

Musa: a volunteer's story



“I come from Makomba village in the west of Sierra Leone,” says 18-year-old Musa. “When I was a young boy, I loved climbing trees. I usually climbed mango trees in our compound. But when I was 16, I fell from a tree that was over four metres high. After that, my world changed.”

When a Red Cross volunteer gave Musa life-saving first-aid treatment and referred him to hospital, he knew he wanted to help others like he himself had been helped.

“I stayed in hospital for four months and I wasn't able to go to school for a year because I couldn't walk properly. Eventually I was able to get back to my normal life and go to school even though it was a seven-mile walk. I was also able to sit my exams and I passed.

“Now, I work as a teacher at a nursery school for children aged three to six. There is a huge need for education on first aid and health-related issues. This is why I have also become a Red Cross volunteer.

“I do health promotion talks and house-to-house visits for the malaria programme, which encourages people to make sure their children sleep under bed nets – because a lot of children get malaria here, and some of them die.



“There is a need for more training and first aid volunteers in my community so that we always have someone on hand if there is a medical emergency and also to campaign in the community so that health problems like diarrhoea and malaria are prevented.

“A volunteer of the Red Cross saved my life. Now, it is time for me to help others.”