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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW

- In accordance with the Government's *Strategic direction for the Refugee programming*, UNHCR in collaboration with LRRRC has relocated 1,380 refugees to the camps during the week, added to the total of 31,500 refugees. The strategic plan is to relocate 80, 000 refugees by the end of 2011.
- In Grand Capemount, two coastal villages were affected with recent high sea wave. As a consequence 42 houses in Tailor and 16 houses in Kru fishing villages were washed away by the wave. Though no casualties reported, the affected families lost all their belongings including their locally manufactured boats and fishing nets.
- The Humanitarian country team has decided to go for the CAP for the 2012. The CAP process has already begun and sector leads are meeting with partners, donors and relevant ministries for consultation. The CAP workshop will take place on 3rd OCT 2011 that will finalize the Country strategy, objectives, indicators, monitoring mechanism and criteria for the project selection. The final CAP document will be finalized by the end of October 2011.
- The rain which is further expected to intensify in September is worsening the road conditions, making some refugees and vulnerable host populations inaccessible especially in Nimba and Grand Gedeh for delivery of humanitarian assistance. UNMIL road engineers continue to make small repairs and maintenance to clear the muddy roads.
- EHAP 2011 was 48% funded by the end of last week. The Agriculture and Education sectors continue to remain the most underfunded sectors.
- Providing protection to the refugees, meeting the urgent need of safe drinking water, sanitation, food, nutrition, health care and education continue to be the priorities for humanitarian assistance. Health sector is working along with Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to minimize the risk of water borne and sanitation related diseases and epidemics during the rainy season. Clothes, blankets and mosquito nets are urgently required for immediate distribution to children and women.

REFUGEE RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

Refugee Statistics in five counties as of September 08, 2011

County	Refugees on 31 Aug	Refugees on 08 Sept	Comments
Nimba	52,866	52,866	184 new registration
Grand Gedeh	75,775	76,081	306 new registration
River Gee	11,592	11,560	32 individuals relocated to Little Welbo in Maryland
Maryland	33,109	33,685	576 new registration
Monteserrado	349	349	
Total	173,691	174, 541	

Refugee relocation from the host communities to the camps

- 1,387 refugees were relocated to camps from 2 -10 September.
- During the reporting period from 4 – 10 September, a total of 925 refugees relocated to camps, including 656 refugees to PTP, 166 refugees from the Cavalla and Pedebo axis to the Little Wlebo camp while 113 refugees relocated from both Yourpea and Zorgowee transits to the Bahn camp. Relocation of refugees from Zwedru to PTP Camp started on 1 September and so far 767 refugees have relocated.

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- Further 47 refugees relocated from the Zorgowee transit centre to one of 16 relocation communities in Kialay, Nimba County. Before leaving the transit centre, the refugee received one month food ration, and at the relocation communities, they were provided with shelter.
- A cross border meeting between UNHCR and partners on the return of Ivorian refugees took place in Loguato, Nimba County, on 8 September. The meeting was intended to examine the return of refugees to Cote d'Ivoire and to determine coordination mechanisms needed to support the operation from both countries.



PTP camp construction in progress

PROTECTION (this includes Child Protection and SGBV sub sector)

- In Nimba, the *Lutheran Church in Liberia* in collaboration with *World Change for Children* is conducting a five day trauma workshop for teachers, the refugee leadership, LRRRC as well as NRC in Bahn Refugee Camp. Topic covered in the workshop included coping with trauma and management skills.
- During the relocation exercise in Grand Gedeh, 24 unaccompanied minors/ separated children (UAMs/SC) were identified and registered. Currently the children are in foster care.
- 1,322 Separated Children and Unaccompanied Minors cases identified overall (1% of estimated total number of children).
- An Ivorian woman with seven children arrived in Liberia to seek refuge and claimed that she was intimidated by armed men who frequented her house in Cote d' Ivoire and took away her belongings. Her husband stayed back in Cote d' Ivoire.
- A 16 year old girl reportedly drowned after slipping from a log bridge between Old Yourpea and Beatuo in Nimba.
- On 5-6 September, Protection, Community Services, registration and data entry staff in Harper received one-day training on the use of ProGres software.
- UNHCR protection unit and ICRC are working to improve the referral mechanism and best use trained staff of ICRC.
- 3,656 children attended Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) this week throughout a total of 43 functional CFS locations. The CP sub sector has reached 41 per cent of its target of providing child friendly spaces to 20,000 children affected by the refugee crisis
- 14 unaccompanied minors and 106 separated children have been identified this week.
- A 13 year old girl was reported to be raped in Dougee Camp in the latrines close to the school. The case was reported to the police whilst the girl is undergoing medical treatment.
- One case of early marriage/sexual exploitation was reported by SC-UK. The refugee girl was evacuated and placed in safe environment.
- During the week under review, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) engaged some traditional witch doctors from the Ministry of Internal Affairs to perform some rituals meant to cleanse the Saclepea Refugee Camp of witchcraft activities reported to LRRRC. No refugee was accused or abused in any form during the rituals. The refugees, who form part of the "old caseload" of Ivorian refugees, appreciated the exercise.
- UNFPA reported the delivery of the following Dignity kit to the field: 2500 kits at Bahn camp. The kits were distributed to refugees; 2500 kits were delivered in Grand Gedeh ; 1000 kits were delivered in Maryland. Distribution was discontinued due to lack of order which resulted into fighting among refugees. (1 dignity kit: 2 pcs of lappa, 2 pcs pastes, 2 pcs teeth brushes, 2 pcs towels, 1 pc bottle of cream, sanitary kit and 2 pcs of soap.)

HEALTH

- Based on the initial field assessment reports in refugee hosting counties, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNHCR are working to develop a response plan to strengthen mental health services. Key among the urgent interventions will include development of an integrated operational plan with focus on immediate, medium and long term actions, deployment of a short term psychiatrist, and harmonization and alignment of refugee mental health services to the national mental health strategic plan.
- WHO in collaboration with UNICEF are supporting the Ministry of health in the preparation for round VII nationwide polio campaign. The campaign is expected to benefit approximately over 950,000 eligible children including refugees in all the 15 counties.
- UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health in a nationwide mobilization for fistula campaign expected to be carried out from 13th to 26th September 2011. In Grand Gedeh County, a total of 14 cases (13 refugees) have been screened to benefit the surgical repairs. The campaign is on-going in other Counties.
- WHO has donated one Supplementary kit to assist the Ministry of health and Merlin in provision of health services for refugees and host communities in Grand Gedeh County.

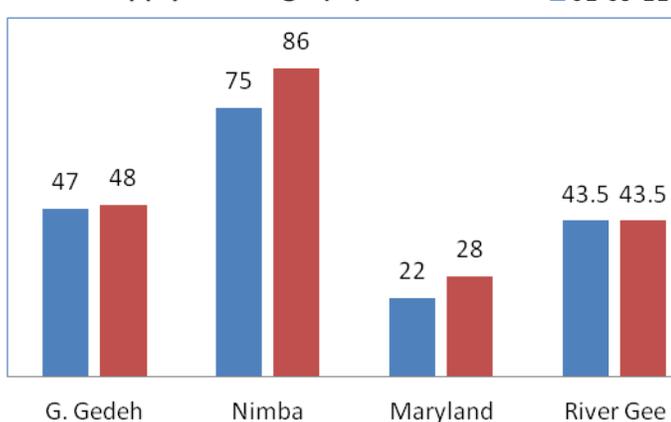
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- UNHCR has donated one inter-agency emergency Health Kit to Merlin for use by health facilities in Grand Gedeh and in Maryland Counties, including the Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital and the JJ Dossen Hospital. The kit will serve 10,000 persons for three months. UNHCR continues to monitor Health, Nutrition, Wash, HIV AIDS activities in border counties.
- At the national level, UNICEF is maintaining close liaison and partnership with the Ministry of Health and WHO to monitor the emergency health operations.
- UNICEF continues supporting the production, field-testing and distribution of IEC material in English and French. The posters and leaflets are being developed to address prevention/control of diarrhea/cholera, malaria, ARI and other diseases and encouraging visits to health clinics among families.
- UNICEF has deployed an International consultant to support the Ministry of Health in planning for the nationwide integrated measles campaign to be carried out in mid-November. As part of this preparation, planning and budgetary are ongoing with counterparts at the national and county levels. The campaign will include Vitamin A and Mebendazole distribution.
- The next polio national immunization campaign is scheduled for 30 September in all 15 counties.
- Bahn health centre and Cold Chain Equipment in Nimba County were assessed to improve vaccine and cold storage management. Introduction of new vaccines, increase cold room capacity and vaccinator trainings were recommended.
- MSF, CHT, IRC and EQUIP in Nimba step up efforts to control malaria through mobile clinics. IRC supported mobile clinic teams reached out to over 3000 persons in remote communities.
- Nine Health facilities in GrandGedeh are capacitated to provide health care to refugees.
- In response to the inter-agency assessment, health care service points have been mapped in River Gee county. As a result mobile clinics will be deployed to low access areas and drugs will be replenished.
- A total of 5,554 outpatient consultations (43.8% refugees) were conducted, 427 children immunized from routine and outreach services, and 51 (56.9% nationals) referrals were assisted.
- One (1) death (national) was reported from Nimba County.

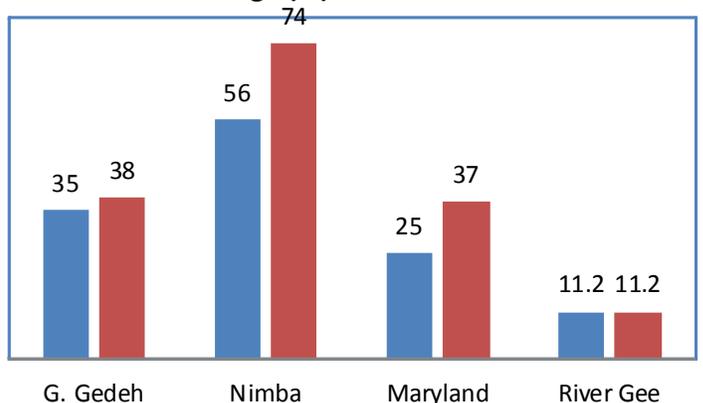
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

- UNICEF and its 10 partners continue to provide support in 30 communities in Maryland, 26 in Grand Gedeh, 42 in Nimba and 11 in River Gee, including three partners implementing school WASH activities.
- A supply plan has been developed for WASH emergency materials and equipment including cholera preparedness materials ready to be dispatched to county capitals. Meanwhile, IEC materials are currently under revision.
- UNICEF and the implementing partners ACF, CIPORD, EQUIP and MC providing wash support in 42 communities and 9 targeted schools. The activities include development/ improvement of water and sanitation facilities, sanitation arrangements, hygiene promotion, and distribution of WASH NFIs.
- Assessments have been carried out in border communities of Nimba for potential WASH intervention based & identified gaps.

Water Supply Coverage (%)



Sanitation Coverage (%)



EDUCATION:

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- Over 23,000 Ivorian children are accessing primary education and ECD services supported by UNICEF and partners in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties.
- UNICEF and education partners are supporting the Ministry of Education to ensure all children are registered in schools for the new academic year.
- A nationwide Back-to-School campaign is going on, including emergency-affected areas. Children, teachers, parents, community leaders, and youth leaders are actively participating in various activities in their communities.
- Renewed Memorandum was signed by 18 teachers, 10 security guards, 10 Janitors and 6 ECD Caregivers on their respective roles and responsibilities to ensure the provision of quality education to all children.
- Schools in 3 relocation communities were opened and children under five were registered in five border communities of Nimba.
- There is an increase of attendance rate of children in grades 1 to 4, while in grades 5 & 6 it remained the same.
- 1,066 learner's kits and 6,041 Ivorian textbooks (253 sets of Grade 1 to Grade 6) have been distributed in Maryland.



School children in Little Wlebo Camp

FOOD:

- From 1-12 September, WFP through its partners provided food assistance to 35,000 beneficiaries, including 33,000 refugees in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties with 584 MT of assorted food commodities.
- Distribution of food and Non Food Items (NFIs) in the 15 + 1 and border communities in Nimba County for the month of September commenced this week.
- As of 6 September, the in-country stock stands at 5,925 MT of assorted food commodities, which is expected to cover food support until the end of November. Food distribution to vulnerable host population in Maryland as well as refugees in River Gee will commence next week.

LOGISTICS:

- UNHCR completed rehabilitation work on the damaged log bridge (14m x 5m in dimension) before reaching Dinplay Town from Flolay direction in Nimba County.
- A bridge on the Loguatuo axis before reaching Garplay location has been rehabilitated. Earlier refugee relocation on 1st September and food distribution could not be taken up due to this damaged bridge.

HIV AIDS

- This week UNICEF and the Ministry of Youth and Sports provided HIV/AIDS prevention, life skills and peace building messages to 5,729 people across the four counties (Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland).
- UNICEF is strongly advocating for replication of the best practices learned in Grand Gedeh County to other counties. These practices include: establishing HIV working Group, mapping of existing HIV/AIDS services, and mapping of stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS activities.

SHELTER:

- UNHCR working with its government and implementing partners commenced two major extensions in Bahn camp.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has officially taken over as camp management for Ziah camp from Concern Worldwide.

TELECOMMUNICATION:

- UNHCR installed VHF repeater at Ziah in Grand Gedeh. The installation of another VHF at Karloken, Maryland County, is going on.

LIBERIAN RETURNEES

- UNHCR assisted a total of 110 Liberian refugees to return from Ghana. The returnees, 58 on Sunday, 4 September and 52 on Friday, 9 September, voluntarily returned via the UN Flight and were received at the Roberts International Airport by UNHCR and

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the Liberian government authorities. Voluntary repatriation grants were paid by UNHCR Ghana while UNHCR Liberia paid secondary transport assistance.

RESPONSE TO FLOOD & SEA SHORE EROSION:

- The Minister of the Internal Affairs led an assessment team to Great Cape County, Executive Director of LRRRC, the Superintendent of Grand Capemount, representative from the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), OCHA, HSCO and UNMIL in order to meet the affected families whose thatched houses were washed away due to the erosion of sea shore. In Tailalor 42 and Kru Town 16 families lost their houses including all belongings, boats and fishing nets.
- As an initial response Government responded to the victims by providing 50 bags of rice (each bag with 25 kilogram), 10 tins of oil, 10 cartoons of sardine, 100 pieces of mattresses, 10 bales of used clothes and 5 bales of blankets.
- The victims have also expressed willingness to be relocated to the safer environment. The consultation with the local authorities on going to identify the land and procure it for resettlement of the communities.
- Further to strengthen coordination and to implement effective measures Government has instituted three committees;
 1. **Immediate Response Committee** chaired by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Co-chaired by the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) with several line ministries as members.
 2. **Enforcement Committee** chaired by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Co-chaired by Ministry of Justice with several line ministries as members.
 3. **Planning Committee** chaired by the Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs and Co-chaired by Ministry of Education with several line ministries as members.
- The flood affected families in 19th and 24th streets in Monrovia will be resettled in a safer location. The land identification process is going on. Government has a plan to assist them with a concrete house depending on the family size. However the construction is expected to start once the funding is secured.

KEY COORDINATION MEETINGS:

SN	Key coordination meetings in Monrovia	Day	Time	Venue	Contact
1	Humanitarian Action Committee (HAC) meeting	Every Thursday	10.30 am	Jordan Conference Room, UNDP, Monrovia	Ryan Bloh Nyenetue Romeo Bloh Bloh@un.org 05319860
2	Operations Coordination Meeting	Every Friday	09.00 am	UNHCR, Monrovia	Dokie Nah nahd@unhcr.org 06870817
3	Regular weekly sectoral meetings at Monrovia level	Weekly			Sector leads

For submission to the ONE UN weekly sitrep contact the following:

SN	Names	Org	Email	Phone no
1	Mounkara Yakoubu	OCHA	mounkara@un.org	0880676630
2	Manzoor Khoso	HCSO	khoso@un.org	05319901
3	Sulaiman Momodu	UNHCR	momodu@unhcr.org	06493862
4	Prabhu Prabhakaran	UNICEF	pprabhakaran@unicef.org	0880803797
5	Ayda Hamza	WFP	ayda.hamza@wfp.org	0776500281
6	Dr. Clement Peter	WHO	clement@lr.afro.who.int	06522998
7	Edward Kemokai	LRRRC	kemokai62@yahoo.com	06670822

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