



Installation of household rain water harvesting systems in hard to reach affected communities.
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Sierra Leone

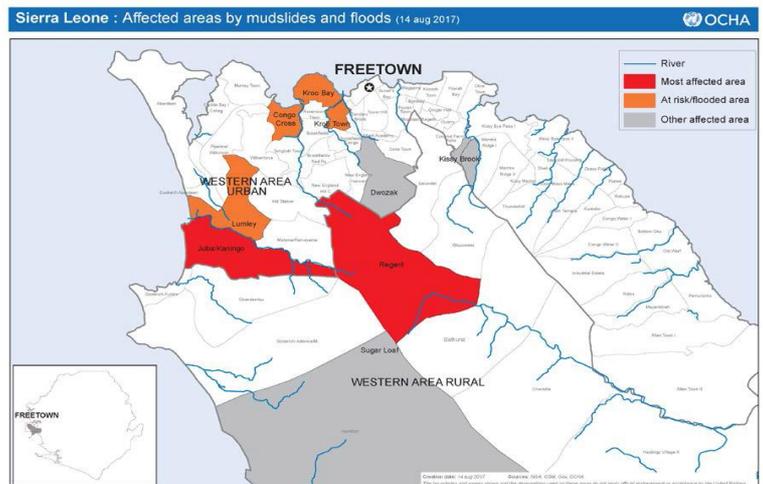
Flood and landslide Situation Report No. 10

21 September 2017



Highlights

- With the completion of the rapid damage and loss assessment, UNICEF is now focusing efforts on operationalization of the recovery strategy. As part of the recovery, the installation of household rain water harvesting systems (RWHS) continued. It is expected to benefit 2,700 households with a complete safe water package. A total of 313 RWHS have been installed (22 in Kamayama, 42 at Jah Kingdom, 24 in Pentagon, 45 in Gbamgbayila, 80 in Kaningo and 100 in Regent).
- As part of the recovery, the operationalization of the humanitarian cash transfer programme, led by the Government of Sierra Leone and funded by UK Aid, continued during the reporting period. As of 21 September, 1,541 households have been registered for the programme and 420 households have received the first tranche of US\$120.
- A total of 463,884 persons were vaccinated with cholera vaccines in the first five days of the vaccination campaign, representing 89.5 per cent of the target population for the vaccination.
- UNICEF is continuing to support the affected communities in the shelters and neighbouring communities through supply of WASH services, as well as supporting affected children, including provision of psychosocial support, identification of child protection concern and referral to support. In addition, UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) to ensure that affected children continue their learning and with the assessment and rehabilitation of affected schools.



UNICEF's Response with partners

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

WASH support to communities (who are directly affected) in the most affected locations

- UNICEF, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services, continued to support the daily provision and delivery of water to the affected communities at the holding centres. To date, 899,200 litres of water have been supplied through water trucking (350,200 litres in Regent, 169,000 litres in Kaningo, 95,000 litres in Pentagon and 285,000 litres in Old Skool), benefiting approximately 6,500 people (including day visitors).
- UNICEF continued to provide sanitation services at the four temporary displacement centres in Regent, Old Skool, Kaningo and Pentagon, benefitting approximately 7,300 people (including day visitors).
- Promotion of handwashing continued in the temporary displacement centres, through the provision of handwashing stations, water and soap, as well as hygiene education to communities at the temporary displacement centres and neighbouring communities. Hygiene education focused on proper handwashing and prevention of diarrheal diseases in children. To date, over 51,858 people have received hygiene education including 7,419 in Regent, 3,541 in Kaningo, 6,059 in Pentagon, 1,706 in Old Skool, 1,008 in Kamayama, 492 in Gbamgbayila, 472 in Jah Kingdom, and 31,161 people in

communities around Connaught (8,773), 34 Military (8,364), PCMH/Ola During (10,193) and Lumley hospitals (3,468) and Kaningo CHC (363).

WASH support to communities in Western Area

- Installation of household rain water harvesting systems (RWHS) has been scaled up in Regent, Kaningo and Pentagon, Kamayama Jah Kingdom, Gbamgbayila. A total of 313 household RWHS have been installed (22 in Kamayama, 42 at Jah Kingdom, 24 in Pentagon, 45 in Gbamgbayila, 80 in Kaningo and 100 in Regent).
- Distribution of Aquatabs continued alongside installation of RWHS. Since the beginning of the response, 261,021 Aquatabs have been distributed to 5,220 households or 36,540 people who were directly affected by the floods and the landslide [83,750 (1,675 households) in Kaningo, 16,750 in Regent (275 households), 145,821 (2,916 households) in Pentagon and 17,700 (354 households) Kamayama, Gbamgbayila and Jah Kingdom]. The distribution was accompanied by hygiene education on effective use of the Aquatabs and safe water chain.
- A geophysics survey for the drilling of one borehole at Kaningo CHP was completed. Drilling is scheduled to commence shortly.

WASH infection prevention and control support in health facilities (hospitals and participating peripheral health units)

- UNICEF through its partner Action for Development Programme Sierra Leone (ADP-SL) has so far reached 40,880 persons comprising of both patients as well as visiting relatives with hygiene education aimed at infection prevention and control. These include 10,918 persons at PCMH, 5,300 at Lumley, 13,357 at Connaught, 10,193 at Ola During and 1,112 at Kaningo CHC.
- Provision of disinfection and self-protection materials to all the five health facilities continued with the distribution of soap and chlorox to all the facilities.

Health

Cholera outbreak preparedness and case management

- A total of 463,884 persons were vaccinated with cholera vaccines in the first five days of the vaccination campaign, representing 89.5 per cent of the target population for the vaccination. UNICEF continues to support the vaccination campaign to ensure pockets of missed targets are reached.
- UNICEF supplied 1,000 boxes of 100 gloves to the Directorate of Drugs and Medical Supplies for the composition of additional cholera kits for to be prepositioned in cholera treatment unit and centers.

Distribution of medical supplies

- UNICEF supplied one box of 200 microcuvettes (used to screen anemia in pregnant and lactating women) to the Old Skool shelter.

Child Protection

Child friendly spaces and psychological first aid

- Since 24 August, 6,372 children have attended the child friendly spaces in the six locations (Regent, Kaningo, Kamayama, Pentagon, Old Skool, and Juba Barracks), and 443 children received psychological first aid in the same locations.
- From 14 to 16 September, implementing partner Family Homes Movement held a training on psychological first aid for 92 community members and NGO staff in Regent/Old Skool, Kamayama/Pentagon, and Kaningo/Juba.

Education

School Opening

- To support children in shelters, UNICEF, with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) and implementing partner Save the Children established three temporary learning spaces (TLS) at the shelters for over 150 children.
- UNICEF is also supporting MEST to rehabilitate a selected number of schools damaged by the landslide and floods. An assessment is underway to determine costs for the rehabilitation of these schools.

Back to School Social Mobilisation

- With support from the UNICEF Communication for Development, social mobilization efforts around key education messages continued through 500 community health workers (CHWs) using community awareness cards. During the reporting period, 122 community dialogues on education related messages, were held around affected schools. The dialogues focused on provision of teaching learning materials, psychological and emotional support to children and teachers across the affected communities.
- Radio announcements and radio jingles are ongoing during the peak and off peak time. A message guide on school safety messages for children going back to school is currently being developed.

Nutrition

DHMT/DFN monitoring and data collection: CHWs conducts household visits and screening (IYCF, SAM, and cholera) through Rapid Pro mobile platform

- Reports from RapidPro by CHWs working in emergency areas revealed that 1,664 children under-five years of age were screened from 14 to 18 September.
- Out of the 1,664 children screened, five had severe acute malnutrition (0.3 per cent), and 33 (2 per cent) had moderate acute malnutrition.
- All five children identified with severe acute malnutrition and 33 children with moderate acute malnutrition were referred to the nearest outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) sites for further assessment.
- All mothers/caregivers of children with severe and moderate acute malnutrition were counselled on optimal infant and young child feeding and caring practices. There was no reported case of breastmilk substitute donation in the flood affected areas.

Social mobilization

- CHWs 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. Peer supervisors engaged for the emergency response reported the following figures for 14 to 20 September (daily reporting via RapidPro): 21,557 households visited, 17,439 males and 11,299 mothers of under-five sensitized, 1,762 community dialogues held, and 2,072 stakeholders engaged.

Cash transfers

- With funding received from UK Aid, UNICEF and partners (WFP, the National Commission for Social Action, the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone, Restless Development, Airtel, the Red Cross, as well as religious leaders) continued to support the registration of households in the humanitarian cash transfer programme.
- As of 21 September, 1,541 households (518 in Culvert, 110 in Dwarzark, 339 in Juba/Lumley, 234 in Kamayama, 254 in Kaningo and 86 in Regent) have been enrolled in the programme.
- As of 20 September, 420 households have received the first tranche of the cash transfer of US\$120 through the money transfer operator Airtel Money.
- To ensure accountability to affected populations, a grievance reporting mechanism has been established, with a dedicated help desk and phone line, in each of the affected community.
- Dissemination of key messages among affected population (on project cycle, eligibility, and the grievance reporting mechanism) will continue for the next three months, under the leadership of the communications pillar.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

Immediately following the landslide and floods, 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 Regent, the epicenter of the landslide, to ensure coordination of efforts. At the technical level, pillars were 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 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 (UNDAC) was deployed to Sierra Leone. The team assisted response teams with coordination, information management and needs assessment activities. The UNDAC team have now completed their work. In terms of field coordination, meetings are now held at the Office of National Security three times a week and the United Nations Country Team is also meeting regularly 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 established a field and mobile team composed of members from all sectors. The UNICEF strategy was 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. The national Emergency Officer joined on 13 September and UNICEF operations are being supported by an Emergency Coordinator that has been deployed from the Regional Office to support UNICEF efforts on the ground.

Funding

The crisis has garnered a lot of media attention and further to the generous contribution from UK Aid (with an initial funding of £2,136,260 and an additional contribution of UK£ £974,492 for the humanitarian cash transfer programme), 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.

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