



## RESPONSE TO IVORIAN REFUGEE CRISIS IN LIBERIA

Weekly Sitrep No 24 : 10 –16 July 2011

### HIGHLIGHTS AND SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

- Against the backdrop of security concerns in the sub-region as thousands of Ivorian refugees continue to stay in communities along the border, the Government of Liberia position now is that all Ivorian refugees should be relocated to the six sites that have been designated as refugee camps mostly in the Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties. The UN Humanitarian Coordination Team (UNHCT) consequently asked UNHCR to develop a movement plan. This has been done and is being discussed with relevant stakeholders.
- More refugees continued to register at the Bishop Ferguson Transit Centre for relocation to the Little Wlebo Refugee Camp in Maryland County; 1,116 refugees have been relocated from the transit centre to the camp over the past three weeks bringing the total number of refugees relocated to the Little Wlebo Camp to 2, 732 since May. The tri-weekly relocation exercise continues. The transit centre is expected to be closed in the coming days.
- As of 15 July, the estimated total number of refugees in Liberia is 153,660, including more than 20,000 in refugee camps. UNHCR and partners continue to register new arrivals in Maryland, River Gee and Grand Gedeh counties.



### Response

- UNMIL Forces and UNPOL, in conjunction with national security agencies, have increased vigilance along the border in the south-eastern counties of Grand Gedeh, Maryland and River Gee.
- WHO supported the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to carry out a comprehensive assessment of mental health situation in all counties hosting refugees and to coordinate community mental health services being implemented by NGOs in Grand Gedeh County.
- IRC conducted an assessment in the Northern Axis of Nimba County to obtain information on how many refugee teachers acquired training from the Liberia Teacher training Program (LTTP). As result of the assessment, 58 trained and 36 untrained Teachers were identified.

### External Relations/Visits

- The UNHCR Representative, Mr. Cosmas Chanda, visited the border counties of Maryland and River Gee counties during which he witnessed the ongoing relocation exercise and held meetings with refugees and relevant stakeholders. Following his visit, he was interviewed on the BBC Focus on Africa programme.

## RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

### Humanitarian needs

- Access to firewood for cooking has been raised to be a concern by the refugee community in Little Wlebo. A survey conducted by EFA will provide a project proposal for training refugees in producing and using eco-stoves.

### Refugee Statistics per July 14, 2011

County	# of Refugees	Comments
Nimba	43,528	No change from last week's figure
Grand Gedeh	74,253	Last week figure updated. 215 new arrivals through Garlie border point registered and transferred to Solo Camp.
River Gee	3,670	No change from last week. Inter-agency assessment is planned to verify the unregistered refugees still living in the communities and not covered by earlier registration exercises.
Maryland	31,898	New updated figures including new arrivals from all entry points.
Montserrado	311	No Change
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,660</b>	

- In Grand Gedeh, 215 individuals and 90 families were relocated from Garley border to Solocamp. In Nimba County about 156 individuals of 83 family heads opted to relocate to Bahn camp or another place of relocation.

### Protection

- During the reporting week UNHCR in collaboration with ChildFund and LRRRC finalised selecting 60 refugees to engage in livelihood empowerment programs.
- The Task Force on Internment of Armed Elements, constituted by the President of Liberia, convened during the reporting period to work on (i) the composition and terms of reference of its Secretariat, (ii) the composition and timeline of the board to be established to determine the fighter status of the internees, and (iii) an action plan.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Oxfam is pumping an average of 65m<sup>3</sup>/day of clean treated water from the treatment plant in Little Wlebo, Maryland. 50 latrines and three garbage pits were constructed in the camp. The decommissioning of WASH facilities in Bishop Ferguson continued as people were relocated.

### Education

- In Grand Gedeh, UNICEF reported absenteeism of teachers, due to movements to and from CoO and also due to not having paid teachers in Tian, Puh, Zleh, and Zai for 3 months (UNHCR Assessment). UNICEF is expected to work with the partners to establish a control system and also address the payment issues.

## Health

- UNHCR is working with the Nimba County Health Team to establish an ambulance dispatch center in the G.W. Harley hospital, Sanniquillie aimed at coordinating ambulance services in the County.
- UNFPA donated one blood transfusion kit to Maryland which is to be used by the County Health Team and the NGO, Merlin. Availability of blood in the hospital is essential for emergency cases that require immediate transfusion.
- Reports from Nimba County indicate that approximately 3,002 outpatient consultations were conducted of which about 57.6% comprise refugees. Daily outpatient consultations in Bahn camp and mobile clinics is 70/day and 62/day respectively.

## Shelter



- Shelter construction continues at the Little Wlebo Refugee Camp in Maryland County as more refugees relocate from the Bishop Ferguson Transit Centre.

Camp/Transit Centre	Total Registration	Number of Shelters
Duogee	5,519 (*)	582 tents and 6 communal shelters
Solo Town	5,351 (**)	850 tents and 3 communal shelters
Ziah	2,466 (***)	489 tents
Toe Town	894	32 tents and communal shelters

**Refugee registrations at each camp together with the total number of tents pitched are provided in the following table: (\*) number reported by NRC; (\*\*) number reported by Caritas; (\*\*\*) number reported by Concern**

## Nutrition/ Food Security

- In July, WFP through its implementing partners, expects to reach about 186,000 beneficiaries (refugees and host populations) with food assistance in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Maryland and River Gee Counties.
- From 1-16 July, WFP provided food support to about 66,749 refugees with 1,111 mt of assorted food commodities in Nimba, Maryland, Grand Gedeh and River Gee Counties.

## Logistics

- The Zorgowee Bridge is still under construction by the Government. It can be recalled that a couple of weeks ago, the bridge was broken making it impassable for vehicles. The Government is still working on rehabilitating it and is expected to be completed and made available to vehicles by the end of July.

## CHALLENGES

- Monitoring of fluid refugee flows between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia remains challenging, although border monitors from Caritas have been deployed along the border area.
- As the rainy season heightens, the conditions of roads and bridges are worsening making the delivery of humanitarian services a huge challenge. However, rehabilitation efforts are ongoing to keep roads passable.

## FUNDING

- Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) is being revised till the end of December 2011 and will be submitted soon.

### ASSESSMENTS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE REFUGEE RESPONSE

- Website of the United Nations in Liberia: [www.unliberia.org](http://www.unliberia.org)
- UNHCR Information Portal: [info.unhcr.org/liberia](http://info.unhcr.org/liberia)
- Logistics information:

## REGULAR COORDINATION MEETINGS – MONROVIA

### 1. Humanitarian Action Committee (HAC): every Thursday, 10.30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Venue:** Jordan Ryan Conference Room, Bryant building, Mamba Point (opposite UNICEF).

**Contact:** Manzoor Khoso, (OIC - HCSO). **Email:** [khoso@un.org](mailto:khoso@un.org) **Mobile:** 05319901

### 2. Operations Coordination Meeting: every Friday, 09:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Venue:** UNHCR Conference Room, Mamba Point (opposite US Embassy Gate 3)

**Contact:** Dokie Nah, UNHCR **Email:** [Nahd@unhcr.org](mailto:Nahd@unhcr.org) **Mobile:** 06870817

### 3. Sectoral meetings

- The Interagency Coordination Meeting, led by LRRRC and UNHCR, have been moved from Ganta to Sanniquellie. It meets every Thursday at 10:00 am.
- Weekly sectoral meetings: Education (led by MOE) every Tuesday in Sanniquellie; Protection sector (led by UNHCR) every Wednesday at UNHCR in Saclepea; Health and WASH sector (led by the County Health Team) every Wednesday in Sanniquellie. New sub-sector working group on child protection and SGBV, meets every Wednesday in Saclepea.

## CONTACTS

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