



Sierra Leone

Flood and landslide Situation Report No. 9

14 September 2017



Highlights

UNICEF and partners continue their efforts to support the recovery of victims in this second phase of the response.

The registration of affected households for the operationalization of the humanitarian cash transfer programme funded by UK Aid, is now underway in collaboration with various partners (the National Commission for Social Action, the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone, Restless Development, Airtel, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Red Cross, as well as religious leaders). As of 14 September, 776 households have been enrolled in the humanitarian cash transfer programme.

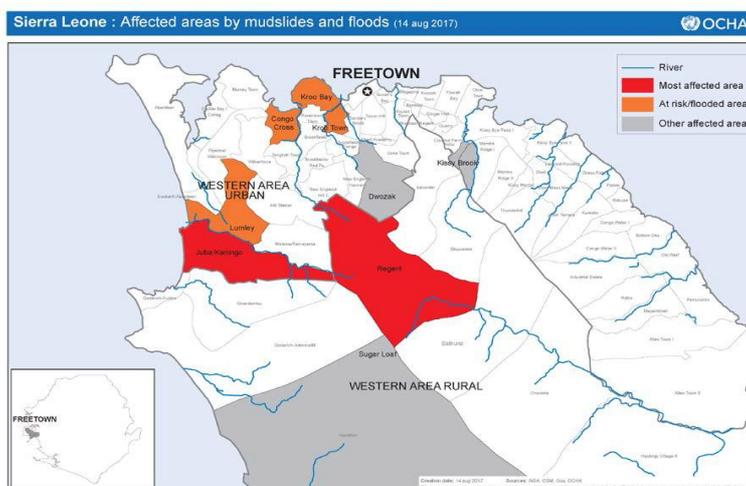
In the meantime, UNICEF is continuing to support the affected communities (at the temporary displacement centres in Regent, Kaningo and Pentagon and those that have been relocated to the Old Skool and Juba barracks shelters) through supply of WASH services, as well as supporting affected children, including provision of psychosocial support, identification of child protection concern and referral to support. In addition, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) to set-up temporary learning spaces (TLS) at the shelters to ensure that affected children continue their learning.

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 temporary displacement centres. To date, 787,000 litres of water have been supplied through water trucking (317,000 litres in Regent, 150,000 litres in Kaningo, 95,000 litres in Pentagon and 225,000 litres in Old Skool), benefiting approximately 5,900 people (including day visitors).
- UNICEF continued to provide sanitation services at the three temporary displacement centres in Regent, Kaningo and Pentagon, benefitting approximately 6,800 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 19,891 people received hygiene education including 7,169 in Regent, 3,356 in Kaningo, 5,582 in Pentagon, 1,274 in Old Skool, 600 in Kamayama and 1,910 for communities around Connaught, 34 Military, PCMH and Lumley hospitals.



WASH support to communities in Western Area

- Installation of household rain water harvesting systems (RWHS) has started in the three locations of Regent, Kaningo and Pentagon/Kamayama. The training of 10 installation teams per location has been completed in all the three areas. A total of 35 RWHS have been installed. Installations will be scaled up going forward.
- The distribution of Aquatabs is now tied to the RWHS installation. Each household is getting 50 tabs, until the arrival of the Aquatabs consignment when the balance of 300 tabs per household will be distributed to households already covered by the RWHS package. In total, each household will get 350 tabs covering a period of three months. Since the beginning of the response, 109,800 Aquatabs have been distributed to 15,456 people who were directly affected by the floods and landslide [79,750 Aquatabs in Kaningo (1,595 households), 13,250 in Regent (265 households) and 16,800 in Pentagon/Kamayama respectively (336 households)]. The distribution is accompanied by hygiene education on effective use of the Aquatabs and safe water chain.

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

- UNICEF through its partner Action for Development (ADP-SL) has so far reached a total of 9,719 persons comprising of both patients as well as visiting relatives with hygiene education aimed at infection prevention and control. These includes 2,554 persons at PCMH, 1832 at Lumley, 4,584 at Connaught and 749 at Kaningo CHC.
- Provision of disinfection and self-protection materials to health facilities continued. Nine packs of soap and gloves were provided at PCMH, one pack at Lumley, six packs at Connaught and three packs at Kaningo.
- Installation of permanent communal handwashing stations also continued with five being installed at Connaught, two at PCMH and two at Lumley hospitals. The permanent handwashing stations at Kaningo are under construction.

Pillar coordination

- UNICEF continued to support the WASH pillar coordination with joint monitoring of ongoing response activities, conduct of regular coordination meetings, and technical advisory support.

Health*Cholera outbreak preparedness and case management*

- UNICEF provided technical input into the completion of trainings for various levels of personnel involved in the Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign including 61 national and zonal supervisors, 225 district supervisors and 30 independent monitors. Training for 2,901 vaccinators and other team members will be completed on 14 September.
- UNICEF supported the development of the vaccine distribution plan. The distribution of the vaccine from the central level to the peripheral health units is scheduled for 14 September.

Child Protection*Child friendly spaces and psychological first aid*

- Since 24 August, 4,542 children have attended the child friendly spaces in the five locations (Regent, Kaningo, Kamayama, Pentagon, and Old Skool), and 343 children received psychological first aid in the same locations. Implementing partner Family Homes Movement has established an additional child friendly space in Juba Barracks with UNICEF providing on-site child protection technical support; activities are to begin once necessary supplies are installed.

Protection desks

- Eight protection desks were established with Family Support Unit and Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) for field-level presence in Regent, Kaningo, Kamayama, Pentagon, Dwarzark, Culvert, Old Skool, and Juba Barracks.

Education*School Opening*

- Schools reopened on 11 September. To support children in shelters, UNICEF is working with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) and implementing partner Save the Children to set-up temporary learning spaces (TLS) at the shelters. UNICEF provided 15 tents and 15 school-in-a-box (benefiting 40 teachers and 600 students), composed of educational supplies and materials, to support learning of affected children living in the shelters. As part of the recovery, UNICEF will work with MEST to ensure that these children are quickly reintegrated back into regular schools.

- UNICEF is also working with MEST and the Psychosocial Support Pillar to train teachers on basic psychosocial support, with a view to supporting affected students with psychosocial counselling and related services. The training will target 3,846 teachers in all the 1,923 schools in both Western Urban and Western Rural districts.
- UNICEF also provided 7,758 boxes of chalk for distribution to all the schools in the Western Urban and Rural schools. This is in addition to learning materials (exercise books, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners) provided for 2,500 affected children.

Back to School Social Mobilisation

- With support from the UNICEF Communication for Development, about 500 community health workers were oriented on the key education messages. These include mobilisers supported by the German development agency GIZ, MOHS and Action Aid. CHWs were provided with the education specific awareness cards on going back to school. These community cards are being used to create awareness and mobilize populations and communities to send their children back to school.
- To date, 265 community conversations have been held focusing on education related messages around affected schools, teaching learning materials, psychological and emotional support to children and teachers.
- With support from C4D, 150 community leaders have been oriented on the education key messages, widely disseminating the messages through community meetings, local radio and megaphones.
- Radio announcements and radio jingles on back to school are ongoing during the peak and off-peak time.

Nutrition

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

- Peer supervisors in Western Area were re-oriented on reporting nutrition data through RapidPro on 9 September 2017. Common data quality issues encountered were discussed, and potential solutions on how to address data quality issues were deliberated.
- Report from RapidPro by CHWs working in emergency areas revealed that 1,280 children under-five years of age were screened from 4 to 13 September.
- Out of the 1,280 children screened, 38 had severe acute malnutrition (3 per cent), and three (0.2 per cent) had moderate acute malnutrition. There were some data quality issues observed with reports received from CHWs from 4 to 10 September 2017. To address these issues, implementing NGO partners were informed to investigate on the techniques applied by CHWs when taking mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurements, and review the screening tally sheets.
- All children identified with severe acute malnutrition and three 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 and caring practices. There was no reported case of breastmilk substitute donation in the flood affected areas.

Social mobilization

- Each day during the reporting period, over 2,200 males, 1,300 mothers of under-five and 120 community leaders were engaged on key messaging priorities across health, nutrition, WASH, child protection and education sectors through household visits (an average of 2,356 visits per day) by 150 CHWs and over 170 small community dialogues held daily.
- An additional 500 CHWs supported by GIZ were oriented to undertake similar health promotion interventions in areas beyond the affected communities. In addition to these, over 50 peer supervisors of CHWs, 100 teachers and 150 community leaders were oriented on updated messaging covering malaria, cholera, hygiene practices and support for back to school.

Cash transfers

- With the support of DFID, 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) households are being enrolled in the humanitarian cash transfer programme, funded by UK Aid.
- A total of 776 households were enrolled to receive the cash transfers from 12 to 14 September in Old Skool, Regent and Dwarzark, Kamayama and Juba. The registration of remaining sites (Culvert and Kainingo) will be continued on 15 September.
- As previously reported, the Government has approved US\$120 as an immediate unconditional transfer of cash and two subsequent instalments of US\$30, each in October and November to support nearly 2,000 households. These instalments will be supplemented by an additional transfer from WFP, which is estimated as the food needs of the household per month. These transfers will be given to registered households irrespective of their family size. Additionally, a one-off conditional recovery aid cash transfer will be provided as soon as possible to the households who wish to voluntarily settle outside the camp.

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 the area of 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 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. 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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