

Region & Country Centers

Agro-climatic Monitoring

Markets & Trade

Livelihoods

Remote Monitoring

West Africa (Remote Monitoring) > Liberia

Current Statement [Archive](#)

The paddy rice harvest is almost completed in swamps and uplands in most of Liberia, but it is still ongoing in few areas in the lowlands. In Nimba county, the transplanted of short-maturing varieties of rice for a new cycle of production is completed. The crops are in the tillering stage and harvests are expected in the next three months. Even though this production is implemented at a small scale (not adopted by most of the farmers), it will increase some household's food stocks. Rice production in southeastern counties, mainly in some areas in Grand Gedeh, Maryland, River Gee and Grand Kru, are estimated to reach 15 - 20 percent of last year's production. This is partly due to a lake of rainfall from May to July which affected vegetative development of the rice crop. The Nimba county, which hosted 28 percent of Ivorian refugees in Liberia, will record near average rice production. Currently most of households' food stocks are at good levels thanks to the near average harvest of rice in the country. In the counties hosting refugees, the harvest of rice, although low in some areas, have improved households' food stocks. Selling farm products (plantain, cassava, vegetables, potatoes, eddo, palm nut, pepper, etc.) and the production and selling of charcoal (mainly in Nimba) will provide sufficient income to households. Refugees in the camps remain dependant on humanitarian food assistance, but even some refugee households have cropped small plots during the 2011 rainy season.

Except in Lofa and parts of Bong counties, imported rice remains the most important supply for urban and rural markets since farmers are holding back their production for their own consumption. It is expected that more local milled rice will reach the markets near the end of December when farmers, as usual, sell parts of their production to earn income and fulfill other needs during the Christmas celebration. The price of imported rice is stable compared to previous months but remain higher compared to November last year. In Ganta and Zwedru markets, the annual variation for the 50kg bag of imported rice is 39 and 50 percent respectively. Fuel prices are also stable compared to previous months, but remain high in the remote areas like Zwedru (400LD/gallon) and Ziah (500LD/gallon) compared to Monrovia (305LD/gallon). This has an effect of increasing transportation costs which is translated into commodities prices.

As of November 2011, the refugee population in the six camps is estimated at 36,188 with Grand Gedeh county hosting almost 65 percent of the population. It is reported that those living with host communities are returning by their own means after the Liberia harvest. Few official voluntary returns that are supported by UNHCR, WFP, Caritas, etc. from Banh and Solo camps have started in October. In fact, there may be more returnees as reported officially.

Livelihood recovery for households which hosted refugees at the early stage of the influx remains slow. WFP, FAO, CRS, OXFAM, and other NGO are yet to implement livelihood recovery activities in areas hosting refugee for both host communities and refugees. This next step will help improve livelihoods and improve food stocks through supports for the dry season production.

There is no evidence that local rice production will push down the imported rice prices, but the recent harvest has the advantage of enabling households to meet their food needs through their own production before purchasing rice from the market. Food availability at the household level is increasing thanks to the new rice harvest. Most households can meet their needs until next May at least. However, poor households who took credit to buy food during the lean season and experienced low rice production this year will encounter food deficits for one to two months because they will likely sell part of this year's rice production to payback their credit. They may rely on markets to meet their food needs one to two months before the hunger season. In general, the usual coping strategies combined with the planned interventions in the area for both refugees and host communities should help poor households meet their basic food needs. The current strategy of moving refugees from host communities to camps, and ending food distribution outside of the camp by the end of December 2011 will help clarify the actual population of refugees and help to reestablish the size of assistance needed to meet needs in the field.

Current Anomalies

The Southeast Rice with Cassava, the Rice Intercropped and Forest Hunting, and the Coastal Plain Cassava with Rice and River Fishing livelihood Zones of Nimba, Grand Gedeh, and Maryland Counties.

Near-Term Food Insecurity Trend



Category	Agro-Climatology and Food Production	Markets and Trade	Health and Nutrition	Civil Insecurity
Anomaly	Yes	Yes	No	No

The erratic rainfall from May to early July has affected the vegetative growth of rice, and, according to technical field staff, is expected to reduce the production by 15 to 20 percent in some areas in Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru. In November, prices of rice remain stable compared to last September, meaning that local production is not sufficient enough to cause a decrease in prices. This year, less locally produced rice has been sold in the market by farming households. The area stands with the highest prices of fuel in the country (400-500LD/gallon) compared to Monrovia and its suburbs (305-318LD/gallon) mainly due to the remote location and a bad road access. Current rice production will lead to good levels of food stocks in Nimba county and average to below-average in some areas in Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru. Households are earning normal incomes by selling plantain, cassava, potatoes, vegetables, eddo, palm nut, etc. in local markets. The construction of the camps was an opportunity for local population to increase their incomes with daily wages varying between four and five US Dollars instead of two US Dollars in normal times. Some agencies like NRC, DRC, Save The Children, offer employment to bilingual individuals in the proportion of 70% LB, 30% refugees. These employments concerning security, interpretation, monitoring and advising households, teaching, etc. provides valuable incomes to some households. Except the PTP camp, there is no more shelter building activity and casual labor opportunity is weak around the camps. Daily wages are returning to their initial level before the upsurge of refugees. Some private agencies are recruiting labor in Banh camp to be used in rubber and palm plantations in places like Tapita. Most of the youth return with enough money to fulfill other needs. In Ziah, mining activities are attracting most of the youth in the camp who earn 600LD/day compared to the local 150LD/day. The rice harvest has increased food stocks of some refugees who were paid back with part of the harvested rice (20 percent of the amount harvested). Hunting is still providing good incomes to host community and few refugees involved in cross-border trade since the price of bush meat has doubled or increased fourfold. Palm oil continues to provide normal

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None Current

Other Products

[Shape Files](#)

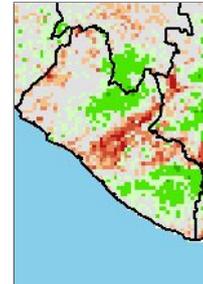
External Resources

[IPC: Integrated Food Secur...](#)

Agro-Climatic Imagery

Remote-sensing satellite imagery is sourced from NOAA, NASA, and USGS.

NDVI



vs. L/T

Current

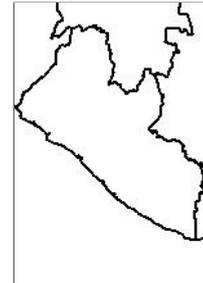
RFE



vs. L/T

Current

WRSI



Anomaly

Current

Geographic data are partly derived from the UN/FAO GAUL system. [Read Disclaimer](#)

incomes to smallholders in Nimba. Household food security will improve during the next six months thanks to the good harvest in Nimba, average to below average in other counties in southeastern Liberia and the normal to above-normal income generating activities. Poor households may start buying rice in May one to two months early before the normal lean season. This early dependence on the market will not affect livelihoods since farmers will use the normal coping strategies like shifting diets to more tubers, increasing incomes by selling more wild products, borrowing, etc. The voluntary return of refugees to Bolequin, Toulepleu, Doukoue, and Guiglo in Ivory Coast from Banh and Solo camp has started last October. Voluntary returns by own means are also reported in the area of Tai bordering Grand Gedeh county. After December 2011, food distribution will cease outside the camp and should encourage refugees with less support to join the camps. This will reduce the pressure on new harvests and prevent a rapid increase in prices. Assistance to refugees in the camps will continue and starting this dry season most of the partners are involving in livelihood recovery activities for both local communities and refugees. This will help to increase vegetables production household incomes.

-  Food security conditions improving or expected to improve in the next 3 to 6 months
-  No significant changes in food security conditions expected in the next 3 to 6 months
-  Food security conditions deteriorating or expected to deteriorate in the next 3 to 6 months

Core Products Available

Products	Description
	Production and Market Flow Map Maps illustrating market catchments and flows for commodities important to food security. Read more
	Livelihood Zone Map divides the country into homogenous zones within which people share broadly the same pattern of livelihood, including options for obtaining food and income and market opportunities. Read more
	Livelihood Zone Descriptions accompany Zone Maps. They briefly describe the main characteristics of livelihoods in each zone. On their own, livelihood zone maps and descriptions aid development of monitoring systems by identifying geographically relevant variables to monitor. Read more
	Livelihood Seasonal Monitoring Calendars combine the seasonal calendars found in the profiles with the information on sources of food and income by wealth group to identify which variables are important to which wealth groups in each zone. This serves as a quick reference tool when developing a monitoring plan. Read more

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