

# University of Bournemouth Research Shapes Sierra Leone's Disaster Management Policy

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**A groundbreaking collaboration between Bournemouth University's Disaster Management Centre and the Sierra Leone government has led to the development of a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for disaster management.**

The AFRICAB project, spearheaded by Professor Lee Miles, has played a crucial role in shaping this new SOP, which was recently approved by the Sierra Leone Cabinet. The SOP will guide the country's response to disasters, ensuring a more coordinated, effective, and resilient approach.

As Professor Lee Miles, Professor of Crisis and Disaster Management and Deputy Dean of the Business School, who led the AFRICAB research, explains, "The new SOP represents a significant step toward strengthening the NDMA's disaster management capabilities and enhancing national resilience against emergencies and major incidents in this highly disaster-prone West African country. This work has major implications for the health and wellbeing of the population."

The SOP builds upon the recommendations outlined in the 2021 AFRICAB project report, which identified key areas for improvement in Sierra Leone's disaster management system. The UK Cabinet Office has recognized AFRICAB as an exemplary model of international best practice in African disaster management.

Sinnehs Mansaray, Director of Relief and Response at the NDMA, emphasized the importance of the collaboration with Bournemouth University. "The SOP will streamline communication and action across various agencies, ensuring a more timely and effective response to disasters," he said. "We are grateful for the support of Bournemouth University and look forward to continued collaboration in the future."

By strengthening its disaster management capabilities, Sierra Leone is taking significant steps towards building a more resilient and sustainable future.