Situation Overview

The floods and subsequent mudslides that occurred on 14 August 2017 have resulted in 500 persons losing their lives and affected a total of 5,951 people (1,616 households), out of which 969 are children under the age of 5. Out of the affected population, 1,616 households have been displaced, 371 households have sought refuge in collective centres such as schools, mosques, churches, community centres and transit sites whereas 905 affected households are being hosted by friends and families. The majority of displaced persons are located in communities of Culvert, Dwazark, Juba, Kamayama, Kaningo and Regent with severe needs in terms of humanitarian assistance. In addition, 226 affected households are not displaced, but have been affected by the flooding and are in need of assistance. The most vulnerable areas are Regent and Kamayama, as directly affected by the mudslides (Please note that data presented in the aforementioned is based on the verification exercise led by the Government of Sierra Leone and partners as part of the Registration Pillar on 31 August).

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the Office of national Security (ONS) is leading the response, with the support of partners. Pillars for Coordination, Health/Burial, Logistics, Social Mobilisation/Communication, Registration, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection/Psychosocial, Food/Nutrition, Security/Safety and Shelter (which includes non-food items (NFI) and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM)) have been activated to coordinate the response. In coordination with the Government of Sierra Leone and partners, IOM aims to safeguard the health, security, privacy and dignity of women, men, girls and boys affected by the flood and mudslide in Freetown through the provision of NFIs, Emergency Shelter, CCCM, WASH, enhanced protection, Health Support and Displacement Tracking and Monitoring.

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Shelter/NFI

On 29 August, IOM distributed Non Food Item (NFI) kits to 150 flood and mudslide affected households in Mountain Cut. NFI kits distributed include tarpaulins, mattresses, blankets, bucket (30 L), jerry cans (22 L), plates, mugs, spoons, cooking pots, cooking spoons, and a kitchen knife. IOM’s provision of NFIs was performed in coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP) and in result complemented by a food distribution. Previously, IOM distributed NFIs to a total of 317 affected households: 127 households in Dwazark on 26 August and 40 households in Wellington on 19 August.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

The Government of Sierra Leone have identified and allocated land for the establishment of two transit sites: Old School and Juba Barracks, each with the estimated capacity to host 50-60 households. The transit sites are planned and set up to address the need of those who are not able to remain with host families or find alternative solutions, targeting the most vulnerable. As of 31 August, 55 households (172 individuals) have been relocated to Old School, the majority being female headed households.

On 2 September, IOM finalized setting up 50 tents in Juba Barrack transit site, out of which 23 are ready for occupancy (including the installation of pallets to reinforce tent floors). Each tent, kindly donated by JICA to the Government of Sierra Leone. IOM is also working to put in basic drainage system in place to minimize rain water collecting in the site.

WASH Pillar partners are supporting Juba Barrack, with setting up water tanks, showers and latrines. IOM set up 25 handwashing stations and provided eight waste bins (300L) around the site to support waste management. On 2 September, a delegation comprised of National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), ONS, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, partners visited and assessed Old School, Juba Barrack and flood affected areas. IOM also met with the medical staff from the clinic close to Juba Barrack to assess the existing capacity. IOM plans to support with constructing temporary extensions to the clinic to accommodate the increased patient from the Juba Barrack.

Displacement Tracking and Monitoring

In coordination with the Registration Pillar, and particularly with the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Concern International, IOM is undertaking a multi-sectoral needs assessment pertain to the affected population, including displaced populations and host communities. In particular this assessment will provide information as to the needs of the affected population in the areas of shelter, NFIs, livelihoods, education, WASH, as well as that of their access to assistance. In addition to the assessment of needs and access the exercise will also seek to provide an evidence base in terms of displacement, and the future intentions of the displaced population. IOM and partners will upon completion of the aforementioned exercise be able to provide an evidence-base towards which more effective and accountable response efforts can be produced, including longer-term response efforts.

To this end, IOM and partners have finalized the hiring of enumerators and held a two-day training on data collection, including live test demonstration of the mobile data tool, this was conducted on 29-30 August. Data collection, through online calls to host families is ongoing and will be finalized in the coming days. Verification of host families is based on the list provided by Ministry of Social Welfare.
IOM has deployed various experts to reinforce IOM Sierra Leone’s team in order to better support the Government of Sierra Leone and partners in the ongoing response to assist flood and mudslide affected populations. The following experts have been deployed to date:

- 1 Data Collection and Analysis Expert (assignment completed)
- 1 Emergency Coordination Support (assignment completed)
- 1 Site Planning Expert
- 2 Camp Coordination and Camp Management Experts
- 1 Shelter Expert