UNICEF Situation Report No.73 - Liberia
18 July 2013

Reporting Period: 13 June to 18 July 2013

Highlights

1. According to UNHCR, as of 1 July 2013, there are 58,484 (54% female and 46% male) Ivorian refugees in Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Maryland, River Gee and Montserrado.
   a. 18% are children 0-4 years old (9% female/9% male).
   b. 25% are children 5 to 11 years old (12% female/13% male).
   c. 11% are aged 12-17 years (5% female/6% male).
   d. 41% aged 18-59 years (24% female/17% male).
   e. 3% above 60 years (2% female/1% male).
2. On 20 June, a three-day government-sponsored peace and reconciliation conference chaired by Peace Ambassador George Weah was held in Monrovia.
3. PMTCT and HIV Treatment services continue at the refugee affected areas and camps with 84% of people living with HIV and AIDS receiving ARV/ART services.
4. Field monitoring and evaluation reports show significant progress in system building through coordination of child protection services, reporting on violations, and referral mechanism in 12 districts in Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties.
5. Referral hospitals and County Health Teams were actively engaged to improve quality of obstetric emergencies and reproductive health services for refugees in the referral hospitals.
6. A mock examination was conducted for 70 Grade 6 students to better prepare them for exams and a baseline study for drop outs and out of school children at Solo and PTP camps in Grand Gedeh.
7. The humanitarian group in Liberia continues to monitor the situation in Guinea and a draft Contingency Plan has been developed for potential influx of Guinean refugees into Liberia should there be a rise in instability due to disagreements between the political parties on preparation for the Guinean Presidential elections.
8. Liberia deployed a platoon of 46 soldiers to support peace keeping missions in Mali. This is the first time Liberia is deploying its troops internationally since 1961. It provides a good opportunity for Liberia to show its support and commitment to maintain peace both internally and in the region.
9. As of 11 June 2013, UNICEF Liberia received US$7,174,844 which is about 45% of the required US$16,016,500.
10. Over all security situation in neighbouring Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire remains calm.

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.
Situation Overview

Despite decrease in number of refugees and expected continuation of voluntary returns to Côte d’Ivoire, a significant number of refugees will remain in Liberia in 2013. While 50% of refugees have moved into the UNHCR refugee camps, the rest continues to stay with their Liberian hosts, where access to basic services remains poor. While UNHCR is taking full responsibility for those in the refugee camps, UNICEF, other UN agencies and implementing partners are supporting the Government of Liberia to provide humanitarian assistance to both the refugees and the host communities (over 25,000 Ivorians and 140,000 Liberians).

Recently, over 1,000 new arrivals were reported in Nimba County. The Government of Liberia has not yet recognised them as refugees till UNHCR Liberia and Cote d’Ivoire, in coordination with Liberian authorities, screen and verify the new arrivals.

According to UNHCR, as of 1 July 2013, there are 58,484 (54% female and 46% male) Ivorian refugees in Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Maryland, River Gee and Montserrado counties.

- 18% are children 0-4 years old (9% female/9% male)
- 25% are children 5 to 11 years old (12% female/13% male).
- 11% are aged 12-17 years (5% female/6% male).
- 41% aged 18-59 years (24% female/17% male).
- 3% above 60 years (2% female/1% male).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grand Gedeh</th>
<th>Nimba</th>
<th>Maryland</th>
<th>River Gee</th>
<th>Montserrado</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Jul 2013</td>
<td>27,296</td>
<td>16,390</td>
<td>12,881</td>
<td>1,328</td>
<td>569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>10,983</td>
<td>5,340</td>
<td>3,433</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Humanitarian Needs
Both refugees and host communities, especially vulnerable children, require sustained access to essential health, nutrition (screening and treatment), water and sanitation, education and protection services.

Malnutrition is still the main underlying cause of child mortality in Liberia. Over 40% of children are chronically malnourished and 60% are anaemic. However, acute malnutrition rate among the refugee population is reported to be lower than the Liberian host communities. Malaria and pneumonia are the leading causes of child morbidity and mortality. Despite improved sanitation conditions, diarrhoeal disease among children in the refugee-affected counties remains high and cholera is endemic.

Amongst all age groups, women and adolescents are most at risk of HIV infection.

Before the crisis, only 4% of people in affected communities had access to improved sanitation facilities and 77% practiced open defecation. Therefore, additional presence of the refugees is exerting a big strain on the already limited services and resources of the host communities.
Many refugee women and children are also vulnerable 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 contribute to 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.

![Ivorian Refugees Population in Liberia](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Refugees Population</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Gedeh</td>
<td>27,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nimba</td>
<td>16,390</td>
</tr>
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<td>Maryland</td>
<td>12,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Gee</td>
<td>1,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montserrado</td>
<td>589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>58,484</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**UNICEF Response**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Notes/Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nimba</td>
<td>Bahn refugee camp; designated host communities; over 80 border community/entry points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Gedeh</td>
<td>Solo Town refugee camp; PTP refugee camp; more than 50 communities close to the border and along the main road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Little Wlebo refugee camp; more than 30 border communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Gee</td>
<td>Over 25 border communities</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### 1. Programmatic Interventions

**HEALTH**

- Conducted 5,365 outpatient consultations (85.1% refugees) in the four affected counties of Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Nimba and Maryland. About 43% were females (both refugees and Liberians). Malaria accounted for over 30% of OPD cases and 2-3% diarrhoea cases.
- 781 children were vaccinated during routine and outreach services and 392 women received antenatal care services.
- 69 live births were reported.
- 130 patients were referred for secondary care and 12 deaths were reported from all the camps. Of the dead, nine were under five years of age.
- A new health clinic in Little Wlebo Refugee Camp was inaugurated on 20 June 2013. The clinic will provide timely primary health care services to both refugee and host communities. The clinic was constructed by UNHCR.
- Comprehensive interventions (case management, health education, distribution of LLNs, etc.) to reduce anemia in refugee camps were intensified. Some of the planned activities for the second half of 2013 are assessment of causes, micronutrient supplementation and IEC materials development.
- Essential drugs, nutritional supplements and medical equipment distributed to refugee camps in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties. Medical supplies were also donated to government hospitals in Harper and Zwedru.
• Referral hospitals and CHTs were actively engaged to improve quality of obstetric emergencies and reproductive health services for refugees in the referral hospitals (three refugee maternal deaths were reported in May 2013).

HIV/AIDS
• Over 26,000 condoms were distributed and created awareness among over 15,000 people on HIV prevention and protection.
• VCT/PITC, PMTCT and HIV Treatment services were continued and 205 (84%) of 244 people living with HIV&AIDS are receiving ARV/ART services.
• HIV emergency contingency plan for Liberia is being developed as part of the overall emergency plan for Liberia.
• One of the challenges faced by the service providers is the shortage of HIV Test kits.

WASH
Activities in the camps
• UNICEF and partners continue to monitor the condition of latrines to ensure timely decommissioning of old latrines and to replace with new ones.
• Operation and maintenance/repair of motorized pumps and hand pumps are on-going and regular water testing is being conducted in collaboration with the County Health Teams.
• Regular hygiene promotion with focus on food hygiene, diarrhea prevention and environmental hygiene are conducted.
• To ensure healthy and hygienic surroundings and living spaces within the camps, garbage pits are maintained and so are the hand washing and shower facilities.

Activities in the host communities
• Construction work to upgrade 107 water points in the four affected counties of Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland is underway.
• Drilling of 32 boreholes and installation of hand pumps in the four counties is on-going.
• Nine Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) master trainers attended a refresher training course in Monrovia. An additional 32 people were trained as CLTS facilitators for Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties.
• Works for 173 new or upgraded latrines for schools and health centers in the four counties are on-going.
• UNICEF and partners are also conducting hygiene promotion activities in 130 communities. UNICEF is also supporting hygiene promotion, establishment of school health clubs, construction/upgrading of water points and latrine cubicles in 114 schools and 23 health centers.

NUTRITION
• In May, 353 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted and treated under the outpatient therapeutic programme and 16 children under the in-patient feeding programme (IPF) with 91% cure rate, 6% default and 3% death.
• According to findings from the Vitamin A campaign last April, Vitamin A supplementation coverage rates for Grand Gedeh, Maryland and Nimba were above 95% while it was about 88% for River Gee County.
• The health ministry's three-day Annual Planning and Review meeting was conducted from 10 to 12 July 2013. The meeting reported on the progress and challenges in national nutrition programming from January to June 2013 and set priorities for the rest of the year. Emergency preparedness plan for Guinea border in the area of Nutrition was also discussed with relevant counties.

EDUCATION
Nimba
• Over 4,940 (2,382 girls and 2,558 boys) children benefitted from ECD and primary school services provided in the IRC assisted areas.
• School principals and teachers attended a refresher course on data management to prepare their year-end school promotion summary data/statistics.
• Thirty three participants from the Bahn camp attended a PTA refresher training course focusing on child safety and school development initiatives.
• 45 students (16 girls and 25 boys) were repatriated on 13 June 2013 in Bahn camp.
• A grand parade and a friendly volleyball and football matches were organized for the Bahn camp members to observe the World Refugee Day on 20 June 2013.

Grand Gedeh
• The Solo refugee camp benefits 630 (369 girls & 261 boys) ECD students and 2,856 (1,477 girls & 1,379 boys) primary school students.
• A mock examination was conducted for 70 Grade 6 students to better prepare them for exams and a baseline study for drop outs and out of school children at Solo and PTP camps in Grand Gedeh.
• Primary school students in Solo camp have better and safer learning environment the completion of renovation works for two classrooms. Meanwhile, children in PTP camps now have access to better learning materials through distribution of 20 student learning kits. Similarly, children and teacher in Tuzon have also benefitted from distribution of teaching and learning materials.

Maryland
• 450 children (241 girls & 209 boys) current benefit from ECD services provided by 18 trained caregivers (11 females & 7 males). Attendance in ECD centers have increased by 20% since the introduction of WFP feeding in the centers.
• A comprehensive assessment for the possibility of establishing ALP centers is underway while Ivorian textbooks are being supplied to Little Wlebo camp.

CHILD PROTECTION
• Field monitoring and evaluation reports show significant progress in system building through coordination of child protection services, reporting on violations, and referral mechanism in 12 districts in Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties.
• 4,000 children (both Ivorian and host community) benefitted this reporting period through case management and psychosocial support
• 247 children ages 2 to 18 (50 Liberian girls, 59 Liberian boys) and (70 Ivorian boys and 68 Ivorian girls) participated in CFSs activity in 6 districts in Nimba County

Other ongoing CP activities
• 126 Social Workers/Case Managers benefited from Child Protection and Psychosocial support refresher training. 117 persons participated in a refresher training on CP and community-based CP referral mechanisms.
• 2,360 children births registered and certificated.
• On-going radio messaging campaigns on prevention/intervention of HIV/AIDS, GBV, SEA, and the promotion of UBR and the children's law.

Birth Registration of Ivorian refugee children born in Liberia
• Birth registration of Ivorian refugee new births in Liberia is on-going in 5 refugee camps in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland. Mobile registration teams in each camps registered 2,419 with MoH booklets as of 20 June 2013. The registration continues in health centers in refugee camps.
• The issuance of birth certificates was expected to follow after this registration exercise, but the process might delay as the President Johnson Sirleaf has ordered the suspension of the operations of the Bureau of Vital Statistics at the MoH&SW for a one-month period.
• UNHCR is following up with LRRRC whether this suspension applies to refugee cases.

SGBV
• Nimba: IRC-GBV conducted 8 outreach sessions for 89 shelters from Block-1 to Block-7 with a total of 199 individuals (80Males, 119 Females). Topics discussed were physical assault, rape and abandonment and its effects on survivors. 4 mass awareness raising sessions were also held with 146 participants reflecting 53 males and 93 females. The awareness was carried out in the camp market and Block 10.
• Grand Gedeh: IRC- GBV Unit held a massive outreach in 22 blocks in PTP Refugee Camp on rape and its consequences with 1,317 participants. The team conducted a mass awareness campaign under the topic “Stop wife beating” in Solo camp. The awareness targeted the entire camp with 30 women leading the campaign.
• Maryland: A total number of 16 SGBV cases have reported to DRC during the month of June 2013. DRC conducted 3 days SGBV workshop for selected refugee community members.

2. Human Resources
UNICEF Liberia has 80 staff and most are engaged in the humanitarian response. 22 staff members are actively working on humanitarian-related issues.

3. Funding
As of 05 April 2013, UNICEF Liberia received US$7,177,657 which is about 45% of the required US$16,016,500.

Emergency Funding by Sector, funding needs and available funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total Funding Needs</th>
<th>Available Funds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>2,365,000</td>
<td>2,414,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>4,200,000</td>
<td>948,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,162,500</td>
<td>1,379,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>3,300,000</td>
<td>689,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
<td>822,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Coordination</td>
<td>489,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral</td>
<td>923,352</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,016,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,177,857</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 provide the urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the children and families affected by the Ivorian refugee crisis in Liberia.

4. 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.