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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Vice President Joseph Boakai were inaugurated for a second six-year term of office on Monday, 16 January. In her inaugural address, the President underscored the need for reconciliation among Liberians and called on them to be more patriotic. The main opposition party, the Congress for Democratic Change attended the ceremony.
- Given the hope of peace and political stabilization in Cote d'Ivoire, 7,321 refugees are reported to have spontaneously returned to Cote d'Ivoire, especially from Rive Gee County. The overall refugee figure now stands at 128,067 individuals.
- The UNHCR and the Liberian Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) handed over 31 shelters in the Gblah community which was previously occupied by 31 refugee families.
- Due to a severe food and resource pipeline break, WFP has been instituting a cereal ration reduction from December 2011 onwards to temporarily mitigate the shortfall. Since January 2012, WFP has been providing food assistance only to refugees residing in camps and relocation villages.
- Over 46,473 Ivorian and Liberian children now have access to Primary Education, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Vocational Skills Training services in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties. The number of beneficiaries in the respective counties has slightly dropped as compared to those in the last reporting period.
- Crucial lack of livelihood, life skills, psychosocial and education programs in camps and host communities for young people. This will have a long term implications for peace building and stability in Liberia

Refugee Statistics in Counties as of January 15, 2012			
County	15 Dec 11	Change	15 Jan, 12
Grand Gedeh	62,017		62,017
Maryland	12,819		12,819
Montserrado	377		377
Nimba	42,126	-180	41,946
River Gee	11,530	-7141	4,389
Old Case load	6,519		6,519
Total	135,208	-7321	128,067

REFUGEE RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

Camps management

- UNHCR reported that a 10-day comprehensive mass information campaign which is aimed to inform refugees about relocation to camps, facilitated voluntary repatriation, verification of Ivorian refugees (in Nimba) and the current WFP food situation started on 18 January. The campaign covers all the seven refugee camps and host communities in the four main counties hosting Ivorian refugees in Liberia.
- It is reported by UNHCR that the verification of Ivorian refugees residing in communities in Grand Gedeh started on 11 January. The exercise will commence in the four camps in the county (Duogee, Solo, Ziah, PTP) after verification is completed in host communities.

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PROTECTION (including Child Protection and GBV)

Nimba County

- 602 separated children and 262 unaccompanied children have been supported through case management.
- 30 child protection cases were followed up this week.
- Average¹ weekly attendance at CFS in Nimba was 4314 children (53% boys and 47% girls)
- 100 foster parents participated in training across five locations along Loguatu and Gborplay axes. The training focused on forms of child abuse and community based responses 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 County

- 378 separated children and 381 unaccompanied minors have been supported through case management.
- Case management follow up for 67 vulnerable children, and there were 6 new referrals for service provision in the field.
- The total number of children that 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 final sports match in Solo and Dougee Camps and in Toe Town.
- 12 parents received foster family kits.

Maryland County

- 546 children are currently registered in CFS.
- Weekly average attendance at CFS is 1,609 children (70% in Little Wlebo Camp and 30% in Pleebo community).
- 20 people participated in a three-day training session for Right to Play staff and refugee community leaders in Harper. The training was delivered by the IRC and focused on child protection in post conflict settings and children's rights. An evaluation showed there was a 30% improvement in participants' knowledge/understanding of child protection.

River Gee

- The verification of refugees in River Gee County was completed on 15 December 2011. Validation and updating of proGres database has also been completed with new family cards issued to the verified population

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

Nimba County

- Oxfam remain in PTP (Grand Gedeh) and Little Wlobo camps (Maryland) after contractual arrangements with UNHCR are finalized. As reported last week, NRC will continue WASH in the Bahn refugee camp.
- Current WASH coverage in Bahn refugee camp at 19 l/p/d and 19 persons per latrine (meeting sphere standards).
- UNICEF is finalizing agreements with three partners (ACF, DRC and ZOA) to increase WASH coverage in refugee affected host communities.

Grand Gedeh County

- CARE international and UNHCR are at the final stage of negotiations for implementing WASH in the Ziah, Solo and Dougee camps.
- Current WASH coverage in Grand Gedeh camps at: Ziah – 21 l/p/d and 24 persons per latrine, PTP – 13 l/p/d and 19 persons per latrine, Solo – 13 l/p/d and 25 persons per latrine, Duogee – 12 l/p/d and 27 persons per latrine, 52% coverage for water and 43% for sanitation in Grand Gedeh host communities.
- Agreements being finalized with ZOA for increasing WASH coverage in GG after signing PCA with ECREP and Oxfam GB earlier.

Maryland/River Gee County

¹ Average weekly attendance statistic above does not include CFS attendance data from Plan, Nimba.

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- With UNICEF support, NGO SPIR has completed development of 3 of the 5 recently drilled boreholes. This brings to 4 the number of boreholes completed, covering the needs of 2,000 people, including about 650 refugees. Meanwhile SPIR has completed five additional latrines, bringing the total of latrines completed to 47.
- WASH coverage in Little Wlebo refugee camp stands at 50lpd for water and 9 persons per latrine. 46% coverage for water and 52% coverage for sanitation in host communities in Maryland County.

EDUCATION:

- Distribution exercise of additional 90,000 copies of Ivorian primary textbooks next week to reach 7,200 Ivorian children in grade 1-3
- Teachers in Maryland have been paid on 16 January, including unpaid period from October to December 2011. Efforts from the Education sector to secure adequate funds for teacher incentives have been ongoing to avoid possible disruption of activities due to teacher strikes
- Children in River Gee, including Ivorian refugees, have not yet received a full package of Education services except through ad hoc distributions of basic supplies. Most of the refugee children have not been able to fulfill their rights to education. Education sector continues its advocacy on the rights of education regardless of the current location of children.

FOOD SECURITY:

- Due to a severe food and resource pipeline break, WFP has been instituting cereal ration reduction from December 2011 onwards to temporarily mitigate the shortfall. In January 2012, food assistance will be provided only to refugees residing in camps and relocation villages. They will receive 15 days cereal ration (6.3Kg) and 30 days ration of all other commodities (CSB, Pulses, Oil and Salt). WFP is making all efforts to resume distribution of normal quantity of food as soon as possible.
- Tripartite agreements between UNHCR, WFP and Cooperating partners (NRC and DRC) have already been signed for 2012.
- As of 18 January, the in-country stock stands at 1,576 mt (320 mt of rice) of assorted food commodities, which are expected to cover the food needs of targeted beneficiaries in January 2012.
- In January, WFP expects to provide food assistance only to refugees residing in camps and relocation villages (42,000) due to the current food pipeline break.
- General Food Distributions are ongoing with so far 13,321 refugees receiving assorted food commodities in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties

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% in Grand Gedeh, 45% in Nimba, 11% in Maryland and 13% in River Gee. Among the total of children screened, 24% was refugees.
- 13% of the children screened were identified as severely or moderately malnourished. The host population is more affected by acute malnutrition than their Ivorian counterparts: 83% of the malnourished children are Liberians while 17% are Ivoirians.
- At the OTP centers, 87 newly severely malnourished children under five were newly admitted, 96 were cured, and 14 defaulted, 1 death, while 882 children are still undergoing treatment.
- At the IPF centres, 7 children were admitted, 1 cured, 0 defaulted, 1 death, while 22 children are still undergoing treatment.
- At the SFP Centres, 94 newly moderately malnourished were admitted, 216 cured, 36 defaulted, no death while 1,119 children are still undergoing treatment.

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	Romeo Bloh Blroh@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

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