HIGHLIGHTS

- Heavy rains have been reported across Liberia since end June, resulting in several low lying areas in Margibi County being flooded. The main road to several communities and the international airport were also flooded and blocked to vehicles traffic.
- Close to 15,500* people have been affected by the flooding from 49 towns in Margibi County. Over 50 houses have been badly damaged. Of the affected population, 3,400 are children under five, and over 65 are pregnant women.
- People displaced due to flooding and damage to houses have been accommodated in schools, churches and mosques. Some of those affected have returned to their homes once floods receded, while others reside with extended families.
- The response focuses on preventing outbreaks of diseases; management of health and nutrition conditions, including maternal and child health issues, and; vulnerability mapping to support the response.
- UNICEF has been providing support to water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, social mobilization and child protection interventions.

UNICEF RESPONSE

Coordination
UNICEF has a team of sector specialists working with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is leading the response, and the County Health Team as well as partners through established coordination mechanisms. UNICEF is also internally coordinating with all sectors, including Education for appropriate responses as required.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- UNICEF has provided 5,000 bottles of water to the County Health Team for distribution to affected families.
- UNICEF will, this week, provide 3,000 bottles of Waterguard to start household water treatment.
- UNICEF is working closely with national and county authorities to ensure other WASH needs are supported.

Nutrition
- UNICEF has provided 615 cartons of BP 100 biscuits (therapeutic food) for distribution to affected families.
- UNICEF is working with county health authorities to integrate nutrition screening and treatment into services being provided at mobile clinics.

Communications for Development (C4D)
- UNICEF has shared handwashing and prevention of disease in flood situation messages with the County Health Team. These messages are being aired on three community radio stations covering the affected areas.
- UNICEF has worked with UNMIL Radio, which covers most of Liberia, to increase handwashing and prevention of disease messages on radio.
- UNICEF has also provided 3,000 flyers on handwashing for distribution to communities in the affected areas.

Child Protection
- UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) to monitor the situation of children affected by the floods, with special emphasis on tracking children separated from their families or child-headed households, to ensure appropriate services are provided.
- UNICEF is also working with the MoGCSP to ensure psychosocial support is provided as needed.

*Data based on official information reported by the County Health Team, Margibi County

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