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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The World Food Program (WFP) requires an additional US\$21 million to respond to the needs of refugees and Liberian host communities. Starting this month food assistance will be provided only to refugees residing in camps and relocation villages. Some 47,000 people will receive 10 days cereal ration (4.2Kg) and 30 days ration of corn-soya blend, pulses and salt and 60 days ration of oil.
- Water, sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities in Ziah, Solo and Duogee refugee settlements are needed.
- The humanitarian community is concerned about continued access to drinking water in camps and communities since fluctuating water levels risk to impact water supplies.
- For the first time in Liberia, UNHCR began biometric registration of refugees. In January a verification exercise began at the Bahn refugee camp in Nimba County. There remain some 128,000 Ivorian refugees in Liberia¹.

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

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Protection

- More psychosocial support is needed for 15,381 children registered in child-friendly spaces (CFS) in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Maryland and River Gee Counties. Increased case management capacity is required for refugee children affected by the emergency in four counties, in particular Grand Gedeh.
- Refugee children and youth in camps in these four counties are in need of clothing and shoes.

Food security

- WFP plans to help 100,000 Ivorian refugees for the first half of 2012 and 80,000 Ivorian refugees for the second half of 2012 in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Maryland and River Gee Counties. The reduction in numbers is based on the probability that Ivorian refugees will return home over the course of this year.
- Some 60,000 vulnerable host communities will receive assistance through Food for Assets (*also known as Food for Work*) activities in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties this year. Such programmes *pay workers with food and help people to start building a hunger-free future for their communities.*

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

¹ UNHCR, as of 30 January 2012

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- A reduced supply of water in all refugee camps has been reported. Lower water levels are behind the reduction. Only around 51 per cent of Liberians living in rural areas use improved drinking water sources², so access to water for rural populations is not always easy. With the additional burden of thousands of refugees, additional support is needed to ensure adequate water supplies are provided.
- Humanitarian partners along with local actors are expected to begin training refugee families and host communities on household water treatment so people in areas where water levels are reduced can learn to purify well-water. .
- UNICEF is mapping WASH partner intervention areas through the development of a 3W (Who does what, where) matrix to better identify gaps.

REFUGEE RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

Protection (including child protection and Gender Based Violence)

Grand Gedeh County

- Some 405 separated children and 414 unaccompanied minors have been supported through case management. 81 cases (were followed in Grand Gedeh over the past two weeks.
- Over the past two weeks 15 unaccompanied minors and 12 separated children have been identified and are being helped by UNICEF and its partners
- Over 14,874 children attended activities in child -friendly spaces (CFS) in the past two weeks. Overall 7,273 children (of which 43 per cent are girls) in total are registered for activities in (CFS in 12 locations in this county.
- This week 1264 community members participated in 'youth club' activities across 12 locations.
- Also this week 200 Ivorian boys and girls participated in peer-to-peer activities..
- Some 75 youth participated in training on child protection and GBV.

Maryland County

- 288 separated children and 61 unaccompanied minors have been supported through case management.
- Fortnightly average attendance at CFS is 2028 children (80 per cent are Ivorian nationals)
- 2,250 people, including 570 Ivorian youth, participated in a Play Day Program.
- 14 female volunteer leaders participated in training focused on planning, coordinating and delivering early child based play activities.
- 21 Ivorian and 10 Liberian Early Child Play leaders (which are sponsored by the international NGO Right to Play) participated in training to strengthen the capacity of volunteers who work directly with children.

Nimba County

- 613 separated children and 264 unaccompanied children have been supported through case management.
- 89 child protection cases were followed up over the past two weeks.
- 7,513 children in total are actively registered for activities in CFS throughout 26 locations. Average fortnightly attendance at CFS in Nimba County was 8,302 children.
- 152 young people participated in life skill sessions that focused on every day issues affecting them in their communities such as reproductive health, good health practices and addressing discrimination.
- 245 children in Bahn Camp participated in a risk mapping exercise and identified forced marriage, teenage pregnancy, sexual exploitation and abuse as the key issues for concern.
- 43 foster parents participated in a group discussion on children's needs in Bahn Camp
- 32 Save the Children field staff (20 male and 12 female) received training to enhance their capacity to provide psychosocial support to children.

River Gee County

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

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

² UNICEF, 2008: http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/liberia_statistics.html#81

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Grand Geddeh County

- Potential problems with water supply and sanitation in all GG camps due to receding water levels.
- Additional WASH interventions and intervening partners are needed in the area.

Maryland/River Gee County

- The Maryland CHT attended a four-day CLTS training funded by UNICEF and implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and Ministry of Health & Social Welfare between 10th and 14th January.

Nimba County

- No back up system for water supply in Bahn refugee camp. Potential for water gaps in case the current system breaks down.
- UNICEF has finalised agreements with Action Against Hunger (ACF), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and German Cooperation Department to increase WASH coverage in communities where refugees are living or being hosted. ACF will concentrate its efforts on the Buutuo Axis, while DRC will be working in the Gborplay Axis.

Education:

- Over 48,100 Ivorian and Liberian children have access to Primary Education, Early Childhood Development and Vocational Skills Training services in Nimba, Grand Geddeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties. The number of beneficiaries in the respective counties has slightly increased since the last reporting period.
- An estimated 7,200 Ivorian children in grade 1-3 in primary schools will receive a complete set of textbooks. Distribution began on 25 January..
- The first Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) meeting in Monrovia was held on 25th January. The group proposed a specific workshop to review the strategy from emergency to recovery and plan for the next school year. ESWG meetings in Nimba, Grand Geddeh have been held regularly.

Food security:

- In January, WFP provide food assistance to 43,967 refugees residing in six camps and 16 relocation villages through its cooperating partners UNHCR, NRC and DRC. As of 30 January, the in-country stock stands at 1,405 MT (206 MT of rice) of assorted food commodities, which are expected to support limited number of beneficiaries in February 2012.
- A public information campaign on facilitated voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees, relocation of Ivorian refugees from border areas to camps and the reduction of WFP food distributions, took place at the end of January. All seven refugee camps and some communities hosting refugees were visited with campaign messages supporting refugees' return to Cote d'Ivoire with dignity and security.
- In February, WFP expects to provide food assistance only to 44,500 refugees residing in camps and relocation villages due to a lack of financial resources. WFP continues to engage the humanitarian and donor communities in trying to find solutions to the current food and resource 'pipeline break'.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is completing seeds and tools distributions, through its implementing partners, for 2,000 households. The distributions are for the promotion of dry season vegetable and cassava production, until 10 February.
- Agriculture partners are currently supporting or starting support to 11,220 households, of which 1,010 in Nimba, 6,780 in Grand Geddeh and 3,430 in Maryland. An agriculture support programme of German Agro Action will target 1,000 households in River Gee and Grand Geddeh counties. FAO programmes account for 5,000 households out of the total number.
- A crop assessment conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Relief Services and FAO, has confirmed previous reports that adverse rainfall patterns during the early months of the rainy season have had a negative impact on rice production in Nimba County. In 2011, supported upland rice farmers achieved a yield of 1.2 metric tons (MT) per hectare (down from 1.7 MT per hectare in 2010), while supported lowland farmers achieved a yield of 2.3 MT/ha (down from 2.9 MT/ha). Non-supported upland rice farmers produced 0.6 MT/ha (down from 0.8) and non-supported lowland rice farmers produced 1.6 MT/ha (down from 1.9).
- **The crop assessment confirms that the rice harvest in communities on the Buutuo and Gborplay axes was below expectations.** The discontinuation of food aid distributions in host communities in Nimba County in November will put additional stress on the communities. There is a risk that farmers will consume their seed rice as a coping mechanism and hence deplete partially or entirely the seed rice for the 2012 planting season.

Nutrition:

- In the four affected counties a total of 3,228 children under five years were screened for acute malnutrition during the two previous weeks. Among the total of children screened, 24 per cent were refugees.

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- **Some 14 percent of the children screened were identified as severely or moderately malnourished.** The host population is the most affected by acute malnutrition than its Ivorian counterparts. Of the total, 77per cent of the malnourished children are Liberian and 23per cent are Ivorian.
- At the Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Centres 132 newly severely malnourished children under five were admitted, 160 were cured, 20 defaulted, 1 death, while 832 children are still undergoing treatment.
- At the Inpatient Therapeutic Feeding Centres 11 children were admitted, 5 cured, 2 defaulted, 3 death, while 11 children are still undergoing treatment.
- At the Supplementary Feeding Centres 186 new moderately malnourished children were admitted, 248 cured, 55 defaulted while 994 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 other Thursday	10.30 am	Jordan Ryan Conference Room, UNDP, Monrovia	Nyenetue Romeo Bloh Blöh@un.org 05319860
2	Operations 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	Refer to sector leads	Refer to sector leads	Sector leads

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