About the Webinars

WEBINARS
A series of 45-minute webinars, starting in May focusing on GRiF overview and country projects.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS
Webinars will be accompanied by Fact Sheets and Learning Briefs.

AUDIENCE POLLS
Live audience polls & interactivities: Please participate.

QUESTION & ANSWERS
Thank you for sharing questions with your registration. If you have more, please use chat box.
Structure of Webinars

- **Introduction & Opening Remarks**
- **Lightening Presentation**
- **Technical Conversation about GRiF, Projects, & Interview**
- **Question & Answer (use chat)**
Word Cloud: Where are you currently based?

**STEP 1:**

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**STEP 2:**

Enter code: 6262 4596
Opening Remarks

Iffath Sharif

Practice Manager,
Social Protection and Jobs (SP&J),
World Bank Group (WBG)
GRiF Grant – Sierra Leone

Thomas Vaughan Bowen, Social Protection Specialist, SP&J, WBG

Global Risk Financing Facility
Supporting Early Action to Climate Shocks, Disasters, and Crises
An overview of the GRiF grant to Sierra Leone - investing in social and financial resilience

OBJECTIVE

To build the systems and technical capacity needed to establish and scale up the national safety net for faster response to natural disasters and crises, including health emergencies.

A US$1 million grant was awarded to the social protection implementing agency, NaCSA, in 2019, co-financing the IDA Social Safety Net Project;

Linked to US $4 million IDA contingency in the Project, earmarked for emergency cash transfers;

World Bank-led technical assistance to NaCSA and the MOF in support of the grant’s implementation: system strengthening, capacity building, risk financing.
Diverse risks and widespread socio-economic vulnerability

**POVERTY**

74 percent of the population in rural areas living below the poverty line (35 percent in urban areas).

**COVID-19 and Poverty:**
Using the international poverty line, expected to increase from 40.5 percent in 2019 to 43 percent in 2021, reversing the limited progress made to reduce poverty in recent years.

**FOOD SECURITY**

The total food insecure population increased to 47.7 percent (3,921,752 people) just prior to the onset of COVID-19.

**COVID-19 and Food Security:**
Food consumption decreased significantly. Early surveys found share of post-COVID respondents that went at least 1 out of 7 days with fewer than normal meals increased by about 20 percentage points. The percent that went seven days with fewer meals increased by 20 percentage points.

A series of devastating crises

- **2014**: The West Africa Ebola Virus Epidemic
- **2017**: Severe flooding and the Freetown landslide
- **2019**: COVID-19 global pandemic
Reaching the poor and vulnerable with Sierra Leone’s emerging social protection system

The Social Safety Net Project (IDA)

Established 2014, financing the government’s flagship cash transfer program;

Provides regular income support to extreme poor households in rural areas;

Initial phase of implementation reached 238,142 extreme poor individuals;

Current phase will reach an additional 508,300 beneficiaries through additional financing;

Supported the development of foundational cash transfer delivery systems: targeting, payment, grievance redress, etc.

A developing safety net system that has been forged by crises

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak:
• Donor financed scale-up of the cash transfer program benefiting nearly 60,000 of the poorest households nationwide. Introduces a new, rapid targeting approach for emergencies.

Freetown flooding and landslides:
• Registration, payment and emergency shelter for affected, displaced households. Initiated contingency planning exercise for future crises.
Responding to COVID-19 with emergency cash transfers (ECT)

The fastest cash transfer response to COVID-19 in Africa region

✓ Phase 1: Emergency Cash Transfers (ECT) in urban areas to 29,000 households (c. 174,000 individuals) with vulnerable informal sector workers;

✓ Inclusion of contingent financing in the IDA project, in coordination with GRiF, enabled the speed of the response to COVID-19 – 2 months after declaration of emergency;

✓ GRiF funds also supported the rapid design and implementation of the program, via an Emergency Response Manual and implementation support.

✓ Leveraged and adapted the existing delivery systems – targeting, enrolment, registration and payment.

Additional European Union (EU) financing to scale-up the ECT

Due to the demonstration effect from Phase 1, the ECT is being expanded to 36,000 additional households (c. 216,000 individuals) in Phase 2, thanks to support (Euro 5 million) from the EU.
Building back better with GRiF

Going forward, GRiF supports system strengthening for shock responsive social protection in NaCSA, financial planning in the MoF, and stronger linkages between them both.

**Expanding the Social Registry for rapid targeting**

Pre-registration of vulnerable households in disaster-prone areas, to support faster implementation.

**Capacity building**

Funding dedicated staff in NaCSA and MoF to focus on preparedness measures and financial planning.

**Replenished contingency financing**

New, forthcoming SSN project will include another contingency financing for emergency cash transfers to build from the COVID experience.

**A rich technical assistance program**

Risk and vulnerability analysis; strengthening coordination mechanisms; defining triggers for response; institutionalizing contingency planning; risk financing and links to cash transfer programs.

Photo Credit: Unsplash / Annie Spratt
Guest Speakers

Junko Onishi
Senior Social Protection Specialist, SP&J, WBG

Abu Kargbo
Senior Social Protection Specialist, SP&J, WBG

Thomas Vaughan Bowen
Social Protection Specialist, SP&J, WBG

Host

Sumati Rajput
Financial Sector Specialist, Crisis and Disaster Risk Finance (CDRF), World Bank Group (WBG)
Q&A

Please share your questions in the chat box.

If possible, please indicate to which speaker(s) you would like to address your question(s).

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WRAP UP

Summer and Fall
Forthcoming country-focused technical talks

Learning Brief
With key takeaways coming soon.

Fact Sheet
Available on registration page.

Thank you for attending!