

# Sierra Leone: Landslide and Floods

## Situation Update #7 - 29 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

New flooding appeared on the night between Saturday and Sunday 26/27 August in downtown Freetown, and has flooded a health centre, the bridge and a school at Kroo Bay. One person is reported dead and two injured. The WHO team has assessed the damage to Kroo Bay Health Facility where flooding waters destroyed health records, drugs and supplies, mosquito net stock piles and medical equipment. WHO and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation is working to meet immediate health needs in the community including replenishment of supplies and redirection of services. Mental health nurses provide psychosocial support including trauma counselling and referrals in all affected areas. Enhanced surveillance is ongoing for key priority diseases.

Two temporary sites have been set up to relocate the most vulnerable people affected by landslide and flash floods; Old Skool at Hill Station has a planned capacity of 100? households, and Juba Barracks a facility to house at least 50 households by tents. The numbers may alter after the end of the verification process.



*Juba Barracks family tents. Ruth Arthur, OCHA 2017*

The verification of registered affected persons led by Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs took place on 26-27-28 August with support from several humanitarian partners. A total of 1,424 households were verified and/or newly registered bringing the total of directly affected people to 5,962 including 904 children under 5 years and 113 pregnant women. The verification process also included questions on the impact of the disaster. 78% of households reported the death of family member in Regent community (compared to 2% in Juba for instance). 47% had their house destroyed and 89% are eager to be relocated, mainly to a rented place in Freetown (49%) or a shelter/site (27%).

A cash transfer programme with two proposed packages (for those in sites and for those willing to rent or in host families) was presented to partners at the ONS meeting on 28 August. However, the Cabinet asked ONS and partners to consider also other options and to include cash transfers in a more comprehensive programme aiming at longer term solutions.

A survey done by the Ministry of Water Resources and Care International in greater Freetown flooded communities, shows that there is an alarming contamination of faecal coliforms in water sources and actively

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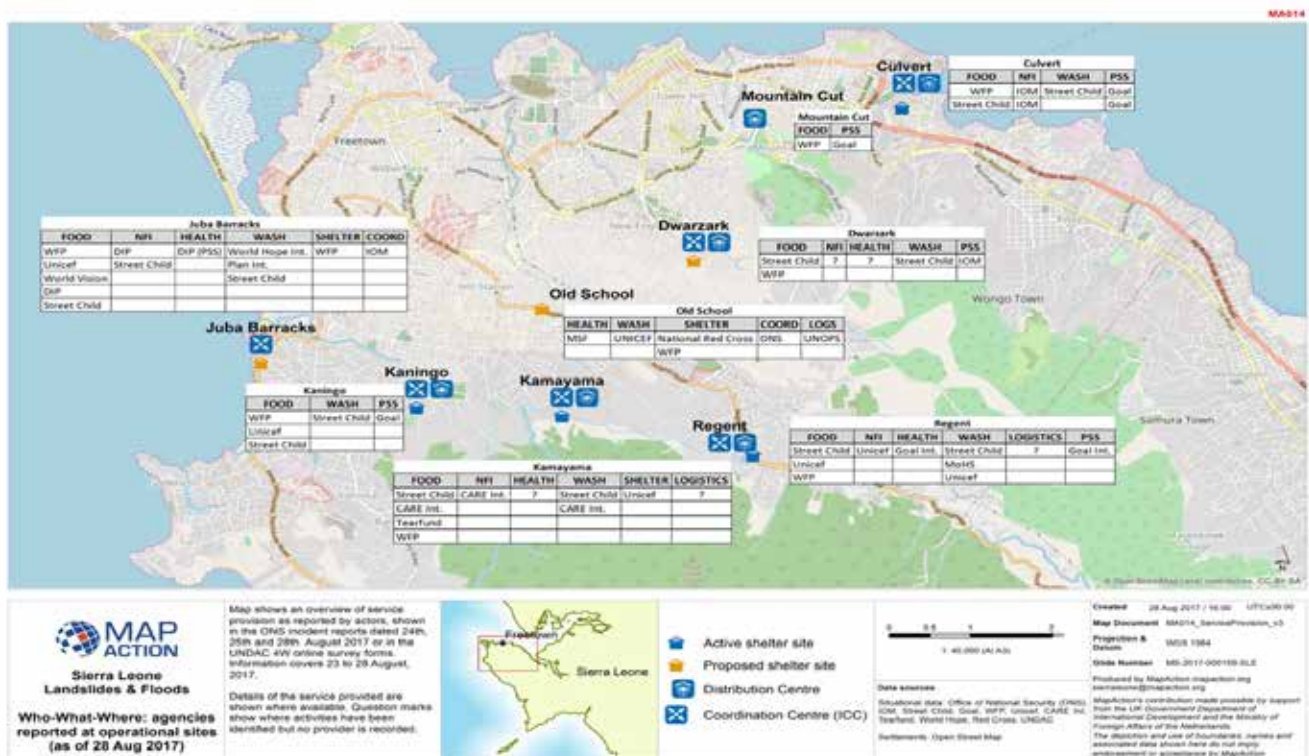
used community wells. Thus, the risk of disease outbreaks remains high due to the seasonal flooding of wells and latrines, proliferation of mosquitoes, and overcrowded and suboptimal living conditions. WHO is supporting local authorities to heighten surveillance and preparedness for malaria, waterborne diseases and other potential outbreaks.

## Response efforts

WFP food distributions have been completed for the first round. WFP will start the second food distribution on 4 September.

UNDP is supporting the World Bank implementation of a damage and loss assessment (DALA). WHO is revising the findings of the first MIRA done on 15 August, and will conduct a complementary health survey during the coming week. UNICEF is currently doing a WASH assessment.

The UNDAC team supporting ONS and the humanitarian partners has designed an online tool for the 4Ws survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/FctCOiznjaNmDgmH3>



The private sector is actively engaged in supporting the response, at field level and national (a member of Chamber of Commerce taking part in the ONS meetings). Support of the private sector for excavating at Regent and for preparing the ground for the site at Old Skool was particularly appreciated.

## HEALTH

UNFPA transported 55 pregnant women from Pentagon, Kaningo, Regent, Kamayama and Dwazark communities to the Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone Sexual Reproductive Health Clinic for routine antenatal checks and services.

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WHO is supporting MoHS to enhance surveillance for waterborne diseases and is promoting hygiene in shelters.

UNICEF supports WASH infection prevention and control continued in all the four hospitals in Freetown. Water, soap and disinfectants were provided in all critical areas in these hospitals. Health education focusing on diarrhoea prevention was carried out in and around the hospitals. A total of 1,454 participated in the trainings. These included 571 children, 452 women and 422 men.

## CONSTRAINTS

Community water sources are flooded and contaminated in particular in Kamayama and Kaningo communities. For more details see under WASH.

## FOOD & NUTRITION

A 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) was completed on 25 August 2017, with five affected areas visited. Eight nutrition professionals, and five nutrition student volunteers assessed the availability of nutrition services in affected sites, and worked closely with implementing partners like Action Against Hunger, Development Initiative Programme (DIP) and community health workers (CHWs) to ensure key nutrition services were delivered to the flood affected areas.

Action Against Hunger is supporting Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Kaningo, Kamayama and Culvert to conduct community screening and referral.

WFP is currently engaged in providing storage and transportation of arriving relief goods. The second round of WFP food distribution will initiate 4 September.

Street Child of Sierra Leone has distributed the following numbers of food packages in shelter areas:

	Regent	Kaningo	Kamayama	Culvert	Dworzack	Juba
Total	9728	8205	10738	6458	2017	827

Plan International has targeted 100 households (700 individuals) with food distribution in Regent and Kaningo.

## CONSTRAINTS

The food and nutrition pillar should refine the coordination process and make sure that base line data is all inclusive.

## WASH

UNICEF in partnership with CRS support the provision and delivery of water to the affected communities. To date, a total of 441,000 litres of water have been supplied through water trucking. This includes 253,000 litres in Regent, 108,000 litres in Kaningo and 70,000 litres in Pentagon.

Rain water harvesting systems (RWHSs) installed by UNICEF in both Regent, Kaningo and Pentagon. In total the RWHSs in the three centres have been able to harvest over 100,000 litres so far.

UNICEF provide sanitation services at the three holding centres. A total of about 5,000 people including day visitors have benefited from this service directly. Sanitation provision includes construction of trench latrines,

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repair of existing latrines as well as desludging of mobile latrines deployed at the three new holding sites within the Regent centre.

UNICEF's promotion of handwashing continued in all the main holding areas. Handwashing stations, water and soap were provided. Hygiene education was provided to communities residing in all the holding areas as well as immediate communities in the three locations.

A total of 41,190 aqua tabs have been distributed for other directly affected but not displaced communities. This includes 29,500 aquatabs, 5,330 aquatabs and 6,360 aquatabs distributed in Kaningo, regent and Pentagon/Kamayama respectively.

UNICEF supports the WASH pillar to conduct joint monitoring of ongoing response activities.

Oxfam is setting up water and sanitation facilities at Juba Barracks IDP relocation site.

## CONSTRAINTS

A survey done by The Ministry of Water Resources and Care International in greater Freetown flooded communities, shows that there is an alarming contamination of faecal coliforms in water sources and actively used community wells. Moreover, there is a lack of residual chlorine.

## SHELTER

IOM is setting up of 50 tents at Juba Barracks and setting up of tents for 250 individuals at Old Skool relocation site. IOM has also provided NFI items at Dwarzak to 127 households and is supporting ONS and the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) in conducting an IDP assessment.



*Old Skool relocation site. Ruth Arthur, OCHA 2017*

WFP has supported setting up Incident Coordination Centres at the two relocation sites at Juba Barracks and Old Skool at Hill Station.

UNDP is engaging 600 youth in affected communities to clear debris to minimize risk of future flooding (Kaningo, Wellington, Kanikay, Kissi Brook, Culvert and Mountain Cut). Cash for Work activities expected to commence next week UNDP will also provide small grants 'enterprise recovery'. The targeted groups are mainly women.

## CONSTRAINTS

Preparation for shelters at the relocation centres at Juba Barracks and Old Skool are taking more time than initially planned. Furthermore, the ONS is reporting that shelters lack water purification and hygiene equipment.

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## PSYCHOSOCIAL/ PROTECTION/EDUCATION

Government figures indicate that a total of 238 persons have received psychosocial support in Culvert, Juba and Kanningo.

UNFPA hosted an orientation session for 54 officers, social workers and partners operating the six protection desks in the affected communities. Sessions were facilitated by UNFPA; the Director of Gender, MSWGCA; the Coordinator of the Family Support Unit, Western Region; UNICEF and UNWOMEN. The sessions focused on prevention and response to GBV in the context of a humanitarian crisis, child protection and the specific terms of reference for the operation of the protection desks.

UN Women has completed first round distribution of dignity kits (904 women in Wellington, Culvert, Pentagon, Kamayama). Furthermore, the agency is supporting the Ministry of Social Welfare emergency response training and is fast-tracking training on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

Plan International has set up Child friendly spaces at the two relocation centres at Juba Bararcks and Old Skool.

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). Three Protections Desks have been established with FSU and MSWGCA's field-level presence in Kanningo, Kamayamah, and Regent, and the establishment of an additional Protection Desk in the 'Old Skool' relocation site is underway.



*Child Friendly Space. UNICEF 2017*

UNICEF NGO implementing partner Family Homes Movement (FHM) has established four Child Friendly Spaces, with the support of UNICEF. 211 children have attended the Child Friendly Spaces in Kanningo,

Kamayamah, and Pentagon, and 31 children received Psychological First Aid in the same locations. An additional Child Friendly Space as well as a Psychosocial Support tent was established by FHM in 'Old Skool' with UNICEF's on-site child protection technical support in identifying a suitable location.

Plan International has established a child protection desk in Juba Barracks.

### 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.

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## ● COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

WFP has established a short-numbered hotline '7373', operating 24/7.

Trocaire is facilitating information flow to and from communities Dwarzak, Culvert and Juba through community outreach and the ONS information kiosks, when they are up and running.

UNICEF has conducted an orientation for 18 partners involved in social mobilization and community engagement on key messaging priorities cross health, nutrition, WASH, Child Protection and education sectors with special emphasis put on further intensifying cholera and malaria messages at the community level.

Since 18 August, UNICEF has been carrying out a mass mobilization campaign through radio (over 3,500 minutes - Public Service Announcements and call-in discussion programmes) and television (over 600 minutes - call-in discussion programmes) with messages particularly on cholera prevention.

### CONSTRAINTS

The communication and social mobilisation pillar has not yet conveyed common messaging.

## Bilateral and Private Sector Support

- ECOWAS (including WAHO): 300,000 USD.
- Ghana team including Vice-President and NADMO national coordinator have brought 28MT of relief items
- Togo. 500,000 USD.
- 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.
- 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 START fund (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).
- 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

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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

**Maps on the response and situation available at:**

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

**NEXT SITUATION REPORT ON 31 AUGUST. DEADLINE FOR INPUTS 30 AUG 14:00 HRS**

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