

UNICEF Weekly Situation Report No.54- Liberia
23 January 2012

Reporting Period: 16-22 Jan 2012



Ivorian refugee children attend community school in Toe Town village of Grand Gedeh County ©UNICEF/LBR/2011/Pirozzi

Highlights

- As of 15 January 2012, the number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 128,067 according to UNHCR.
- 46,473 Ivorian and Liberian children in camps and host communities are in primary schools, early childhood development centres and attending youth vocational trainings supported by UNICEF and its partners.
- The 213 (177 Liberians and 36 Ivorian refugees) of 1,644 children screened for acute malnutrition in the previous week were identified as severely or moderately malnourished.
- Over 11,825 refugee children are actively registered in Child Friendly Spaces in 39 locations.
- A total of 1,972 separated children and unaccompanied minors benefited from direct case management and follow up support.
- UNICEF needs US\$25.9 million to reach all children and women affected by the crisis with therapeutic feeding, safe water and sanitation, education, child protection and to prevent spread of killer diseases including measles through vaccination campaigns.
- The overall security situation in Liberia remains relatively calm, but unpredictable.

This situation report is produced regularly for UNICEF headquarters in New York in addition to contributions submitted for the 'One UN' Weekly Refugee Humanitarian Response update

Situation Overview

- According to UNHCR, as of 15 January 2012, 128,067 Ivorian refugees are still in Liberia. Grand Gedeh County has the most number of refugees at 62,017 followed by Nimba with 41,946 refugees, Maryland 12,819, River Gee 4,389 and Montserrado with 337.
- UNHCR has completed the verification of refugees in River Gee while the exercise is on-going in Grand Gedeh and will start in Nimba next week. These verification exercises may show a further drop in the refugee population due to spontaneous returns to Cote d'Ivoire.
- A comprehensive mass information campaign geared towards educating Ivorian refugees on process of relocation and repatriation is on-going in Nimba.
- Construction of police stations is on-going in Bahn, Solo, Duogee, and PTP camps to strengthen security at refugee camps.
- In the Grand Gedeh refugee camps, 2 physical assaults and 4 rape cases were reported between 7 and 13 January 2012. All the rape incidents allegedly occurred in the PTP Camp. The cases are being followed up by IRC and UNHCR in Zwedru.
- As of 16 January 2012, WFP completed food distribution to 13,321 refugees of the targeted 41,800 refugees. In country food stocks is estimated to be about 138 MT.

Humanitarian Needs

- Both refugees and host communities require access to essential services such as health, nutritional screening and treatment, water and sanitation and schooling particularly focusing on vulnerable children.

UNICEF Response

UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, has developed strategic sector plans considering the different programmatic environments in the four counties.

Nimba	Bahn refugee camp; Zorgowee transit centre and New Yourpea Way; 16 designated host communities; more than 80 border community/entry points.
Grand Gedeh	Solo Town refugee Camp; Zieh Town refugee camp; PTP refugee camp; Toe Town transit centre; Janzon way station; more than 50 communities close to the border and along the main road.
Maryland	Little Wlebo refugee camp; more than 30 border communities.
River Gee	More than 25 border communities.

KEY PARTNERS

	Nimba	Grand Gedeh	Maryland	River Gee
WASH	ACF, CIPORD, DRC, EQUIP, MC, SPIR, LRRRC, CHF, CF, MPW. MoHSW, CIS	ECREP, MC, OGB, SI, LRRRC, MPW. MoHSW, Peace, CWW	DRC, ERS, OGB, PSI, SI, LRRRC, MPW. MoHSW, APA	DRC, SPIR, LRRRC, MPW. MoHSW
Nutrition	MoHSW, ACF, ANDP, IRC, EQUIP, MSF Belgium, WFP, LRRRC, UNHCR	MoHSW, MERLIN, MSF Holland, IRC, WFP, LRRRC, UNHCR	MoHSW, MERLIN, Merci, WFP, LRRRC, UNHCR	MoHSW, Samaritan's Purse, WFP, LRRRC, UNHCR
Education	MoE, IRC, SC, PLAN, LRRRC	MoE, SC, Plan, LRRRC, IRC	MoE, Visions in Action, LRRRC	MoE, LRRRC
Child Protection	MoHSW, MoGD, UNHCR, IRC, PLAN, SC, LRRRC	MoHSW, MoGD, EQUIP, PLAN, SC, MERLIN, LRRRC	MoHSW, MoGD, Right to Play, LRRRC	MoHSW, MoGD, LRRRC
Health	EQUIP, MSF Belgium, Mentor Initiative, CHESS, MoHSW, LRRRC	Tiyatien Health, Medica Mondiale, Merlin, MoHSW, LRRRC	MERLIN, MERCI, MoHSW, LRRRC	MoHSW, LRRRC
HIV&AIDS	MoHSW, MoYS, LRRRC	MoHSW, MoYS, LRRRC	MoHSW, MoYS, LRRRC	MoHSW, MoYS, LRRRC

PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTIONS

HEALTH

Nimba

- Implementation of Public Health Initiative project by UNICEF partner, MENTOR, is on-going in Nimba. To date, 239 gCHVs and 513 teachers were trained under the project to undertake health education on malaria and other diseases across the county. IEC/BCC packs and visibility items have been distributed to the trained gCHVs and teachers.
- Stakeholder meetings with NMCP and key malaria partners to assess the current malaria IEC/BCC materials have been conducted. Further meetings to review the teacher and gCHVs training manuals are scheduled during January.

Grand Gedeh

- Provision of health and nutrition services continued to be offered by UNICEF partner, Merlin, through 7 health facilities and the mobile clinic at Ziah and Solo camps. A total of 1,889 consultations were registered, compared to 1,281 reported in the previous week. 683 were refugees (36.1%) and 1,206 (63.8%) from the host communities. Children under five years formed 30.4% (575 cases).
- Malaria and ARI were the leading causes of morbidity in the general population and in children under the age of five years, accounting for 38.8% and 50.7%; and 17% and 23.3% of the total cases seen respectively.
- 336 children under the age of 5 years were vaccinated with Pentavalent 3 and measles. 366 women of child-bearing age received TT injections, 180 of them were pregnant.
- Merlin in collaboration with the County health Team continued providing a variety of reproductive health services in the fixed health facilities and through the mobile clinic to the refugees and host communities. The service packages provided at the static health facilities include family planning, antenatal care, post natal care, HIV/PMTCT and Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal care services. The mobile clinics only provide antenatal services and refer emergency obstetric cases.
- There were 152 new family planning acceptors (34 refugees and 118 Liberians), 80 revisits were made during the week. 1,006 condoms were distributed to family planning clients, patients treated for STIs and those picking them for STI prevention. 123 STI cases were managed of them 54 were refugees.

Maryland

- UNICEF partner, Merlin, continued this week providing health services to the Ivorian refugees through six clinics.
- Four hosting communities benefited from the mobile clinic outreaches this week.
- A total of 823 consultations were made this week, 248 (30%) refugees and 575 (70%) Liberians in host communities). The overall number of consultations has increased from last week as almost all facilities serving refugees in host communities, including mobile services were functional and reported as expected. Children under five years constituted 327 (40%) of all consultations.
- Malaria and ARI were the top two causes of morbidity for this week accounting for 34.8% and 3.3% of all diagnosis respectively. 45% of all 11 cases of watery diarrhoea cases reported this week were diagnosed in patients above five years of age. All these are in line with the usual patterns of these morbidities.
- A total of 451 children bellow one year were vaccinated with Pentavalent 3 and measles, of these 80 (18%) were refugee children.
- 45 pregnant women received TT-2 or above, of these 6 (13%) were refugee women.
- 4 facility deliveries and one obstetric complication were attended this week. All of them were Liberian women.
- This week there were 193 new family planning acceptors, of these 84 (44%) were Ivorian refugees.

WASH

- Oxfam, ERS, ECREP, ACF, ZOA and DRC have been identified as new UNICEF partners for the on-going WASH response at host communities in the four emergency-affected counties.
- Additional stock of contingency WASH items is being warehoused at county level in preparedness for potential emergencies.

Nimba

- To date, UNICEF's coverage of water and sanitation in the county is 74% and 75% respectively.
- In addition to government partners, cooperation agreements are being formulated with ACF and DRC to continue implementation of WASH activities in the county.

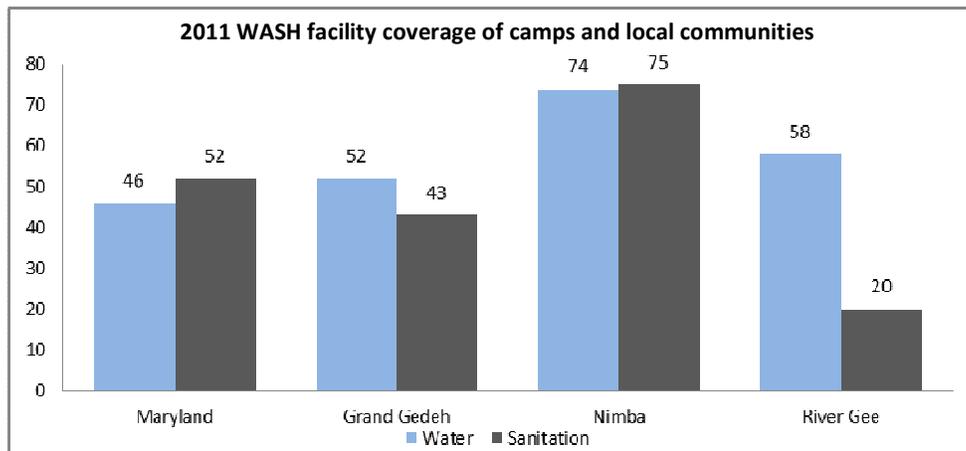
- Construction of 72 shared family latrines are under construction by CIPORD in seven communities.

Grand Gedeh

- UNICEF signed cooperation agreements with NGOs ECREP and Oxfam GB to scale up WASH coverage in Grand Gedeh. A cooperation agreement is being finalised with ZOA. NGO APA continues to support WASH in schools
- UNICEF finalized cooperation agreements with ECREP for providing water and sanitation services in the Janzon axis including Old Pohan and Boe’s Town communities, and construct 6 (six) hand dug wells in communities along the Janzon axis reaching an estimated 3,000 beneficiaries.
- UNICEF is supporting and facilitating a technical training for 14 sector’s partners in the county on 8-20 January. The training aims to build the capacity of 28 participants from agencies and government departments in as well as addressing water supply gaps due to receding ground water table.

Maryland& River Gee

- NGO APA has completed construction of two additional latrines of five cubicles each, bringing the total to 10 new latrines completed and 25 latrine cubicles rehabilitated reaching a total 1,750 school children including Ivorian refugees. APA has also completed construction of one new hand dug well and rehabilitation of 5 existing wells.
- UNICEF partner NGO SPIR has completed development of 3 of 5 recently drilled boreholes, bringing the total to 4. 2,000 persons are going to benefit from this support, including 650 refugees. So far SPIR has completed 47 latrines.
- ERS completed its planned activities under the cooperation agreements with UNICEF. The work includes construction of 10 new hand dug wells, rehabilitation of 20 existing wells, and construction of 200 shared family latrines and distribution of WASH related NFIs in 19 communities in the Cavalla-Kablaken Axis of Maryland country reaching an estimated 25,778 persons (18,237 hosts and 7,541 refugees).



NUTRITION

- In the four emergency counties, a total of 1,644 children under five years were screened for acute malnutrition during the previous week, 31% were from Grand Gedeh, 45% were from Nimba, 11% from Maryland and 13% from River Gee. 24% of the children screened were refugees.
- 13% of the children screened were identified as severely or moderately malnourished. The host population remains to be far more affected by acute malnutrition than the Ivorian refugees with 83% of the malnourished children are Liberians against 17% Ivoirians.

Nimba

- Of the 741 screened children, 15% had global acute malnutrition (moderate and severe).
- At Outpatient (OTP) and Inpatient (IPF) Therapeutic Feeding Centres, 32 severely malnourished children were admitted, 76 were cured and discharged, 2 defaulted, 1 died while 463 are still undergoing treatment.
- At Supplementary Feeding (SFP) centres 66 moderately malnourished children were admitted, 188 were cured and discharged, 2 defaulted, while 787 are still undergoing treatment.

Grand Gedeh

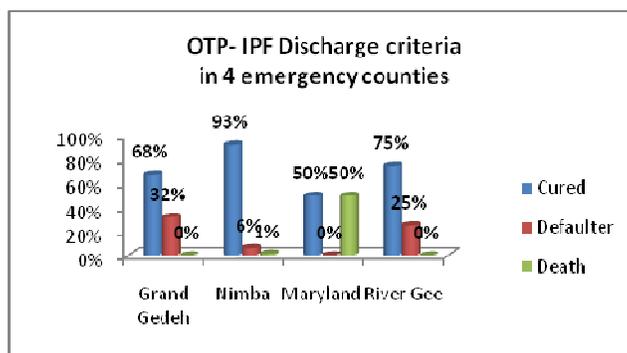
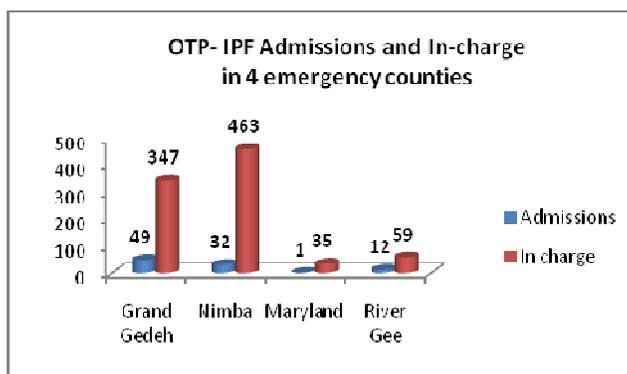
- Of the 515 under five children screened, 8% were moderately and severely malnourished.
- At OTP and IPF, 49 severely malnourished children were admitted, 17 cured, 8 defaulted, no death while 347 are still undergoing treatment.
- At SFP, 21 moderately malnourished children were admitted, 26 were cured, 8 defaulted, while 288 are still undergoing treatment.

Maryland

- Of the 178 children screened, 5% were moderately and severely malnourished.
- At OTP and IPF, 1 child was admitted, 1 cured and 1 died, while 35 are still receiving treatment.
- At SFP, 7 moderately malnourished children were admitted, 2 were cured, 2 defaulted while 44 are still undergoing treatment.

River Gee

- Of the 210 children screened, 19% were suffering from acute malnutrition (moderate and severe).
- At OTP, 12 severely malnourished children were admitted, 3 cured, 1 defaulted while 59 are enrolled in the program.



EDUCATION

- 46,473 Ivorian and Liberian children in camps and host communities are currently accessing early childhood development, primary education and youth vocational training supported by UNICEF and its partners.
- Teachers' incentives in Maryland have been paid by UNICEF on 16 January including the arrears of the last three months of 2011.
- The distribution of additional 90,000 copies of Ivorian primary textbooks prepositioned in Ganta starts on Tuesday 24 January for distribution ensuring that every Ivorian child from Grade 1 to 3 in primary school in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties receives a complete set of books. UNICEF emergency education specialist will be deployed to the field to coordinate the distribution exercise in liaison with education partners on the ground.

Nimba

- With UNICEFs and partners' support, to date, 21,452 children are accessing ECD and primary education services (3,730 children aged 2-5 in ECD centers with 84 caregivers, 17,722 children aged 6-12 in primary schools with 155 teachers). 60% of the primary school age children are Liberians and 40% are Ivoirians.
- In Bahn Camp, 75 children are participating in activities in ECD centers with 6 caregivers while 423 children are in primary schools with 16 teachers.
- In Loguatu Axis, monitoring exercise of daily attendance of children was improved through practical guidance and continued training programmes for teachers and principals provided by UNICEF partners.
- A series of meetings with teachers and parents was organized to discuss various education issues. Supplementary catch-up classes on Saturdays and holidays appears to be of particular importance for parents to help their children resume classes smoothly upon return to Cote d'Ivoire.
- UNICEF partner, IRC, organized screening and qualification test for 76 teachers, only 29 of whom were identified as qualified. Around 50 more teachers are needed to cover the needs in 12 communities. Meantime, UNICEF and its partners continue teacher training to increase the number of competent teachers.
- Border communities such as Old Loguatu and Kissiplay suffer a lack of adequate learning space in the already crowded schools. Basic construction materials are needed to increase the number of classrooms. In Old Loguatu School the community has started making adobe bricks to construct additional classrooms.

Grand Gedeh

- The number of children enrolled in ECD and primary education services remained steady (12,791) in this reporting period. 1,906 children aged 2-5 are in ECD centers with 56 caregivers and 10,885 children aged 6-12 in primary schools with 167 teachers.
- Out of the 12,791 children, around 3,266 children (26%) are receiving education at the 4 camp schools (Dougee, Solo, PTP and Ziah camps).
- In PTP Camp, weekly attendance dropped from 1,551 (M 55%, F45%) to 945 (M54% F46%) as compared to late December last year. It was observed that some older children in Grade 5 and 6 in primary school in PTP Camp are opting to look for work in the mine industry, or are currently involved in contractual work within and outside the camp. A series of meetings has been held with parents and teachers on the issue of absenteeism of children especially in higher grades.
- Construction of additional classrooms and provision of school furniture for ECD centers is completed.
- The production of school furniture for primary school is ongoing.
- The expected suspension of distribution of food rations in PTP Camp is seen as a potential obstacle for children's school attendance, especially in the absence of a school feeding program.
- The absence of secondary education in all camps remains a big challenge, UNICEF and its partners is advocating for a comprehensive package of secondary education along other forms of education for adolescents such as a vocational training program.

Maryland

- During the reporting period, 4,796 children attended ECD, primary education and vocational skills training services (1,012 children aged 2-5 in ECD centers with 15 caregivers, 3,067 children aged 6-12 in primary schools with 52 teachers, and 717 Liberian and Ivorian youth in vocational training classes). The total number of children has increased by around 2,800 from the last reporting period due to reopening of schools after the holiday season.
- UNICEF's partner Visions in Action continues to offer a series of trainings targeting ECD caregivers, primary school teachers and Parents-Teacher Association (PTA) members for better school management.
- On 16 January, teachers in Harper, Pleebo and Cavalla received incentives including the arrears of October, November and December of last year.
- UNICEF and partners are planning to open an additional 10 schools in Maryland to accommodate more children in need of education. A new school in Bassa community started registering pupils.
- Temporary structures for youth vocational training centres are being constructed in Wahado, Little Wlebo and Pleebo to meet the high demand for vocational training among Ivorian and Liberian youth. Attendance of youth in these classes has more than doubled since last December.

River Gee

- More than 7,400 Liberian children in 26 Liberian schools affected by the refugee crisis are receiving basic learning materials supplied by UNICEF. UNICEF and the education sector partners are yet to start the full package of EIE activities in the county.

CHILD PROTECTION

- A total of 1,268 separated children (SC) and 704 unaccompanied minors (UAM) have benefited from direct case management and follow up support.
- 6 new cases of SC and one UAM were identified during this reporting period.
- Over 11,825 children are registered in Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) this week throughout a total of 39 locations (46% girls).

Nimba

- 602 SC and 262 UAM have been supported through case management.
- 30 child protection cases were followed up this week.
- 7,513 children in total are actively registered for CFS activities throughout 26 locations.
- The average weekly attendance at CFS in Nimba was 4,314 children (53% boys and 47% girls).
- 100 foster parents participated in training across five locations along Loguatuo and Gborplay Axes. The training focused on forms of child abuse and community based response to child protection.
- 187 children across eight children's clubs in Bahn Camp attended a group meeting to discuss (I) strategies to increase participation in camp activities and (II) community based protection strategies.

Grand Gedeh

- 378 separated children and 381 unaccompanied minors have been supported through case management.
- Case management and follow up for 67 vulnerable children with 6 new referrals for service provision in the field.
- 3,748 children (43% girls) in total are registered for CFS activities throughout 12 locations.
- The total number of children attended CFS this week is 978 (47% girls).
- 129 people participated in training on child abuse, referral pathways (across each camp setting) and the role of foster families. Participants included child protection focal points, foster parents, recreation leaders, youth leaders, teachers and community members.
- 60 children and young people participated in a sports match in Solo and Dougee Camps and in Toe Town.
- 12 parents received foster family kits.

Maryland

- 288 SC and UAM have been supported through case management.
- Weekly average attendance at CFS is 1,609 children (70% in Little Wlebo Camp and 30% in Pleebo community).
- 20 Right to Play staff and refugee community leaders in Harper people participated in a 3-day training session on child protection in post conflict settings and children's rights. The training was delivered by the IRC. An evaluation showed there was a 30% improvement in participants' knowledge/understanding of child protection.
- 20 community members (14 male and 6 female) were trained to become Leader Supervisors of volunteer staff working on psychosocial support projects for Ivorian refugees in Harper. The training was conducted by UNICEF's partner Right to Play.

HIV AND AIDS

- UNICEF and the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) will be rolling out awareness raising and educational interventions for adolescents and young people in the four emergency affected areas. HIV and other STI prevention information material will be disseminated through the mass media, community drama, debates and peer education skills. Other essential services such as provision of condoms, HIV Counseling and Testing, PEP and post-rape care outreach are also included in the programme.

Human Resources

UNICEF Liberia has 137 staff and most are engaged in the emergency response. 33 staff work full time on emergency, including staff from stand-by partner organizations (DRC, NRC, Red R Australia and CANADEM).

Funding

UNICEF is committed to respond to the continuing challenges facing Ivorian refugees and Liberian hosting community in Liberia throughout 2012.

UNICEF needs \$25.9 million in order to reach all children and women affected by the crisis with therapeutic feeding, access to safe water and sanitation, education, child protection as well as preventing the spread of killer diseases including measles through vaccination campaigns.

UNICEF Liberia’s total Emergency Funding Needs for 2012

Sector	US\$
Nutrition	3,845,000
Health	4,615,200
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	7,918,000
Child Protection	3,959,000
Education	3,959,400
HIV/AIDS	980,840
Sector Coordination	650,880
Total	25,928,320

UNICEF Liberia Office would like to thank all Donor Governments, EU/ECHO and UNICEF National Committees for providing the much needed financial support in response to the Ivorian refugee crisis throughout 2011. Your support has been crucial.

UNICEF looks forward to your continued generous support in 2012 to enable us to provide the urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the children and families affected by the Ivorian refugee crisis in Liberia. UNICEF will continue to keep you informed by providing you with periodic humanitarian situation updates.

THANK YOU.

Inter-Agency Collaboration, Coordination, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships

- UNICEF participates in the weekly sector working groups and general coordination meetings in Monrovia, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland. (See coordination meetings list below).
- UNICEF is represented at the weekly Humanitarian Action Committee briefings and the fortnightly operational coordination meetings in Monrovia.
- UNICEF is leading the WASH, Nutrition, Education (co-lead with Save the Children) sectors, the Child Protection sub-cluster, and is participating in the Health and HIV&AIDS coordination mechanisms.

Coordination Meetings

Nimba– Sanniquellie, Saclepea			
Day	Time	Sector	Venue
Monday	10:00 15:00	Bahn camp Health – UNHCR & partners	Bahn Camp UNHCR Saclepea
Tuesday	10:00 11:00 11:00 11:00 14:00	WASH (fortnightly) Education (fortnightly) Food (fortnightly) Health and Nutrition (fortnightly) GBV (fortnightly)	CHT Office, Sanniquellie CEO Office, Sanniquellie Ministry of Agriculture, Saclepea CHT Office, Sanniquellie Ministry of Gender, Sanniquellie
Wednesday	11:00 11:00	Protection (fortnightly) CPWG (fortnightly)	UNHCR Saclepea Ganta Public School
Thursday	11:00	Inter-agency Coordination (fortnightly)	Administration Building
Friday	08:30 08:30 11:00 11:00	Shelter New Yorpea coordination Infrastructure Security (fortnightly)	UNHCR Saclepea station New Yorpea way station UNHCR Saclepea Ganta

Grand Gedeh– Zwedru			
Monday	09:30	Security (fortnightly)	UN Conference Room
Tuesday	09:00	WASH (weekly)	Hospital
	09:00	CPWG (fortnightly)	LRRRC Office
Wednesday	10:00	Education WG (weekly)	Zwedru Library
	15:00	Protection (weekly)	LRRRC
	17:00	Health (weekly)	Hospital
Thursday	10:00	Inter-agency coordination (weekly)	UN ConfRm
Friday	10:00	SGBV (weekly)	LRRRC
Maryland – Harper			
Monday	16:00	Little Wlebo camp (fortnightly)	Little Wlebo camp
Tuesday	14:00	Education (fortnightly)	CESLY
	16:00	CPWG (fortnightly)	WFP Conference Room
Wednesday	10:00	Food & Logistics (fortnightly)	WFP Conference Room
	15:00	GBV Task Force (monthly)	MERCI
	16:00	Health and Nutrition (fortnightly)	JJ Dossen Hospital Conf Rm
Thursday	09:00	WASH (fortnightly)	JJ Dossen Hospital Conf Rm
	18:00	Inter-agency coordination (fortnightly)	UNMIL Conference Room
Monrovia			
Monday	10:00	Logistics & infrastructure (fortnightly)	WFP
	14:00	Child Protection (fortnightly)	UNICEF
	15:15	Protection (inc SGBV) (fortnightly)	UNHCR
	16:00	WASH (fortnightly)	MOPW
Tuesday	09:00	Food (fortnightly) TBC	WFP
	10:30	Nutrition (fortnightly)	UNICEF
	11:00	Education (fortnightly)	MOE
	15:00	NFI/Shelter (fortnightly)	UNHCR
Wednesday	09:00	Security (fortnightly) TBC	UNHCR
Thursday	10:30	HAC	Ryan Conference Room
Friday	09:00	Operational Coordination (fortnightly)	UNHCR
	11:00	Health (inc HIV/AIDS) (fortnightly)	MOHSW (6 th floor Conf Rm)
River Gee			
Tuesday	09:00	WASH (fortnightly)	Fish Town Health Centre
	09:00	Education (fortnightly)	Fishtown
	10:00	CPWG (fortnightly)	Medica Mondiale (Fishtown)

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