

LNRCs: Building a Sustainable Liberian National Red Cross Society for Community Resilience

	Implementing partner(s)	Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRCs) with technical support from the Swedish Red Cross (SRC).
	Location	National, and River Gee, Sinoe and Grand Kru (pilot chapters)
	Agreement period	13 April 2019-31 December 2022
	Budget total (Sweden)	20 000 000 SEK

Overview and objectives

The Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRCs) has been active in Liberia since the 1940s. Prior to this programme, the LNRCs had one chapter (county office) in each of the 15 counties, and 93 branches (local offices) across the country. Its objective is to **“prevent and alleviate human suffering with complete impartiality making no discrimination...”**.

In 2016, an audit uncovered misuse of funds by senior members of the LNRCs during the 2014-15 Ebola crisis. This justifiably reduced trust and confidence in the LNRCs and led to the removal of funding. This has had a significant impact on LNRCs’s capacity. It is currently struggling to meet basic operational costs, pay salaries, or retain staff with vital technical skills.



Figure 1: Psychosocial support training of Red Cross volunteers, 2016. Photo: Liberian Red Cross Society

Since 2017, the LNRCs has worked to rebuild itself, putting in place a new Board and Secretary General, adopting a new constitution, introducing a new financial management system and policies, and creating an organisational development plan. This programme supports that reform and decentralisation effort. Rebuilding the LNRCs will ensure the functionality of a **national independent humanitarian actor in Liberia**, with local presence of well trained and prepared staff and volunteers working in and with communities.

Activities

This programme encompasses four areas of activity to support the rebuilding of the LNRCs:

- **Chapter and branch development:** the programme focuses on three pilot chapters and six branches, to implement training and technical support to improve structures, systems, and competencies.
- **Volunteer management:** a strong volunteer network is at the heart of a strong Red Cross organisation. This programme strengthens volunteer management through activities such as the implementation of a volunteer management system, and the provision of volunteer training.
- **Gender and diversity:** the programme develops and implements strategies to increase the number of female members of the LNRCs, and provides training to women with an interest in pursuing governance positions. Boys’ and men’s clubs and networks are also established to create male advocates for women’s inclusion. Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) prevention clubs are also being established in the pilot areas.
- **Resource mobilisation:** the programme also includes a series of activities aimed at increasing LNRCs revenues and its financial sustainability. This includes the enhancement of LNRCs staff skills, and the development of revenue generating initiatives such as a commercial first aid business.