Rapid Needs Assessment and Freetown WASH consortium response update

Office of the National Security (ONS), Freetown City Council (FCC) and Freetown WASH Consortium FWC

18 September 2015
1. Background

Freetown city has experienced thunder storm and heavy rain since 15 September morning which has led to flooding and congestion (blockage of small and big drainage) in many parts of the city sections. The city remains chaotic where affected communities started moving to safer location in western and eastern part of Freetown. Yesterday, government declared National Stadium in western area and Atuga mini stadium in eastern area of Freetown as safer location for affected communities to take temporary shelter. With the movement of people in larger number from the affected areas, the grave concern is on how to put surveillance measures in order to avoid any further potential case of EVD. Another area of concern is the potential threat of Cholera outbreak due to damaged water points and water contamination due to flood water. Agencies at the national level came together to take a stock of the damage and need, the meeting was organized by the Office of the Vice President and facilitated by Office of the National Security. Another meeting was organized to get the overview on the affected population, facilities and property damage and needs. At the national level several pillars were formed to coordinate the response activities such as registration, health including WASH, relief, communication, security, prevention and logistic. Please refer the table above, which are the affected areas in the Freetown city, however more information are being still being collected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Zone</th>
<th>Central Zone</th>
<th>Eastern Zone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lumely</td>
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<td>Mayakeinhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hill Station</td>
<td>Dwarzack</td>
<td>Kissy Brook</td>
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<td>Godriech</td>
<td>Somaila Town</td>
<td>Janner Wright</td>
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<td>Congo Town</td>
<td>Moyoiba</td>
<td>Peacock Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grey Bush</td>
<td>Moawarf</td>
<td>Colvert</td>
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<td>Cockrail Bay</td>
<td>Mabella</td>
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<td>Ogoo Farm</td>
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</table>

2. Assessment Summary

FCC and FWC undertook a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) in Freetown, urban and rural from 16-17 September. This RNA was conducted in FWC hot spots areas (see annex FWC hot spots) as well as outside of the hot spots and is still currently accessible despite the heavy flash floods. The key objectives of the RNA were to:

- Review affected people’s priorities and locations due to the flash flooding
- Match priorities, locations and estimated affected people and facilities to existing response capacity
- Identify gaps to be filled by the emergency response for the first phase

Methodology included Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Community Focus Group Discussions, and discussions with ward councillors, direct observation.

- **In Pamuronko:** 22 houses affected, about 170 people displaced, about 9 toilets destroyed and hand dug well damaged.
- **In Bottom Oku:** 1 tap destroyed, one person died, lot of toilet and houses damaged and over 100 people displaced
- **In Old wharf:** one house destroyed and 6 people displaced

1 The assessment does not capture the National Stadium and Atuga Mini Stadium.
• **In Congo water**: the water sources (wells, spring) by the wharf areas are contaminated with the overflow of toilet/latrines

• **In Kissy ByPass**: over one thousand people displaced, lot of houses destroyed, over five hundred houses, up to 14 people got injured.

• **In Big wharf**, Allen town, Kroo town, Kanigo and Colvert altogether 523 HHs got affected.

• **The axis of Grey Bush, Congo Town, Red Pump and Tengbeh Town** has been severely affected by the flash flooding.

• In general, wells have been submerged in the floods but the flooding has receded, except along Congo Town. Open defecation is a big practice around the areas, where people empty containers of waste into running water.

• **Waste clogging drainages** is a huge factor in the flooding and if rains continue, should be addressed.

• **People whose homes have been affected do not want to be displaced** because they want to protect their belongings and clear the debris. They have said that people staying in the National Stadium are those who are not very affected but want assistance.

• **Overall 40 wards out of 49 in Freetown** got affected due to the flash flooding. In 40 wards altogether 112 communities were affected by the flood.

• **Confirm report of 5 casualties (children)** and in addition 6 cases of deaths were confirmed by ward councillors across 40 wards in Freetown.

• **133 water points in the affected area** damaged.

• Based on the Freetown assessment, **close to 4000 individuals got directly affected** by the flash flooding.

• Vulnerability to water borne disease (especially Cholera) is expected to be exacerbated, especially in children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women who are more at risk of exposure due to water contamination. In Congo Water all the water sources have got contaminated. In Mayenkineh water dam submerged; presently the dam is covered to protect water from contamination.

Based on the assessment, Public Health need to be addressed, provision of water supply, temporary sanitation arrangement in the worst affected communities (Whraf and slums), surveillance and sensitization on potential disease outbreak (cholera), well cleaning, solid and liquid waste management linked up with environmental cleanup promotion.

As an immediate response, it is therefore recommended that NFI kits, provision of water supply (worst affected areas) including storage containers, hygiene kit, temporary toilets (super structure and distribution of toilet buckets). Temporary shelter should also be considered as quite a number of houses that have been damaged both partially and fully. Further detail assessment also is required to look at the livelihood sector. In the worst affected areas Cash for Work linked with environmental sanitation could be an option for the affected families to recover from the property damage and loss. It is also important not to lose momentum of Ebola Zero Countdown as movement of the people might strike any potential case which may aggravate the crisis, especially in Freetown western area.

The Quarantine light touch approach could be continued to monitor the situation till the response activities continue and people go back to their original location.
The weather forecast for next seven days does predict rainfall in Freetown and there also need to have a preparedness measures in place in the high risk areas that are prone to flood (please see annex flood map of western urban in Freetown). Key messages related to public health should be disseminated to communities in order to prevent any water borne disease outbreak as well as with regards to movement and relocation.

### 3 Ward wise Assessment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SL.</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>No of communities affected</th>
<th>Names of communities</th>
<th>No of people affected</th>
<th>No of houses damaged</th>
<th>No of deaths</th>
<th>Total no of water points damaged</th>
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## Freetown Flood Disaster Assessment

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</table>
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Note: This rapid needs assessment has been conducted in coordination with FCC and respective councillors there is a possibility of some date discrepancy because household survey has not been conducted. Data will have to be further verified during the implementation of Emergency response intervention.

### 3. Recommendations

**Water supply**
- Immediate clean drinking water to those displaced who have run out of water
- Well and other water source cleaning campaign.
- Repair of water source facilities at PHUs and Schools

**Sanitation and hygiene**
- Provision of temporary latrines
- Provision of hygiene kits
- Hygiene promotion and awareness in the worst affected areas
- Repair of sanitation facilities in PHUs and Schools
- Small drainage cleaning campaign

**Solid and liquid waste management**
- Faecal sludge management
- Environment cleaning campaign

**Public awareness and key messaging**
- Key messaging on water chain (hand washing, safe drinking water)
- Key messaging on Prevention on Cholera outbreak
- Key messaging on Surveillance with regards to EVD
- Key messaging on protection issues particularly for women/girls and children
Freetown Wash Consortium Hot Spot Areas

Legend:
- Hotspot Flood Risk
- NO
- YES
- Sections
- District outline

Legend:
- Cholera Status in 2012
- NO
- YES
- Sections
- District outline