



CITIZEN DRIVEN  
**CLIMATE SENSITIVE**  
WASH MANAGEMENT PROJECT



**SEND**  
**SIERRA LEONE**  
Working to promote good governance and  
equality of men and women in Sierra Leone



**PROJECT TITLE**

CITIZEN DRIVEN CLIMATE SENSITIVE WASH MANAGEMENT PROJECT

**PROJECT DONOR PARTNER**

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-DK

**PROJECT IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**

SEND Sierra Leone & World Hope International

**PROJECT BUDGET**

Le 2,194,153,833.33

**SUPPORTING PARTNERS**

Ministry of Water Resource-MoWR, Ministry of Environment-MoE  
and Ministry of Health and Sanitation

**PROJECT LOCATION**

Kenema District

**PROJECT DURATION**

December 2021 to May 2024

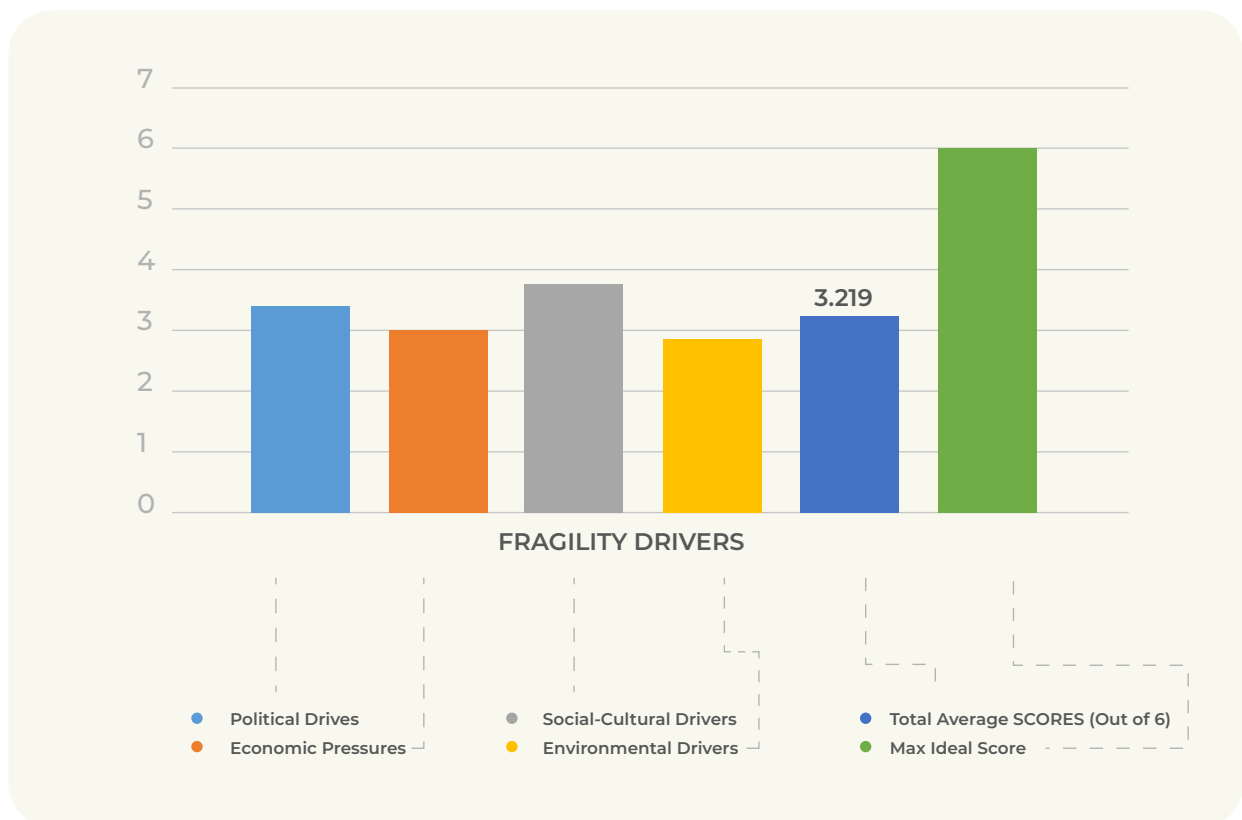
All rights reserved. Reproduction of all or parts of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged and any alterations to its integrity are indicated. Reproduction of this publication for sale or other commercial purposes without the prior written consent of the copyright holder is prohibited.

The publication has been produced with financial support from the Engineers without Borders-DK

# CHALLENGES



Sierra Leone is ranked as the **third most vulnerable country** in relation to the adverse effects of climate change due to a high level of multi-dimensional fragility. In 2018, after a Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), Sierra Leone recorded a low score of **3.1** which indicated a **0.1 decline** from the previous year. This fragility represents a **high infrastructure debt stock, weak governance institutions, low human capacity** and **high youth unemployment** estimated to be **70%** among other factors. The Government and decentralized governance structure are aware of the fragility pressures but lack the capacity to adequately address these challenges thereby exacerbating the effects over time.



With **56.8%** of the Sierra Leonean population living in poverty, **12.9%** of the population living under extreme poverty and the food poverty rate standing at **54.5%**, Sierra Leone faces considerable challenges in being able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. The country ranks **182** out of 189 in the **2020** Global Human Development Index with a Human Development Index of 0.452 and life expectancy **54.7** years. The COVID-19 pandemic and its resultant lockdown effects has worsened the country's economic recovery as it continues to suffer from the twin shocks of the 2014-2017 Ebola pandemic and the global commodity price slump.

Even though water and sanitation are among the high priorities for the Government of Sierra Leone as stated in its National Development Plan 2019-2023, there has been very adoption of climate robust WASH. Changed weather patterns are recorded in 2017 to have resulted in an increasing number of wells being dry during parts of the year, a situation which has resulted in the increased incidence of outbreaks of cholera and water-borne diseases. Over a 17-year period access to water in rural communities has increased by **22%** from **25% in 2000** to **47% in 2017**, a statistic that needs to double in less than a decade to reach the SDG target of 100% in the year 2030.



**56.8%**

of the population  
living in poverty



**12.9%**

of the population  
living under extreme  
poverty



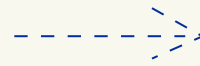
**54.5%**

Food poverty rate



**25% in 2000**

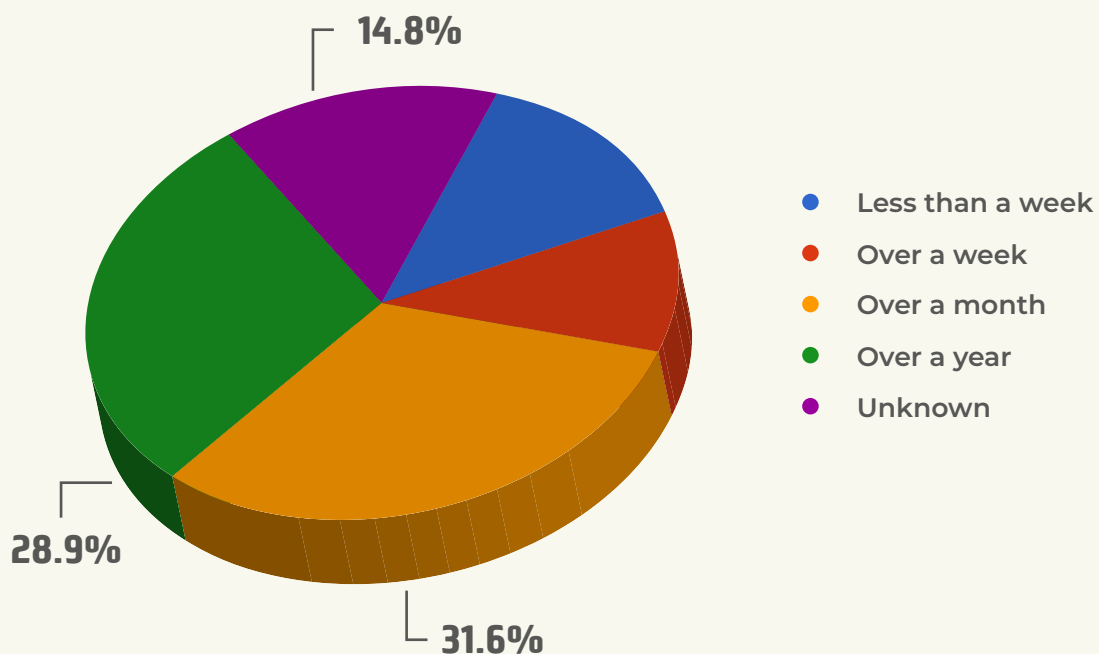
-----  
**47% in 2017**

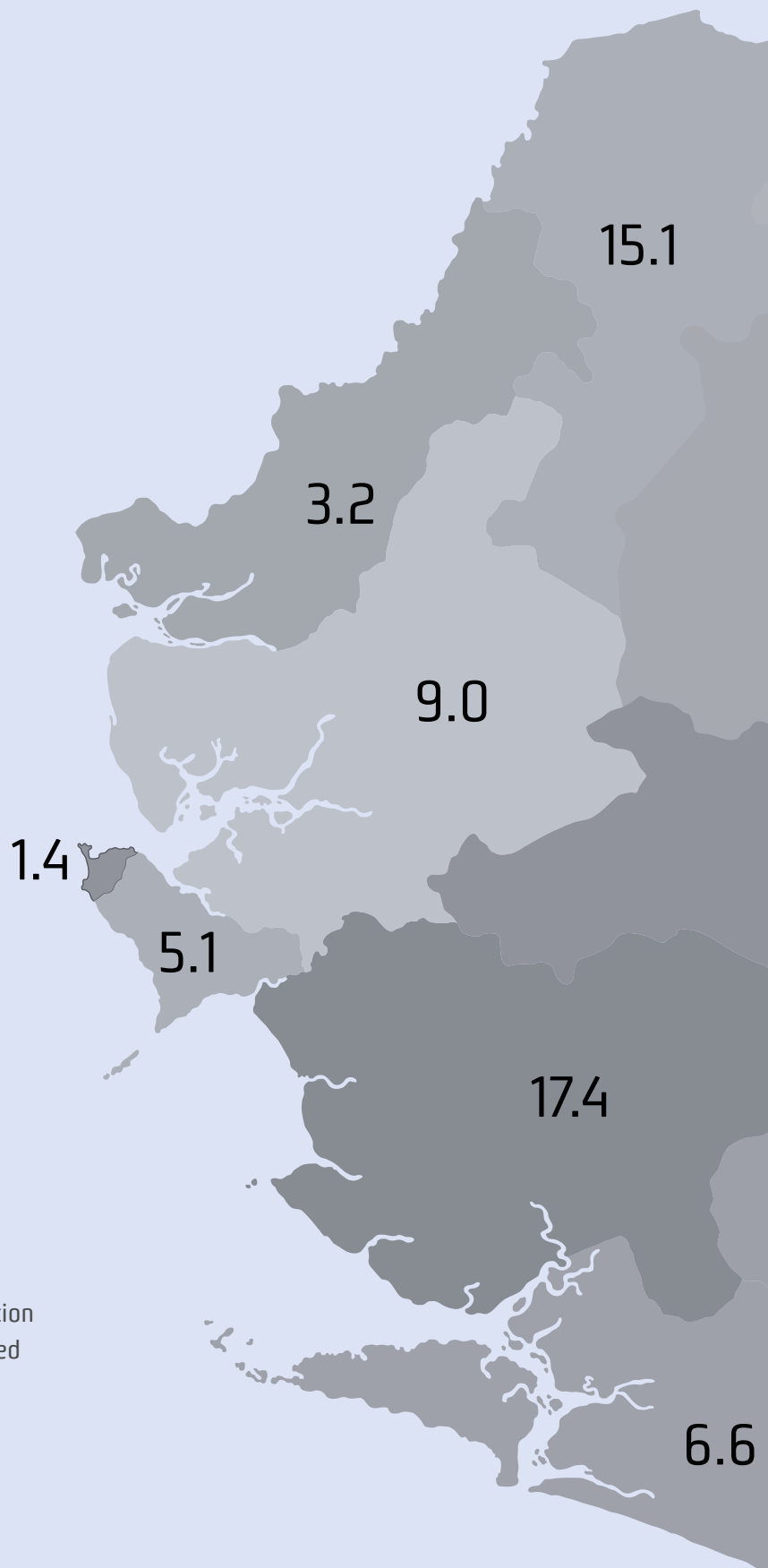


Access to water  
has increased by

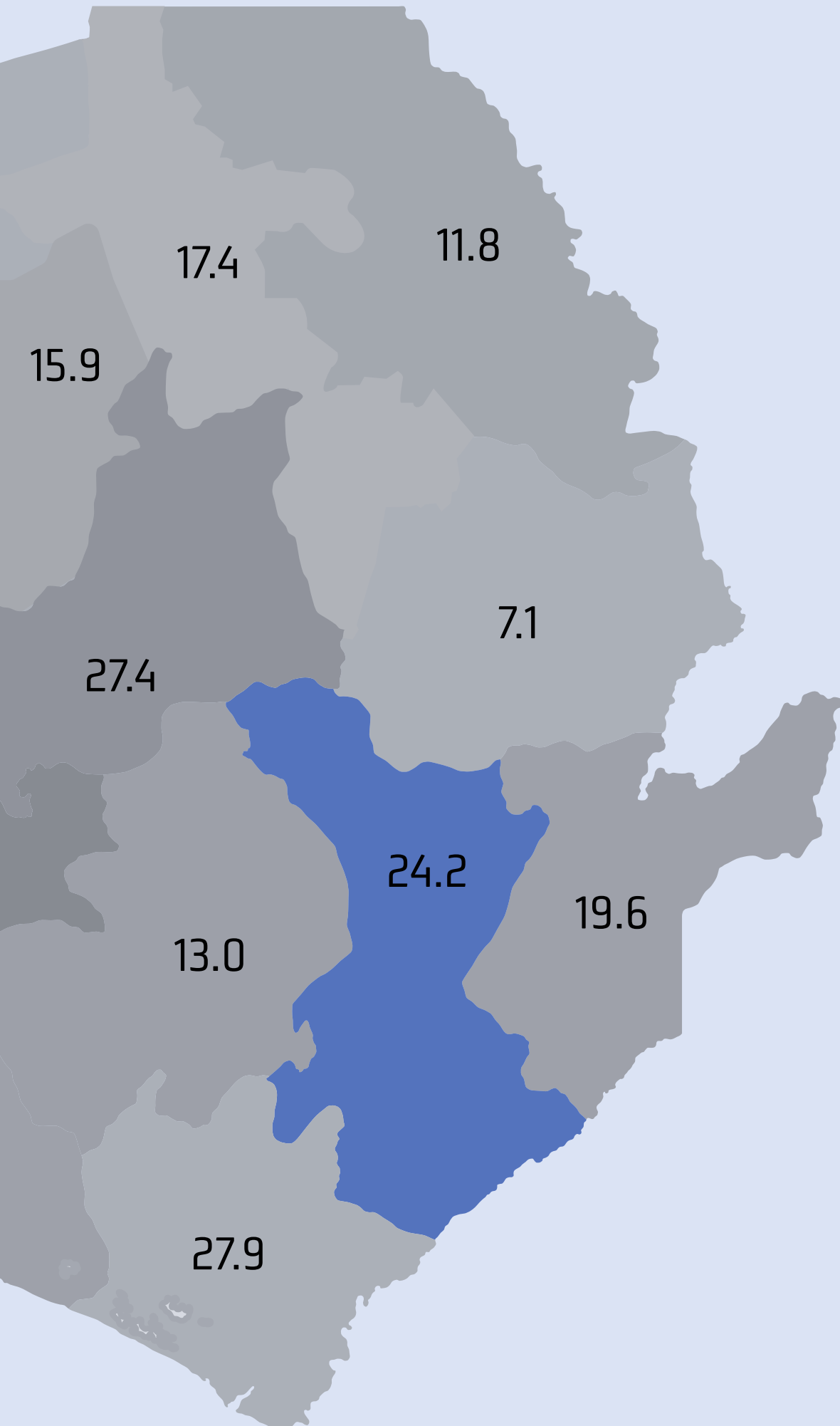
**22%**

There also exists a poor culture in the maintenance of WASH facilities. According to statistics, it takes over a year for 28.9% of water system to be repaired and over a month for 60.5% of the water systems to be repaired. In rural communities where user fees the main source of revenue used to maintain water facilities; it was recorded that 89.4% of the population who have access to these water points do not pay for water.





In Kenema district, the incidence of extreme poverty affects 24.2% of the population, a statistic worsened by only 22% of the population having access to safe water mainly concentrated in the urban center of Kenema township. The district experiences excessive rainfall which destroys and/or leads to contamination of the scarce water sources, farmland and crops. The health risks induced by flooding, changed rain patterns, and insufficient WASH infrastructure puts additional pressures on the very fragile health system as water-borne disease and cholera outbreaks are annual recurrent incidents.





## Key Challenges

- Lack of climate robust WASH facilities
- High risk of climate change effects resulting in flooding and loss of livelihoods in agriculture
- Low levels of resource mobilization and social cohesion in fostering community development



## Sustainable Development Goals addressed by the Intervention



Clean Water and Sanitation



Climate Action



Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



Partnerships for the Goals



Gender Equality

## THE SOLUTION



The project seeks to improve livelihoods in Kenema district through improved water and sanitation in rural communities in the district. By encouraging and capacitating rural communities and district structures to participate in the adoption of climate adaptive responses, the project will address low institutional capacity from a bottom approach and directly impact the population in 50 communities. It will promote cross-sector partnerships by placing civil society as the principal agent of change working with WASH sector governance institutions and the private sector. The project will also improve the knowledge base, develop a shared platform for action from the local level and establish citizen-driven examples of best practices in making the livelihood of the population in the Kenema district more resilient.

# Main Objective



Improved livelihood in Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance

# Sub Objectives



Access to climate robust WASH infrastructure in 50 rural communities



Application of participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance in the Kenema district.



Kenema district serves as a catalyst for citizen-led rural climate adaptation in the WASH sector influencing national climate adaptation strategies.





# PROJECT STRATEGY



The project will adopt a multi-dimensional strategy comprising of seven main strategies that focus on fostering citizen engagement and developing a bottom-up driven process of change to ensure that the stated objectives of this action are achieved.



Mainstreaming of climate adaptation by increasing the knowledge base of all strategic actors from the community level through the HDCs and community WASH committees as well as at the district level through the KDWASHC.



Strategic service delivery through the rehabilitation of old and the construction of new climate robust WASH infrastructure.



Organisation and capacity building of civil society at the community level through HDCs to develop structures that will ensure effective management and planning of WASH facilities.



Strengthening of democratic and transparent WASH sector governance through capacity building, standardisation / quality control and introduction of new technology



Regulatory framework for private sector engagement to ensure communities/buyers of WASH technology receive quality facilities at the appropriate cost.



IoT, Transparency and governance will ensure quality data is gathered from the communities on a daily basis to aid in planning and decision-making efforts at the district level.



Influencing national policy formulation through a bottom-up approach based on empirical evidence on citizen driven climate adaptation and strategic service delivery.



It is important to note that these strategies will interact seamlessly to develop a wholistic strategy which will influence future policy formulation at the district level within the framework of the National Adaptation Plan. This overall strategy will dedicate resources to strategic activities which will lead advocacy efforts on cross-sector partnerships and encourage the involvement of civil society in climate adaptation strategies and policies.

**MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE IMPROVE LIVELIHOOD IN KENEMA DISTRICT THROUGH CROSS SECTOR ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE SENSITIVE WASH GOVERNANCE**

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY:**  
Climate sensitive WASH infrastructure at community level

Citizen driven climate sensitive WASH infrastructure

Technical capacity building of technical strategic actors (community, Gov and private sector)

Adequate local WASH governance structure.

**ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE CAPACITY**  
Cross sector climate sensitive WASH planning and execution

Participatory Climate sensitive needs assessment and prioritization.

District climate sensitive policy and standards - WASH sector formulated and implemented

Improved M&E WASH sector. Enhanced transparency and accountability.

**POLICY INFLUENCER FROM BELOW:**

Citizen and cross sector driven climate adaptation in the WASH sector - Kenema district leading by its example

Exchange/presentation of the Kenema approach to relevant national entities on climate adaptation.

Knowledge exchange: National seminar on cross sector climate adaptation from below: civil society, authorities, private sector.

Access to information - best practice. Documentation of climate adaptation from below.





## Key Intervention Activities

### **Objective 1:** Access to climate robust WASH infrastructure in rural communities

---

- Design and construction of WASH and other climate adaptation works in the communities
- HDC capacity building in climate-induced hazards - participatory assessment of risks and how to mitigate them
- Mobilization encounters at community level
- Community meetings to sensitize on relation with private service providers. Definition at community level of accountability from private service provider to community with the HDC as managing party
- Community prioritization of small-scale initiatives on climate adaptation
- Community based documentation of impact - identify improvements in livelihood in a participatory process
- Disseminate lessons learned and best practices



Access to climate robust WASH infrastructure in 50 rural communities

### **Objective 2:** Application of participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance in the Kenema district

---

- Workshops for key stakeholders to inform and discuss the scope and purpose of the baseline/assessment of climate hazards

- Development and validation of the KDWASHC of assessment/base line on climate hazards affecting WASH access and livelihood
- Launch of the district report in a district level public event
- Formulation of certification criterion by KDWASHC
- District action plan on WASH climate adaptation developed
- Capacity building for communities (buyers) on new certification process
- Development and pilot testing of training program service providers
- Roll out of 2 additional series of training programme
- Training of Ward persons on the mandate and the obligations of the local government according to the national WASH policy framework
- Analysis of the climate sensitivity of budget developed by the district related to the WASH sector
- Develop annual proposal on priority interventions on WASH to form part of the District Gov's annual budget
- Review and update district WASH database, based on incident reports ongoing process in the meetings of KDWASHC
- Session in the KDWASH / analysis and comments on degree of completion of annual district plan on WASH - public statement issued / radio campaigns launched
- Training in online data management by KDWASH

- KDWASHC engages communities and install data transmitters on selected facilities
- Link data transmission to national WASH platform
- Development/ pilot testing of training program (1x5 sessions) with 2 subsequent roll outs
- Community awareness raising on certificating process/support/supervision offered through initiative. Cluster meetings of community HDC representatives
- Design and support to construction and maintenance

**Objective 3:** Kenema district serves as a catalyst for citizen-led rural climate adaptation in the WASH sector influencing national climate adaptation strategies

- Seminar held on National Adaptation Plan
- District level radio campaigns has been launched to inform on the NAP and the District' initiative on climate sensitive WASH planning
- Annual workshop for communities and Kenema district on lessons learned and most significant changes
- Conduct national conference

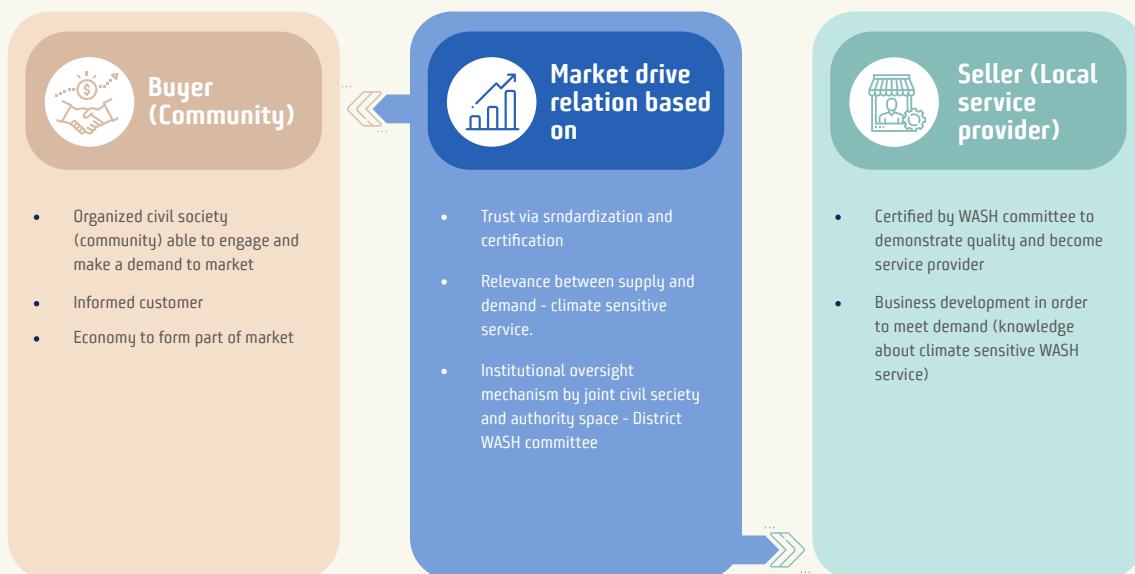


Application of participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance in the Kenema district



Kenema district serves as a catalyst for citizen-led rural climate adaptation in the WASH sector influencing national climate adaptation strategies

**Main strategic actors in a market driven sustainable wash management at community level:** Organized civil society, Quality service provider and oversight mechanism by District level WASH Committee





## Target Beneficiaries

In Kenema district, a total of 610,000 inhabitants will benefit from the project in the long-term due to the knowledge that will be cascaded through specific activities that are targeted at wide spread adoption of climate robust WASH strategies. However, the project is directly targeting critical subsets of the Kenema population.

*The project will directly impact the following:*



350 WASH  
Committee members



50 rural  
communities



30 Ward  
Development  
Committees



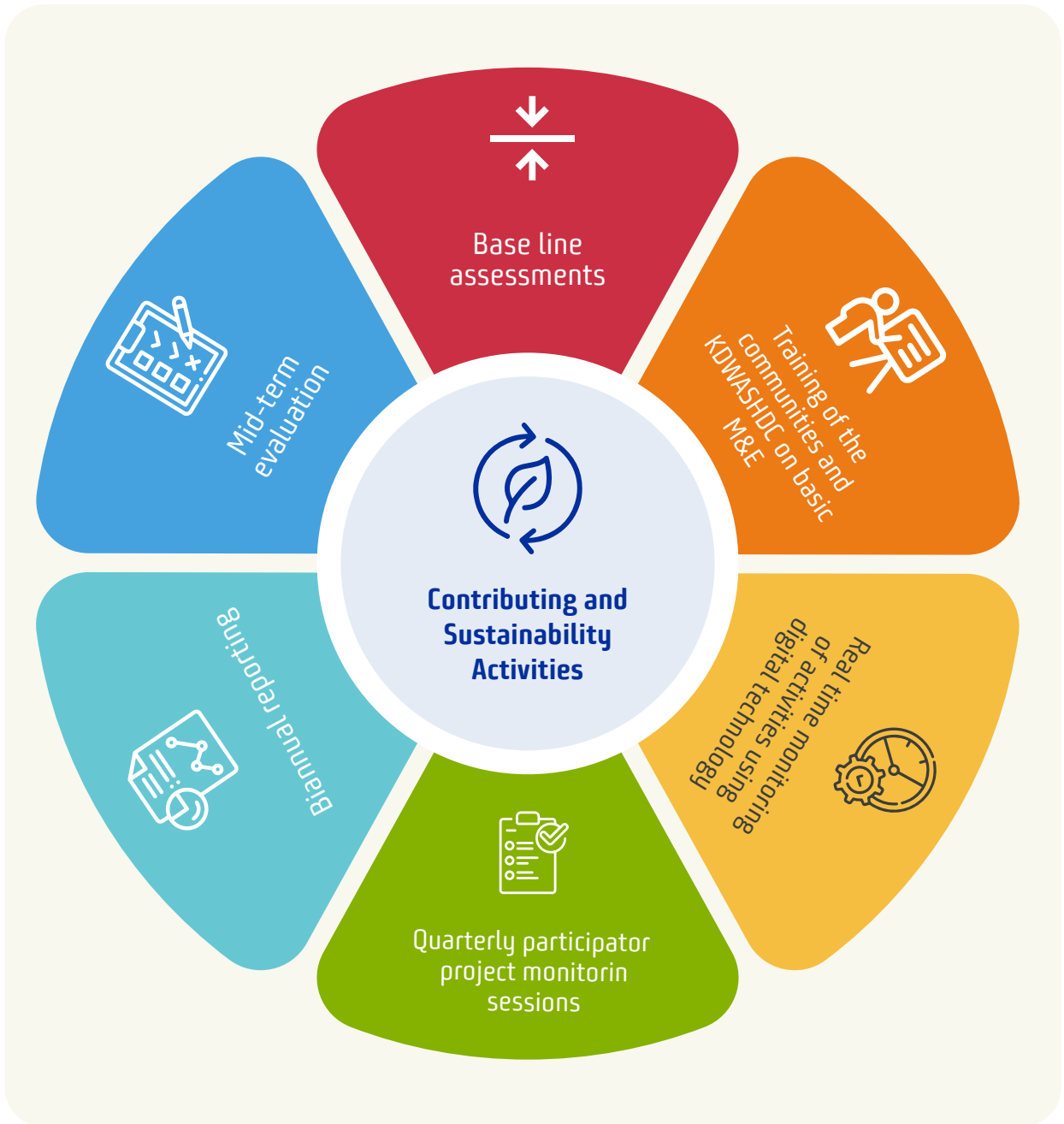
15 members of the  
KDASHC



10 representatives  
of private sector  
actors



20 students and  
teachers of the  
Eastern Technical  
University



## SEND SIERRA LEONE

**SEND SIERRA LEONE** is non-governmental organization with a vision to contribute to a Sierra Leone where people's rights and well-being are guaranteed. SEND Sierra Leone is part of a West African structure with a headquarters in Ghana and offices in Liberia and Sierra Leone where approaches and experiences are shared. SEND Sierra Leone is an independent structure, a local NGO registered in Sierra Leone, which has its own project portfolio and budget separate from Ghana. SEND's portfolio includes community development, WaSH, health, nutrition/agriculture and women's empowerment. Intervention areas are in the districts of Kailahun, Kenema, Kono, Western Areas Urban, and Rural districts and more recently, the district of Bonthe. SEND is one of the other co-partners of this project



## ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-DENMARK

**Engineers Without Borders - Denmark** is a technical humanitarian organization of volunteers that seek to improve the livelihood people living in poverty. We collaborate with local and international aid organisations to create a better future.

Our work covers a wide field: We build schools and health clinics, We provide clean water and improved sanitary conditions, so that fewer children will fall ill or die from cholera or typhoid fever, bad toilet conditions and a lack of clean drinking water.

We are a non-profit organisation financed by contributions from members, and generous donations from private and public donors. Engineers Without Borders have 1.300 members whom support us and about 250 are actively engaged in our work.



## WORLD HOPE INTERNATIONAL SIERRA LEONE (WHI SL)

**World Hope International Sierra Leone** - WHI-SL has been working throughout Sierra Leone since 1997 to address WASH; health and nutrition, education, and early childhood development; agriculture, rural and economic development. Today, WHI-SL employs more than 100 local staff including water engineers, hydrologists, community mobilizers, and other required competences related to WASH. WHI-SL has proven to be a significant national player with a national board in Sierra Leone, strong local networks, and a track record working directly with civil society structures to establish community-based solutions, as well as implementing the required technical solution



**SEND Sierra Leone**

HEAD OFFICE

**8 Morigbeh street**

RESERVATION ROAD, KENEMA

**+232 78 206 853**

[info@sendsierraleone.com](mailto:info@sendsierraleone.com)

