

LIBERIA HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

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Humanitarian Coordinator's Support Office (HCSO) / UNMIL

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **National 'Appeal' for Ivorian Refugees**
- **Humanitarian Coordinator Press Briefing**
- **Humanitarian Action Committee Discusses Coordination**

- **Humanitarian Community Launches 'Appeal' for Liberia**

The current political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire and its potential humanitarian implication - already affecting the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of Villagers in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Mary Land Counties remains a serious concern for the Government and humanitarian actors. Due to the growing influx of refugees, the Government together with the humanitarian community has launched a separate 'Emergency Humanitarian Appeal' known as EHAP under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Liberia. The 'Appeal' is intended to re-enforce efforts to response to the needs of an estimated 50, 000 refugees and an additional 25,000 Liberian returnees and several third country nationals into Liberia. There is also a separate Regional Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) for Cote d'Ivoire and four other countries (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ghana and Mali) to address the needs of refugees, IDPs, returnees and other third country nationals. The National Appeal plan is in agreement with the country's sectoral arrangement and the four strategic objectives of the 2011 Regional Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) for West Africa. The financial requirement for Liberia EHAP amounts to about US \$50, 000, 000 to cover the most urgent needs for both refugees and host population for a period of six months.

- **Humanitarian Coordinator/ DSRSG Holds Press Briefing**

The Humanitarian Coordinator for Liberia Mr. Moustapha Soumare who is also the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on 12 January at the UNMIL Headquarters held the first Press Conference of the Year 2011, which was basically on the current Ivorian refugee crisis. He provided briefing on current context and outlook of the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire and its cross border implication and as well as Liberia preparedness to response.

The Humanitarian Coordinator explained that a lot of coordination efforts are being made by the Government, UN system and partners through inter-agencies meetings and general humanitarian information sharing fora to address the humanitarian emergency in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties which emerged as a result of post election's dispute between Mr. Gbagbo and Ouattara. He further informed that humanitarian actors have been working tirelessly to provide the needed response and are at the verge of submitting a National 'Flash Appeal' to cater for 50, 000 refugees and 25,000 Liberian returnees in line with the planning figures. He said in order to strengthen the coordination efforts; his office received a support staff from OCHA Dakar. HCSO will spearhead a 'Joint Multi-sectoral Rapid Assessment' to communities hosting the Ivorian refugees to identify key humanitarian gaps in needs, response and WHO Does WHAT and WHERE? The sectoral working groups leads (WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO) also briefed on the activities and plans for response, whereas, the LRRRC briefed on the role of government.

- **Humanitarian Action Committee Holds General Coordination Meeting**

The Humanitarian Action Committee, a wider information sharing forum made up of the UN agencies, international NGOs and relevant government institutions met on 13 January in Monrovia to keep every actor on the same level of information for effective response to the Ivorian refugee crisis. In brief his update, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Liberia admonished the sectoral working groups to harmonize their projects submission to avoid duplication of efforts as Liberia has been allowed to go for a national 'Flash Appeal'. He also urged the sectoral working groups (Protection, Health & Nutrition, Food & Logistics and Water & Sanitation) to develop their response matrix to enhance effective coordination and information sharing

During the sectoral working groups update, the United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) informed that as at 11 January 2011, refugees officially registered in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties were **25,088** which include 13,840 Females, 11,248 Males: Families: 6,396 (Female Headed HHs: 3,970; Male Headed HHs: 2,426). However, it is estimated that about 30,000 Ivorians have crossed into Liberia. Sectoral response to date indicates that distribution of Non-food items (NFIs) in the refugee communities is still on-going and about half of the population has received. Also the registration process is still on-going and has been an increase in the number of staff for effective protection monitoring. The World Food Programme (WFP) has begun food distribution in addition to the high protein biscuit current being distributed. Normal health services continue to be provided by health partners while nutrition, water and sanitation including logistics remain a serious challenge to humanitarian actors.