

## **DELIVERING WATER PURIFICATION TRAINING TO MEMBERS OF FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL**



**TRAINING PROVIDED TO 13 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISASTER RESPONSE RESPONSIBILITIES**

In February 2022, RE:ACT Disaster Response sent a small team to Freetown, Sierra Leone to deliver water purification training to members of Freetown City Council. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, RE:ACT had gifted eight water purification units to Concern Worldwide who had placed them in storage and as soon as international travel to Sierra Leone was once again permitted the team were able to complete the water purification training to members of Freetown City Council.

Following flash flooding in August 2019, many affected areas in Freetown became reliant on potable water which was provided and trucked in by a local NGO, funding for which quickly dried up.

Trucking in water is resource intensive and an expensive temporary solution. The provision of water purification equipment that is portable and can be mobilised into the worst affected areas post flooding will provide an immediate emergency supply of clean water for the affected population.

Allowing for the purification of these existing water sources, buys the time required to disinfect key water points and support community cleaning of public spaces once rains stop to prevent water borne disease.



The training by RE:ACT was delivered over a period of three days to thirteen individuals with disaster response responsibilities across the city and focussed on developing a water purification capability to sit within the nascent Freetown City Council Disaster Risk Management Unit.

After two days of training in and around the council offices, the third day was spent putting the theory into practice.



The students were split down into three teams and tasked with identifying a suitable location from which to then produce clean drinking water from the Alligator River in Kroo Bay. This had to be demonstrated using both the Trekker and Nomad units.

Freetown City Council now has an effective capability to provide clean drinking water to the people of the city when local sources are compromised. This will be of particular pertinence during the rainy season which are increasingly longer and of greater intensity than in previous years.

RE:ACT are establishing a relationship with Noah Water Systems for the provision of spare parts and have set up a joint communications group to facilitate information sharing and ongoing advice.