



Sierra Leone



MANDATE

In Sierra Leone, Handicap International's goal is to improve living conditions for vulnerable people (including people with disabilities) by improving their access to quality services.

SITUATION

Sierra Leone is a country with nearly 6 million inhabitants which, with no significant natural resources or great potential for agricultural growth, remains one of the poorest in the world. According to data collected in 2011 by the World Bank, 57% of the population in Sierra Leone live on less than £1.25 per day. From mid-2014 to beginning of 2016, Sierra Leone has been confronted with an Ebola epidemic, further damaging health and economic conditions in the country.

INITIAL ACTIONS

Handicap International started working in Sierra Leone in 1996 to help the victims of the civil war which broke out in 1991. After three troubled years, during which the teams had to be evacuated several times, the situation calmed down. Since 2000, we have worked continuously in the country and our operations were significantly stepped up as of 2014 to respond to the Ebola crisis.



STAFF

- National staff: 50
- Expatriate staff members: 5

KEY FACTS

Human development index (HDI)*	181/188 classified countries
Life expectancy*	50.9 years
Gross National Income per capita *	\$1,780 per annum
Surface area**	72,300 sq. km
Population** (million)	6,2

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	Ratified: 04/10/2010
Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo)	Ratified: 03/12/2008
Mine ban treaty (Ottawa)	Ratified: 25/04/2001

* UNDP: 2015 human development report

** UNSD 2015

Current projects 2016



Inclusive Education

Project carried out in conjunction with PLAN

GOAL

To promote the education of young marginalised girls and children with disabilities in Sierra Leone and support the re-opening of schools following the Ebola crisis

METHOD

This project is implemented by:

- Identifying and supporting children with disabilities in mainstream schools
- Setting up a network of community workers responsible for identifying and referring children with disabilities to schools, as well as raising the awareness of parents and communities
- Training partners and teachers in inclusive education
- Encouraging partner organisations to take disability into account in all their activities
- Distributing radios and providing school supplies for children unable to attend school during the Ebola crisis
- Implementing psychosocial and sexual health and reproduction awareness-raising activities targeting the girl beneficiaries and their communities
- Training and awareness-raising for community workers on Ebola prevention

BENEFICIARIES

- 21,060 marginalised girls
- 2,200 children with disabilities
- 540 primary schools in 5 rural districts

PARTNERS

- PLAN Sierra Leone
- International Rescue Committee
- Forum for African Women Educationalists
- Pikin to Pikin Movement

LOCATION

Districts of Kailahun, Kenema, Kono, Moyamba and Port Loko.



Inclusive education (APPEHL)¹

Regional project run in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Benin, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Guinea-Bissau

GOAL

Promote the inclusion of disabled children in the existing educational system. Through this project Handicap International is contributing to the development of a civil society that is fully acknowledges the rights of children with disabilities and which promotes inclusion and diversity.

METHOD

This project is implemented by training teachers in pedagogical techniques that are adapted to the learning difficulties experienced by children in disabling situations so that they are more effectively taken into account. Individualised social support for schoolchildren with disabilities creates a synergy between the family and the school.

The inclusive education initiatives implemented by Handicap International have been running since 2008. This long-term work enables staff at the Ministry of Education to appropriate, with increasing ease, the issues relating to the education of children with disabilities by including specific modules adapted to the situation in Sierra Leone in teacher training courses and pedagogical support from teachers in the classroom.

BENEFICIARIES

- Children with disabilities and their families
- Organisations for and of people with disabilities at local level
- Federations of Disabled People's Organisations at national level
- Ministry of Education
- Devolved State services
- Local and community stakeholders

PARTNERS

Ministry of Education

LOCATION

Districts of Kailahun, Kenema, Kono, Moyamba and Port Loko.



Physical therapy and psychosocial support to Ebola survivors

GOAL

Measure the effectiveness of a chronic pain management program on pain, physical function and quality of life with exercise for Ebola survivors with chronic joint pain.

METHOD

- Project targeted Ebola survivors who were screened by community volunteers (mostly members of survivors' associations)
- Participants who reported pain were assessed by physical rehabilitation professionals, followed by weekly chronic pain management sessions for over 10 weeks, based on World Health Organisation methodology
- The physiotherapists developed individualised treatment plan on how to improve body movement and general quality of life, as well educated the clients on home exercises for pain management.

BENEFICIARIES

Ebola Survivors with chronic pain as a result of Ebola

PARTNERS

- Ministry of Health and Sanitation
- Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs
- MSF – Doctors Without Borders
- Connaught Physical Rehabilitation department

¹ APPEHL project : Promoting the full participation of children with disabilities through education

- National Rehabilitation Centre
- Bo Regional Rehabilitation Centre

LOCATION

Region of Freetown

MAIN FUNDING BODIES

<p>Department for International Development (DFID)</p> 	<p>French Development Agency</p> 	<p>Aktion Deutschland Hilft</p> 
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