

LIBERIA HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

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Humanitarian Coordinator's Support Office (HCSO) / UNMIL

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Germany donates to WFP Food Meals Programme**
- **OCHA Organizes Regional CAP Workshop**

- **Liberian primary schools benefit from WFP second food assistance**

Public primary schools operating in seven of Liberia's fifteen counties are to shortly benefit from the World Food Programme (WFP) School Meals Program in Liberia through a donation of US\$650,000 from the German Government. The donation will be used to cover the cost of purchase and distribution of 500 metric tons of food to rural children attending public primary schools in seven of Liberia's 15 counties during the 2010/2011 academic year. A previous German donation of just over US\$1 million was used to purchase and distribute 800 metric tons of assorted food for public primary school children in rural Liberia during the 2009/2010 school year. This donation brings Germany's contributions in the last year to WFP's recovery project in Liberia to nearly US\$1.7 million. The recovery project supports the re-establishment of food security, livelihoods and human capital in the country. WFP's school meals intervention targets 400,000 primary school children in 12 of the 15 counties. It provides daily cooked meals to all children and monthly take-home food to girls in grades 4, 5 and 6 at schools where the gender disparity is 15 percent or higher in favour of boys. It also provides food assistance to protect the nutritional and health status of mothers and children at risk of malnutrition, to tuberculosis patients and to people living with HIV/AIDS. The intervention is relevant because the current weak primary education system remains a leading cause for the poor performance of secondary students at public exams. The school meals program will also serve as motivation for rural children to enroll in school. In the last couple of years, many primary schools were reopened but the few public schools found in the rural areas have yet to receive adequate government support. Despite government pronouncement of free primary education, the majority of parents cannot afford the fees charged by primary schools especially the private institutions which are mainly operated by Christian institutions. These private schools offer better quality education to their students as compared to the public schools which lack good teaching materials and qualified staff due to low salaries.

- **Urgent Call for CAP 2011 Project Proposals**

A two-day Consolidated Appeals Processes (CAP) workshop convened by OCHA Regional Office for West and Central Africa in Dakar, Senegal for Humanitarian Coordinators, Resident Coordinators and Focal Points in the West and Central Africa Region on 28 – 29 September, 2010 ended with a call for national sectoral project proposals. Sectoral leads in Liberia should prepare and upload their 2011 CAP project proposals to the Online Project System (OPS) between 12 – 17 October for review by the sector working group leads in the Regional Office for West and Central Africa. Any sectoral lead in Liberia wishing to submit a proposal should first register at OCHA's Online Project System (OPS) before they can access it. The website is: www.ochaonline.un.org/Sourcesdefinancement/CAP2011/tabid/6942/language/fr-FR/Default.aspx, and is in English and French. The projects should cover the following priority themes: Food Security and Nutrition; Health; Protection (including education); Coordination; Emergency Preparedness; Public Information and Communication.

The workshop discussed humanitarian crises, including the types, status, and disaster risk reduction preparedness and coordination of humanitarian action in country offices within the region. The forum considered the disaster risks factors in the region, including political insecurity, climate change, threats from terrorism groups such as MEND in Nigeria and Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb, the challenges in fragile and post-conflict states, among others, and agreed on regional priorities and the national timeline for the 2011 CAP process. The challenges posed by lack of capacity, coordination and disaster risk reduction and preparedness means that the region will remain highly vulnerable to natural and other forms of disasters.