



## FREETOWN FLOODING-LANDSLIDES CRISIS INTERVENTION

### Freetown - Context

According to the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Centre, in 2017 Sierra Leone had been in the midst of a particularly wet rainy season, with the capital city of Freetown, in the Western Area of the country, experiencing 41 inches (104 cm) of rainfall since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July – nearly tripling the area's seasonal average. From 11<sup>th</sup> until 14<sup>th</sup> of August, Freetown received three consecutive days of downpours, which led to severe flooding in the city and its surrounding suburbs. Although flooding is an annual threat for the area (in 2015 floods killed 10 people and left thousands homeless), the Sierra Leone meteorological department did not issue a warning ahead of torrential rainfalls in order to hasten evacuations from potential danger zones.

### The disaster

Early in the morning on August 14, 2017, the inevitable disaster occurred.

Overlooking Freetown "Sugar Loaf Mountain" in the Regent suburban district (a mountainous settlement 15 miles east of Freetown) partially collapsed, triggering mudslides which damaged or completely submerged several houses and structures, killing residents – many still asleep – who were trapped inside. Other areas which reported serious damage include the settlements Motormeh, Kamayamah, Kaningo, Dwarzak, New England, Kroobay, Mountain Cut, George Brook, Big Warf, and Wellington. A "domino effect" resulted in structure-demolishing of numerous properties as the mudslides progressed.

While the exact number of victims probably never will be certain, disaster-related deaths are estimated at more than 1.100 including those ones who are still missing. Also more than 5.000 people were left homeless and hundreds of buildings were damaged or destroyed by the mudslides.

The disaster was exacerbated by the city's poor infrastructure, and drainage system.



Sugar Loaf Mountain partially collapsed

### The Don Bosco Fambul Emergency response

Immediately after the disaster occurred, the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Office of National Security contacted Don Bosco asking to care for children and women, victims of the flooding.



In a few days Don Bosco Fambul turned into an improvised shelter / camp, especially for children / babies and mothers / women victims of the floods / landslides. Some of the children were displaced children (they lost their homes and all properties), some were orphans and some just children who lost during the chaos and so far nobody had claimed for them. Many of them had been injured during the catastrophe and were provided continuous medical assistance by Don Bosco.



Flooding beneficiaries together with other beneficiaries at Don Bosco Fambul Premises

Since the 14<sup>th</sup> of August a total of 236 mudslide victims (71 women and 165 children) had been welcomed at the Don Bosco Fambul Premises at Fort Street in Freetown. In an organized chaos at Don Bosco Fambul, they were trying to redo their lives and to prepare themselves for the uncertain future.

Don Bosco's intervention started with medical attention.



Attention to the youngest ones and a face of hope



At the beginning also the distribution of clothes and other materials was in the focus.



Distribution of Clothes and diapers at Don Bosco Fambul

After a while, the victims adapted to the new environment and tried to make the best out of the situation.



Women are sitting together and doing handicrafts

School classes started and in the evenings a common dinner was served.



Small girls in school uniforms and their new school bags; dinner at the court



Days closed and people went their own ways.



After long days of activities, some of the beneficiaries were still studying, others were just exhausted

The emergency intervention at Don Bosco Fambul was carried out until the end of December 2018. Details can be checked on Facebook under <https://m.facebook.com/Donboscofambulfreetown/>

### The Support organized by África Directo

But how was Don Bosco able to help these victims for a longer period?

The initial emergency intervention was supposed to end 2 months after the disaster by mid-October but was extended for one month upon request of the Government of Sierra Leone. Later this period was extended for a second time until 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2018, when the victims finally left the installations of Don Bosco Fambul.

During that time, the Salesians of Don Bosco provided their facilities for shelter, offering a safe place and a welcoming home with dorms, toilets and shower facilities for the people. Don Bosco's experienced Social Workers offered psycho-social support, educational and recreation activities for the children, but by far this was not enough. Without the commitment of Don Bosco's benefactors, no school fees of the young victims could have been paid, no medical attention / medicine provided, no food could have been prepared, no clothing of those ones who lost everything would have been offered.

One Spanish Donor was one of the fastest in reacting and facing the situation. In an unbureaucratic manner and through the NGO "África Directo", funds were made available just a short time after the disaster. It was the Donors intention to provide the help mainly for medical and health related needs as well as for food. This decision was made after "África Directo" evaluated the ongoing situation in Freetown and saw where the help was mostly needed.

The breakdown of the received funds is listed in the following table. The scanned receipts can be made available upon request.



África Directo					
date	items	scanned receipt number	amount SLL	exchange rate	EUR
28/08/2017	Food for beneficiaries	229	2.990.000	8.560	349,30
31/08/2017	Food for beneficiaries	227	2.400.000	8.560	280,37
31/08/2017	Food for beneficiaries	256	1.980.000	8.560	231,31
07/09/2017	Food for beneficiaries	257	1.170.000	8.560	136,68
15/09/2017	Food for beneficiaries	333	2.400.000	8.560	280,37
12/10/2017	Food - beneficiaries	643	2.940.000	8.560	343,46
09/11/2017	Food for beneficiaries	931	1.800.000	8.560	210,28
09/11/2017	Food for beneficiaries	932	270.000	8.560	31,54
10/11/2017	Food - beneficiaries	922	2.400.000	8.560	280,37
10/11/2017	Food - beneficiaries	923	580.000	8.560	67,76
10/11/2017	Food - beneficiaries	924	650.000	8.560	75,93
10/11/2017	Food - beneficiaries	925	1.610.000	8.560	188,08
16/11/2017	Food - beneficiaries	1015	1.800.000	8.560	210,28
17/11/2017	Food - beneficiaries	982	1.100.000	8.560	128,50
17/11/2017	Food - wel bodi gari	989	1.350.000	8.560	157,71
17/11/2017	Food - beneficiaries	993	6.130.000	8.560	716,12
23/11/2017	Food - beneficiaries	999	1.800.000	8.560	210,28
				<b>total food</b>	<b>3.898,36</b>
22/09/2017	Health care materials	467	600.000	8.560	70,09
23/09/2017	Household supplies	464	1.675.000	8.560	195,68
25/09/2017	Household materials	468	720.000	8.560	84,11
25/09/2017	Health care items	469	450.000	8.560	52,57
17/10/2017	Health care items	668	1.660.000	8.560	193,93
23/10/2017	Health care items	696	830.000	8.560	96,96
23/10/2017	Health care items	697	700.000	8.560	81,78
28/11/2017	Health care & food exit package	1063	29.826.000	8.560	3.484,35
04/12/2017	Sewage disposal	1047	1.600.000	8.560	186,92
				<b>total health care &amp; exit package</b>	<b>4.446,38</b>
05/09/2017	Medicines - beneficiaries	240	4.280.000	8.560	500,00
14/09/2017	Medicines for beneficiaries	352	494.000	8.560	57,71
19/09/2017	Medicines for beneficiaries	365	1.400.000	8.560	163,55
06/10/2017	Medicines for beneficiaries	663	400000	8.560	46,73
12/10/2017	Medicines for beneficiaries	651	150000	8.560	17,52
12/10/2017	Medicines for beneficiaries	652	580000	8.560	67,76
20/11/2017	Medical assistance	991	250.000	8.560	29,21
20/11/2017	Medical items	1024	900.000	8.560	105,14
20/11/2017	Medical assistance	1029	825.000	8.560	96,38
20/11/2017	Medical assistance - Fatmata Kamara	983	800.000	8.560	93,46
27/11/2017	Medical assistance - Namisa Koroma	1001	800.000	8.560	93,46
27/11/2017	Medical assistance	1031	320.000	8.560	37,38
02/12/2017	Medical assistance - Kona Mansalley	1101	2.500.000	8.560	292,06
				<b>total medicine &amp; medical assistance</b>	<b>1.600,35</b>
				<b>other charges (incl. Bank Charges)</b>	<b>54,91</b>
				<b>Total</b>	<b>10.000,00</b>

**The planned Don Bosco Post Emergency Intervention**

But what will happen now?

Don Bosco Fambul was looking for possibilities about how to continue helping beneficiaries in a post – emergency intervention and was able to arouse interest in several potential public and private Donor organizations.

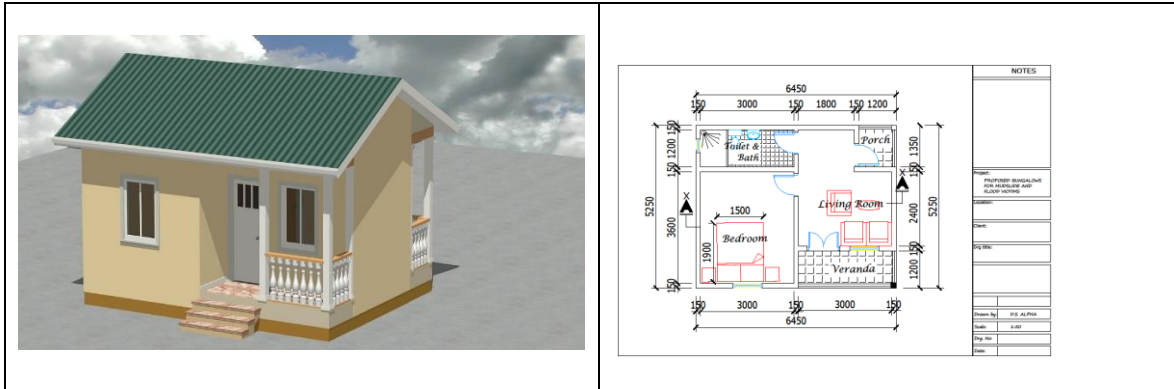
The plan is to provide simple houses to those beneficiaries who are most in need. For that purpose and in order to be able to carry out that project, at the Government of Sierra Leone promised Don Bosco the donation of a suitable land. The negotiations with the Government are ongoing.



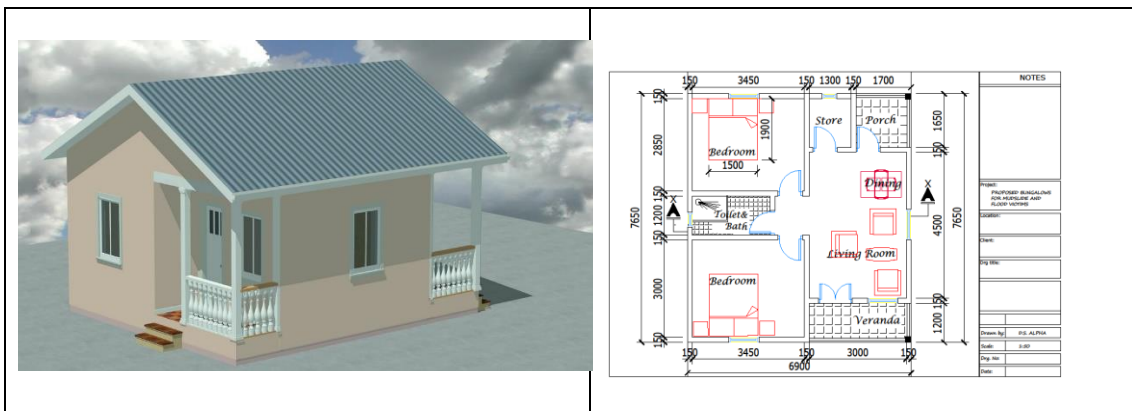
A land of sufficient size is needed, where an adequate infrastructure has to be planned from the very beginning:

- In a first phase with the construction of a total of 13 houses, the most vulnerable families will be targeted (women with children who lost their partner, and those with low - income)
- In a second phase, the construction of houses for other families is foreseen

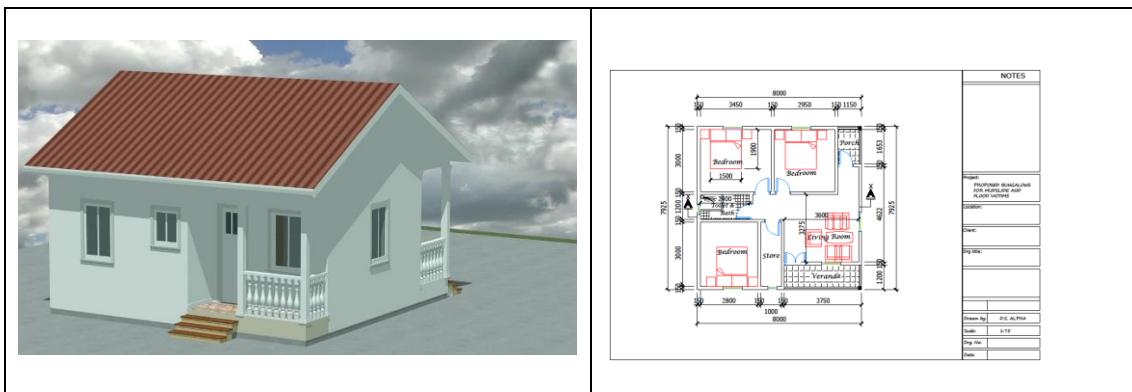
In cooperation with Don Bosco Social Workers / Technicians, a local Architect developed several Standard Houses of different size for the planned intervention:



One bedroom House



Two bedroom House



Three bedroom House



It has to be studied if the land / documentation which will be offered by the government, will be suitable for this intervention (construction of 13 houses for the most vulnerable – see the following table) and if the necessary funds can be raised.

It is foreseen that (if all necessary requirements are fulfilled) the houses will be built with basic installations and with local materials. They would be developed in a manner that, with the initiative of the future inhabitants, they can be upgraded and adapted to their individual needs.

NO	Family Head Name	AGE	Beneficiaries					selected House type		
			Head	Husband	Boys	Girls	Total	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed
1		28	1	1	3	5	10			1
2		27	1	1	1	2	5		1	
3		32	1	0	0	1	2	1		
4		45	1	0	3	2	6		1	
5		27	1	0	2	2	5		1	
6		50	1	0	0	4	5		1	
7		22	1	0	1	0	2	1		
8		27	1	0	0	0	1	1		
9		56	1	0	0	1	2	1		
10		57	1	0	1	0	2	1		
11		20	1	0	0	1	2	1		
12		20	1	1	1	0	3	1		
13		20	1	0	0	1	2	1		
			13	3	12	19	47	8	4	1

Statistics of the most vulnerable beneficiaries (anonymous)

A first step concerning the post-emergency phase is done, as the Government signed an intention letter to donate land to Don Bosco. Even first funds concerning the construction of some houses have been raised by a public Spanish Donor but it is still to be seen if the missing funds for these first 13 houses including infrastructure can be raised.

To raise funds for the construction of houses for all beneficiaries will be difficult.

ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RESULTS	Execution Period <b>first phase</b>									
	nov-17	dic-17	ene-18	feb-18	mar-18	abr-18	may-18	jun-18	jul-18	ago-18
Selection of land and Contractor										
Construction of houses										
Delivery of houses										
Commodity packs and Scholarships		Commodity Packs	Commodity Packs & Scholarships							

Initial timetable of the first phase of the project – delay have already occurred as the land donation has not been realized yet.

As foreseen Don Bosco supported the victims with commodity packs during their exit from the Don Bosco Installations on 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. It is the intention to integrate orphans into other families, same as it was done after the Ebola crises.



In case that all victims can be targeted (although this will be difficult), the following planning Matrix will be the guideline.

Planning Matrix			
GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Improve the situation of people affected by landslides and floods in Freetown, Sierra Leone			
SPECIFIC GOAL	INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS
Improved living conditions of homeless people, by building homes that guarantee the right to adequate and safe housing	13 most vulnerable families have a new home in a first phase	List of families who have access to a new home	Continuous Fundraising Activities of Don Bosco in phase 1 are successful.
		Pictures and video of the project	
	More than 50 % of the beneficiaries are women	List of female beneficiaries of the project	
	58 other victim families have a new home at the end of the project	Phase 2	Continuous Fundraising Activities of Don Bosco in phase 2 are successful.
RESULTS	INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS
Flood victims who lost their homes and actually are living at Don Bosco's premises resettled in new homes	Intention letter of the Sierra Leonean government to donate land to Don Bosco	Memorandum of Understanding between the Sierra Leonean Government and Don Bosco	The ideal land will be identified
	The Sierra Leonean government registers a land of sufficient size in the name of Don Bosco Projects		The land registration process is successful
	Construction of 13 houses during the first project phase	Images of the Construction	Continuous Fundraising Activities of Don Bosco in phase 1 are successful
		Report and document of completion of the works	
	47 persons have access to a new home during the first project phase	List of people entering in their new homes	
		Images of people in their new homes	
	Delivered 13 commodity packs and 31 scholarships for families accessing housing during the first project phase	List of materials and products delivered in the commodity pack	
Construction of 58 houses until the end of the project	Phase 2	Continuous Fundraising Activities of Don Bosco in phase 2 are successful	
A total of 296 victims have access to a new home at the end of the project	Phase 2	High inflation may cause prices to rise and can build fewer houses in the first project phase	

Logical Framework in case that all victims can be targeted.