



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

Western Zone	Central Zone	Eastern Zone
Lumely	Kroo Bay	Mayakeinh
Hill Station	Dwarzack	Kissy Brook
Godriech	Somaila Town	Janner Wright
Congo Town	Moyoiba	Peacock Farm
Grey Bush	Moawarf	Colvert
Cockrail Bay	Mabella	
Ogoo Farm		

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.

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 outside¹ 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 (Wharf 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

Freetown Flood Disaster Assessment							
SL.	Ward	No of communities affected	Names of communities	No of people affected	No of houses damaged	No of deaths	Total no of water points damaged
1	346	2	Pamuroukobondo water	353	15	0	7
			Mayenkeineh Cain Tic				
2	347	2	Orogu	20	4	0	6
			Kola				
3	348	3	Bottomoku, low maxwell st, old wharf, robis com	245	35	0	7
4	349	4	lower gasama street (Timber land)	24	2	0	4
			upper gasama street (FHM)				
			lower consider lane junction				
			upper consider lane				
5	350	3	Peacock farm	70	10	1	3
			Loko tower				
			Industrial estate				
6	351	1	bottom oku, dung garden	4	0	2	8
7	352	3	Bush water, Beckle st, Philip st	9	0	0	2
8	353	2	lower congo water, evangelica mellon st	0	0	0	1
9	354	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	355	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	356	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	357	1	Bundo water	1	1	0	1
13	358	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	359	3	Low cost site 2	120	4	0	1
			Ebo ton cow water				
			low cost by lost cost site 1				
15	360	1	Railway line	0	0	0	0
16	361	2	Kuwari	75	15	0	4
			Kissy duck yard				
17	362	2	Binkolo, Temne town	42	6	0	0
18	363	2	Cassel farm	21	3	0	3
			Kissy mental				
19	364	4	Moyieba	210	30	0	3
			Kissy brook				
			Mamba ridge				
			Black hall road				
20	365	6	Kissy brook	763	109	0	7

Freetown Flood Disaster Assessment

SL.	Ward	No of communities affected	Names of communities	No of people affected	No of houses damaged	No of deaths	Total no of water points damaged
			Davon hole				
			Colvert				
			Kola tick				
			Shariya law				
			Menawese				
			Dwala kissy brook				
			Moiba				
			Cold water				
21	366	4	Crook drive	210	30	1	10
22	367	1	Yabundu	1000	50	1	9
23	368	0	o	0	0	0	0
24	369	0	o	0	0	0	0
			Moa wharf				
25	371	2	Effort lane	75	8	0	0
			Mill street				
			Magazine				
26	374	3	Mabella	91	13	0	0
			Sorie town				
			Lester road				
			Texas com				
			Luke farm community				
27	375	5	Mend street	77	11	0	4
			Odokoko com				
			Bambara town				
28	376	3	Fredick street	97	13	0	3
29	377	1	Susan bay	146	20	0	0
30	378	2	Last banking/kroo bay, susan bay	1456	200	0	4
			Waterloo st big/small, jones st, robert st, kroo bay, charls st, henry st, dondas st				
31	379	6		697	100	0	1
			Kroo bay, manga back, bolo, chinchin,berwick st, cole st.				
32	380	4		3240	500	0	16
			Bolo, Kington, Dong wharf by Croib, Dong wharf by Kolllehton, Belgium, Waterain, Cong Bridge, Lowere Macfoi lane, Banna water				
33	383	9		300	10	0	6
			Lower george brook, cold storage balaya, over water community, upper george brook, upper suwaila town, sammy town, lower sumaila town				
34	384	7		135	20	1	3
35	385	1	Loko town	65	10	0	0
			Brook fields, congo market, portugese town				
36	386	3		852	120	0	8
			sunshine valley,hill top,new england,hill cut wash car,hill cut marah drive, back of country lodge				
37	387	7		99	14	0	8

Freetown Flood Disaster Assessment

SL.	Ward	No of communities affected	Names of communities	No of people affected	No of houses damaged	No of deaths	Total no of water points damaged
38	389	2	Twent height, Upper Tengbe town	35	5	0	0
39	392	4	Cockril north, Bonga town, Kandeh drive, Kolay compound	56	9	0	1
40	393	7	Dorti road, Action aid area, grass field, babadori, number nine, beach road, josai drive	150	0	0	3
Total		112		10918	1367	6	133

Note: This rapid needs assessment has been conducted in coordination with FCC and respective councillors there is a possibility of some date discrepancy because house hold 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

Hotspot Update-Annex-1



Freetown Wash Consortium Hot Spot Areas

