TO CATASTROPHIC FLOODING

The Sierra Leone YMCA has joined in the rescue and relief efforts led by the government in response to recent floods and mudslides that have led to more than 400 fatalities and hundreds more missing or without shelter. Read the latest update and support YMCA response efforts through the World Service Sierra Leone Appeal.

August 18, 2017

Contact:

World Service
YMCA OF THE USA
800 872 9622

worldservice@ymca.net

Twitter: @GlobalYMCA

On Monday, August 14, 2017 heavy rains struck Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital city, and caused mudslides and flash flooding that have contributed to the death of more than 400 people, with another 600 missing. It is estimated that more than 3,000 people are homeless due to the damage.

"As a nation we are devastated," said YMCA CEO Christian Kamara. "We have lost young people that would have contributed to the development of this country."

YMCA RESPONSE

The YMCA is actively responding to the crisis. **"The Sierra Leone YMCA has joined the government and its development partners to support victims with food and non-food items immediately,"** Kamara says. With a proven record of collaborative work with local partners, the YMCA has the skills to respond in times of crisis as it did with the Ebola outbreak of 2014 and floods in 2015. Thanks to its large footprint in Freetown, the YMCA will continue to work with local partners on recovery efforts and to assist victims as the situation evolves.

Despite the adverse impact of the flooding on its programs and operational budget, the Sierra Leone YMCA will continue to engage actively in the community in its areas of expertise: strengthening community livelihoods and grassroots education.

As is the case with YMCAs worldwide, **the Sierra Leone YMCA is a vital part of the community** in which it operates. The Y's **community expertise, trusted relationships and effectiveness in reaching all segments of society** make it well equipped to serve people seeking comfort and support in a time of crisis.



YMCA of the USA and local U.S. Ys have pledged to support the Sierra Leone YMCA's efforts to support emergency relief work and long-term recovery. In light of the impact on basic YMCA operations, **YMCA of the USA World Service has established a fundraising goal of \$10,000** to support the ongoing efforts of the Sierra Leone YMCA. Among the emergency program and outreach needs, your support will help pay for:

- **fuel** to provide electricity at the office and for vehicles to reach affected areas
- **staff expenses** to ensure their ability to continue responding to the community's needs
- **supplies** including food, blankets and other essentials to directly benefit those impacted

How can you help?

A donation of:

- \$1,000 allows the YMCA to purchase fuel for the electrical generator
- \$500 pays for travel costs to the most affected areas
- \$250 provides emergency medical assistance to affected families
- \$50 provides food assistance for a small family

Make a secure, online donation at <https://donate.ymca.net/>

To help, **please make a secure online donation** through YMCA World Service at <https://donate.ymca.net/>. To ensure **100% of your gift is designated for this effort**, please type "YMCA Sierra Leone Response" in the "comments/special instructions" box. For gifts by phone, call 800 872 9622 and ask to be connected to World Service.

Thank you for your continued support. For more information on this effort or other World Service-funded programs, call World Service at 800 872 9622 or visit ymca.net/world-service.



All contributions to World Service are administered by YMCA of the USA, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization chartered by the state of Illinois. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and are acknowledged in writing. To learn more, call World Service at 800 872 9622.

All photos courtesy of the Sierra Leone YMCA.