



**Government of Sierra Leone  
Ministry of Health & Sanitation**

Situation Report No: 20			
<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Wellington Petroleum Tanker Fire Incident</b>	<b>Country affected</b>	Sierra Leone
<b>Date &amp; Time of report</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2021: 9 AM	<b>Activity start date</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
<b>Prepared by</b>	Incident Manager		

**HIGHLIGHTS AS AT 9AM ON 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**304 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REPORTED SO FAR**

**Total number of patients received:158**

**Two(2) new deaths**

- Connaught hospital = 0
- Emergency hospital = 0
- Choithram hospital = 2
- 34 Military hospital = 0
- Rokupa hospital = 0

**• Total number of deaths =151**

- Deaths on arrival in the hospitals: 84
- Deaths in hospitals: 67

**Current Admission in City Hospitals=35**

- Connaught hospital = 16
- Emergency hospital = 6
- Choithram hospital = 4
- 34 Military hospital = 9
- Rokupa hospital = 0

**New admissions= 0**

- Connaught hospital = 0
- Choithram hospital = 0
- 34 Military hospital = 0
- Rokupa hospital = 0
- Emergency hospital=0

**Total discharges (requiring outpatient care): 56**

- Connaught hospital=41
- Emergency hospital = 6
- Choithram hospital = 0
- 34 Military hospital = 0
- Rokupa hospital=9

**Patients in critical condition=5**

- Connaught hospital =2
- Choithram hospital = 1
- 34 Military hospital = 1
- Rokupa hospital = 0
- Emergency hospital=1

**NOTE:** There are **Sixty-two (62)** lost to follow-up victims; these were among the initial victims with minor injuries treated at Rokupa Hospital at the very night of Incident without proper documentation. The staff at the hospital were overwhelmed with influx of patient at the time.

## Situation Overview

During the late evening hours (between 9-10 pm) of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021, there was a fire incident due to the explosion of a fuel tanker in Wellington, a community in the populous eastern end of Sierra Leone's capital city Freetown. The incident occurred when a loaded truck hit a loaded fuel tanker leading to leakage of the fuel. The situation caused a heavy traffic hold up in the busy highway that connects the city centre to the eastern part of the city. Scores of people, mostly motorbikes, taxi riders are reported to have rushed to the scene to fetching fuel that was leaking from the tanker following the collision. While this was happening, with the leaking petroleum tanker surrounded by pedestrians, motorbike riders and motor vehicle traffic, the tanker exploded into a fireball, immediately burning nearby vehicles, people and surrounding informal trade structures adjacent to the road.

As at 9am on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021, **304** people have been affected by this incident.

Currently hospitalized patients: **35** people are currently admitted in 5 city hospitals

- Destruction of property, including vehicles, business premises (2 residences of 5 households, 22 vehicles, 48 motorbikes, and 3 tricycles)
- Air pollution
- Destruction of vegetation in the surrounding environment
- Disruption of social and economic life of households within one kilometre from the site (catchment population approx. 35,605)

The government of Sierra Leone on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 convened an emergency meeting of relevant government agencies, stakeholders, and partners to assess the situation, put in place response structures, mobilize support and plan a coordinated response to the incident. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister for Health and attended by senior managers and technical staff of MoHS including the Minister of Health. Health sector partners were also present at the emergency meeting including WHO and other health development partners.

An initial rapid assessment was conducted to establish the extent of the damage and loss of life, account for missing persons, and to identify the capacity of the country to respond. The assessment will also map available resources, identify the gaps/needs, identify the potential consequences from the incident, etc. Medical and psychosocial support teams are deployed to care for the injured, including clinical staff surge support for the main referral hospital. As additional information is received, the figures indicated above are expected to change because of the critical nature of the injuries that are now being managed in the health facilities.

The government is working with stakeholders to conduct an initial rapid assessment, collection of data for registration/ line-listing of the affected (survivors or deceased), estimation and mobilization of immediate needs for trauma care, plus coordination of health sector partners among others.

## Coordination of the Response

The Government of Sierra Leone, under the leadership of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) is responsible for overall humanitarian coordination of the response. The Public Health National Emergency Operations Centre (PHNEOC) has been activated to level two (2) to coordinate the public health component of disaster response.

A stakeholders meeting was held at National Disaster Management Agency head office in Freetown on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## Coordination

- Another Italian medical team arrived to replace their colleagues
- The Liberians team left over the weekend
- Coordination meetings has been rescheduled for twice a week

## Surveillance

- Planning to update their analysis next week on data collected so far
- Preliminary analysis of some victims has been done (**147 victims**) of which **male=112** and **female=35**, only **85** had age recorded. **111** victims had next of kin and mean age=**24.71**
- Data collection continues around facilities in Freetown

## Laboratory and Pathology

- Five units of platelet is in stock at PCMH Blood Bank
- Adequate blood products for burn patients available as shown below:

	A	B	AB	O	Total
Whole Blood	9	15	10	53	87
Red Packed Cells	1	1	1	1	6
Fresh Frozen Plasma	3	6	5	35	49

- Biochemistry analyzer equipment for Rokupa Laboratory has been installed
- The fridge at Connaught has been installed and fully functional
- Regular laboratory investigation (haematology, chemistry, microbiology) on going for admitted patient

## Case Management and IPC

- Two (2) new deaths recorded yesterday
- A German doctor donated the following items to case management: electric dermatone-1, dermatome blade-48, skin masher-1, derma carriers-60pcs
- Two (2) surgeries carried out at Emergency Hospital
- Eight (8) daily follow-up dressing (Connaught=3, Rokupa=5)
- No new discharged case
- Ongoing clinical meetings with local medical team and surge staff
- The number of critical cases is five (5)

## Safe Burial

- Family re-unification process is ongoing
- Still eleven (11) corpses unlinked to any family member even though they are identifiable
- Tissue samples collection coordinated with lab from each corpse to allow for DNA testing and post-mortem identification of victims.
- **75** unrecognized bodies had been buried on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Draft road map for DNA matching has been submitted with budget, burial and laboratory are working together on this.

## Food and Nutrition

- Complied and documented all food donations
- FCC/SLMDA continue feeding patients
- Specialized feeding for in-patients ongoing
- Feeding for frontline healthcare workers ongoing

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- Provision of a refresher training on PFA where needed
- Provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA) as needed by front liners across sectors.
- Coordination to confirm a common PFA module for all agencies is in use, with adaption to the current context and inclusion of modules on PFA for children and disables

## Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Establishment of 1199 Toll Free Line
- Distribution of 45CUG mobile to volunteers, FCC and NFF for early warning
- Early warning messaging through Africell Portal created for NDMA
- Involvement in donations for transparency and accountability
- Press engagement continues
- Gathering of feedback from the public is ongoing

## Medical Logistics

- Routine distribution of medical supplies continues
- Most of the donations received at Connaught has been sent to CMS for storage

## Challenges and Gaps

- Need for parenteral nutrition
- No specialized burns unit across the facilities caring for patients
- Technical capacity for burns management, e.g clinical dietician, physiotherapists, etc.
- Insufficient Skin-Grafting instruments
- Anesthetic agents required
- No support for the Incident Management Team (IMT)\*

## Recommendations

- Ensure the availability of parenteral nutrition
- Improvise specialized burns units
- Mobilize additional resources for trauma and burns logistics supplies
- Mobilize additional technical capacity for burns management, e.g.clinical dieticians, physiotherapists, etc.
- Provide support to the IMT\*