

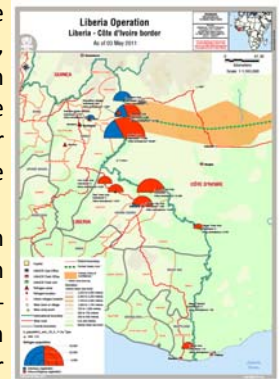


## RESPONSE TO THE IVORIAN REFUGEE CRISIS IN LIBERIA

### Weekly Sitrep No 15 : 8— 14 May 2011

#### HIGHLIGHTS AND SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

- According to UNHCR, as of 16 May, more than 177,264 Ivoirians are estimated to have crossed into Liberia since the influx commenced in November 2010.
- In Grand Gedeh, UNHCR estimates that an influx of around 200 Ivoirians reaches the Jazonz axis every day. While movement into the Tempo Town Axis has slowed down, small numbers continue to be observed arriving into this area due to cases of looting in Côte d'Ivoire. A steady influx of around 12 to 15 Ivoirians also continue to arrive in the Louguato axis in Nimba County every day, claiming that they fear retaliation for their political affiliation to the former regime. No movements have been observed into Toe Town, Zleh, Zwedru or Tuzon.
- On 8 May, Ivoirian military personnel are reported to have entered Liberia through Geplaken Town in River Gee County, claiming they were on a reconciliation mission with Ivorian refugees. During this time, an Ivorian military general killed one of his bodyguards claiming misbehaviour on the part of the victim. The same day, one Liberian mercenary was intercepted by Liberian border security officials at the Gleo Tempo Border in Grand Gedeh County. He is awaiting court trial in Zwedru.
- Also on 8 May, three Ivoirians were arrested by BIN Officers at the Nyaaken border crossing point in River Gee County. During the course of the week, it was reported that an estimated 75 to 100 mercenaries are reported to have moved from Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to areas close to the Liberian border near Zwedru and Harper.



Map indicates individual registrations in blue, and emergency registrations in red

#### Guinea

- Following reports of Guineans crossing the border in Liberia's Bong County as a result of violence between members of the Kpele and Malinkes groups in Galakpaye, Guinea on May 6, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and UNHCR undertook a border monitoring mission along the Liberian-Guinean border on 7 May. Approximately 1006 Guinean were identified as being in need of humanitarian assistance. Although in need of humanitarian assistance, they have not been categorized as refugees.

#### Response

- IOM has facilitated the transportation of 60 Ghanaians from Maryland to Accra in coordination with UNMIL. IOM also verified 17 Third Country Nationals and 312 returning Liberian migrants in River Gee County, following a request by the County Superintendent.
- LRRRC and UNHCR Harper Field Office relocated 33 families, comprising 194 individuals, from the Bishop Ferguson transit centre to Little Wlebo. WFP provided refugees with meals upon arrival at the camp. Following discussions with UNHCR Harper Field Office, the Liberian National Police Commissioner has agreed to assign 2 police officers to provide security at the Little Wlebo camp.
- The verification exercise in the border communities of Nimba County is continuing and has now expanded into all three of the Nimba axes. In the reporting period, verification took place in 23 communities. 16 households (49 individuals) were assigned their new shelters in the community. On 11 May, a second batch of refugees were transported to a designated relocation community in Kealay. In the course of this exercise, 16 households (49 individuals) were assigned new shelters in the community.
- Two UNICEF chartered aircraft arrived in Liberia on 10th and 11th May with 150 MT of emergency supplies, as well as some 200,000 primary school textbooks and medical supplies.

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Funding to support the health sector in human resources, logistics, supplies, and to replenish emergency supplies.
- Recently arrived Ivorian refugees and people from Guinea are in need of food and non-food items such as clothes, cooking utensils, water and sanitation assistance, and accommodation.
- Assistance in accessing and paying for secondary health care.

## RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

### Protection

- UNPOL/LNP in Zwedru reported that two Ivorian male refugees were allegedly attacked after crossing into Côte d'Ivoire through the Saygee village border leading to the Toulepleu region, leaving one of them seriously injured and the other dead. UNHCR has informed refugees to desist from using illegal crossing points to Côte d'Ivoire.
- Refugees have reported increasing pressure from employers and educational institutes in Côte d'Ivoire on Ivorian refugees in Grand Gedeh to return home. Individuals in Zleh town were also reportedly enticing refugees to return to Côte d'Ivoire. According to Caritas, a former Toulepleu leader who arrived at Toe Town Transit Center announced that the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire was over and urged refugees to return. Refugees were unhappy with the visit and the situation was reported to be tense.
- Given reports that a majority of youngsters in the Bhan refugee camp was engaged in some form of work, child protection actors have agreed to intensify activities targeting adolescents in the camp.
- A GBV Working Group has been established under the Protection Sector in Grand Gedeh County, coordinated by UNFPA, and comprising representatives of UNHCR, Action Aid Liberia, PNO/Care, Medical Mondiale, UNICEF, Merlin, and Save the Children.
- UNFPA reviewed their reporting mechanisms of GBV cases, and supported the supervision of the clinical management of rape in 6 health facilities of Grand Gedeh's North Axis. UNFPA has also launched a competition at the Bahn camp, to engage refugees in composing songs on prevention of GBV, safe motherhood, and women's rights.
- 855 children are attending child friendly activities in Behwallay, Gblarlay and Beatou communities, while an average of 80 children are participating in recreational activities daily in CFS in Bahn Camp. In Grand Gedeh, 1 child friendly space is operational and facilitators have been trained at the Toe Town transit site. A second one is under construction
- In Nimba County, 7 Child Welfare Committees have been formed in border communities.
- In Nimba, the Red Cross Movement restored contacts between refugees and their family members in Ivory Coast through 346 free phone calls and 17 Red Cross Messages. Two separated and eight unaccompanied children were registered and 23 UAC/SC cases were followed up. In Grand Gedeh, 37 phone calls were made to restore family contacts, two Red Cross messages collected and one separated and two unaccompanied children were registered. Follow up was made for three children

### Food Security

- WFP reported that 234 MT of assorted food commodities have been distributed to 17,811 beneficiaries as of 17 May 2011.
- According to WFP, 13 trucks carrying 394 MT of rice have arrived in Liberia from Ivory Coast, out of which 243 MT of rice has been delivered to Zwedru Sub Office in Grand Gedeh, and the rest off-loaded in Saclepea, Nimba County.
- Partner organizations in the food security sector are preparing support for rice, vegetable and tubers production for more than 21,300 households (70 percent host families and 30 percent refugees) in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Water supply at the Bishop Ferguson Transit Centre, presently managed by both OXFAM-GB and the Emergency Rehabilitation Services (ERS), is maintained at 61,000 litres per day.
- In Nimba County, UNICEF is supporting ACF, CIPORD, EQUIP, MC for WASH interventions in 38 communities, focusing on the development and improvement of water sources, sanitation arrangements, hygiene promotion, and distribution of WASH NFIs. UNICEF partners are continuing to operate small treated water supply systems and emergency sanitation arrangements for refugees in the way-station in New Yorpea. In Grand Gedeh, UNICEF is supporting ECREP and SI to conduct WASH work in 23 communities and the Toe Town transit centre. In response to reported diarrhoea cases in the Janzon area, UNICEF continues to mobilize technical assistance and supplies to assist Solidarites International and MoHSW County Health Team staff to intensify and scale-up WASH interventions in the area, including through the development of a small water system in Old Pohan. In Maryland, UNICEF is supporting ERS in 10 communities in Maryland, and at the Bishop Ferguson transit center for construction of latrines, bath-houses and laundry areas; and hygiene promotion activities.
- In Nimba, the Red Cross Movement completed the digging of 64 latrine pits (28 Zorganagay, 15 Kialay, 10 Younlay, 10 Yeaplay). In addition, 30 latrines in Zorganagay were completed. Seven pumps were also rehabilitated (2 Kialay, 2 Younlay, 3 Yeaplay). The water purification and distribution unit in Buutuo provided 16'000 litres of water per day to refugees and residents. In Grand Gedeh, two wells and one hand pump were repaired in Franzay and Janzon.

## Health

- A total of 74 diarrhoea cases were treated in Niao Clan, Tchien Statutory District of Grand Gedeh. The Country Health Team and partners, with support from WHO, are responding to the outbreak. More staff are being assigned to assist, while additional drugs and supplies, particularly related to diarrhoea control, are expected to be procured.
- A total of 937,833 host community children, and 15,512 refugee children were vaccinated during the nationwide polio immunization campaign. In addition, 22,000 doses of measles vaccines and 142,000 yellow fever vaccines were distributed to the refugee hosting communities.
- UNICEF is supporting MERLIN to provide essential health services to refugees and the host communities, at refugee entry and transit points, including at primary and secondary health facilities. This includes health services for women and children, and emergency reproductive health services.
- UNICEF and UNMIL Public Information Office produced more than 4,000 copies of information pamphlets and posters in French and English focusing on health behaviour, nutrition, HIV and AIDS, hygiene and child protection, and distributed them to partners in Nimba, River Gee, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties for dissemination. The key messages are also being used by inter-personal communicators.
- UNICEF and Search for Common Ground produced radio spots, jingles and announcements in French, simple English and three local languages (Nimba-Gio/Yakuba, Grand Gedeh-Krahn, River Gee and Maryland-Grebo). These key messages on health, child protection, hygiene, HIV and AIDs and education are currently being broadcast on six community radio stations in the four counties.
- The National AIDS Commission (NAC) and the National AIDS and STI Control Program (NACP), with support from UNAIDS, organized a workshop on "HIV and AIDS Emergency and Humanitarian Setting" in Sanniquelle, from 9 to 10 May 2011. 31 people participated, including representatives from the County Health Team (MoHSW), LRRRC, implementing partners from four counties (Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland) and the UN Team on AIDS.

## Shelter

Following a first assessment of the Solo, Dowgee, Ziah sites, and a discussion with the LRRRC, EPA, EFA, NRC, and Shelter for Life; recommendations for the construction of semi-permanent shelter structures are as follows:

Site	Status	Target to accommodate refugees	Actual number of refugees as 12.05.2011
SOLO Town	Transit camp—awaiting MoU for confirmation for use as a Camp	5000 persons	1029 persons in tents
Dowgee Transit Camp	Transit camp—this will NOT be a camp	2500 persons	757 persons in tents
Ziah Transit camp	Transit camp—awaiting MoU for confirmation for use as a Camp	5000 persons	1000 persons in tents
PTP Camp	Work on site start this week (clearing )	20,000 persons	0

## Education

- 682 children are accessing primary education at the Bahn camp in Nimba County. Construction of additional educational facilities is ongoing and one of the school compounds was equipped with tables, chairs, and desks for children and teachers. In Grand Gedeh, some 1770 refugee children are accessing education in community schools and a total of 4,222 children including Liberian school children have been provided with school kits.
- In host communities in Nimba County's Butuo, Gborplay, and Loguato Axes, 1278 children aged 3 -18 years are accessing primary education and ECD services. In Grand Gedeh, UNICEF and partners plan to reach 30,000 refugees and host community children aged 3-14 years with education and ECD. In most targeted communities, a double-shift system is already in place in existing school buildings, while UNICEF tents will be provided for additional space.
- Save the children reported a drop in school attendance in Bahn camp (932 students to 682 students). Save the children will further investigate the absence of students. IRC also reported a shift of interest of refugees impacting school attendance in Karplay, as students were found to prefer English classes in the Liberia school to the French classes provided by IRC. In response, IRC made some modifications to their teaching programme (English classes in the morning and French classes in the afternoon) to ensure that student needs were adequately met.

## Logistics

- The National Port Authority (NPA) has written to LRRRC, indicating a 50% reduction in port dues for humanitarian cargo pre-approved by LRRRC. This will only be relevant to port dues collected by NPA.
- UNHCR will coordinate with UNMIL on the possibility of repairing operational roads before the onset of more rains.

## CHALLENGES

- There is some difficulty in the retention of qualified health workers in a few remote health facilities.
- Field Offices experience periodic issues related to communications, with poor internet, mobile and radio connectivity.
- Limited staffing for protection monitoring and counselling remain a challenge, and as a result some key issues are not properly addressed. Additional staff are presently being recruited.
- Poor road conditions and bridges continue to hamper relief efforts.

## FUNDING

- According to the Financial Tracking System as of 18 May 2011, US\$ 63,325,969 (43%) of the US\$ 146 million Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan has been committed by donors.
- Additional funds are required for those sectors which have received only a small percentage of the requested funding.

### ASSESSMENTS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE REFUGEE RESPONSE

- Assessment by Internews: Local media landscape and information needs of Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia <http://reliefweb.int/node/400946>
- FAO Sitrep for Côte d'Ivoire +5 (review of the food security situation in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia as well as FAO's emergency response). Contact: Lisbeth Albinus ([lisbeth.albinus@fao.org](mailto:lisbeth.albinus@fao.org))
- 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)

## 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, 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 in Nimba**, 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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