



West Africa Food System Resilience Program

FSRP



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NDMA & FSRP

**A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR
SAFER COMMUNITIES AND
FOOD SECURITY ACROSS
SIERRA LEONE**

NDMA
Newsletter
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The National Disaster Management Agency Sierra Leone would like to express its gratitude to the (FSRP) Food System Resilience Program for their support in creating a safer community and food security across Sierra Leone



GRM

Grievance Redress Mechanism

If you have any complaints about the project, please use the contact details below to report to our Grievance Desk. Our Grievance Committee will process your complaints and respond accordingly.

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FOREWORD

BY LT. GEN. (RTD) BRIMA SESAY:
DIRECTOR GENERAL, NDMA

The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) remains steadfast in its commitment to building a resilient Sierra Leone - one that is better prepared, better informed, and better equipped to anticipate and respond to disasters.

This commitment has been greatly bolstered by the support of the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP), which continues to serve as a strategic partner in our journey toward institutional strengthening.



Thanks to the technical and logistical assistance provided by FSRP, the NDMA has enhanced its data management systems, allowing for more accurate, timely, and coordinated responses to disaster risks and also provided a vehicle to improve operations. Beyond internal capacity building, this support has also contributed to amplifying the Agency's visibility through the introduction of this monthly bulletin.

The bulletin serves not only as a window into our work but also as a record of FSRP's remarkable contribution to national efforts in protecting livelihoods and food production systems. It highlights key activities undertaken by the NDMA and provides a platform to showcase how development partnerships can positively transform public service delivery.

As Director General, I take great pride in the progress we continue to make and extend my sincere appreciation to FSRP for its continued partnership. Together, we are not just



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NDMA STEPS UP FIRE PREVENTION EFFORTS AS DISASTERS SURGE IN EARLY 2025.

Freetown, April 2, 2025 – The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has recorded a concerning rise in fire-related disasters, with 67 out of 71 incidents recorded in the first quarter of 2025 caused by fire outbreaks. This staggering 94% of all reported disasters emphasizes the urgent need for stronger fire prevention measures, enhanced emergency response, and stricter enforcement of safety regulations across the country.

Fire outbreaks have long been a major hazard in Sierra Leone, often fueled by electrical faults, unsafe cooking practices, candles, and dry-season conditions. Densely populated urban areas, slum communities, and bushfires remain particularly vulnerable due to poor fire prevention infrastructure and limited response capacity.

NDMA's Immediate Response and Preventive Actions

Recognizing the critical need to curb fire disasters, the NDMA has launched a comprehensive action plan focused on prevention, preparedness, and response. The Agency is implementing the following key interventions:

- Coordinating with the National Fire Force to improve response time and efficiency
- Enhancing the NDMA Situation Room's capacity for real-time disaster monitoring and coordination.
- Launching Nationwide Fire Prevention Campaigns
- Conducting public education on fire safety in communities.
- Broadcasting fire prevention tips and early warning messages via radio, TV, and social media.
- Engaging local leaders and community volunteers in fire risk awareness programs.

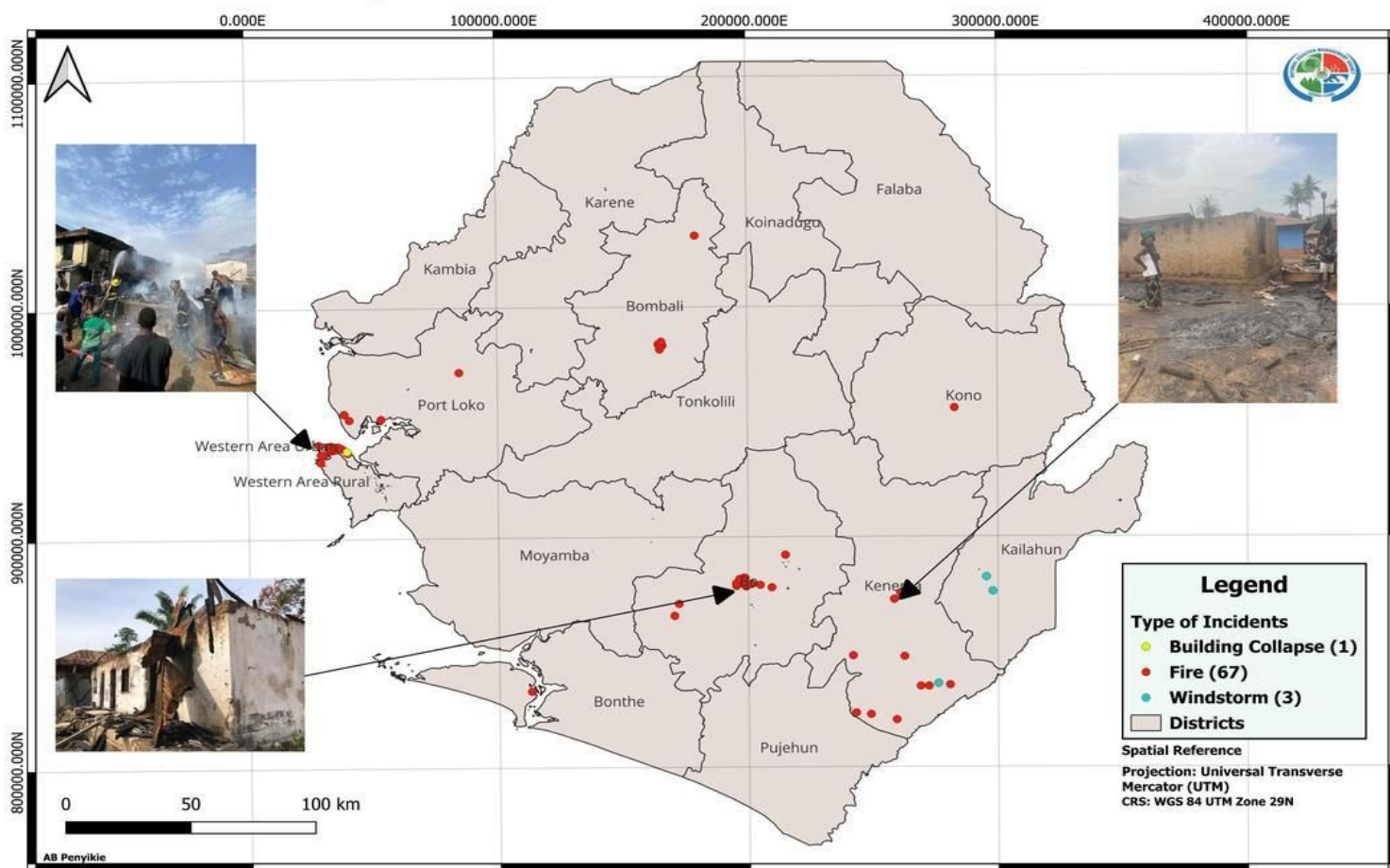
NDMA'S COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL SAFETY

As the primary disaster response agency, the NDMA remains steadfast in its commitment to preventing and managing disasters. While fire outbreaks present a significant challenge, the above proactive steps are geared towards reducing risks, enhance response capabilities, and build resilience at all levels.

The NDMA is also calling on government institutions, private sector stakeholders, development partners, NGOs and INGOs, and communities' authorities to actively support these interventions. Preventing fires is a shared responsibility, and collective action is crucial to protecting lives and property. With 2025 already underway, the NDMA urges immediate and sustained action at the community level, public places, and homes to curb fire outbreaks and enhance national preparedness.

The Agency remains dedicated to leading disaster management efforts and ensuring a safer, more resilient Sierra Leone.

NDMA First Quarter Incident Data -2025



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VICE PRESIDENT DR. MOHAMED JULDEH JALOH VISIT KPETEMA VILLAGE FIRE VICTIMS, VOWS SWIFT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE



Kpetema Village, Bo District, Southern Sierra Leone – Sunday, March 30, 2025 Vice President of Sierra Leone and Chairman of the National Disaster Management Agency’s (NDMA) National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, visited Kpetema Village in Bumpe Ngao Chiefdom to sympathize with victims of the recent fire disaster and assess the situation firsthand.

Accompanied by a high-level delegation, including government ministers, Members of Parliament, and religious leaders, the Vice President toured the disaster site before meeting with affected residents and local authorities. The visit was led by Resident Minister South, Chief John Abu, alongside officials from NDMA’s Southern Region.

During the meeting, Paramount Chief-elect Alfred Sovula Gandoma expressed gratitude for the swift intervention of NDMA, whose assessment report had prompted support from various stakeholders. He appealed for further assistance, particularly in rebuilding homes with corrugated iron sheets to reduce future fire risks. He also highlighted the destruction of agricultural seedlings, school materials, and microcredit funds.



NDMA's Senior Disaster Officer for the South, Maada Martin Koroma, briefed the Vice President on the agency's response, noting that 320 people were affected, including pregnant women, lactating mothers, children, and a disabled person. A total of 48 structures, housing 94 households were destroyed.

He assured that NDMA had shared its report with partners and that relief efforts were forthcoming. Vice President Jalloh, speaking on behalf of President Julius Maada Bio, extended his sympathies and pledged government intervention. He vowed to engage relevant ministries, agencies, and the private sector to accelerate relief efforts.

Specifically, he promised to liaise with NDMA for urgent response measures and the Ministry of Agriculture to assess and replace lost seedlings. Additionally, he personally committed to providing school materials for affected children, to be delivered through the Minister of Lands and Country Planning as soon as possible.

He commended all stakeholders who had contributed to the relief efforts and assured residents that the Bio-led government remains committed to their welfare. The visit concluded with prayers before the delegation departed for Bo.

For More Information

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NDMA ASSESSES NATIONWIDE IMPACT OF FLOODS, BUILDING COLLAPSES, AND FARMLAND DAMAGE

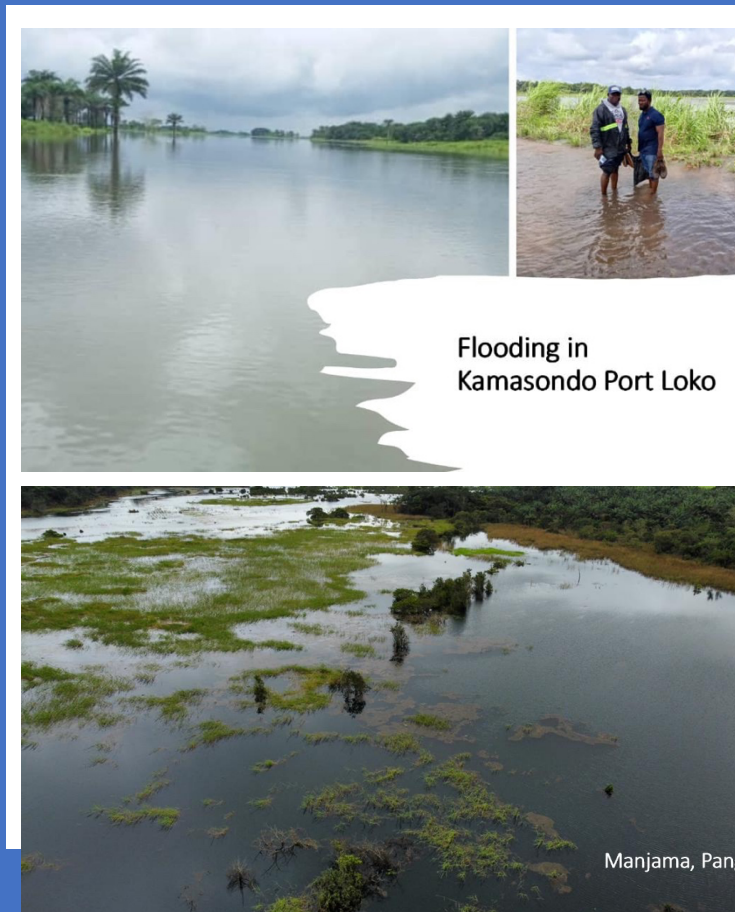
The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) informs the public that 27 flooding incidents have been mapped by its regional teams, severely affecting farmlands and businesses, and causing widespread building collapses across the country.

The flooding has impacted chiefdoms in several districts, including:

- Bo - Bo District: Baoma, Kakua, Jaiana, and Valunia
- Bonthe District: Benducha, Bonthe Island, Bum, and Yorbekwu
- Bombali District: Bombali Shebora
- Falaba District: Dembeleya Musaia
- Kambia District: Mambolo, Samu, and Thonkor Limba
- Moyamba District: Fakunia, Kamajei, Kagboro, Kori, Njama Kowa, and Rotifung
- Tonkolili District: Dansogoia and Kalantuba
- Port Loko District: Kamasondo
- Pujehun District: Kpanka Kabondeh, Peri, Barrie, and Sorogbema
- Western Area: Western Area Urban and Western Area Rural



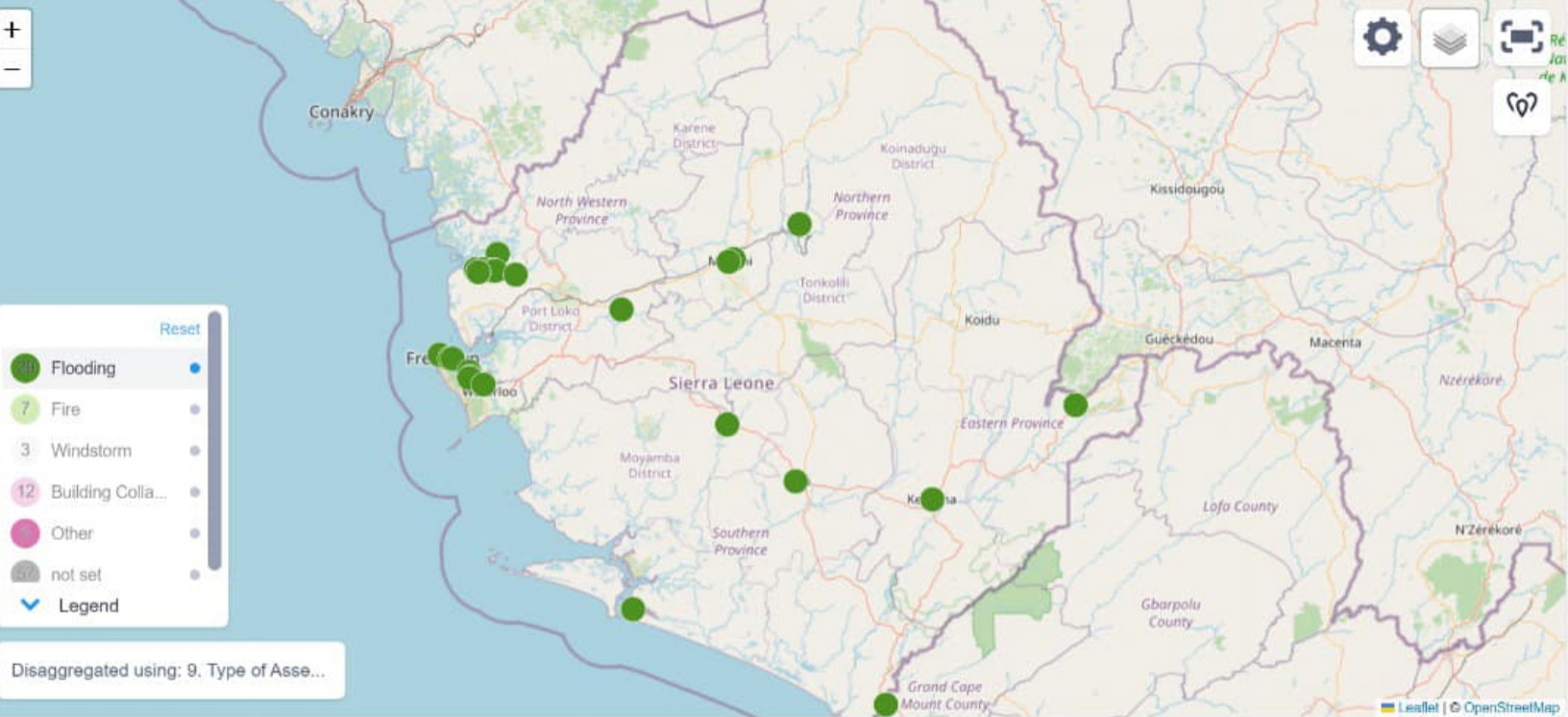
Gendema Customs border post inundated



Flooding in Kamasondo Port Loko

Manjama, Pan

To date, the NDMA has recorded 27 flood-affected communities, impacting 3,330 households and directly affecting the livelihoods of 23,596 people.



A total of 167 buildings have collapsed, including 27 critical infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship. Additionally, 7,324 hectares of farmland have been inundated, and many roads have become impassable for more than seven days, severely disrupting local economies and livelihoods.

Preliminary findings indicate that the primary cause of the flooding is heavy transboundary precipitation from Guinea. The NDMA, in partnership with the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency, has been tracking rainfall patterns and can confirm that Sierra Leone did not experience rain capable of causing such significant flooding and destruction.

The Agency has closely monitored the biweekly weather forecasts from the African Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action Systems for DRR Continental Situation Room. Throughout July, August, and September, these forecasts predicted heavy precipitation in Guinea, which has been verified by news reports. The heavy rains in Guinea caused flooding, with rivers originating from the Futa Jallon Highlands overflowing and emptying into the Atlantic, leading to severe flooding in Sierra Leone.

During visits to affected areas, NDMA regional officers urged residents to remain vigilant regarding the heightened risk of waterborne diseases, particularly among children exposed to floodwaters. They also emphasized the importance of safeguarding drinking water sources from contamination in flooded communities.

The NDMA is working with partners such as the World Food Programme (WFP), the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, and the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP) to conduct detailed assessments and ensure accurate data collection and a coordinated humanitarian response.

Citizens are encouraged to report flood-affected communities or any emergencies by calling the NDMA's toll-free line, 1199, available on Africell and Qcell, or by visiting the NDMA headquarters at 64 Sir Samuel Lewis Road, Aberdeen. Regional offices in Bo, Kenema, Makeni, and Port Loko are also available for assistance.

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Kori Chieftdom Floods: NDMA and FSRP Assess

Devastating Impact on Local Farmers

The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), in collaboration with the Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, conducted an assessment following severe flooding in Kori Chieftdom, Moyamba District. This disaster has caused widespread damage and displacement across sixteen local communities.

The FSRP project encompasses five core components across 15 agricultural districts in Sierra Leone and primarily focuses on three key value chains: Rice, Cassava, and Livestock.

This component aims to strengthen the climate resilience of the agriculture sector and enable effective management and prevention of food crises through the development and provision of demand-driven data, information, and advisory services. It also focuses on enhancing evidence-based decision-making in managing food security.

The NDMA, the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency, and the National Water Resource Management Agency are integral to this component, providing early warnings for farmers.



Taama Farmer showing rice farm before and after



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The assessment seeks to provide support for farmers who have suffered devastating crop losses due to the flooding. Triggered by relentless heavy rainfall, the flooding has submerged homes, farmlands, and livestock, affecting 400 households and displacing 1,400 people in the sixteen villages. This situation underscores the urgent humanitarian and agricultural crisis in the district.

The agricultural impacts of the floods have been particularly severe, with approximately 250 hectares of farmland now underwater. This has led to catastrophic crop losses and diminished income for local farmers, who rely heavily on agriculture for their livelihoods. Among the hardest hit is Hon. Jolly M. Lavalie, a former Member of Parliament and master farmer, who has lost his entire 1,000 hectares of farmland to floodwaters.

Smaller-scale farmers are also facing significant challenges. Mr. James Amara from Lorgor Kessinima lost his entire 500-hectare rice plantation. The flooding has affected nearly all villages within Kori Chiefdom, isolating many communities due to rising water levels. Preliminary assessments indicate that several homes have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable, forcing families to seek refuge in makeshift shelters.

Women, children, and the elderly have been identified as the most vulnerable groups in the aftermath of the flooding. The displacement of families has created an urgent need for safe and secure shelters. Furthermore, the flooding has destroyed healthcare centers and schools, disrupting access to the facilities and exacerbating the challenges faced by the affected villages.

emergency institutions for immediate intervention to alleviate the impact on the people. They further urge the government to invest in sustainable infrastructure capable of withstanding the growing risks posed by climate change.

The NDMA, FSRP, and other partners will analyze the assessment report to ensure a swift response to the affected farmers and develop long-term solutions to protect farmland from recurring flooding across the country.

Similar incidents have been reported in other parts of the country. The NDMA will continue its assessments in those areas to enhance better intervention.

For More Enquiries:

NDMA Assesses Crumbling Building at 27 Garrison Street, Orders Immediate Evacuation

Freetown, 24th March 2025 - The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has conducted a vulnerability risk assessment on a dangerously deteriorating two-storey building at 27 Garrison Street in Freetown's Central Business District. The structure, owned by Dr. Onodi William, who resides in Denmark, has partially collapsed, with deep cracks posing an imminent threat to occupants and passersby.



Speaking at the site, NDMA's Director of Risk Reduction and Preparedness, Maada Salia, urged shop owners and vendors to prioritize their safety over financial concerns. He warned that the structure could collapse at any time, and continuing business operations within it would be life-threatening.

Reinforcing this message, NDMA's Director of Communications, Mohamed L. Bah, emphasized the agency's commitment to proactive disaster management, including early warning systems, preparedness, and mitigation efforts. He stressed that the NDMA is taking decisive action to prevent casualties and urged all occupants to comply with the evacuation directive.

The building houses multiple businesses, including a stationery shop, a café, three stores, and twelve sub-set shops. Given its unstable condition, the NDMA immediately ordered all occupants to vacate the premises to prevent potential loss of life or property.

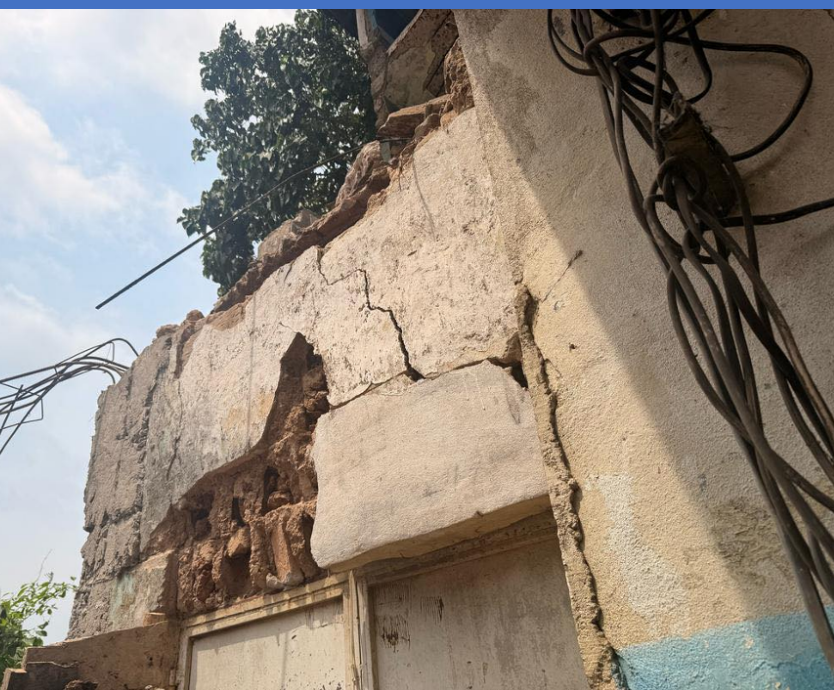
Speaking at the site, NDMA's Director of Risk Reduction and Preparedness, Maada Salia, urged shop owners and vendors to prioritize their safety over financial concerns. He warned that the structure could collapse at any time, and continuing business operations within it would be life-threatening.



On behalf of the affected business owners, Sallieu Kargbo, a shop owner and caretaker of the building, expressed appreciation for the NDMA's swift intervention. He acknowledged the severity of the situation and assured that he and other business owners would adhere to the agency's instructions.

Following the assessment, the NDMA has engaged the Freetown City Council (FCC) and other relevant authorities to determine the next steps. This includes urging the owner to either carry out a controlled demolition or secure the premises to prevent further hazards.

The NDMA strongly advises property owners and landlords across Freetown to conduct regular structural assessments to ensure their buildings meet safety standards. The agency remains committed to protecting lives and property through robust disaster prevention, preparedness and response mechanisms. Residents and business owners are encouraged to report structurally compromised buildings to the NDMA for early intervention



For More Information

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Race Course Fire Incident: NDMA Conducts Impact Assessment, Estimates Losses at NLe 6,480,000

Freetown, 10th March 2025 – The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has conducted a preliminary impact assessment following a devastating fire outbreak at Race Course Road, Up Gun, Freetown, on Sunday, 9th March 2025, at approximately 11:30 PM. The fire completely destroyed 26 spare parts shops and four vehicles, resulting in substantial financial losses and affecting hundreds of livelihoods.



Upon receiving the alert, the NDMA swiftly engaged the National Fire Force (NFF), the agency responsible for fire management across the country. NDMA disaster officers were deployed to the scene to coordinate response efforts, ensuring the fire was contained.

Today NDMA officials visited the affected site to assess the damages and estimate the losses. According to Ronald Turay, NDMA's Senior Relief and Response Officer, an eyewitness suggested that the fire might have been an act of sabotage. NDMA has committed to working closely with the victims and relevant authorities to investigate the claim and ensure those responsible are held accountable.



While no fatalities were recorded, traders suffered significant losses. Affected businesses, particularly a motor spare parts dealership operating for over 12 years, lost goods worth NLe 6,105,000, along with large sums of cash stored in safes.

Additionally, the four gutted vehicles, which were at the location for maintenance, had an estimated combined value of NLe 375,000.

NDMA's Director of Relief and Response, Sinneh Mansaray, assured victims that the agency will engage relevant partners in determining the next course of action. He expressed deep sympathy to those affected and reaffirmed NDMA's commitment to supporting them during this difficult time.

While engaging with victims, Mansaray emphasized the importance of fire prevention measures in homes, businesses, and public spaces. He urged residents and business owners to implement safety precautions, such as proper handling of flammable materials, installation of fire extinguishers, and adherence to safety regulations.

"The NDMA remains committed to collaborating with relevant stakeholders to mitigate fire disasters in the country. We strongly encourage the public to prioritize fire safety to prevent similar incidents," Mansaray advised.

Since the beginning of 2025, NDMA has recorded 55 fire incidents nationwide, including 16 cases in the Western Area, affecting schools, homes, and businesses. This surge in fire outbreaks is alarming compared to previous years, signifying the urgent need for heightened fire prevention efforts.



NDMA reassures the affected victims of its commitment to disaster response and recovery. The agency also calls on humanitarian organizations and philanthropists to assist in rebuilding the victims' businesses and livelihoods. Any support should be channeled through NDMA to ensure effective coordination and response.

NDMA Calls for Increased Fire Prevention Vigilance Amidst Surge in Fire Incidents Nationwide

Freetown, 10th February 2025 – The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) is deeply concerned over the surge in fire incidents across the country, with 38 cases reported in January and February 2025. The Southern Region has been the hardest hit, recording 15 incidents, followed by the Western Area with 10. The Northern Region reported 8 incidents, while the Eastern and Northwestern regions recorded 5 and 4 incidents, respectively.



The alarming increase in fire outbreaks has placed significant strain on NDMA's emergency response teams nationwide. In response, the Agency is urging residents to remain vigilant and adhere to proactive fire prevention measures.

NDMA's preliminary assessments indicate that most of the incidents stem from electrical faults, unsafe cooking practices, and the improper burning of farms. The ongoing dry season, which heightens fire risks, has further contributed to bushfires in many villages.



The NDMA, in collaboration with the National Fire Force and other key stakeholders, continues to engage communities through public awareness campaigns on radio and TV to educate citizens on fire prevention. These efforts focus on promoting the safe handling of electrical appliances, responsible cooking practices, and the establishment of farm belts to prevent bushfires.

Lit. Gen. (Rtd.) Brima Sesay, Director General of the NDMA, emphasized the need for a collective approach to fire prevention. “The recent spike in fire incidents is deeply concerning, and we must all take responsibility for fire safety.

Simple preventive measures; such as switching off electrical appliances when not in use, avoiding overloading sockets, refraining from cooking indoors, and ensuring the proper demarcation of farm belts to prevent bushfires, can save lives and property. The NDMA remains committed to supporting the affected populations and strengthening our national response capacity,” he stated.

The NDMA is actively conducting assessments across the country to determine the actual beneficiaries to provide necessary assistance to cushion the impact of the fire incidents.

The Agency urges the public to remain vigilant and report potential fire hazards promptly. Targeted strategies and implementation plans are currently being developed to reduce future fire risks.

The NDMA reassures the public that it is working tirelessly to minimize the sporadic occurrence of fire incidents across the country. Citizens are encouraged to stay informed and report any fire threats via NDMA’s toll-free line 1199 on all networks.



NDMA Responds to Five-Story Building Collapse

During Demolition: One Dead, Four Injured

Freetown, January 10, 2025 – The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has confirmed a tragic five-story building collapse on Malama Thomas Street, Freetown, during a controlled demolition initiated by its owner. The incident, which occurred yesterday, claimed the life of one contractor and left four others severely injured.



The NDMA had earlier assessed the building on August 31, 2024, and advised the owner and residents to evacuate immediately due to its visibly deteriorating state.

Following this assessment, the Agency recommended a controlled demolition. The NDMA further emphasized the need to engage qualified contractors to ensure safety and avoid casualties.

In compliance with the NDMA's advice, the building was evacuated in September 2024, and demolition work began on January 8, 2025. Tragically, during the demolition, a section of the building collapsed, trapping five contractors who were on-site.



The NDMA promptly coordinated a multi-agency search and rescue operation involving the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), the National Fire Force (NFF), the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society.

Four of the workers were rescued with severe injuries, but the lead contractor was found deceased under the rubble.

One of the survivors confirmed that all five of them trapped in the collapse were involved in the demolition process. The deceased's remains were transported to the Connaught Hospital Mortuary by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society Ambulance, accompanied by grieving relatives.

The NDMA has launched an investigation to determine if the contractors hired for the demolition were qualified and adhered to safety protocols. The findings will guide enforcement measures to ensure that only certified professionals undertake such high-risk activities in the future.

The Agency also reminds the public of the importance of proper technical supervision of their homes and business places and the use of qualified personnel for controlled demolitions to prevent similar tragedies and protect lives and property.

The NDMA extends its deepest condolences to the bereaved family and pledges its support during this difficult time, including assistance with the burial arrangements.



NDMA & IDMC Launch Report on Impacts of Sea Level Rise and Displacement on Plantain Island

The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), in collaboration with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), has launched a groundbreaking report titled “Impacts of Displacement Linked to Sea Level Rise on Plantain Island in Sierra Leone.”



Supported by the European Union and USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, the report examines the effects of coastal erosion on Plantain Island, particularly its impacts on livelihoods, housing, security, education, and health.

Speaking at the launch, the Director General of NDMA, Lit. Gen. (Rtd) Brima Sesay, emphasized the agency’s commitment to addressing displacement challenges caused by climate change. “This report highlights the urgent need for collective action to protect vulnerable coastal communities. Sea level rise is not just an environmental issue; it is a humanitarian crisis. NDMA remains committed to working with our partners to implement sustainable solutions,” he stated.



Chiara Valenti, Research Associate at IDMC, while presenting the report, highlighted the importance of data-driven approaches in tackling displacement.

“This report stresses the critical link between environmental degradation and displacement. By understanding how coastal erosion impacts housing, education, health, and livelihoods, we can shape policies and interventions that address the root causes and support the resilience of affected communities,” she said. Representatives from the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society emphasized that the report is a wake-up call for all stakeholders. They pointed out that addressing sea level rise requires not just mitigation but also investment in adaptation measures for coastal areas. They further stressed the need for a concerted effort to rebuild lives and strengthen resilience in affected communities.

Local representatives from Plantain Island, including Chief Gbassay Kargbo and Chiefdom Speaker of Kagboro Chiefdom, Alex H. Kamara, shared firsthand accounts of the challenges faced by their communities. “Our people are losing their homes, their livelihoods, and their heritage. We are grateful for the attention this report brings to our plight and urge immediate action to safeguard our future,” the chiefs stated.

Dr. Patrick Kormawa, representing the guest speaker, Dr. Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella, Chairman of the Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security, noted, “Sea level rise is not just an issue of climate; it is an issue of survival for these communities. This report provides us with the data and strategies needed to turn challenges into opportunities for sustainable development and resilience-building.” He further encouraged NDMA to use the report to develop a policy for the protection and resilience of Plantain Island, describing it as a heritage that must be preserved by every means possible.

The report documents how rising sea levels have exacerbated coastal erosion on Plantain Island, leading to the destruction of homes, disruption of education, and significant challenges in accessing healthcare. The loss of arable land has undermined livelihoods, while increased salinization of water sources has worsened public health conditions. The report further highlights the insecurity faced by residents due to the physical and economic vulnerabilities caused by displacement.

The report also provides key recommendations for tackling displacement caused by sea level rise, emphasizing the need for policy integration, enhanced disaster preparedness, and targeted support for affected communities. The findings are expected to serve as a guiding framework for addressing climate-induced displacement in Sierra Leone.



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NDMA Engages FSRP for Nationwide Flood Impact Assessment on Farmlands and Beneficiary Data

FSRP Head Office, Pipe Line, Off Wilkinson Road, Freetown, November 13, 2024 – The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, engaged with the management of the Food Systems Resilient Project (FSRP) to discuss collaborative efforts in disaster risk reduction, data management, and beneficiary mapping for the 2024 flooding events in Sierra Leone.

During the meeting, the NDMA outlined its priorities and presented a proposal for FSRP support in conducting a comprehensive assessment to measure the impact of recent nationwide floods, which led to widespread farmland destruction and building collapses. The assessment will gather data on affected farmland areas, damaged crops, destroyed buildings, and critical infrastructure in impacted communities. The results will assist FSRP in providing targeted agricultural support to affected farmers and help NDMA identify households and communities in need of potential future interventions.

FSRP's support to the NDMA falls under Component 1 of the project:

“Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention & Management.” This component is aimed at strengthening the climate resilience of the agriculture sector and enabling effective management and prevention of food crises through the development and provision of demand-driven data, information, and advisory services, thereby enhancing evidence-based decision-making in managing food security.

Mrs. Oliamatu Sadiya Abdulai, the Environmental Specialist and head of Component 1 at FSRP, welcomed the NDMA team, expressing satisfaction with the ongoing partnership.

She stated that FSRP is committed to working closely with NDMA until the successful conclusion of the project



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FSRP Project Manager Dr. Kepifri Lakoh acknowledged NDMA's proposal and guided refining it to meet FSRP's project standards. He said the FSRP will review and respond accordingly. He further emphasized that such an assessment will aid his project in responding to the needs of farmers for the upcoming year. "The data will guide us in determining the appropriate response and the level of intervention needed to assist affected farmers next year," Dr. Lakoh stated.

The FSRP has been instrumental in supporting the NDMA through several key initiatives, including hiring a consultant to harmonize data collection across NDMA and its partner agencies, providing vehicle support to enhance NDMA's data collection capabilities, developing a national Food Crisis Preparedness Plan for the Ministry of Agriculture—a critical document designed to set triggers for early warnings on potential food crises—equipping NDMA's regional offices with tablets to digitize data collection, replacing the existing paper-based system that hampers emergency response efficiency, and supporting the monthly publication of disaster risk bulletins.

Representing the NDMA, Deputy Director General John Vandy Rogers underscored the significance of the proposed flood assessment in strengthening the agency's ability to compile accurate beneficiary data for future disaster responses.

He was joined by Abu Bakarr Bangura, Director of Research, M&E; Sinneh Mansaray, Director of Relief and Response; and Mohamed L. Bah, Director of Communications.

This fruitful discussion marks a pivotal step in the collaboration between NDMA and FSRP as both entities work towards bolstering Sierra Leone's resilience to disaster risks and improving data management for more informed decision-making.



NDMA Conducts Robust Assessment of Illegal Constructions Along SLBS Drive Waterway at 7th Battalion

Freetown, 7th March 2025 – The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has conducted a comprehensive assessment of ongoing illegal constructions along a major waterway at SLBS Drive, 7th Battalion. This intervention is part of NDMA's annual Flood Mitigation Strategy (FMS) ahead of the rainy season. Since its establishment, the NDMA has been implementing its FMS nationwide to identify potential flood hazards and take appropriate measures to prevent flood-related disasters.

During the assessment, NDMA field officers observed extensive construction activities, including makeshift and permanent structures being erected directly on the watercourse.

These developments significantly increase the vulnerability of surrounding communities to flooding, property damage, and potential loss of life during the rainy season.

Speaking to community members, NDMA's Director of Risk Reduction and Preparedness, Ing. Maada Salia, emphasized the dangers of building in high-risk areas.

He stated, "Construction on waterways disrupts the free flow of storm water, leading to severe flooding, destruction of property, and possible fatalities. You should stop work immediately



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This is not an ideal place for construction. NDMA has a mandate to prevent disasters before they occur, and we will work with relevant authorities to ensure these structures are completely demolished and monitoring systems are put in place to prevent future reconstruction.”

In a separate engagement with residents to raise awareness about the dangers of constructing structures on waterways, community members expressed mixed reactions. Some acknowledged the risks and called on the relevant authorities to take strict action, stating that they have long opposed such illegal constructions, but owners have remained defiant. Others argued that limited access to affordable land has forced them to settle in hazardous zones.

The NDMA will continue collaborating with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Freetown City Council and other sector players to enforce building regulations and prevent further encroachments on waterways.

As the Agency continues implementing its Flood Mitigation Strategy to reduce flood-related disasters in Freetown and beyond, the NDMA urges the public to adhere to building regulations and avoid settling in flood-prone areas. The agency remains committed to safeguarding lives and property through proactive disaster management strategies.

For More Information

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I am delighted to present the inaugural edition of the NDMA Newsletter – Volume 1. This publication brings together a collection of stories that highlight the unwavering commitment, achievements, and vital interventions of the National Disaster Management Agency. It also showcases the positive impact of the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP) in strengthening food systems across Sierra Leone.

As the NDMA continues to expand its reach and capacity, we remain dedicated to fostering transparency, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring timely communication with the public and our stakeholders.

Thank you for taking the time to stay engaged.

Mohamed Lamrana Bah
Director of Communications
National Disaster Management Agency.

