

# Sierra Leone: Landslide and Floods

## Situation Update #8 - 31 August 2017

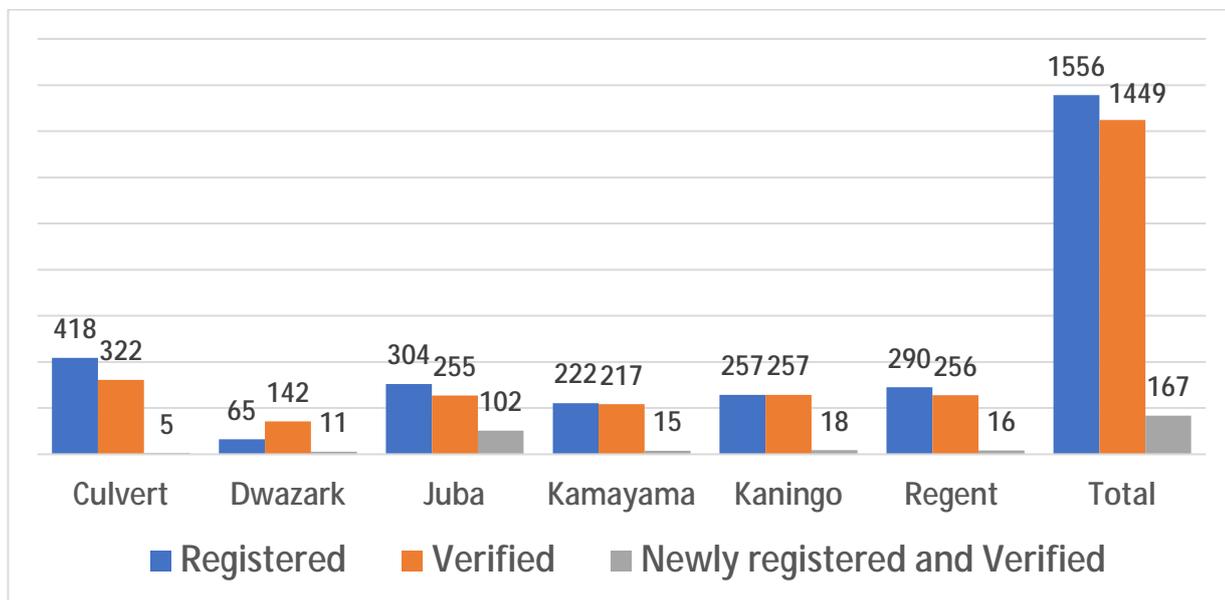


*This update is produced by the UNDAC team in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Sierra Leone, liaising with the Office of National Security and humanitarian partners.*

### Situation overview

Officials in Guinea have confirmed earlier this week that 19 bodies were found at sea and on the shores of Conakry. They are almost certain to be related to the landslide on the 14 August. They have been buried in Conakry in presence of Sierra Leone Embassy staff. The total number of confirmed deaths is slightly above 500 and the number of missing persons at 810 (although many of those are likely to be among the 500 deaths and unidentified).

The most vulnerable areas are still Regent and Kamayama, as directly affected by the landslide. However the focus should also shift to other affected areas such Culvert where standard of shelter for displaced people is very low and this population should be considered as a priority. Those families more recently affected by flash floods in Kroo Bay have not received assistance so far. The voluntary relocation of IDPs has started to Old Skool at Hill station following the verified registry of affected households. Criteria for the relocation include that host family shelter options must be proven as unviable opportunities. Secondly, individuals discharged from hospitals and clinics are also considered a priority.



Number of households registered, verified and newly registered & verified.  
As of 31 August 2017, (93% households verified) – GoSI/NACSA 2017

As of 31 August, 1,616 households (93 percent) have been verified. The results show that a total of 5,951 people reported being affected by the mudslide and floods, of which 969 are children under the age of five and 393 are pregnant and nursing women. Disabled people numbered 60, and persons with chronic illness only amounted to 12. Overall, less than half of the heads of household (42 percent) have returned to their livelihood activity

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following the disaster. Half of affected households would like to be relocated to a rented place in Freetown, over one-quarter (28 percent) would like to reside in a shelter and 12 percent would like to move to a rented place outside of Freetown. Although a significant majority of households do not want to return to their dwelling, the largest number of respondents (3 percent) that expressed desire to return home were located in Regent.

Government officials and partners are also actively preparing for the beginning of the school year. A number of schools need a complete clean up and rehabilitation; several hundreds of school children directly affected by the disaster need uniforms, books and stationary as well as support for school fees.

The World Bank is leading a Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) initiative in cooperation with UNCT, GoSL, Geologist and Engineers and private sector operators. The assessment is looking at Infrastructure, social sectors, productive sectors and cross-cutting issues hereunder environment and risk analysis.

## Response efforts

Old Skool temporary relocation centre is now fully operational and meets SPHERE standards. Homeless people are transferred in small groups from Regent to Old Skool and registration of school children by ONS and NACSA focal points has started.

The cash transfer working group is discussing an integrated payment platform for shelter, food and non-food items, contingent upon case definition. WFP has proposed using SCOPE, a cloud-based digital platform for beneficiary identity and benefit management, to harmonise the cash transfers.

There remains some uncertainty because of Government concerns that affected households given a rental grant would return to live in slums or high risk areas. The cash transfer group has not given up on the initiative, however and agreed to make a case for giving cash to the beneficiaries that would not be presented as cash transfers but as humanitarian aid to enable affected people to meet their basic needs. The issue was discussed a second time at Cabinet on 31 August.

The Office of National Security ONS and NACSA has drafted a strategy to use the traditional channel of Social Protection for cash transfer. They have conducted a survey and approximately 900 households have expressed an interest to receive the support and go to live with relatives and friends, 300 households want to stay in the place where they lived before or reallocate according with a census conducted by NACSA.



A man cleans his house. Olivia Acland, UNDP 2017

Based on collected samples, the contamination of water sources including piped and tanked water is extremely high, requiring high doses of chlorine. Coordinated efforts to distribute chlorine tablets and enhance the use of them is of importance.

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## HEALTH

No confirmed cholera case has been reported so far. With assistance from WHO, the Government of Sierra Leone in collaboration with UNICEF has requested the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) from the ICG Secretariat in Geneva. This would enable the government to start cholera vaccination on September 7, as an additional protective measure to at-risk populations in flooding-affected communities.

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation, in collaboration with WHO team completed a cholera risk assessment and mapping of direct beneficiaries in the 25 affected communities (3 Western Area Rural, 22 Western Area Urban).

WHO is supporting all districts to review and update their cholera preparedness plans. To date, 9 districts have completed the exercise.

WHO has donated laboratory supplies to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation for cholera preparedness and supports the development of job aids on safe specimen collection for acute watery diarrhoea. Training materials, flowcharts and posters on cholera case management have also been updated.

Several trainings have been planned for health workers as part of the response to improve their skills in various aspects including surveillance, case management, infection prevention and control, management of childhood illnesses, laboratory, mental health, among others. The training of the first 20 health workers for cholera case management commenced on August 29<sup>th</sup>, supported by WHO.

Surveillance is still a concern though as the rate of daily reporting from public health centres is low, ranging from 20 to 60 percent in the Western region.

UNICEF supported in-country distribution of drugs and infection prevention and control (IPC) supplies to hospitals, peripheral health units, and IPC and burial teams. GOAL has also supported rehabilitation of 8 health centres.



## FOOD & NUTRITION

Action Against Hunger collected information on daily food requirements from Kainingo & Kamayama, which have been shared with the Food and Nutrition pillar.

A three-day joint rapid assessment and quick response mission by the Government of Sierra Leone (Directorate of Food and Nutrition and Scaling Up Nutrition National Secretariat) together with key United Nations agencies (UNICEF, WHO, WFP) is completed. The assessment was undertaken with implementing partners including Action against Hunger, Development Initiative Programme (DIP) and community health workers (CHWs) to ensure key nutrition services were delivered to the flood-affected areas.

A total of 150 Community health workers, 30 psycho-social counsellors and 30 social mobilisers for all NGO partners working in the affected areas were trained in Community-based IYCF counselling, screening to identify SAM children using MUAC tapes, and monitoring donations of breastmilk substitutes in the flood affected camps.

SOS Children's Villages Sierra Leone Food has distributed food and non-food items to 150 affected households in close collaboration with ONS.

Street Child has distributed water and ready-to-eat food items in Culvert, Juba/Kainingo and Regent to people settled in shelter areas, as well as in communities.

WFP has reached 2,019 households, representing 96 percent of planned figures, with food and nutrition support in eight communities affected by the mudslide and floods. WFP has also provided fortified complementary food

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to 507 children age 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing women residing in shelters in Juba, Kaningo and Regent.

WFP plans to distribute the second two-week family ration to disaster-affected households across the five distribution points of Culvert, Dwazak, Juba, Kamayamah and Kaningo from Wednesday 6 – Thursday 7 September 2017. WFP will work with other agencies to conduct a joint distribution of food and non-food items.

#### CONSTRAINTS

There is a need to fine-tune requisition process. The ONS announced that the leadership of the Food & Nutrition pillar would transfer from the Ministry of Agriculture, to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.



Child Friendly Space. Olivia Acland, UNDP 2017



## WASH

SOS Children's Villages Sierra Leone distributed WASH items to 150 affected households in close collaboration with ONS.

CARE is continuing its support to water trucking in 6 affected communities and will launch with local chiefs a clean-up operation in Culvert next week.

WHO in conjunction with the Environment Health and Sanitation department of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, has deployed 40 Public Health Aides who will be involved in community advocacy and sensitisation as well as providing information on disinfection and waste management.

Street Child has targeted Dwarzak, Culvert, Kamayama, Juba/Kaningo and Regent area with distribution of hygiene items and hygiene promotion to shelter areas (ICC) and amongst communities. GOAL is doing the same with hygiene promotion in about 20 communities in the Western region.

Action Against Hunger installed 8 water tanks (5,000 litres each) with a total of 11 water points for water trucking in Culvert, Water Street Wellington, Bottom Oku Wellington and Pa-Mronkoh Calaba Town. The organisation is trucking 40,000 litres of water per day, reaching 2667 people on a daily basis, as well as distributing aqua tabs to all people who are collecting water. In addition, Action Against Hunger is conducting hygiene promotion in Culvert community Water Street (Wellington), Bottom Oku (Wellington) and Pa-Muronkoh (Calaba Town). So far 1400 people have been reached.

UNICEF in partnership with Catholic Relief Services support the provision and delivery of water to the affected communities. To date a total of 506,000 litres of water have been supplied through water trucking. This includes 293,000 litres in Regent, 128,000 litres in Kaningo and 85,000 litres in Pentagon temporary displacement centres.

Rainwater harvesting systems (RWHS) installed by UNICEF in both Regent, Kaningo and Pentagon are fully functional. An additional rainwater harvesting system has been installed at Old Skool.

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Approximately 5,300 people including day visitors have benefited from sanitation services. Sanitation provision includes construction of trench latrines, repair of existing latrines as well as desludging of mobile latrines deployed at the three temporary displacement centres within the Regent centre. Installation of temporary latrines and bath shelters at the Old Skool holding centre has been completed.

Promotion of handwashing continued in all the temporary displacement centres. Handwashing stations, water and soap were provided.

A total of 61,190 aqua tabs have been distributed for other directly affected but not displaced communities continued in all the three community sites.

IOM provided three distributions of Infection, Prevention and Control supplies to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to support decontamination, cleaning and personal protection for burial teams and hospital staff.

## CONSTRAINTS

Allegedly, there is a general reluctance to use chlorine tablets for water purification, due to the fact it was used to cleanse bodies during the Ebola crisis. WASH pillar outlined logistical challenges in water trucking to hillside areas.

## SHELTER

The new relocation to Old Skool is ongoing. 55 households (172 individuals) out of the planned 100 have moved from Regent as of 31 August. The structures are 90% completed but stronger coordination between response pillars and the site manager (ONS focal point) is required to maximise resources and efficiency..

SOS Children's Villages Sierra Leone Food, non-food items and Wash items to 150 affected Households in close collaboration with ONS.

WFP has set up an Incident Response Centre at Old School and Juba Barracks, the two locations identified for temporary shelters for displaced households.

IOM finalized the fencing for Juba Barrack displacement site and is setting up 33 tents, donated by JICA to the Government of Sierra Leone, while partners are putting up water tanks, latrines and shower facilities. Transfers from Kamayama or Kainingo have not started though.

World Vision International has been responding Kamayama, Wilberforce, Pentagon, Gbangbayila, Juba and Culvert assisting a total of 664 households with NFI packages that holds: includes: Blanket, mattresses, water purification powder, buckets, cups, spoons, towels, water filtration cloth, books, bags, pens and pencils.

IOM distributed Non-Food Items (NFIs) to 127 flood affected households in Dwazark. This is in addition to 40 NFI kits that had been distributed to flood affected households in Wellington.

WFP has erected five mobile storage units at the main logistics base in Port Loko, approximately 45 miles east of Freetown. The mobile storage units will store relief items on behalf of ONS. WFP also dispatched 440 pallets from Freetown and 125 from the Port Loko sub-office to the main logistics base for use by ONS.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross and the IFRC have briefed the shelter pillar and ONS on the possibility of mid-term housing using plywood for those remaining in host families.

## CONSTRAINTS

The shelter area in Culvert and the general standard of assistance received require some attention. Moreover, the IDPs in this location should be considered a high priority in regard to relocation policies.

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## PSYCHOSOCIAL/ PROTECTION/EDUCATION

UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women organized an orientation session for 50 Protection Desk staff from the Family Support Unit (FSU) of the Sierra Leone Police Force and social workers from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA). The orientation was to familiarize the staff on the role of Protection Desks. The purpose of the Protection Desks is to prevent and respond to protection issues such as Gender Based Violence and child abuse. Three Protection Desks are in the process of being established with FSU and MSWGCA's field-level presence in Kanningo, Kamayama, and Regent, and the establishment of an additional Protection Desk in the 'Old Skool' relocation site is underway.

WHO is supporting Mental Health Nurses in all affected areas providing psychosocial first aid to affected people. Trauma and grief are commonly reported among affected populations. Referrals are being provided for more complex cases and WHO is also advising on medicines provision and availability. To date, nearly 1000 people have been reached through this psychosocial support which is also supported by the Red Cross and CARE (In Kanningo).



Mental health counselling. WHO 2017

Through its implementing partner, Family Homes Movement (FHM), UNICEF established four Child Friendly Spaces Regent, Kanningo, Kamayamah, and Pentagon. Since 24 August, 1,387 children have attended the Child Friendly Spaces in the four locations, and 204 children received Psychological First Aid in the same locations. An additional Child Friendly Space as well as a Psychosocial Support tent has been established by FHM in 'Old Skool' with UNICEF providing on-site child protection technical

support. UNICEF has trained 14 FHM social workers, who will facilitate recreational and educational activities for children aged 0-5 in Child Friendly Spaces, on using and managing the Early Child Development Kit and recreation kits.

IRC has provided head stones for those buried in Waterloo cemetery while CARE is

UNICEF and the MSWGCA are looking at reactivating the Family Tracing and Reunification mechanism and collaborating to ensure coordination in identification and response amongst child protection actors working with separated and unaccompanied children.

UNICEF is continuing to support Don Bosco through the provision of essential supplies for 204 children and their mothers who lost their home.

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## EDUCATION

A needs assessment of schools in the affected areas showed that more than forty schools were affected. The assessment was conducted by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) in collaboration with UNICEF to ensure the needs of schools are addressed before schools reopen on 11 September.

Partners from DFID, World Bank, WFP, CRS, World Vision, Save the Children, Street Child, Oxfam/IBIS, CRS, TSC and others attended the meeting. Working groups have started meeting to plan for education interventions.

In preparation for school reopening, UNICEF provided learning materials, exercise books, pencils, sharpeners, rulers and other materials to the MEST Western Urban District Education Office (DEO). The learning materials will benefit more than 400 children affected by mudslides and floods to go back to school. CARE is also planning support to cleaning-up and rehabilitating class rooms in addition to direct back-to-school package for children.

### CONSTRAINTS

A HelpAge International report on disasters and how they affect older persons showed that older people and those with disabilities are at greater risk of injury and harm due to mobility challenges. They are less likely to flee due to hardships associated with travel and a reluctance to leave home, land and possessions.

## COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

BBC Media Action distributed a 'Flooding Response Radio Production & Broadcasting Handbook' to 19 partner radio stations in Western Area. The handbook is designed to support and inform partner stations programming about disease prevention, particularly cholera, and preparedness for flooding.

Plan International social mobilization committee has compiled feedback from survivors of the flood and mudslide. WHO continues to provide supportive supervision and guidance for social mobilization and community engagement activities across all mudslide and flooding-affected areas.

UNICEF sponsored Community Health Workers are continuing to work in and around the displacement sites and affected communities to educate families and caregivers on key behaviours, especially on how to avoid cholera and malaria.

### CONSTRAINTS

The following issues are raised by the public over the media (ONS reporting):

- Public continues to ask when relocation to permanent housing will commence
- Public call for law enforcement on illegal constructions

## Bilateral and Private Sector Support

According to government figures, private sector has donated Leones equalling US \$80,000 to the government of Sierra Leone accounts since August 14, 2017.

- § ECOWAS (including WAHO): 300,000 USD.
- § Ghana 28MT of relief items
- § Togo. 500,000 USD.

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- § Liberia has forwarded 20 vehicles to bring medical and food supplies.
- § Nigeria has donated 315 tonnes of assorted relief materials and one million dollars to Sierra Leone
- § Côte d'Ivoire is sending 1.5 tons of medical supplies.
- § Senegal donated USD\$100,000 to the relief efforts.
- § Morocco has send 66MT (tents, blankets, cholera kits). Transport by Royal Armed Forces.
- § China: US\$1million to the Government of Sierra Leone through its embassy in Freetown. The Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Sierra Leone has donated \$83,000
- § Israel announced it will send medicine, clean water, and blankets via the embassy in Senegal.
- § Spain 60,000 EUR and deployed a technical team to help with body identification
- § UK: 5 million GBP
- § EU: 300,000 EUR for vulnerable families affected by disaster (through local and international partners)
- § Ireland: 400,000 EUR for International NGOs
- § Mercury International: 55,000 USD
- § United Bank of Africa CEO donated 500,00 USD to Sierra Leone
- § Africell: 67,000 USD.
- § Red Cross appeal 4.8m USD asked.
- § Switzerland has pledged 400 000 CHF to IFCR Appeal (WASH, primary health).
- § Qatar has sent cargo with medical and surgical supplies.
- § Germany supported the victims of the landslide with ca. 90.000 € through Deutsche Welthungerhilfe Freetown (Purchase and Distribution of Mattresses and Blankets, Food packages). Germany has also pledged 135.000 € to Caritas International (Purchase and Distribution of Food, Clothes and to give psycho-social support).
- § The Netherlands has donated in total EUR 580,000 to the International Red Cross Society for their relief efforts in Sierra Leone.
- § Turkish Red Crescent deployed to delegates to Freetown, Sierra Leone via an air freighter containing; 2.5 tons of wheat flour, 2.5 tons of pasta, 2.5 tons of rice, 100 tents, 100 kitchen kits, 12,300 razor blades and 1 ton of liquid soap. The relief materials were received by the Sierra Leone Red Cross along with a 15,000.00 USD cash in additional support.
- § UK has dispatched a team from the British Geological Survey (BGS) and ARUP that is assessing the risk of further landslides in the already-affected zone.
- § Spanish Police Forensic team sent to help on identification of victims is terminated.
- § Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund has funded Care Canada with \$275,000.
- § South Africa has donated US\$615,000 to WFP Sierra Leone.
- § IOM has deployed a team of emergency managers to provide technical support to the GoSL.
- § The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) has approved an emergency assistance and support emergency operations. The grant will be channelled through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

## More information and tools

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Link to online Who does What Where When (4W) tool:

<https://goo.gl/forms/FCtCQiznjaNmDgmH3>

Link to situation and operations maps and reports:

<http://reliefweb.int/disaster/ms-2017-000109-sle>

<https://maps.mapaction.org/event/sierra-leone-landslides>

**NEXT SITUATION UPDATE ON 04 SEPTEMBER. DEADLINE FOR INPUTS 04 SEPTEMBER  
14:00 HRS**

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