



Sierra Leone Flood and landslide Situation Report No. 5

22 August 2017

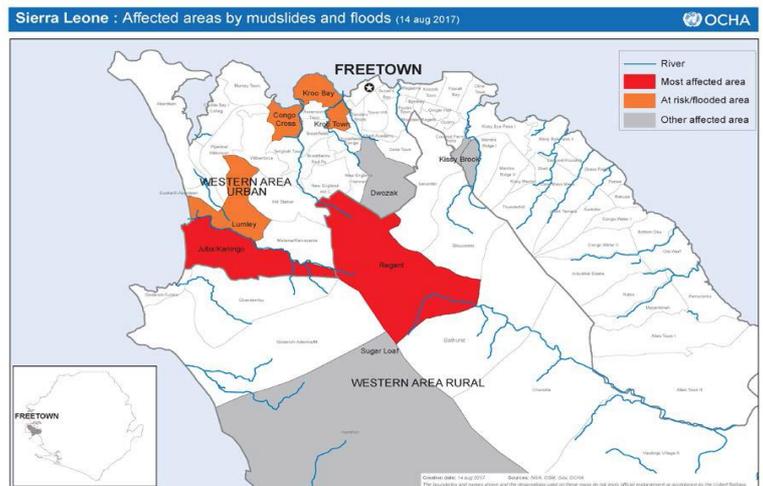


Highlights

The Office of National Security has released disaggregated data on the people affected by the floods and mudslides, the injured and the recovered bodies. Out of 5,905 affected people, 2,607 are children and of the 493 bodies discovered, 157 are children.

Response operations continue despite the heavy rains experienced in Freetown in the past several days. In light of the continuing rains, efforts are also underway to establish preparedness mechanisms in high risk communities.

At the level of UNICEF, operations have been focused on supporting the affected communities in the six locations (Culvert, Dworzak, Kamayamah, Kanikay, Kaningo and Regent) as well supporting the 200 children that have been relocated to the Don Bosco Fambul programme in Freetown.



UNICEF's Response with partners

WASH

- UNICEF continued to support the provision and daily delivery of water to the affected communities (6,000 litres in Regent at the Saio temporary displacement centre, 10,000 litres in Kaningo, 5,000 litres in Pentagon and 5,000 litres in Kamayamah).
- At the Juba Bridge community, UNICEF through its implementing partner WHI completed construction of four concrete basement for water tanks in the community and installation of one 10,000 litre bladder.
- In Pentagon, implementing partner SLSAV installed five handwashing stations and conducted hygiene promotion at the community level, covering 1,155 people (239 males, 233 females, 608 children, 34 pregnant women and 41 lactating women). Distribution of hygiene kits by LWI was also conducted in Regent and Kaningo.
- UNICEF, through its implementing partner ADP-SL continues to support the provision of WASH services at the four hospitals. At the Lumley and Connaught hospitals, concrete basement for the permanent handwashing stations were completed. At PCMH, 18 handwashing stations were installed, cleaning of the wards was completed, as well as disinfection of drainages and mortuary.

Health

- UNICEF delivered emergency medical supplies to the Regent CHC to cater for the increased case load due to the emergency.
- Planning for cholera preparedness is continuing. UNICEF supported the assessment of 12 Cholera Treatment Units located in Western Rural and Urban districts. One cholera kit has been repositioned in Connaught Hospital and the second kit will be delivered tomorrow for repositioning at Regent CHC.

- Responses to comments from review of cholera vaccination campaign application being finalized and to be submitted today.

Child Protection

- UNICEF and Save the Children provided training for 28 Child Friendly Space facilitators on running CFS, including creating a safe environment and engaging with children, as well as a basic nutrition orientation for children in emergencies.
- The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police have agreed to establish Protection Desks in all six affected locations with the support of UNICEF and UNFPA.
- Child Friendly spaces in Pentagon, Regent and Kamayamah are providing children with recreational activities and psychosocial support.

Education

- The education team visited Don Bosco to assess additional needs on ECD, and requirements for training and supplies.
- The education team is also supporting the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology on ensuring readiness of schools being used as temporary displacement centres, in light of school reopening on 11 September.

Nutrition

- UNICEF provided nutrition training to 30 social workers to provide psychosocial support to breastfeeding mothers and screen under five children to identify the severely malnourished children in Child Friendly Spaces.
- In partnership with DFN, WHO and WFP developed a comprehensive monitoring and data collection tool to collect and collate data from all the flood affected sites (number of households who received food, number of lactating mothers who received IYCF counselling, number of infants less than six months, number of children under five who were screened, number of children under five identified as severely malnourished, who received food, and number of children under five identified as moderately malnourished).

Social mobilization

- Peer supervisors engaged through the community health worker emergency response reported the following figures for 21 August: 2,687 households visited, including 1,702 males and 1,145 mothers of children under five. 248 community dialogues were held and 303 stakeholders were also engaged on issues surrounding cholera and malaria prevention.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government of Sierra Leone initiated its emergency response mechanism, under the leadership of the Office of National Security. A command centre was established in the area of Regent, the epicenter of the landslide, to ensure coordination of efforts. At the technical level, pillars have been activated to coordinate the response (child protection, health, logistics, security, social mobilization, food and nutrition, WASH, shelter).

At the level of the United Nations Country Team, the United Nations Resident Coordinator has designated the Country Director and Representative of the World Food Programme as Incident Manager. To support the United Nations response, a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team has been deployed to Sierra Leone. The team will assist with coordination, information management and needs assessment activities. In terms of field coordination, meetings are held at the Office of National Security twice a day and the United Nations Country Team is also meeting daily to ensure coordination at the level of the United Nations.

Humanitarian Strategy

Following the initial operations to rescue survivors and recover the bodies, the response is being implemented on three levels: 1) support to communities affected by the landslide and floods as well as mitigation of resurgence and potential risks; 2) providing support to those in the temporary displacement centres; and 3) mitigating potential risks, such as cholera or any other outbreaks.

To support the response, UNICEF has established a field and mobile team composed of members from all sectors. The UNICEF strategy is focused on the immediate response, prevention (potential disease outbreaks and other emergencies) and recovery.

Human Resources

The Country Office is supporting staff that have been either directly or indirectly affected by the crisis. The Human Resources team, Staff Association, Peer Support Volunteers and counsellors (at the Regional Office and HQ) are on standby to provide assistance to staff. While there is no need for additional staff at the moment, the Regional Office is providing remote support as required. Human Resources will request support from the Regional Office to fast-track the recruitment of the Emergency Officer position.

Funding

The crisis has garnered a lot of media attention and further to the generous contribution from DFID (£2,136,260), other donors have expressed interest in pledging funds to support the response and recovery. Donors have also been flexible in terms of fund utilization to support the response and the Country Office is finalizing a response plan on potential gaps for donor support

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Who to contact for further information:

Hamid El Bashir, Representative
UNICEF Sierra Leone
Tel: +44 2033579278/9 x1001
Mobile : +232 76 100 688
Email: helbashir@unicef.org

Sandra Lattouf, Deputy Representative
UNICEF Sierra Leone
Tel: +44 2033579278/9 x2001
Mobile: +232 76 291 023
Email: slattouf@unicef.org

John James, Communications Specialist
UNICEF Sierra Leone
Tel: + 232 76 601 310
Mobile: +232 76 102 401
Email: jjames@unicef.org

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