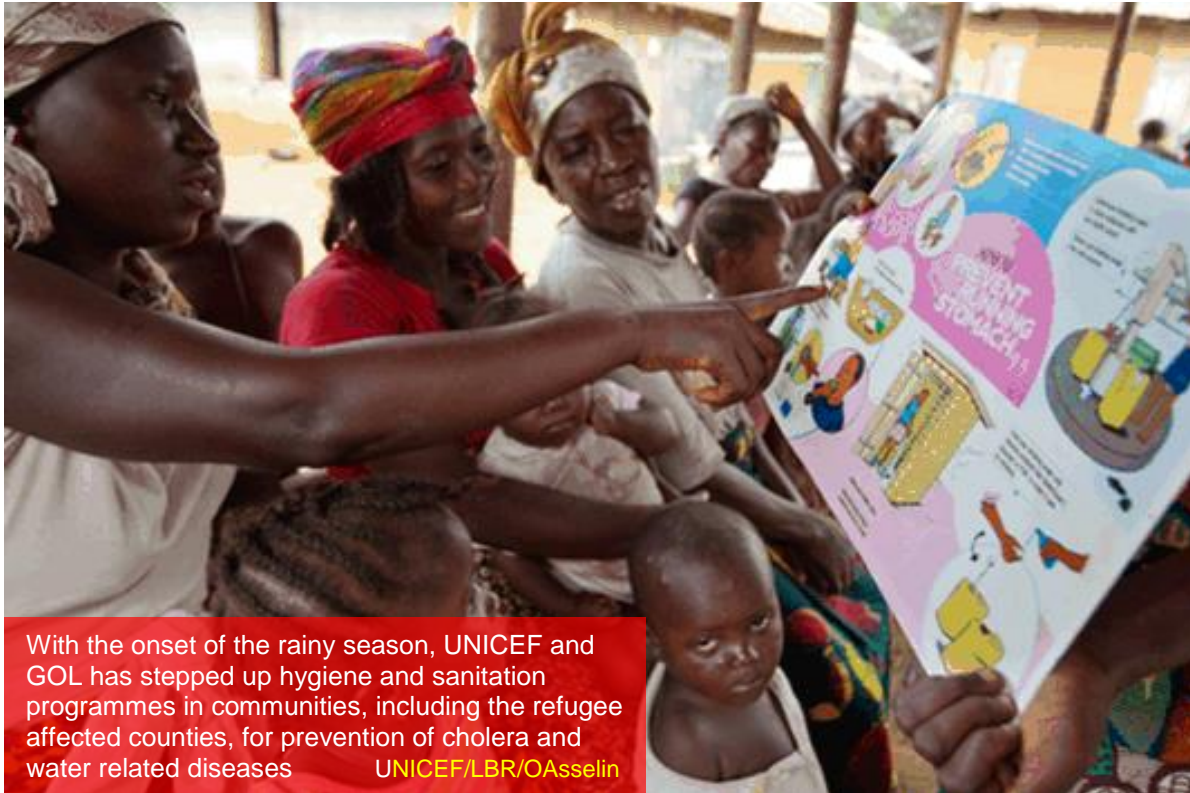


UNICEF Situation Report No.72 - Liberia
12 June 2013

Reporting Period: 09 May – 12 June 2013



With the onset of the rainy season, UNICEF and GOL has stepped up hygiene and sanitation programmes in communities, including the refugee affected counties, for prevention of cholera and water related diseases **UNICEF/LBR/OAsselin**

Highlights

1. According to UNHCR statistics, **59,642** Ivorian refugees are living in camps (56.7%) and host communities (43.3%) in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Monrovia, of which:
 - 81% (48,251) are women and children under the age of 18
 - 54% (32,416) are girls and boys under the age of 18
 - 43% (25,794) are girls and boys under the age of 11
 - Only 19% (11,259) of the total population of refugees are men over the age of 18
2. GoL and UNICEF are targeting to make 60 communities in the Ivorian border counties 'Open Defecation Free' by the end of 2013. Local officials and community members are currently receiving training on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in the target counties.
3. In the 4 refugee affected counties, a total of 350 children under-five years suffering from severe acute malnutrition were admitted to the inpatient and outpatient therapeutic program in April 2013.
4. UNICEF is currently finalizing agreements with partners for continuation of education services in host communities for Ivorian and Liberian children. The new agreement also aims at including Education in Emergency activities into recovery education initiatives of the government, UNICEF and partners like the "Schools as Zones of Peace Initiative" and the "Peace Building Education and Advocacy Programme."
5. Average attendance of children in CFS was 1,019 in Nimba. The CFS in Konobo District, Grand Gedeh, had a weekly attendance of 78 children. Birth registration and certification awareness for Ivorian refugee and host community children was carried out in Putu, Cavalla and B'hai Districts in Grand Gedeh.
6. As of 11 June 2013, UNICEF Liberia received **US\$7,174,844** which is about 45% of the required **US\$16,016,500**.
7. Voluntary repatriation is ongoing and 8,477 refugees have been repatriated to Cote d'Ivoire by UNHCR this year.
8. The overall security situation in Liberia remains calm and the conditions along the Ivorian-Liberian border are being closely monitored. All border crossing points are currently opened.

This situation report is produced regularly for UNICEF headquarters in New York in addition to contributions submitted for the 'One UN' Weekly Refugee Humanitarian Response update.

1. Situation Overview

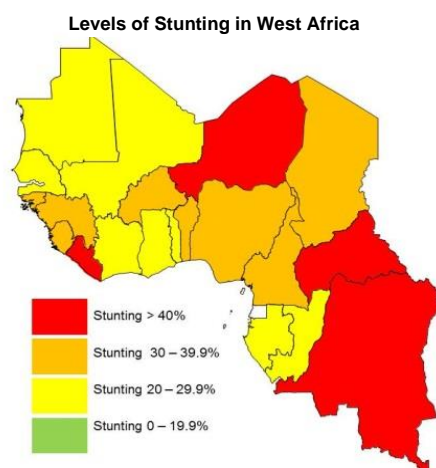
Despite the decrease in the number of refugees and expected continuation of voluntary returns to Côte d'Ivoire, a significant number of refugees are expected to remain in Liberia this year. While 50% of the refugees opted to move into refugee camps established by UNHCR, the remaining will stay in Liberian communities, where access to basic services remains poor. While UNHCR is taking full responsibility for the needs of refugees in refugee camps, UNICEF and other UN agencies, together with implementing partners and the Government of Liberia, are currently responding to the humanitarian needs of Ivorian refugees and Liberians living in host communities – over 25,000 Ivorians and 140,000 Liberians.

Humanitarian Needs

Both refugees and host communities require access to essential services such as health, nutritional screening and treatment, water and sanitation and schooling particularly focusing on vulnerable children.

Malnutrition remains the principal underlying cause of child mortality in Liberia, where more than 40% of children suffer from chronic malnutrition and 60% from anaemia. Acute malnutrition rates were reported to be lower among the refugee population than among Liberian host communities. Of the main childhood diseases, malaria and pneumonia are the leading causes of child morbidity and mortality.

Amongst all age groups, women and adolescents are most at risk of HIV infection. In many host communities, only 4% had access to improved sanitation facilities and 77% practiced open defecation before the crisis. Despite improved sanitation conditions, diarrhoeal disease among children in refugee-affected counties remains high and cholera is endemic in Liberia.



Many girls and women were subjected to rape and other forms of violence and abuse during the war in Liberia and its legacy in terms of the damage to survivors and impact on the attitudes and behaviours remains. This contributes to increased vulnerability of many refugee women and children, who are often exposed to sexual abuse and exploitation, physical violence and neglect, or separation from their primary caregivers. Liberia has 60% of children out of school and lack of appropriate integration strategies of Ivorian refugee students in host communities into the Liberian system for Ivorian children is contributing to the already visible dropout of Ivorian students.

Existing social services struggle to meet the needs of the Liberian population and the continued Ivorian refugee presence has had serious ramifications on an already fragile situation within the border counties. Despite the decrease in the number of refugees, the overall population in need of humanitarian assistance remains high – over 140,000 Liberians and over 25,000 refugees in communities.

UNICEF Child – Centred Analysis based on UNHCR statistics as of 31 May 2013:

	Children Under 11	Children Under 18	Female and children under 18	Female adults	Adult Men
%	43	54	81	27	19
Total	25,794	32,416	48,251	15,967	11,259

Of the number of 59,642 refugees:
81% (48,251) are women and children under the age of 18
54% (32,416) are girls and boys under the age of 18
43% (25,794) are girls and boys under the age of 11
Only 19% (11,259) of the total population of refugees are men over the age of 18

Location	Number of refugees	%
Camps	35,388	56.7%
Host communities	24,254	43.3%

UNICEF Response

UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, has developed strategic sector plans considering the different programmatic environments in the four counties.

Nimba	Bahn refugee camp; designated host communities; over 80 border community/entry points
Grand Gedeh	Solo Town refugee camp; PTP refugee camp; more than 50 communities close to the border and along the main road
Maryland	Little Wlebo refugee camp; more than 30 border communities
River Gee	Over 25 border communities

Key Partners

	Nimba	Grand Gedeh	River Gee	Maryland
WASH	CIPORD, OXFAM, CARE, LRRRC, MOHSW	CARE, GAA, OXFAM, RIDA, MPW, LRRRC, MOHSW	GAA, OXFAM, MPW, SPIR, MOHSW	DRC, ERS, OXFAM, RCM, LRRRC, MOHSW
Nutrition	MOHSW, Africare, LRRRC, UNHCR	MOHSW, LRRRC, UNHCR	MOHSW, Samaritan's Purse, LRRRC	MOHSW, LRRRC, UNHCR
Education	MoE, IRC, SC, LRRRC	MoE, SC, LRRRC, IRC	MoE, LRRRC	MoE, VIA, LRRRC
Child Protection	MOHSW, MoGD, UNHCR, IRC, SC, LRRRC	MOHSW, MoGD, IRC, SC, LRRRC	MOHSW, MoGD, LRRRC	MOHSW, MoGD, LRRRC
Health	MOHSW, LRRRC	MOHSW, LRRRC	MOHSW, LRRRC, LRRRC	MOHSW, LRRRC
HIV&AIDS	MOHSW, MoYS, LRRRC	MOHSW, MoYS, LRRRC	MOHSW, MoYS, LRRRC	MOHSW, MoYS, LRRRC

2. Programmatic Interventions

WASH

Refugee-affected communities - Agreements with UNICEF implementing partners (MPW, Oxfam, CIPORD, ERS, RIDA and SPIR) have been signed and mobilization for implementation has now started in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland counties.

- MPW have already completed drilling 2 out of a total of 32 boreholes planned for this year.
- GoL and UNICEF are targeting to make 60 communities in the Ivorian border counties 'Open Defecation Free' by the end of 2013. Local officials and community members are currently receiving training on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in the target counties.
- In a bid to strengthen the monitoring capacity of the county teams, UNICEF has ordered supplies, including motorbikes, laptops, printers, water testing kits and reagents. The aim is to support UNICEF partners working in the counties that will be assisting the local government maintaining County and District WASH coordination meetings and collecting WASH data relevant to the database.

Challenges:

- As the rainy season is approaching its peak, partners will be forced to work in difficult conditions as access to remote areas will be limited.

Refugee camps - Operation and maintenance of WASH services in the four refugee camps is going and is carried out by DRC/UNHCR (Little Wlebo camp) and CARE/UNHCR (Solo, PTP and Bahn camps). A brief summary of water supply and sanitation services in the camps is given in table below:

Camp	Little Wlebo	Solo	PTP	Bahn
Population	8,995	5,758	11,348	8,029
Water source	37 hand pumps	1 submersible pump and 8 hand pumps	2 submersible pumps and 14 hand pumps	1 submersible pump and 9 hand pumps
Water delivery	19.5 l/pd	21.8 l/pd	17.6 l/pd	20.6 l/pd
Latrine coverage	15 persons/latr	26 persons/latr	17 persons/latr	17 persons/latr

*Source: UNHCR

Many latrines are now full (a total of 198 latrines are full in Solo camp), which will require immediate decommissioning. This has contributed to a drop in the latrine coverage in Solo camp from 1:14 to 1:26 (latrine: users).

NUTRITION

- In the 4 refugee affected counties, a total of 350 children under-five years suffering from severe acute malnutrition were admitted to the inpatient and outpatient therapeutic program in April 2013.
- Among the children suffering from severe acute malnutrition enrolled in the program in April 2013, 287 (99%) were cured, 1 (0.5%) defaulted and 1 (0.5%) died.

Grand Gedeh

- 66 severely malnourished children without medical complications were admitted in OTP sites.
- Among the children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, 68 were cured, and there were no reported defaulter and death.

Nimba

- In OTP treatment sites, 121 severely malnourished children were admitted, 135 were cured, 1 defaulted and no death was reported.

Maryland

- 112 children with severe acute malnutrition were admitted to the outpatient therapeutic program.
- Among the children enrolled in the program in OTP, 25 were cured, and there were no defaulter and death was reported.

River Gee

- In OTP treatment sites, 51 severely malnourished children were admitted, 59 were cured, 1 died and no defaulter reported.

EDUCATION

Nimba and Grand Gedeh

- UNICEF is currently finalizing agreements with partners for continuation of education services in host communities for Ivorian and Liberian children. The new agreement also aims at including Education in Emergency activities into recovery education initiatives of the government, UNICEF and partners like the "Schools as Zones of Peace Initiative" and the "Peace Building Education and Advocacy Programme." Key government ministries (planning, development, implementation and monitoring) have been actively involved in the process.

Maryland

- VIA has put up new tents for the ECD centers at OS Collins Baptist School in Pleebo and New Half Graway. The centers were also equipped with ECD furniture (tables, chairs and shelves).
- 361 children (50% male and 50% female) attended 9 ECD centers. 17 caregivers are currently employed.
- An evaluation of the quality of services in its ECD centers. The work of caregivers is being evaluated, as well as the state of premises and the functioning of security guards. Repairs to strengthen structures were made.
- Assessment of demand for ECD services was done in New Half Graway, a village that has no government school institutions. The center opened at the beginning of June.
- Approximately 200 persons in New Half Graway were sensitized to the importance of early childhood development activities. The community was very receptive and embraced the idea of ECD playing a crucial role in children's development and future.
- VIA is working with IBIS, the INGO that has been running Accelerating Learning Programme (ALP) centers in Maryland County since 2008. Plans are made for VIA to take over ALP services in the communities that IBIS recommends as most receptive and having the highest demand in ALP.
- Coordination education meetings were organized by VIA and had the presence of MOE CEO office, DRC, IBIS, WFP, Tubman University and national youth volunteers. During the meetings, partners provided updates on their activities and discussed possible collaboration.
- A joint monitoring visit to ECD centers was carried out with the Monitoring & Evaluation section of the CEO office.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Friendly Spaces in Nimba and Grand Gedeh

- Average attendance of children in CFS in Nimba was 1,019. The CFS in Konobo District, Grand Gedeh, had a weekly attendance of 78 children.
- Additional recreation kits were received in CFS centers.

Case Management

- 45 separated and unaccompanied received follow up and 4 vulnerable children separated from primary caregivers were reunified. 7 children were identified and referred to Child Protection actors.

Other Child Protection Activities

- Birth registration and certification awareness for Ivorian refugee and host community children was carried out in Putu, Cavalla and B'hai Districts in Grand Gedeh.
- Putu and Konobo Districts have no CFS but minimum services are being provided through coordination with community.
- Collaboration between police officials, the motorcyclist union president and case managers has been ongoing to protect children who take motorbikes in Grand Gedeh.

Challenges

- Limited mobility for case management social workers to reach children in hard-to-reach communities in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties.
- Poor structural conditions and limited number of CFSs to meet demands from Ivorian refugee and host community children in the 12 districts of Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties
- Increased demands for life skills and livelihood activities

3. Human Resources

UNICEF Liberia has 110 staff and most are engaged in the humanitarian response. 22 staff are actively working on humanitarian-related issues.

4. Funding

As of 05 April 2013, UNICEF Liberia received **US\$7,174,844** which is about 45% of the required **US\$16,016,500**.

Emergency Funding by Sector, funding needs and available funds

Sector	Total Funding Needs	Available Funds
Nutrition	2,365,000	2,432,440
WASH	4,200,000	948,706
Health	1,162,500	1,295,572
Child Protection	3,300,000	689,869
Education	3,500,000	822,011
HIV/AIDS	1,000,000	100,170
Emergency Coordination	489,000	36,263
Operations, Inf/Com and M&E		591,382
Cross-sectoral		258,431
Total	16,016,500	7,174,844

UNICEF Liberia Office would like to thank all Donor Governments, EU/ECHO and UNICEF National Committees for providing the much needed financial support in response to the Ivorian refugee crisis. Your support has been crucial. UNICEF looks forward to your continued generous support to enable us to provide the urgently needed humanitarian assistance to children and families affected by the Ivorian refugee crisis in Liberia.

5. Inter-Agency Collaboration, Coordination, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships

- UNICEF is represented at the monthly Humanitarian Action Committee (HAC) briefings and the operational coordination meetings in Monrovia; and in the monthly sector working groups and general coordination meetings in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Rive Gee and Maryland counties.
- UNICEF is leading the WASH, Nutrition, Education (co-lead with Save the Children) sectors, the Child Protection sub-cluster, and is participating in the Health and HIV/AIDS coordination mechanisms.

6. Contacts

- Fazlul Haque, Resident Representative a.i., fhaque@unicef.org Tel: +231 770 267 400
- Laura O'Hara, Deputy Representative a.i., lohara@unicef.org Tel: +231 770 267 450
- Miraj Pradhan, Communication Specialist, mpradhan@unicef.org Tel: +231 770 267 110

7. UNICEF Liberia Emergency Team and Contact Details (country code +231)

	Section	Name	Email address	Phone number
1	Resident Representative a.i.	Fazlul Haque	fhaque@unicef.org	0770 26 7400
2	Deputy Representative a.i.	Laura O'Hara	lohara@unicef.org	0770 26 7450
3	Emergency Officer	Alexandra Valerio	acostavalerio@unicef.org	0770 26 7901
4	Nutrition	Pragya Mathema	pmathema@unicef.org	0770 26 7458
5	Nutrition	Henrietta Howard	hhoward@unicef.org	0770 26 7459
6	Nutrition	Katherine Faigao	kfaigao@unicef.org	0770 26 7460
7	WASH	Sam Treglown	streglown@unicef.org	0770 26 7464
8	WASH	Mussa Uwesu	muwesu@unicef.org	0770 26 7463
9	Health	Anthony Yeakpalah	ayeakpalah@unicef.org	07702677473
10	Education	Christine D'Agostini	cdagostini@unicef.org	0770 26 7550
11	Education	Bernard Batidzirai	bbatidzirai@unicef.org	0770 26 7551
12	Education	Sayaka Usui	susui@unicef.org	0770 26 7552
13	Protection	Tatjana Colin	tcolin@unicef.org	0770 26 7650
14	Protection	Sophie Mamy	Smamy@unicef.org	0770 26 7655
15	M&E	Zainab Al Azzawi	zalazzawi@unicef.org	0770 26 7410
16	M&E	Peegee Malcolm Wright	pmwright@unicef.org	0770 26 7412
17	Supply Specialist	Mohindra Kumar	mkumar@unicef.org	0770 26 7300
18	Transport Asst.	Abraham Tucker	atucker@unicef.org	0770 26 7700
19	Communication Specialist	Miraj Pradhan	mpradhan@unicef.org	0770 26 7110
20	C4D Officer	Adolphus Scott	adscott@unicef.org	0770 26 7113
21	Operations Manager	Ziad Nabulsi	znabulsi@unicef.org	0770 26 7200
22	HR Specialist	Marcela Madero	mmadero@unicef.org	0770 26 7230
22	Programme Assistant	Christine Dowie	cdowie@unicef.org	0770 26 7404