

# LIBERIA HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

No. 176



Humanitarian Coordinator's Support Office (HCSO) / UNMIL

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### ○ Floor Hits Monrovia Suburbs

- **Heavy Rainfall leaves Monrovia Slum Population Vulnerable**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs through its National Disaster Relief Commission (NDRC) has reported a massive flooding in Monrovia suburbs caused by heavy rainfall on 23 June which affected several communities in Sinkor, Paynesville, Bushrod Island and Virginia. They also indicated that flooding has overwhelmed Buchanan and other areas of the country. Due to vulnerability of the population the NDRC has conducted an initial emergency assessment of the flood prone communities and put the affected population at 10,000 which include mostly women and children. Most of the affected population has reportedly lost household materials, food items and assorted valuables.

Although seasonal, flood is one of the most common hazards in Liberia. A flood is a high flow of water, which overflows either the natural or artificial banks of a river or area of land. Floods induce disasters when human settlements have an overflow of water beyond the normal confine, and humans are unable to cope with the calamity or when they result in the destruction of crops, social and economic infrastructure. When these hazards encounter the vulnerable elements (human, environment and economic assets) and fragile environment created by years of conflicts and poverty, local or national disasters can easily occur.

In the past, where a major flooding took over Monrovia and its surroundings the Government led response was supported by both local and international partners. Despite international support for the most vulnerable in Liberia, there remains a logistical and capacity gap in facilitating a Government led response to the wider affected community.

### **Photographs of some affected communities in the hamlet of Monrovia.**

