

Publication No: 36, **22 NOVEMBER - 31 DECEMBER 2011**



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW

- UNHCR reports total number of refugees in Liberia at 135,208 as of 15 December 2011. Nimba County hosts 41,946 refugees, Grand Gedeh 62,017, River Gee 11,530, Maryland 12,819 and Montserrado 377. Refugees are returning to CDI, especially from Maryland County, which accounts for about 76%.
- As part of contingency planning, UNICEF has prepositioned in Zwedru some WASH items, including 456 cartons of soap, water quality assessment kits, water tanks, pumps, water kits for 2,000 families, 6,671 bucket sets and 3,268 water purification kits. The items will add to the WASH contingency stock and cholera preparedness stocked currently at the field location.
- The emergency preparedness WASH materials and equipment for Maryland and River Gee Counties have been prepositioned in Harper.
- The issue of teachers' incentives is yet to be resolved, especially in Maryland County. The Education sector is still advocating for a solution. Nevertheless, more than 45,000 Ivorian and Liberian children in camps and host communities are accessing primary education and early childhood development services supported by UNICEF and partners. UNHCR (UNICEF 18 – 24 Dec 2011)
- A total number of 1,881 cases of separated and unaccompanied children have been identified to date. Under the reporting period, one separated thirteen-year old boy who resided in Garplay, Nimba County died after he fell sick.
- WFP expects to provide food assistance to 135,208 registered refugees as provided in the table above. In addition, targeted food distribution will be conducted in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties for 100,000 vulnerable people affected by high food prices.

County	Last Report of 10 Nov 11	Change	15 Dec 11
Grand Gedeh	62,542	525	62,017
Maryland	15,058	2239	12,819
Montserrado	377	0	377
Nimba	42,126	180	41,946
River Gee	11,530	0	11,530
Old caseload	6,519	0	6,519
Total	138,152	- 2,944	135,208

REFUGEE RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

PROTECTION and GBV

- The identified separated and unaccompanied children are benefiting from case management services with over 174 cases receiving active follow-up between 10 and 17 December alone. During the same period, one separated twelve-year old girl was reunited with her parents in Cote d'Ivoire.

HEALTH

- The UNICEF/Mentor Initiative Emergency Malaria Education Project continues in Nimba with more than 300 general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) and 400 school teachers trained and supported with information packages and supply of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets to promote the use of mosquito nets among families.

One UN weekly sitrep

- During the reporting period, EPI Services and Routine immunizations were carried out at the health facilities, Solo camp, Zia camp and mobile sites in Grand Gedeh where 108 children were vaccinated (88 refugees and 20 Liberians). A total of 216 doses of antigens were administered (190 to refugees and 28 to Liberians). Two cases of measles were identified and managed.
- In Maryland, 79 megaphones and 6 boxes of batteries were handed over to the CHT December 20, 2011 as part of the health education project to be used by town messengers for spreading health messages in communities.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

Nimba County

- UNICEF WASH partner CIPORD concluded a technical assessment of non-functional WASH facilities and developed a renovation plan accordingly for the coming months. Meanwhile, mobilization and training of WASH committees continues as part of efforts for hygiene promotion among families in local communities.
- UNICEF's WASH partner CIS completed construction of four new latrines and rehabilitated four others, equipped with hand washing stations, besides the construction of hand dug wells in two schools.
- Hygiene promotion posters are being prepositioned for distribution in support of the ongoing hygiene promotion and cleaning campaigns in 17 schools and 17 communities.
- ECREP, UNICEF's WASH partner, completed construction of 75 family latrines, rehabilitated four wells, and is still installing culverts for five new hand dug wells.

Maryland/River Gee

- ERS, with support from UNICEF, has started emergency latrine construction at Gbloken clinic.
- ERS has also completed the digging of one new hand-dug well and has rehabilitated eight existing ones. This brings to 11, the number of wells dug, and to 20 those that have been rehabilitated. The catchment area is made up of 15,000 persons in Maryland County.
- ACF handed over WASH activities to UNHCR in Bahn refugee camp, Nimba, on 20th December 2011. The Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is set to take over WASH activity implementation and WASH management in Bahn camp from 1st January 2012.
- Water is now supplied in Bahn from four 5000 liter polytanks installed in the camp, serving facilities that include two schools and the MSF clinic. Other areas/blocks in the settlement are supplied by hand pumps.

EDUCATION

- Over 45,100 Ivorian and Liberian children have access to Primary Education, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Vocational Skills Training services in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties. Children in River Gee (most of them Liberians) have received basic education supplies. The number of beneficiaries in the above-mentioned counties has increased from the last reporting period, except in Maryland.
- Out of 45,100 children, 13% is in ECD centers while 87% in primary education, and more than 250 youth are attending vocational training classes.
- Currently 168 ECD caregivers and 563 primary teachers are on duty in the four counties; an average Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) on ECD services is 34:1 while an average PTR on primary schools is 67:1. Besides inadequate teaching forces, most of schools are in need of additional school furniture, rehabilitation of school buildings and WASH facilities. (Unicef 13 – 20 Dec)
- Reprinted Ivorian primary textbooks for Grade 1 to 3 learners have now been prepositioned in Ganta, Nimba County. List of schools is being finalized for distribution. These books are expected to reach Ivorian children in early January 2012.

NUTRITION

- In the four emergency counties, a total of 1,824 children under five years were screened for acute malnutrition during the previous week. 26% refugees and 74% Liberians. (Unicef 25 Dec. 2011)
- 18% of all the children screened were identified as malnourished (severely or moderately malnourished). The host population was more malnourished than their Ivorian counterparts, with 76% of the malnourished children being Liberians and 24% Ivoirians.

One UN weekly sitrep

- At the Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Centres (OTPs), 85 severely malnourished children under five were newly admitted, 93 were cured, and 7 defaulted. No death has been reported. 953 children were still undergoing treatment.
- At the Inpatient Therapeutic Feeding Centres (IPFs), 1 severely malnourished child under five was admitted, 3 cured, 0 defaulted. 1 death was reported. 6 children were still undergoing treatment.
- At the Supplementary Feeding Centres (SFPs), 113 moderately malnourished children were admitted, 56 cured, 6 defaulted. No death has been reported. 1,247 children were still undergoing treatment.

EDUCATION

- In Nimba County, 20,560 children are recorded to date as accessing ECD and primary education services (3,515 children aged 2-5 in ECD centres with 84 caregivers, 17,045 children aged 6-12 in primary schools with 159 teachers). The total number of children has increased by 835 from the last reporting period.
- Training was provided to local education partners from the government and NGOs in Nimba County on cluster approach, collaborative intervention of education and child protection in emergency settings, and planning and implementation of emergency activities at an Education and Protection Cluster Coordination training workshop. In Grand Gedeh, 12,633 children are recorded to date as accessing ECD and primary education services (56 caregivers and 167 teachers). The total number of children remained the same from the last reporting period.
- At the PTP camp in Grand Gedeh County, 359 post-primary aged children have been identified as potential students for secondary education services during the new session commencing in January 2012.
- In Maryland, more than 2,000 children are attending ECD and primary education services (328 children aged 2-5 in ECD centres and 1,723 children aged 6-12 in primary schools). The total number of children decreased by 2,587 from the last reporting period. This can be explained by a combination of factors, including long distance to walk to school, holiday season, demotivated teachers due to unpaid incentives particularly in host communities.
- English and French literacy classes and other skills training courses are becoming increasingly popular among Ivorian and Liberian youth and adolescents in Maryland in Harper, Pleebo and Little Wlebo Camp. A new training site has been identified to meet the high demand of learners.
- UNICEF partners trained 8 ECD caregivers and 484 Parents-Teacher Association (PTA) members on psychosocial care skills, trauma healing process, basic nutrition knowledge and ECD.
- In the Loguatu Axis, more than 4,100 textbooks have been distributed to 12 relocation villages and border communities to date.
- In River Gee, 7,434 children including 1,690 Ivorians in 26 Liberian schools have received learning materials from UNICEF. UNICEF and the Education sector partners are yet to start the full package of EIE activities in the county.
- In Gbarzon, Tchien and Konobo districts, more than 2,800 school materials including textbooks, copy books, school bags, stationary, and lesson-planning books have been distributed to children in six communities.

FOOD SECURITY:

- As of 30 November, the in-country remained at 1,904 Mt of assorted food commodities, expected to cover the food needs of the beneficiaries until January 2012. However, due to a severe food and resource break in pipeline, the WFP Country Office is instituting cereal ration reduction from December onwards to temporarily mitigate the shortfall.
- The Joint (WFP and UNOPS) rehabilitation of the feeder road project from Grai to Buutuo in Nimba County is ongoing.

LOCAL INTEGRATION

Community services:

- Between 10 and 17 December 2011, a total of 100 foster parents participated in a two-day training session on child protection and family responsibilities (majority of parents were refugees or Liberian nationals who are currently fostering separated or unaccompanied children). Training was delivered in five locations along Loguatu and Gborplay axis.
- In River Gee, 258 pregnant women were tested for HIV out of which six women were found to be HIV positive. From the old case load, 5 pregnant women are on CTX prophylaxis and three on ARV.

One UN weekly sitrep

- The UNICEF/Mentor Initiative Emergency Malaria Education Project continues in Nimba with more than 300 general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) and at least 450 school teachers trained and supported with information packages and supply of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets to promote the use of mosquito nets among families.
- Livelihood training sessions has been ongoing in the Gborplay Axis targeting Liberian and Ivorian youth to acquire vocational skills on shoe making. More than a half of participants are female who have begun producing African slippers.
- Recreational activities are being regularly organized by the Education sector actors, with Liberian and Ivorian children playing sports, enjoying recreational games, performing dances and songs. To date, more than 250 footballs and volleyballs, volleyball nets and sports' jerseys have been distributed to children and youth in 12 communities in Nimba County.

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 Ryan Conference Room, UNDP, Monrovia	Manzoor Khoso khoso@un.org 05319901
2	Operational Coordination Meeting	Every other Friday	09.00 am	UNHCR, Monrovia	Dokie Nah nahd@unhcr.org 06870817
3	Regular weekly sectoral meetings at Monrovia level	Weekly/Bi-weekly		various	Sector leads

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

SN	Names	Org	Email	Phone no
1	Mounkara Yakoubou	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

The ONE UN weekly Humanitarian sitrep is compiled by OCHA & issued by the Humanitarian Coordinators office, Monrovia.