

UNICEF Weekly Situation Report No.32 - Liberia
22 July 2011

Reporting Period: 16-22 July 2011

Highlights



Ivorian refugee children proudly display the Learner's kits they received from UNICEF. UNICEF recently distributed 10,000 Learner's kit to the refugee children. Photo: UNICEF/2011

- According to UNHCR statistics, as of 21 July 2011, **the total number of refugees in Liberia is 153,995.**
- After inter-ministerial consultations, the Ministry of Internal Affairs released this week a letter on **new Strategic Direction on refugee policy.** Under the new policy:
 - Liberian Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) will have the lead responsibility for camp management
 - UNHCR will ensure that infrastructure is installed in a timely manner so that services can be provided to the refugees when they relocate to the camps
 - Continued support to be provided to communities hosting the refugees with a longer term approach to move them up from the poverty ladder.
- UNICEF Regional Director ended his **week-long visit to Liberia** after observing the response to provided to the refugee population by UN agencies and partners.
- BPRM and ECHO undertook field visits this week.
- The Liberia UN Country Team is having intensive consultations to **finalise the revised EHAP.** The revised funding requirements are based on the following revised planning figures:
 - 160,000 refugees (additional 10,000)
 - 100,000 members of host community (new)
 - 15,000 returning Liberian migrants
 - 5,000 TCN (third country nationals)
- Liberia is getting ready to celebrate its **164th Independence Day on 26 July.**

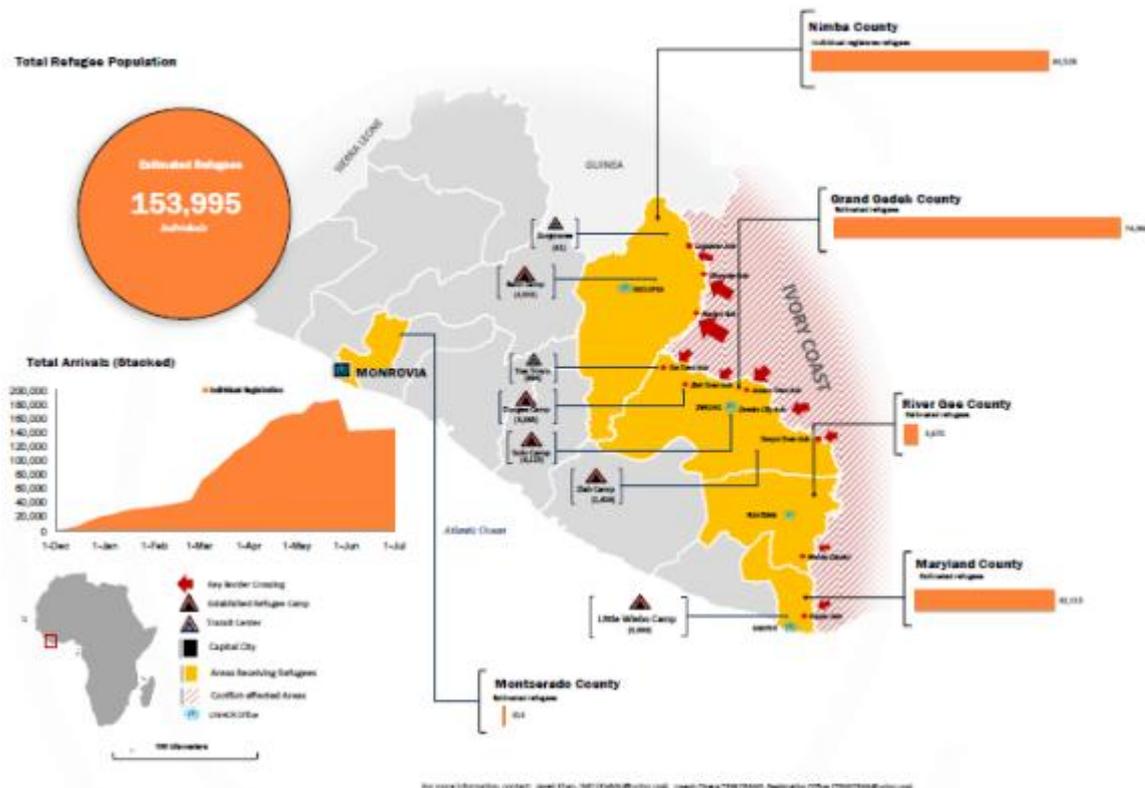
This situation report is produced on a weekly basis for UNICEF headquarters in New York in addition to contributions submitted for the 'One UN' Weekly Refugee Humanitarian Response update.

Ivorian Refugees in Liberia

info.unhcr.org/iberia

Last updated: 21/07/2011

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



Situation Overview

REFUGEE POPULATION: The official number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia is **153,995** as of 21 July 2011.

FOOD: WFP continued its food distribution and has provided food to a total of **66,749 people** including refugee and host population in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties. WFP reported that as of 21 July, the in-country food stock is 4,293 MT.

HEALTH: UNICEF supported the **measles campaign** in Grand Gedeh during 15-19 July. UNICEF assisted with provision of vaccines, injection materials, logistics and social mobilisation support.

SECURITY: The overall security situation in Liberia is assessed to be calm amidst the fragile security situation in Côte

d'Ivoire and the heightened tension in Guinea following the failed assassination attempt on President Alpha Conde. Security agencies remain deployed at increased levels in border areas as a result of arms



UNICEF Regional Director Gianfranco Rotigliano and Isabel Crowley, Resident Representative in discussion with the President of Liberia. Besides meeting with the President, Mr. Rotigliano also met with Cabinet Ministers, the UN country team, donor community and undertook a 5-day field visit to the affected counties to observe first-hand the emergency response provided to the refugee population.

infiltrations and other criminal activities. There are concerns about the situation in Liberian prisons. There were several incidents in different locations where inmates were protesting their prolonged pre-trial detention.

Humanitarian Needs

- Need for clothes, blankets and mosquito nets which are required urgently for immediate distribution to children and women. This is in addition to the continuing urgent actions required for adequate safe drinking water, sanitation, food, nutrition and primary health care services. There is a high risk of water-borne and sanitation related diseases and epidemics.
- Road conditions: Roads and bridges are starting to deteriorate further with the arrival of the rainy season.



Make-shift bridges like this are a common sight in Liberia. UNICEF Regional Director inspects one such temporary bridge during his five day field visit. Photo: UNICEF/2011

UNICEF Response

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

Nimba County

1. Bahn refugee camp
2. Zorgowee transit centre(maximum one month accommodation)and New Yourpea way- station (maximum three to four days accommodation)
3. 16 designated host communities
4. More than 80 border community/entry points

Grand Gedeh County

5. Solo Town refugee Camp
6. Zieh Town refugee camp
7. PTP refugee camp (Scheduled to open soon)
8. Toe Town transit centre
9. Janzon way station
10. More than 50 communities close to the border and along the main road

Maryland County

11. Little Wlebo refugee camp
12. Ferguson transit centre
13. More than 30 border communities

River Gee County

14. More than 25 Border communities

Key Partners

Sectors	Partners			
	Nimba	Grand Gedeh	Maryland	River Gee
WASH	MoHSW, MoPW, MC, ACF, CIPORD, EQUIP	MoHSW, MoPW, SI, MC, ECREP	MoHSW, MoPW, ERS, SI	SPIR, DRC, MoHSW, MoPH
Education	MoE, IRC, SC, PLAN	MoE, SC, Plan	MoE, Visions in Action	MoE
Child Protection	UNHCR, MoHSW, IRC, EQUIP, SC	MoHSW, EQUIP, SC, MERLIN	MoHSW, Right to Play	MoHSW
Health	MoHSW, MERLIN, MC, MENTOR	MoHSW, MERLIN	MoHSW, MERLIN, MERCI	MoHSW
HIV and AIDS	MoHSW, MoYS	MoHSW, MoYS	MoHSW, MoYS	MoHSW, MoYS
Nutrition	MoHSW, ACF, ANDP, IRC, EQUIP, MSF	MoHSW, MERLIN, MERCI	MoHSW, MERLIN, MC	MoHSW, Samaritan's Purse

PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTIONS

HEALTH

- An international cold chain and logistic consultant will be deployed to work for the four emergency counties (Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland) by 15 August.
- UNICEF is designing more IEC materials on common childhood diseases including ARI, Diarrhoea, and Malaria for distribution to camps, transit centres and to the communities.
- More supplies of midwifery kits, emergency health kits and essential drugs have been despatched to Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties during the week of 11th July benefiting 10,000 people for three months.
- UNICEF is currently reviewing the drug stock situation in four emergency counties.

Nimba County

- UNICEF is finalizing a proposal with MENTOR to strengthen the community health education and public awareness on malaria and bed net utilization in Nimba county.

Grand Gedeh County

- UNICEF supported partner Merlin to carry out 1,025 consultations through mobile clinics and refugee supported facilities. 56% of these were refugee consultations with malaria morbidity reaching 513 cases.
- Merlin with CHT continues to conduct two mobile outreaches in hard to reach areas in Grand Gedeh. The two mobile clinics constituted to conduct out-reach activities in the Ziah, Tempo axis and Toe Town.
- UNICEF supported the measles campaign in Grand Gedeh on 15-19 July and assisted with the provision of vaccines, injection materials, logistic and social mobilisation support.
- UNICEF deployed an EPI logistician on 18th July to Grand Gedeh to assist the county in strengthening the cold chain/logistics system.

WASH

- UNICEF is supporting WASH activities in 111 communities, transit centres and 'way stations' in all four counties affected by the refugee crisis, and is placing increasing emphasis on linkages between interventions in affected communities, schools, and health facilities in order to enhance complementarity and sustainability, and work with children as agents of change for improved hygiene awareness.

Nimba county

- EQUIP has completed construction of 36 shared family latrines. ACF has completed 100 shared family latrines, upgraded/rehabilitated 4 hand dug wells and constructed two new ones and continues with hygiene promotion and distribution of WASH related NFIs.

Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties

- UNICEF supported the Environmental and Occupational Health Division of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in organising a training on Water Quality in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County. Sixteen Environmental Health Technicians from districts across Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties were trained.
- Working with NGO Solidarites International, UNICEF completed installation of one water treatment system in Jarnzom supplying 20m³ (20,000 litres) of water a day. The system is currently being operated and maintained by SI until permanent water supply systems are put in place.
- UNICEF partner NGO ECREP has commenced an assessment for provision of water and sanitation facilities in school and health facilities in a bid to make the schools child friendly.
- Solidarites International, Mercy Corps and ECREP are continuing with construction of latrines and hand dug wells.

Maryland county

- UNICEF continued its support to the County Health Team and other partners in Maryland through technical and logistical/materials to ensure improvements to the lives and dignity of refugees and refugee affected host communities.
- The WASH team provided support and leadership in resolving issues of programmatic overlaps with agencies now operating along designated axis and organizing partners and the CHT to participate in the Cholera/AWD preparedness planning process, which will be led by the CHT.
- UNICEF is currently working with PSI and the CHT to roll out WaterGuard for distribution in parts of Maryland that have been identified as potential hotspots after a recent water quality test on water points.
- NGO Solidarities completed construction of 32 of 64 planned shared family latrines with reinforced concrete slabs and continues distribution of PUR for household level water treatment in six communities.
- NGO ERS completed rehabilitation of 8 of 20 planned hand-dug wells, and is expecting additional materials and WASH related NFIs to effect distribution to affected population in target communities.
- A contract has been finalized with NGO Assistants for Promoting Aid (APA) for provision of sanitation facilities for child friendly refugee schools in Maryland.

NUTRITION

- As of July 15, a total of 18,493 children have been screened for malnutrition in camps and host communities. 1,236 (or 6.7%) of them were severely malnourished while 1,858 (or 10%) were moderately malnourished. The level of malnutrition between refugees and host population show that refugees are slightly worse-off (3.8% severe and 5.1% moderate).
- About 67% of the severely malnourished children have been treated, recovered and discharged. About 55% of children treated are children from refugee families.
- During the week under review, a total of 1,652 children were screened at 30 screening sites, with 45% of them refugees. 17% were malnourished (7% severe and 10% moderate) and admitted for treatment. From the existing 777 children in the OTPs, 78 were cured, 169 were newly admitted, while 799 are still undergoing treatment. 8 complicated cases of severe acute malnutrition were admitted for inpatient treatment, 5 were discharged, 15 were newly admitted, while 8 are still undergoing intensive nutrition rehabilitation.
- A nutritional assessment in Grand Gedeh and Maryland countries is going to start on 27 July.

Nimba County

- Out of the 910 children screened, 89 (or 10%) were moderately malnourished and 56 (or 6%) were severely malnourished.
- From 13OTP sites, 79 children were admitted, 63 cured and discharged while 421 are still undergoing outpatient treatment.

Grand Gedeh county

- Out of the 350 children screened, 95 (or 27%) were malnourished (16% moderate and 11% severe).
- 38 severely malnourished children were admitted to OTP, 5 were discharged while 292 are still undergoing treatment.
- 6 complicated cases of severe malnourished children were admitted and are still undergoing treatment.

Maryland County

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EDUCATION

- UNICEF and the co-lead Save the Children along with UNHCR continue coordinating and representing the sector in the humanitarian country team meetings. Issues such as certification, WASH, school feeding, and logistic access to remote areas are on top of the sector advocacy agenda. The education sector is currently looking for an International NGO to cover remaining areas in Grand Gedeh.
- The findings of the Rapid Joint Needs Assessment have been disseminated to education and child protection partners, for recommendations, while data was used for evidence for requesting additional funds for the sector.
- Under the joint leadership of UNICEF and Save the Children, the sector prepared and submitted response plan for the revised EHAP focusing on key priorities such as: access to school feeding for refugee early childhood and primary students, Early Childhood Education for Ivorian and Liberian children aged 3 to 5; access to quality primary education to all Ivorian children, including end of year examinations and recognition of certifications obtained in Liberia; access to quality secondary education to children aged 12 to 18 based on Ivorian curriculum; access to quality non formal education and vocational training for out of school Ivorian and Liberian youth affected by the crisis.
- The education sector is also supporting MOE to formulate policies in regards to examination/certification, the initiation of accelerated learning programmes and the harmonization of curriculum across the 3 counties.
- UNICEF is coordinating the provision of WASH facilities in all schools targeted by the refugee emergency education assistance.
- Nimba county
(Nimba Border)
- UNICEF partners operating along the Butuo axis have accelerated interventions in border areas, specifically in Kparblee Town, Dewoblee, New Yourpea, Behwallay, Dubuzon, Kailay, Zodru, Coffeglay, Dinplay, Biahplay, and Town Town. In these locations more than 1,500 Ivorian children have been enrolled in primary school, while 400 Ivorian and Liberian children aged 3 to 5 years were identified for early childhood education activities. In most locations, government schools are not available to Liberian children, and UNICEF partners are mobilizing to target host community children with the aim of guaranteeing equitable access to temporary learning spaces by all children – Ivorians and Liberians – affected by this emergency.
- UNICEF partners operating in the Logwato axis have assessed locations identified as priority: Kissiplay, Kenlay, Duoplay, Yenlay, Yeaplay, and Old Logwato. Most locations have a government school available for double shift. However, most schools require provision of furniture and some requires rehabilitation. The need for the provision of education is still high, as hundreds of children were identified for school enrollment this week.
- UNICEF partners working in the Ghorplay axis have identified a local partner to implement education in emergency in border areas such as Beoyoolar, Blemieplay, Gbailay, Lontuo and Tartuo.
(Nimba Camp and designated relocation communities)
- In Bahn camp, 490 children received textbooks at the Bahn schools according to the grade, and more teachers were hired to work in the newly constructed school compound. Distribution of furniture and uniform to schools in the camp remain major priorities, but procurement processes remain an impediment. UNICEF has requested close collaboration with MOE for the procurement of furniture.
- UNICEF partners are providing education services to **866** primary school children and to **160** children aged 3 to 5.
- In the Butuo and Logwato axis, UNICEF partners have provided primary school services to **1,373** Ivorian students. Routine recreational activities undertaken this week in locations along the Logwato axis targeted a total **240** Ivorian and host community children because local schools have closed and most children have gone to their villages.
- In Logwato axis, attendance in primary school has dropped dramatically due to schools not having clear information closing from MOE. Some children are afraid to use the substitute monkey bridge to cross, and the continuous relocation of refugee to the Bahn transit make the population still fluid. Parents who were not registered still keep their children on farms or use them as help at home.
- UNICEF partners working in the Ghorplay axis have closed the primary school for 656 primary school students. A performance evaluation was conducted and 80% children passed to the next grade. Local education authorities have authorized the closure of Ivorian schools in Nimba at the end of July.

Grand Gedeh county

- The 'go to school' radio campaign conducted in Zwedru did not bring in the expected result, as only 50 children enrolled in primary school this week. The communication strategy will be reinforced with LRRRC involvement. Education authorities have agreed that Ivorian school should not be closed, but rather that teaching needs to be accelerated and quality improved.
- UNICEF partners are now reaching a total number of 5,859 refugees and 3,200 Liberian children with primary school services and distribution of education supplies. In addition, 1,596 children (1,028 refugees) aged 3 to 5 are attending Early Childhood Education services. Fourteen UNICEF tents are now in use in 7 locations, and UNICEF is currently providing additional logistical support to implementing partners for the distribution of supplies and textbooks in the Janzon axis where the majority of refugees are residing.

Maryland county

- A total of 756 urban refugees residing in Harper had initially enrolled in primary school. Due to challenges in mobilising teachers and subsequent supply distribution, most children attending these classes today are Liberians.
- UNICEF is planning a new communication campaign in Harper, with the involvement of LRRRC and refugee representatives, to ensure attendance of all children previously enrolled.
- Six classrooms of the school outside Little Wlebo camp have become sufficient for the 372 children attending this school in double shift. All of them were reached with education supplies and textbooks. UNICEF and partners are preparing for the start of the new school year, when Liberian children will utilize the space. UNICEF and partners have erected 7 tents in a designated child friendly area of the camp where a temporary learning center for children aged 3 to 17 will start functioning in the next weeks. As the relocations to the camp continue at a pace of 800 persons per week, 340 children had already registered for pre-primary and primary school in Little Wlebo.
- UNICEF is mobilizing to open schools for Ivorian primary students in Bleebo.

CHILD PROTECTION

- Twenty six participants from SC staff, outreach workers and CFS facilitators successfully completed a TOT training on life skills activities in running the CFS.
- A total of 118 separated children and 89 unaccompanied children have been identified. 56 unaccompanied children are in foster care, and 26 unaccompanied adolescent children decided to be on independent living.

Nimba County

- **4,518** Ivorian refugee and host community children participated in CFS activities this week.
- **87** children were newly registered in CFS activities where they will continue to receive psychosocial support.
- **36** cases of separated and unaccompanied children were identified (21 girls and 15 boys)
- **25** CFS Facilitators, Case Managers and Community Outreach Workers participated in a six days TOT training.
- A total of **746** child protection actors met in the Gborplay Axis to discuss prevention of SEA, family separation and recruitment of refugee children

Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties

- A total of 13,771 have been registered with CFS and participating in activities in the camp, transit center and in host communities.
- Overall, 18,289 children have been reached by UNICEF partners SCUUK, IRC and PLAN.
- The cumulative number of SC, UAM and vulnerable children as of 16th July is 397 (211 boys and 186 girls).
- 13 cases of SC, UAM and vulnerable children (9 boys and 4 girls) received follow up.
- There has been no cross border family reunification because the children and/or family prefer to stay apart at the moment for security concerns.
- Recreational activities conducted in CFS in Little Wlebo camp. 70 children attending every day
- Established youth groups within the camps.
- Recreation kits provided to Cavalla community

Media and Communication

- A week-long training on Participatory Communication in Emergencies using the people first impact method is currently on-going in Zwedru. UNICEF Regional Office facilitated this training.

Human Resources

As of 15 July, UNICEF Liberia has **48 staff** working on the emergency response, including staff from stand-by partner organisations (NRC, Red R Australia and CANADEM), and UNICEF international staff from Nigeria, Guinea, Thailand, and Cambodia.

Funding

To date, UNICEF has received US\$ 11,944,824.17 out of its US\$ 18.9 million requirement as per the EHAP.

Emergency funding by source

Donor	Fund (in US\$)	Donor	Fund (in US\$)
ECHO	2,595,361.12	OFDA/USAID	747,680.00
Spanish Government	641,897.00	UK Government (DfID)	1,497,752.58
Irish Aid	385,138.38	Swedish Government (SIDA)	1,523,753.10
US NatCom	337,840.00	Spanish NatCom	133,802.81
French NatCom (1)	245,624.00	French NatCom (2)	256,758.92
UK NatCom	152,488.00	Netherlands Government	1,250,000.00
CERF	1,910,460.72	French NatCom (3)	266,267.54

In addition, UNICEF Liberia received US\$ 4,067,612 from UNICEF's emergency response fund which has to be reimbursed.

UNICEF Liberia would like to thank all the donor governments, including EU/ECHO, who provided funding support to respond to the Ivorian refugee crisis and tax payers of the respective countries for their understanding and compassion which enabled UNICEF and its partners to provide rapid humanitarian assistance to the refugee population. Our sincere thanks are also extended to UNICEF National Committees who have come up with their timely support. As Liberia is extending the duration of the EHAP funding appeal to another six months until December 2011, UNICEF is revising its funding requirements for the period July to December 2011, in close consultation with OCHA and other partners. We look forward to the continued generous support from the donors.

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

- The UN agencies held intensive consultations throughout the week to finalise the revised EHAP. The final draft of the EHAP document will be sent to Geneva on 25 July.
- UNICEF is participating 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 operational coordination meetings and at the Humanitarian Action Committee briefings 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 and AIDS coordination mechanisms.

Coordination meetings

Monrovia			
Day	Time	Sector	Venue
Monday	10:00	Logistics & infrastructure	WFP
	14:00	Child Protection (including UAM)	UNICEF
	15:15	Protection (including SGBV)	UNHCR
	16:00	WASH	MOPW
Tuesday	09:00	Food	WFP
	10:30	Nutrition	UNICEF
	11:00	Education	MOE
Wednesday	09:00	Security	UNHCR
	10:00	Shelter (including NFIs)	UNHCR
	11:00	Health (including HIV/AIDS)	MOHSW
Thursday	10:30	HAC	Ryan Conference Room
Friday	09:00	Operational Coordination	UNHCR

Nimba – Sanniquellie, Saclepea			
Day	Time	Sector	Venue
Monday	09:00	Bahn camp coordination	Bahn Camp UNHCR Saclepea
	15:00	Saclepea refugee camp coordination	
Tuesday	10:00	Health	UNHCR Saclepea
	10:00	Education	County Education office, SQ
	10:00	Food	WFP, Saclepea
	10:00	*WASH (Bi-weekly)	Nimba CHT, Sanniquellie
Wednesday	10:00	*Health (Bi-weekly)	Nimba CHT, Sanniquellie
	10:00	Protection	UNHCR Saclepea
	10:00	WASH	Nimba CHT, Sanniquellie
Thursday	10:00	Health	Nimba CHT, Sanniquellie
	10:00	Karnplay transit centre coordination	Karnplay transit centre
	10:00	Inter-agency coordination	Sanniquellie
	11:00	GBV sub sector	Sanniquellie, MoGD
Friday	13:00	Security	UNMIL Sanniquellie
	08:30	Shelter	UNHCR
	08:30	New Yorpea coordination	New Yorpea way station
	11:00	Infrastructure	UNHCR

Grand Gedeh – Zwedru			
Day	Time	Sector	Venue
Tuesday	09:00	WASH	Hospital
	14:00	Food and Nutrition	WFP
Wednesday	14:00	Education	Library
	15:00	Protection	LRRRC
	17:00	Health	Hospital
Thursday	10:00	Inter-agency coordination meeting	UN Conference Room

Maryland – Harper			
Day	Time	Sector	Venue
Monday	16:00	Little Wlebo camp coordination	Little Wlebo camp
Tuesday	14:00	Education	County Education Office
	16:00	Protection (including Child Protection)	UNHCR
Wednesday	10:00	Food and Logistics	WFP
Thursday	09:00	WASH	JJ Dosen Hospital Conf. Room
	16:00	Health and Nutrition	JJ Dosen Hospital Conf. Room
	18:00	Operation Coordination	UNHCR
Friday	17:00	Shelter	UNHCR

River Gee			
Day	Time	Sector	Venue
Tuesday	09:00	WASH	Fish town Health Centre

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Next SITREP: 29 July 2011