

# LIBERIA HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

No. 186



Humanitarian Coordinator's Support Office (HCSO) / UNMIL

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**23 January – 5 February 2011**

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Liberia – One UN Refugee Emergency Response**
- **Joint Multi-sectoral Rapid Assessment**
- **Refugee Current Situation**
- **Government Assesses Refugee Situation**
- **MoHSW Integrated Measles Campaign**

- **DSRSG Integrated Office Releases First Refugee Emergency Situation Report**

The Integrated Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Coordinator released its first Liberia Refugee Emergency Situation Report on 1 February 2011 in Monrovia. The report which covered 22-31 January highlighted the refugee situation and the humanitarian needs and response with in-depth information on how the humanitarian aid agencies are engaged in multisectoral approach to respond to the refugee crisis. The report is expected to be published on a weekly basis to provide single UN humanitarian information to actors, donors and government regarding service delivery to the refugees and host communities.

- **Humanitarian Coordination Section Concludes Joint Rapid Assessment**

The Humanitarian Coordination Section of the United Nations Mission in Liberia along with Liberia Refugee, Repatriation & Resettlement Commission, and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees with support from OCHA Regional Office for West & Central Africa in Dakar concluded a 10-day assessment mission on 31 January 2011. The joint mission which took place in 20 villages in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties assessed the humanitarian response and the coordination mechanism in place at the field level. The preliminary results highlighted the complexity of the humanitarian operation and the need for humanitarian aid agencies to speed up the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the refugees and channel said assistance through a better coordinated mechanism. The final report of the assessment is to be released soon.

- **Overview of Current Situation of the Ivorian Refugees**

As the United Nations High Commission for Refugee together with the Government of Liberia and partners continue to deliver humanitarian assistance to nearly 33, 000 refugees in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties, the influx is reportedly increasing by the day. Since the inception of the cross border influx and up to 02 February UNHCR had officially registered 32,750 refugees. It was also reported that during the month of January about 40 new arrival refugees were registered in UNHCR Office in Monrovia. According to WFP and UNHCR about 20,000 refugees along the Logatuo, Buutuo and Dubuzon borders axis in Nimba County have been provided food assistance including Non-food items (NFIs) while the Bahn Refugee Camp construction is said to be making progress. However, there is still limited service delivery in health, nutrition and water & sanitation to the refugees largely due to poor roads condition. This has been one of the key challenges for humanitarian actors in reaching the refugees that are widely spread over 30 communities, thus, making the operation a complex situation.

- **Key Government Officials Assess Refugee Situation**

The Ministers of Health and Social Welfare and that of Internal Affairs are on a two-day mission to assess the refugee humanitarian needs in Nimba County. Specifically, the mission will assess the health needs and monitor health services currently being provided by partners to refugees and the host population. The Ministers who were accompanied by the Chief Medical Officer/Deputy Minister of Health, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR and WHO are expected to visit Saclepea Comprehensive Health center, Bahn health center and the proposed refugee camp site in Bahn. The delegation will also interact with the local authorities in Sanniquillie, Saclepea, Bahn, Buutuo, and Tapitta as well as with the health workers in some of the health facilities in Zoe-Gey district.

- **MoHSW Launches Integrated Measles Campaign in Nimba County**

The Ministry of Health & Social Welfare (MoHSW) commenced an Integrated Measles Campaign on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2011 covering children from the age group 6 months to 15 years for both refugees and host population. The campaign is integrated with Vitamin A, Mebendazole for deworming and tetanus toxoid for women of child bearing age. The campaign which is conducted in response to the measles outbreak reported in Saclepea and Tapitta district will benefit approximately 232,448 children against measles, 80,000 for vitamin A, 69,316 children dewormed against intestinal worms, and 121,486 women of child bearing age against tetanus. Meanwhile, the Ministry has received drugs and Medical supplies from UNICEF, WHO and the Libyan Government in response to the refugee crisis. Drugs received from UNICEF and WHO have been delivered to Nimba County to support partners in the field, while drugs and medical supplies from the Libyan government are yet to be delivered to the County. The Ministry also received additional Reproductive Health kits from UNFPA to support delivery of reproductive health services to both refugees and host population.