

# LIBERIA HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

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Humanitarian Coordinator's Support Office (HCSO) / UNMIL

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### o Ivorian Refugee Situation

#### • Liberia Humanitarian Country Team Holds Policy Meeting

As the Ivorian Refugee situation in Liberia is reaching an alarming proportion, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) comprised of UN Agencies, relevant government agencies and few relevant international Non-governmental organizations met in Monrovia on 30 December to set strategies for an effective comprehensive response to the growing refugee crisis. The HCT discussed the challenges in food aid, shelter, medical care, water & sanitation and logistics which were highlighted by the sectoral working groups. On the way forward for the crisis, the HCT agreed on the following issues:

- A comprehensive approach to providing the humanitarian assistance as well as conducting an effective coordination at both the Monrovia level and field level
- Advocacy for resource mobilization for either a regional or country level response

As mandated by the HCT which is a policy decision body, the Humanitarian Coordinator is to seek guidance from UN Headquarters on the approach to resource mobilization for the refugee crisis. Prior to the meeting of the Humanitarian Country Team, the Humanitarian Action (HAC) a wider forum for the humanitarian community met to keep every actor on the same level of information.

Although, other reports indicate that the current Ivorian refugee caseload in Liberia has reached a little over 20,000, UNHCR report states that as at 30 December the official registered number is **18,091**. These refugees are currently being hosted in 23 communities along the Logatuo border axis of Nimba County while others are in 3 communities in Grand Gedeh County and 1 community in Mary Land County.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugee is continuing the distribution of Non-food items (NFIs) in the refugee communities in Nimba but has not commenced distribution in Grand Gedeh and Mary Land Counties. UNHCR cited the issue of shelter as a serious challenge because the refugees are residing in overcrowded local houses which could cause health and social economic problems. An assessment conducted by the Health & Nutrition sector reveals an increase in malnutrition among children less than five years. The World Food Programme (WFP) has brought in country 5mt of high protein biscuits for emergency feeding and has got donor approval to use the food stock already in country which was originally intended for school feeding. Meanwhile, only bulgur wheat and CSB were approved by donors, while they have yet to approve the use of oil, salt etc. Additionally, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation & Resettlement Commission (LRRRC and UNHCR reported that President Johnson-Sirleaf has consented to the re-introduction of refugee camp which was abolished by the Government. This is a welcome development for the humanitarian aid agencies that are currently facing huge logistical constraint to deliver food aid and medical supplies to the refugees.