
YMCA Sierra Leone Climate Change Interventions

YMCA World
Council



Climate Change in Sierra Leone: Current Context

Sierra Leone is among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries.

Temperature has increased by approximately 0.8°C since 1960.

Flooding, coastal erosion, and extreme rainfall continue to increase.

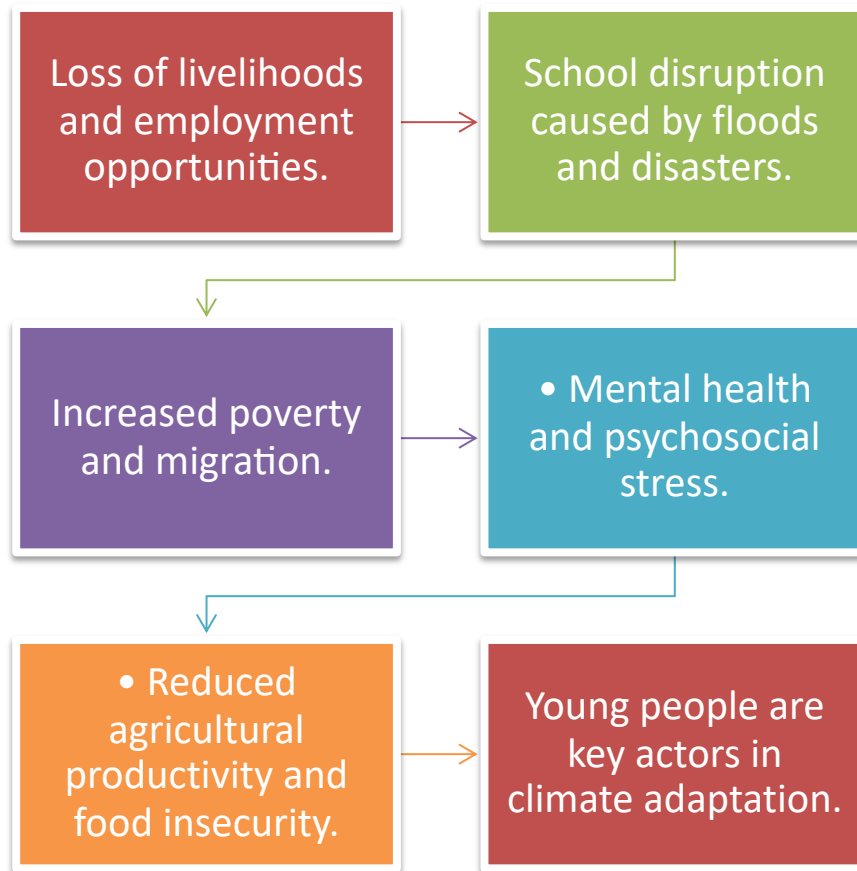
Flooding affected over 221,000 people between 1980–2020.

Coastal erosion reaches 4–6 meters annually in some areas.

Sources: World Bank, UNDP, Climate Policy Radar



Impact of Climate Change on Young People



YMCA Sierra Leone Climate Action Approach

Objective:

To complement Government's efforts in supporting young people and communities to build resilience and strengthen climate mitigation and coping strategies.

Operational Areas:

- Freetown
- Lungi
- Kenema
- Bo

Our Community Climate Action

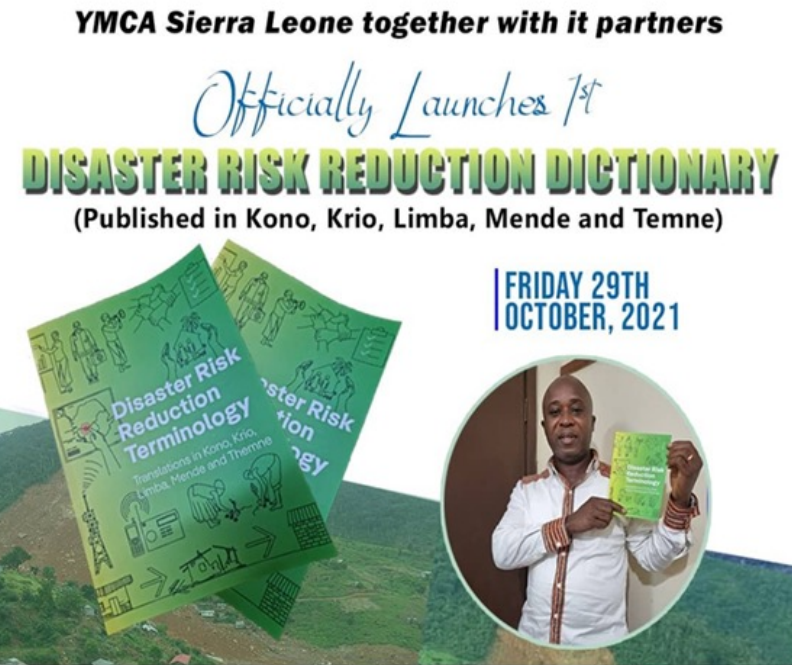
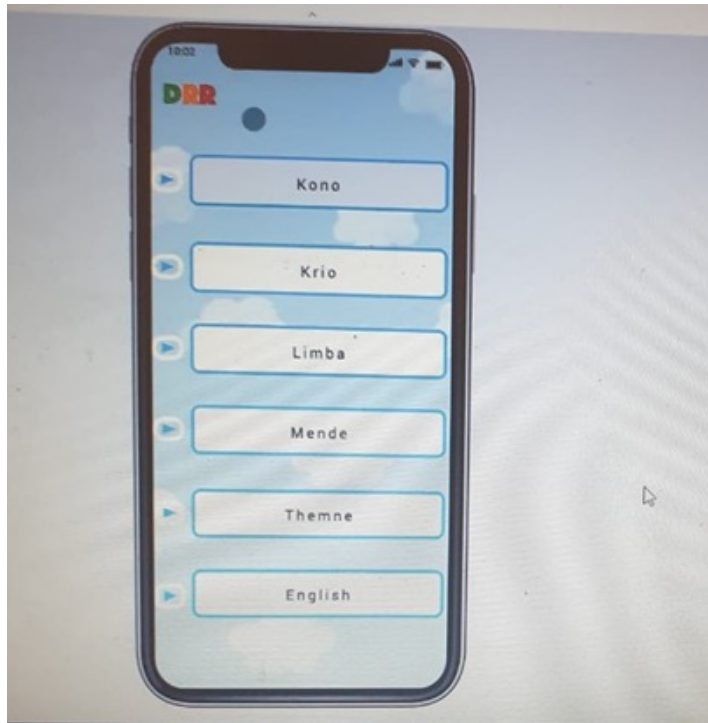
- ❑ Working through 20 established youth groups across the country.
- ❑ Conducts community climate sensitization and mobilization for over 100 young people.
- ❑ Youth leadership development.
- ❑ Community adaptation and resilience planning.
- ❑ Environmental restoration initiatives.





Mangrove Restoration and Environmental Protection

- ☐ Planted over 1,000 mangroves through our Youth-led mangrove restoration activities.
- ☐ Conduct community awareness on coastal protection.
- ☐ Teaching Ecosystem-based adaptation approaches.
- ☐ Protection against coastal erosion and flooding.
- ☐ Strengthening biodiversity and fisheries protection.



Climate Education and DRR Innovation

- Developed a DRR Terminology Book.
- Published in Krio, Kono, Limba, Mende, and Themne.
- Distributed over 500 copies to schools, universities libraries and state institutions
- Developed a DRR Terminology Application.
- Conducted climate action training for youth groups and communities.

School Eco Clubs and Youth Environmental Leadership

- Established and supported 20 school eco clubs with 300 pupils.
- Planted over 1,500 trees through our Tree planting and waste management activities.
- Conducted Environmental awareness campaigns in over 60 communities.
- Youth climate leadership development.



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Community Resilience and Livelihood Support

- Supported the planting of over 2,000 cash crops including; cashewnut, oil palm, and coconut.
- Rehabilitated community water systems affected by flooding.
- Supported water preservation initiatives.
- Provided psychosocial support to climate-affected youth.

Key Lessons and Call to Action

- Youth-led climate action is effective.
- Local language approaches improve inclusion.
- Nature-based solutions strengthen resilience.
- Climate adaptation must include livelihoods and psychosocial support.

Young people are leaders in climate resilience.

