Sierra Leone
Flood and landslide
Situation Report No. 8
7 September 2017

Highlights

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

With funding from DFID, UNICEF, in close collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone, the mobile money agent as well as key stakeholders and affected communities, is supporting the roll-out of a cash transfer programme for the affected communities. The Government of Sierra Leone has approved US$120 as an immediate unconditional transfer of cash and two subsequent installments of US$30, each in October and November to support the affected households. These installments will be supplemented by an additional transfer from the World Food Programme, which is estimated as the food needs of the household per month. Additionally, a one-off conditional recovery aid cash transfer will be provided to the households who wish to voluntarily settle outside the camp.

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 Government of Sierra Leone in the preparation of the first round of the cholera vaccination and the back to school campaigns.

Sierra Leone : Affected areas by mudslides and floods (14 aug 2017)

River
Most affected area
At risk/flooded area
Other affected area
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 implementing partner Catholic Relief Services, continued to support the daily provision and delivery of water to the affected communities. To date, 749,000 litres of water have been supplied through water trucking (307,000 litres in Regent, 142,000 litres in Kaningo, 95,000 litres in Pentagon and 205 litres in Old Skool), benefiting approximately 5,300 people (including day visitors).
- UNICEF continued to provide sanitation services at the three temporary displacement centres in Regent, Kaningo and Pentagon, benefitting approximately 6,500 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 17,566 people received hygiene education including 6,563 in Regent, 3,261 in Kaningo, 5,232 in Pentagon, 600 in Kamayama and 1,910 in Connaught, 34 Military, PCMH and Lumley hospitals.

WASH support to communities in Western Area
- Since the beginning of the response, 108,630 Aquatabs have been distributed to 2,173 households or 15,208 people who were directly affected by the floods and landslide [79,500 in Kaningo (1,590 households), 12,530 in Regent (251 households) and 16,600 in Pentagon/Kamayama respectively (332 households)]. The distribution was accompanied by hygiene education on effective use of the Aquatabs and safe water usage.
- Installation of household hold water harvesting systems (HRWHS) has started. HRWHS will benefit 2,700 households with a complete safe water package that comprises the following:
  - 10 foot polyvinyl chloride gutter and connectors installed by trained local youths
  - 200 litre water tank with tap
  - 7 Aquatabs packs (350 tabs for three months)
  - One 20 litre bucket
  - Two 10 litre Jerry cans

WASH infection prevention and control support in health facilities (hospitals and participating peripheral health units)
- Support to WASH related infection prevention and control (IPC) continued in Connaught, 34 Military, PCMH and Lumley hospitals, as well Kaningo Community Health Post (CHP).
- Distribution of water, soap and disinfectants and installation of permanent handwashing stations completed at all four hospitals listed above and the CHP.

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
- The first round cholera vaccination campaign targeting over 500,000 people at risk will be launched with the training of 60 national and zonal supervisors on 7 September. The campaign for the first round will run from 14 to 19 September and the second round from 4 to 9 October.
- UNICEF supplied 145,000 gloves and 14,406 aprons for use by 694 vaccination teams during the two rounds of the oral cholera vaccination exercise.
- UNICEF is supporting the Government of Sierra Leone with the customs clearance of 1,036,300 doses of GAVI supported Oral Cholera vaccine which is scheduled to arrive on 7 September.

Child Protection

Child friendly spaces and psychological first aid
- Since 24 August, 3,090 children have attended the child friendly spaces in the five locations (Regent, Kaningo, Kamayama, Pentagon, and Old Skool), and 316 children received psychological first aid in the same locations. Implementing partner Family Homes Movement plans to establish an additional child friendly space in Juba Barracks with UNICEF providing on-site child protection technical support.

Protection desks
- Seven protection desks were established with Family Support Unit and Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs (MSWGCA) field-level presence in Regent, Kaningo, Kamayama, Pentagon, Dwarzark, Culvert, and Old Skool. An additional protection desk is being established in Juba Barracks in preparation for the arrival of affected individuals at the site.
**Education**

*Children and schools, nurseries, and preschools affected by floods/landslide supported with teaching and learning materials*

- In preparation for school reopening on 11 September, UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) with learning materials to be distributed to affected children and schools. The learning materials which include exercise books, pencils, pens, rulers, erasers and sharpeners will benefit over 2,500 children.

**Communities in affected areas engaged to support children’s education**

- UNICEF in collaboration with MEST have rolled out a back to school social mobilisation campaign. One minute radio announcements are ongoing on five national level radio stations (14 insertions each during peak and off peak time) focusing on key issues for communities affected by the emergency and motivating parents and the wider community to send children back to school. Weekly live community plug in radio discussions are also being conducted with speakers from MEST, education partners, religious leaders and other community stakeholders. 1,500 education awareness cards on back to school have been printed and social mobilisers have been oriented on the same. With support from Action Aid, 20 additional social mobilisers have been deployed in the affected communities.

- 10 community development committees have been activated in the affected communities engaging in daily community level discussions on the key education messages (sending children back to school, infection prevention, reducing drop outs, psychological support, schools safety, etc.). To date, 190 community dialogues have been held in the affected communities.

**Nutrition**

*Screening of children to identify the severely malnourished children at holding centers and community sites including case management at OTPs and IPFs*

- A second joint monitoring visit led by Directorate of Food and Nutrition, and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Food Security, together with key United Nations agencies (UNICEF, WHO, WFP, and FAO), and NGO partners (Action against Hunger, Street Child, and Catholic Relief Services) was conducted on 30 August. All affected areas were visited to review the nutrition programme services, and identify the needs and gaps in terms of food, supplies and services.

- The monitoring visit confirmed that nutrition screening and referral to the nearest outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) sites were done by community health workers (CHWs) on a daily basis. Nutrition counselling of pregnant and lactating women as well as mothers and caregivers of children suffering from acute malnutrition were provided by CHWs with support from implementing partners (Action against Hunger, and Development Initiative Project).

**DHMT/DFN** monitoring and data collection: *CHW conducts household visits and screening (IYCF, SAM, and cholera) through RapidPro mobile platform*

- Report from RapidPro by CHWs working in emergency areas indicated that 1,522 children under-five years of age were screened from 31 August to 3 September. This is a 7.5% per cent decrease in the number of children screened by CHWs compared to the previous period (24 to 27 September). This can be attributed to a reduction in the response rate by the CHWs (from 66 to 47 per cent).

- Out of the 1,522 children screened every week, 16 had severe acute malnutrition (SAM; 1 per cent), and 20 (1.3 per cent) had moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). All SAM children identified and three MAM children were referred to the nearest outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) sites for further assessment. HIV testing is also being advised at the facility level during medical assessment of SAM children.

- All mothers/caregivers of the 20 children with MAM 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.

**Pillar coordination**

- The food and nutrition pillar finalized the standard food package for adults to guide Government, implementing partners, and civil societies in providing wet and dry rations to the affected population. The standard food package was endorsed by the pillar to ensure that food rations are culturally accepted, meet the nutritional requirements of the population, and food safety and hygiene are observed in its preparation and/or handling. However, meeting the micronutrient needs of the population remains a gap.

**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 31 August – 6 September (daily reporting via RapidPro): 8,146 households visited, 5,157 males and 4,149 mothers of under-five sensitized, 647 community dialogues held, and 807 stakeholders engaged.

**Cash transfers**

- To support the affected households, the Government (National Commission for Social Action) and partners are working on implementing the humanitarian cash transfer programme. The Government has approved US$120 as an immediate unconditional transfer of cash and two subsequent installments of US$30, each in October and November to support the households. These installments will be supplemented by an additional transfer from WFP, which is estimated as the food

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1 DHMT/DFN: District health management team/ Directorate of food and nutrition
needs of the household per month. These transfers will be given to households irrespective of their family size. Additionally, a one-off conditional recovery aid cash transfer will be provided to the households who wish to voluntarily settle outside the camp. The transfers will be accompanied by a radio and interpersonal communication campaign to ensure that beneficiaries and the general population have a common understanding of the nature of the support, along with strong monitoring mechanisms to mitigate risks.

- With funding from DFID, UNICEF will be supporting the roll-out of the cash transfer programme, working in close collaboration with the Government (National Commission for Social Action, the MSWGCA and the Anti-Corruption Commission), the mobile money agent and key stakeholders and beneficiaries.

### 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 held at the Office of National Security once a day and the United Nations Country Team is also meeting daily 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 in 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. While there is no need for additional staff at the moment, the Regional Office is providing remote support as required. Human Resources has requested support from the Regional Office to fast-track the recruitment of the Emergency Officer position. In the meantime, an Emergency Coordinator 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 DFID (£2,136,260), 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 and the Country Office is finalizing a response plan on potential gaps for donor support.

### Next SitRep: 14 September 2017

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