



This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Sierra Leone and humanitarian partners. An emergency state was declared by Sierra Leone following floods and landslides that have left over 400 people dead and destroyed thousands of homes on 14 August.

Situation overview

- The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) has been deployed on Friday 18 September for an initial period of three weeks to support the ongoing assessments, coordination and reporting efforts.
- By 19 August, UNFPA will have finalised inventory information on the stock status at the Central Medical Store level. The results of the inventory status will be compared with findings of the rapid assessment to inform procurement of reproductive health commodities
- The Start Fund, designed to fill critical gaps by enabling aid agencies to respond early and fast to emergencies, has approved £355,262 of funding to six NGOs (CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund, Handicap International, Care International and ActionAid) and their partners working on the ground. The selected projects include:
 - the provision of clean water to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases outbreaks such as cholera,
 - psychosocial support provided to people who are injured,
 - cash grants to enable the most vulnerable families to buy what they need,
 - work to prevent further harm and loss and reducing risks in the eventuality of another landslide or further floods.
- IFRC has launched an Emergency Appeal targeting a total of CHF 4,637,689 (US\$ 4,800,000) to support the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) in delivering assistance, over 10 months, to 4,800 people (800 families) affected by the mudslides. The operation will focus on the following areas of interventions: health; shelter and essential non-food items; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); disaster risk reduction (DRR) and restoring family links (RFL).
- ECOWAS President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, accompanied by the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Marcel de Souza, travelled to Freetown on 17 August 2017 to give a US\$ 800,000 financial support to victims of the floods and mudslides.



Freetown, Sierra Leone, 18 August 2017: WFP is distributing two-week food rations to those affected by the floods and mudslides. Credit: United Nations

Response efforts

HEALTH

- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) experts from WHO and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation continued assessments, supervision and provision of guidance on IPC particularly within and around the mortuary at Connaught Hospital where all the bodies were assembled. UNICEF will be providing an additional 50 rubber boots to Connaught Hospital to support the burial pillar.
- Following the removal and burial of the remaining bodies, decontamination exercises targeting the mortuary, ambulances and the rest of the hospital are underway.
- In addition to the four trauma kits procured by WHO, an additional two Disease Diagnostic Kits and one Environmental Health Kit (for water quality assessment) are expected to arrive in country over the weekend.
- WHO with the MoHS are actively monitoring the patients case load at the four first responder hospitals and health facilities in Freetown. Several of the injured and affected persons who were being treated at the hospitals have now been discharged. Furthermore, UNICEF is continuing to provide infection prevention and control materials as well as essential medicines to the four main hospitals in Freetown.
- In terms of cholera preparedness, enhanced surveillance for acute watery diarrhoea is ongoing and WHO has assisted the Ministry of Health in preparing a three-month preparedness and response plan based on the response pillars. Planning for cholera vaccination campaigns is continuing and GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, has launched a funding request.

WASH

- UNICEF, through its implementing partners ADP and GOAL, is supporting the provision of WASH services in health facilities. Work will commence in four hospitals and will be continued in an additional six peripheral health units.
- The rain water harvesting system in the Kaningo temporary displacement centre has been repaired and additional plastic tanks (6,000 litres) are being installed in the Lumley area.
- The construction of temporary gender disaggregated latrines at the temporary displacement centre in the Soio elementary school in Regent has been completed.
- The regular supply of water to the two main temporary displacement centres by the Guma Valley Water Company is continuing.
- Hygiene education is continuing at the two centres as well as in the communities that are within the vicinity of the centres. This will be scaled-up to reach more members of the community who have been directly affected by the flooding in both Kaningo and Regent.



Freetown, Sierra Leone, 18 August 2017: A total of 786 households are due to benefit from the ongoing WFP food distribution. Credit: United Nations

NUTRITION

- UNICEF is working with the Directorate of Food and Nutrition to promote breastfeeding and, as part of cholera prevention, ensure regulation on donation and use of milk substitutes consistent with the Breast-milk Substitutes Code and the Infant and Young Child Feeding in emergencies global policy.
- All outpatient therapeutic programmes in the affected areas are functional. No severe acute malnutrition cases have yet been identified among the affected victims. UNICEF is working with community health workers and mothers support groups to organize malnutrition screening for children, in partnership with Action Contre la Faim and the Government of Sierra Leone.

EDUCATION/CHILD PROTECTION

- UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to ensure schools that are being used as temporary displacement centres will be ready by the start of the new academic year, which has been pushed back to 11 September. UNICEF will also provide supplies to the children who have been affected by the crisis.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and implementing partners, UNICEF is continuing to provide psychosocial support to affected children and identifying child protection concerns.
- UNICEF is coordinating with Save the Children and the Family Homes Movement to establish a safe space for affected children in the Regent area.

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

- 150 community health workers, 100 religious leaders and 150 community leaders will be trained over the next two days in delivering key messages around diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera and malaria prevention, which were developed by UNICEF in coordination with the social mobilization pillar.

Pledges and commitments

- ECOWAS (including WAHO) : US\$ 300,000.
- Togo: US\$ 500,000.
- Spain has pledged 60,000 EUR and deployed a technical team to help with body identification
- UK : US\$5 million
- Mercury International : \$US 55,000
- Africell : \$US 67,000

FOCAL POINTS – SIERRA LEONE EMERGENCY

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