

UNICEF Situation Report No.70 - Liberia
05 April 2013

Reporting Period: 01 March – 05 April 2013



Ivorian refugees about to begin their journey back to Cote d'Ivoire from Solo Refugee Camp, through UNHCR voluntary repatriation exercise. ©UNICEF/LBR/Jallanzo

Highlights

1. According to UNHCR statistics, **61,153** Ivorian refugees are living in camps (56.7%) and host communities (43.3%) in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Monrovia, of which:
 - 75.4% (46,154) are women and children under the age of 18
 - 49.4% (30,259) are girls and boys under the age of 18
 - 39.6% (24,237) are girls and boys under the age of 11
 - Only 18.8% (11,542) of the total population of refugees are men over the age of 18
2. According to WHO, 2,571 outpatient consultations ERE were conducted in 5 refugee camps (80.6% refugees and 19.4% Liberians). 30% of the patients were children.
3. Planning and preparation of agreements between UNICEF and implementing partners (MPW, CIPORD, ERS, RIDA and SPIR) are underway for commencement of new WASH activities in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland. The new activities aim to benefit 97,500 refugees and local community members, as well as 160 schools and 24 health facilities.
4. A total of 515 children under-five years suffering from severe acute malnutrition were admitted to the inpatient and outpatient therapeutic program in January and February 2013 in the four refugee- affected counties.
5. Following the Ceremony of CEPE exam certificates (primary school final exam for Ivorian students) in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland, more than 60% of exam takers received their certificates. Education sector tracing children to deliver certificates as some didn't attend the ceremony due to relocation/return to Cote d'Ivoire.
6. UNICEF is currently discussing with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) to take over CP activities in communities in Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties. An agreement is to be finalized over the next two weeks.
7. As of 05 April 2013, UNICEF Liberia received **US\$7,174,844** which is about 45% of the required **US\$16,016,500**.
8. The overall security situation in Liberia remains calm and the condition along the Ivorian-Liberian border is being closely monitored. Over 6,000 people were forced to flee their homes in Cote d'Ivoire in the last three weeks following attacks by heavily armed men in western Côte d'Ivoire.
9. Due to the recent security incidents in Cote d'Ivoire, plans to facilitate voluntarily repatriation will be temporarily halted until further improvement of the security situation.

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, will be responding to the humanitarian needs of Ivorian refugees and Liberians living in host communities.

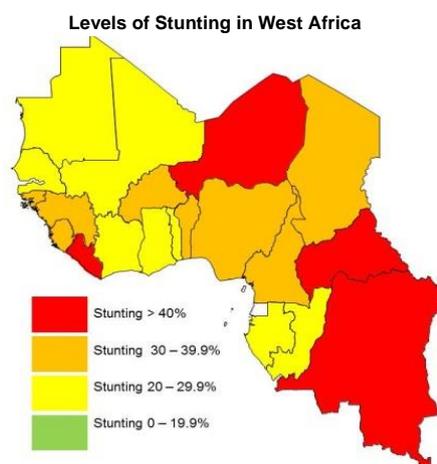
As the humanitarian response faced serious funding constraints in 2012, including for interventions in communities hosting Ivorian refugees, the UN has committed support to UN agencies in Liberia, in collaboration with NGO partners and the GOL. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) aims to ensure continued delivery of life-saving activities for Ivorian refugees and Liberians living in host communities. A total amount of \$2,991,937 was provided to FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to carry out the following initiatives:

- Improved Food and Nutrition security for Ivorian Refugees and Host Families in Liberia
- Responding to health needs of host communities and Ivorian refugees living outside the camps
- Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and Improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services for Ivorian Refugees and Host Families in Liberia
- Promoting quality education in safe learning environment for Ivorian refugee children and Liberian children living in host communities in eastern Liberia

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 66,000 refugees in camps and communities.

UNICEF Child – Centred Analysis based on UNHCR statistics as of 03 April 2013:

	Children Under 11	Children Under 18	Female and children under 18	Female adults	Adult Men
%	39.6	49.4	75.4	26	18.8
Total	24,237	30,259	46,154	15,895	11,542

Of the number of 61,153 refugees:
75.4% (46,154) are women and children under the age of 18
49.4% (30,259) are girls and boys under the age of 18
39.6% (24,237) are girls and boys under the age of 11
Only 18.8% (11,542) of the total population of refugees are men over the age of 18

Location	Number of refugees	%
Camps	34,682	56.7%
Host communities	26,471	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; Duogee 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, DRC, CHF, MPW, LRRRC, MoHSW	CARE, GAA, ICRC, RIDA, MPW, LRRRC, MoHSW	GAA, ERS, MPW, MoHSW	DRC, ERS, CODES, MPW, LRRRC, MoHSW
Nutrition	MoHSW, Africare, LRRRC, UNHCR	MoHSW, LRRRC, UNHCR	MoHSW, Samaritan's Purse, LRRRC, UNHCR	MoHSW, Merci, 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	Mentor Initiative, CHESS, MoHSW, LRRRC	MoHSW, LRRRC	MoHSW, LRRRC, LRRRC	MERCI, MoHSW, LRRRC
HIV&AIDS	MoHSW, MoYS, LRRRC	MoHSW, MoYS, LRRRC, RESPECT	MoHSW, MoYS, LRRRC	MoHSW, MoYS, LRRRC

2. Programmatic Interventions

HEALTH

- According to WHO, 2,571 outpatient consultations ERE were conducted in 5 refugee camps (80.6% refugees and 19.4% Liberians). 30% of the patients were children.
- Malaria remains the leading cause of OPD visits and diarrhoeal diseases account for 2% of visits.
- 646 children were vaccinated during routine and outreach services.
- 171 pregnant women attended antenatal care services.
- Rumors of acute watery diarrhea outbreak in Kamara town were investigated and at least 15 cases of AWD were identified. No deaths reported.
- Cholera situation in neighboring Guinea is being closely followed.
- Integrated national polio vaccination, vitamin A and deworming campaign is scheduled for 26 to 29 April for children (0-59 months).

WASH

- Almost all partners have completed implementation of 2012 activities in refugee affected local communities that benefitted around 186,700 refugees and local community members and 107 schools. The activities included construction of 76 hand dug wells; drilling 24 boreholes; upgrading 51 hand dug wells; construction of 3,538 (shared family) latrines; and hygiene promotion in schools and community areas. The implementing partners involved were CIPORD, SPIR, ECREP, ERS, OGB, ACF, ZOA and DRC, with technical support and monitoring from UNICEF.

WASH in host communities

- Planning and preparation of agreements between UNICEF and implementing partners (MPW, CIPORD, ERS, RIDA and SPIR) are underway for commencement of new WASH activities in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland.
- The new activities aim to benefit 97,500 refugees and local community members, 160 schools and 24 health facilities and include:
 - Training and material support to school health clubs and provision of hand washing facilities in schools;
 - Hygiene promotion in rural communities through sports and other communication methods;
 - Implementation of CLTS approach in rural areas, including training of facilitators and natural leaders;
 - Setting up mechanisms for operation and maintenance of hand pumps including support to establish district spare parts depots;
 - Drilling of 32 boreholes in schools, health centers and community areas;
 - Construction and repair of wells, hand pumps and latrines in schools and health centres.

WASH in refugee camps

- Operation and maintenance of WASH services by DRC/UNHCR (in Little Wlebo) and CARE/UNHCR (in Solo, Duogee, PTP and Bahn camps) is ongoing. Reports from all camps indicate that minimum Sphere standards for water supply and sanitation are regularly maintained. The main ongoing activities include:
 - Monitoring of latrines ready for commissioning if full and constructing new ones as replacement;
 - Repair and maintenance of motorized pumps and hand pumps;
 - Regular water testing in collaboration with County Health Teams;
 - Regular hygiene promotion with major focus on food hygiene, diarrhea prevention and environmental hygiene;
 - Maintenance of garbage pits, hand washing facilities and showers.

NUTRITION

- A total of 515 children under-five years suffering from severe acute malnutrition were admitted to the inpatient and outpatient therapeutic programme in January and February 2013 in the four refugee-affected counties. Among the children enrolled in the programme, 488 (98%) were cured, 4 (1%) defaulted and 7 (2%) died.
- 1,280 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition were enrolled in the program for comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation in the end of February.
- Integrated polio, vitamin A and deworming campaign scheduled for 26 – 29 April in all counties, including refugee affected counties. The campaign will take into account Ivorian children residing in camps and host communities.

Nimba

- In OTP treatment sites, 140 severely malnourished children were admitted, 126 were cured, 2 defaulted and no death was reported.
- By the end of February 2013, 305 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition remained in the programme for treatment and rehabilitation.

Grand Gedeh

- 139 severely malnourished children without medical complications were admitted in OTP sites.
- In the same period, 14 severely malnourished children with medical complications were admitted in IPF sites.
- Among children suffering from severe acute malnutrition enrolled in the programme, 146 were cured, 2 died and no defaulter were reported.
- 489 children were still enrolled in both OTP and IPF by the end of February 2013.

River Gee

- In OTP treatment sites, 130 severely malnourished children were admitted, 116 were cured, and no defaulter and death was reported.
- By the end of February 2013, 278 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition remained in the programme for treatment and rehabilitation.

Maryland

- 92 children with severe acute malnutrition were admitted to the inpatient and outpatient therapeutic programme of which 56 were in OTP and 36 were in IPF.
- Among children enrolled in the programme for both OTP and IPF, 100 were cured, 2 defaulted, 1 did not respond to the treatment and 5 died.
- 208 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition are currently enrolled in the programme.

	SFP	OTP	IPF
Admissions	171	465	50
Cured	162	483	5*
Defaulter	8	2	2
Death	0	1	7
In charge by end of month	523	1,258	22

*Successfully Treated and Transferred to OTP

**Performance rate SAM: 98% cure rate, 1% default rate, 1% death

***Performance rate MAM: 95% cure rate, 5% default rate, and no reported deaths

EDUCATION

- Following the Ceremony of CEPE exam certificates (primary school final exam for Ivorian students) in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland, more than 60% of exam takers finally received their certificates. Education sector continues to trace children to deliver certificates as some weren't able to attend the ceremony due to relocation/return to Cote d'Ivoire.
- Distribution of remaining Ivorian primary textbooks to Ivorian children started in all refugee-affected counties. This distribution aims to support Ivorian children who have already been integrated into the Liberian curriculum but who also wish to follow the Ivorian curriculum (self-study).

Nimba

- Ceremony of CEPE exam certificates held in Bahn camp on 27th February. Delivery exercise is ongoing.
- School Feeding started with active participation of parents in Bahn camp. Cooking and eating utensils also distributed.
- Repatriation and relocation affecting the daily attendance.
- Supplemental English coaching classes for Ivorian children ongoing in host communities.
- 3-day Peacebuilding Training Workshop held in Ganta on 7th – 9th March, facilitated by the Trauma Healing Department of the Lutheran Church in Liberia
- Capacity building for PTAs and District Education Administration continuing.

Grand Gedeh

- Delivery of CEPE exam certificates ongoing. Tracing children who could not attend the ceremony underway, in coordination with education sector members.
- Children from Duogee camp transferred to other camp schools or returned to Cote d'Ivoire.
- Teaching and learning materials from Duogee camp also transferred or donated to other camp schools and Liberian schools at nearby host communities.
- A new 6-classroom school building built and operationalized in Solo camp.
- School Feeding ongoing in Solo camp with active participation of parents and teachers.

Maryland

- Ceremony of CEPE exam certificates held in Little Wlebo camp on 22nd February. Delivery exercise is ongoing.
- Community sensitization on the promotion of Teacher Code of Conduct held in Harper on 22nd March. Students from 2 primary and 2 secondary schools participated along with total 200 participants from PTAs and communities.
- Football matches also organized as a side event for symbolizing 'friendly environment', 'peaceful attitude' and 'conflict resolution in school settings'.
- Events broadcasted by UNMIL Radio and Harper Community Radio for wider dissemination of messages.

Statistics of Education Sector Intervention

County	Partners	Data as of	ECD			Primary School			Secondary School/ Youth Skills training		
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Nimba											
Bahn Camp	SCI	20-Mar-2013	67	60	127	328	320	648	N/A	N/A	0
Host Communities	SCI	11-Dec-2012	539	460	999	1,180	884	2,064	N/A	N/A	0
Host Communities	IRC	8-Feb-2013	897	877	1,774	1,069	1,063	2,132	N/A	N/A	0
Bahn Camp	FCA*	31-Dec-2012	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	0	184	112	296
T total			1,503	1,397	2,900	2,577	2,267	4,844	184	112	296
Nimba Grand Total											8,040
Grand Gedeh											
PTP	SCI	29-Mar-2013	95	75	170	712	632	1,344	N/A	N/A	0
Solo Camp	SCI	29-Mar-2013	130	126	256	620	633	1,253	N/A	N/A	0
Duogee Camp	Closed										
Host Communities	SCI	31-Jan-2013	81	83	164	295	255	550	N/A	N/A	0
T total			306	284	590	1,627	1,520	3,147	-	-	-
Grand Gedeh Grand Total											3,737
Maryland											
Little Wlebo Camp	DRC	20-Feb-2013	185	183	368	567	522	1,089	91	54	145
Host Communities	VIA**	25-Mar-2013	355	331	686	413	384	797	0	0	0
T total			540	514	1,054	980	906	1,886	91	54	145
Maryland Grand Total											3,085
TOTAL per level of education			2,349	2,195	4,544	5,184	4,693	9,877	275	166	441
Male/Female % per level of education			52%	48%	100%	52%	48%	100%	62%	38%	100%
Distribution of beneficiaries per level of education			ECD 31%			Primary School 66%			Youth 3%		
Grand Total											14,862

*FCA - Informal secondary education

**VIA - Youth skills training and literacy classes completed by end Dec 2012.

CHILD PROTECTION

- UNICEF is currently discussing with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) to take over CP activities in communities in Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties, in coordination with CP partners.
- An agreement is to be finalized over the next two weeks and the aim is to support the MOHSW running psychosocial and case management services, developing the capacity of existing structures, managing CFS activities, vocational courses for youth, CPWG and the BID process. The aim is also to provide technical and logistical support to the Social Welfare department to adequately manage Emergency/Recovery response programme to the Ivorian refugees and Liberian Host Communities.

Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Grand Gedeh and Nimba Counties

- Average attendance was 2,927 in 2 CFS run by SC in Nimba.
- Many of the CFS have been handed over to communities since January 2013.

Case Management and Psychosocial Support for Unaccompanied and Separated Children

- CAP partners' active cases include 475 separated children and 251 unaccompanied minors.
- Partners working together to verify the progress numbers of SC, UAC and OVC in the database.
- Case management of unaccompanied and separated children, including cases not registered with ICRC
- Continue promoting referrals to "Best Interest Determination" panels and cross-border collaboration for reunification of separated children

Other CP activities:

- Foster parents training: A one day workshop was conducted for 18 foster parents (16 female and 2 male) in Bahn camp by SC, UNHCR, LRRC and NRC. The workshop was conducted to enable foster parent to have a better understanding on the standard procedures of foster care placement, how to communicate with children effectively and to help children develop positive behavior.
- Life skills sessions and boys and girls/youth clubs.
- 3 children were voluntarily returned to CDI on the 28th of March 2013 through ICRC.



Figure 1: Foster Parents Training in Bahn Camp

3. Human Resources

UNICEF Liberia has 127 staff and most are engaged in the humanitarian response. 22 staff work full time 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.

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