



LIBERIA BULLETIN

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Bong County and River Cess County Declared Safe for Return

The Liberian National Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement (SACR) declared on October 8, 2004 that the Bong County and River Cess County were safe for the return of refugees and IDPs. This brings the total of six counties declared safe for return so far. Margibi County, Bomi County, Grand Cape Mount County and Gbarpolu County were declared safe on September 15, 2004.

Executive Director of the Liberian governmental body, LRRRC, and Chairman of the SACR, Philip Dwuye, said that the SACR teams continue their assessment work in the field. The assessments are based on a set of benchmarks such as the completion of disarmament, presence of the civil authorities and reasonable spontaneous returns by IDPs and refugees.

Re-Settlement of IDPs Starts on November 1, 2004

The National Transitional Government of Liberia, with the assistance of the international community will start re-settling Liberian IDPs on November 1, 2004.



Perry Town IDP camp hosts 15,802 Liberian IDPs

The re-settlement of IDPs will take place only in the counties declared safe starting with the Grand Cape

Mount County. The mass information campaign, which will provide all the necessary info for the IDPs on the re-settlement exercise, was launched on October 18, 2004.

Second Convoy of Liberian Refugees From Sierra Leone Arrives Home

The second convoy of 80 Liberian refugees from the Taiama, Tobanda and Gerihun camps in Sierra Leone arrived in Liberia on October 8, 2004. The drop-off point for the 80 refugees who hailed mainly from



Liberian refugees crossing over from Sierra Leone to Liberia

from Grand Cape Mount County with few from Bomi County was Sinje Transit Centre. At Sinje, they receive the first installment of the food package and some non-food items to assist them in starting a new life. The third convoy is scheduled for October 22, 2004.

Polio Eradication Campaign

The UN family in Liberia and the Liberian government launched on October 7, 2004 a week long polio eradication campaign. Phase one of the campaign will run in 23 sub-Saharan countries, including Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire, and target 819,000 Liberian children.

The second round of the polio eradication campaign in Liberia will run from 18 - 22 November, 2004.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

First UNHCR assisted returns were greeted into Liberia on October 1, 2004. Seventy seven Liberian refugees from Sierra Leone made a decision to return home on the first UNHCR land convoy. Refugees explained why they made the decision to return, what their future plans are and what message they have for their brothers and sisters who are still in the refugee camps.

UMARVA TURAY is from Sinje District and lived in one of the camps in Sierra Leone for the past two years. His wife and six children are all returning home.



"I decided to come back because my home is free.

UNHCR is telling us we can go home willingly, we are not forced." He explains that the first thing he wants to do when he goes back is to send his children to school and build a house. His message to Liberian refugees is very clear. "Home is the best. Home is home, whether a village, or a city or bush. Your home is your home."

SANDO ZOMBO is returning home with her husband and four of their children after spending 18 months at a camp in Sierra Leone. I am free to go home,"



explains Mrs. Zombo. The treatment in a refugee camp was very good, but she wants to go home now. "Everything I left behind has been destroyed, that's why I want to go back and build a new house."

She explains that she has some family in her home village and that they will help her and her family to get back on their feet. "Let my people come back home because the war is finished," is her message to the Liberian refugees who are yet to decide on coming back home.

PATRICK MOMOH has decided to come back and find out what happened to his family members - mother, father, sister and daughter - who stayed behind when he left. "Well, I decided to come back



because since the war took place in Liberia I have never heard anything about my family so I decided to come back and look for them." He was in a camp in

Sierra Leone for 18 months. "I thank God because the people received us well," explains Mr. Momoh when asked about the treatment at the camp. He hopes to go back to his home village, reconstruct his house and make some money to start a small business. As for his fellow Liberians who are still living as refugees, his message is that they should start coming back "There are no guns – that is the most important thing."

NANCY MAH - "I decide to come back because there's nowhere like home." During her two and a half years in



Sierra Leone she received skills training in tie and dye and needle work and now she wants to pass the skills to her brothers and sisters in Liberia. "My message is that Liberian refugees should come home because nowhere like home, they have to come with us to be in Liberia."

UNHCR Implementing Partners at Sinje Transit Center

African Humanitarian Action (AHA) - conducts health screening.



This UNHCR implementing partner checks returnees' medical cards and conducts vaccination if necessary.

Also, they inquire about the returnees' health complaints and refer them to the health center within the walking distance of the transit center if required.

WFP - in charge of registering returnees and producing a feeding log. WFP staff on the site explained that their organization was in charge of providing food assistance for returnees.



GTZ - provides camp management, does NFI distribution with local NGOs, involved in secondary transportation and distribute secondary travel allowances.

Liberian Islamic Union for Reconstruction and development (LIURD) - the camp managers. The LIURD staff members explained that their organization provides the shelter



and make sure that correct food rations are distributed.

Community Empowerment Program (CEP) - this UNHCR implementing partner is responsible for identifying the special needs cases such as unaccompanied minor, elderly, pregnant women, lactating mother, the blinds etc.. The

CEP staff described that the procedure in cases of special need groups they assist them by referring them, for example, unaccompanied children to an IP that is in charge of that. For the elderly who may be departing, one of their social workers will accompany them to his or her nearest point of destination, ensuring that he/she arrives in dignity and is protected.



EDUCATION

Grand Cape Mount

In Gola Konneh District currently six schools are operational, while in Porkpa District two schools are currently open. In Tewor District, four schools are running.

Bomi County

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is carrying out Emergency Education Program in 15 different areas in the county. To reach the adequate educational coverage in the county, additional 52 schools will be rehabilitated.

Gbarpolu County

Two schools operational in the county, and 70 more to be rehabilitated to provide adequate education in the area (Bokomu District - 33, Bopolu - 25, Belleh - 6 and Gbarma - 11).

River Cess County

Presently, 2 primary schools are functional, but none of the high schools have re-opened since the

end of the war. Additional 26 primary schools need to be rehabilitated to provide adequate primary education in the county.

Bong County

In Jorquelleh District - Massaquoi Junior High is operational and Bakalu Junior High is undergoing renovation. Suacoco District—G. W. Gibson Jr. High, Suacoco High School and Gbatala Jr. High are all operating. Kpai District—Yanquoi Bee Junior, Zabay Junior High were recently renovated and functioning. Panta District—Foequelleh Jr. High is operating. Zota District—Belefenia Jr. High is currently undergoing rehabilitation and not operating. Sanoyea District—Gbonota Junior High presently being renovated.

appropriate grades. Since 1999 the program has helped many children. The 2004/2005 school program has commenced and is targeting 300 public or community schools in the following eight counties - Bomi, Bong, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Maryland, Nimba and Montserrado. These counties were selected due to the fact that they were the areas where high numbers of returnees were expected. During this school year, an estimated 20,000 students will benefit from the ALP program and about 600 primary school teachers and principals will be trained to handle the teaching aspect. In terms of support, the selected schools will be provided with furniture, and will also receive instructional, recreational and sporting materials. Minor renovations



Belefenai School, Bong County, being rehabilitated by UNHCR-IP (LUSH)

ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM (ALP)

The Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) has been designed by the Liberian Education Ministry and UNICEF to speed up the learning process of disadvantaged, over-aged (9 and above yrs) children who have missed out in school during their early schooling years. The program compresses the six years of regular primary school into three years, thus enabling them to catch up with their age-

will be carried out if necessary, including the improvement of water and sanitation facilities. WFP is seeking assistance to provide food support for the project.

HEALTH

Gbarpolu County

In Bopolu District - Henry Town Clinic 70% rehabilitated, and Bopolu Health Center 95% rehabilitated. In Bokomu District -

Gbangay Clinic 70% rehabilitated, in Gbarma District - Tarkpoima Clinic and in Kongba District - Kungbor Clinic both 70% rehabilitated.

Bomi County

Currently, three clinics, mainly mobile, operating in the county. Returnees to this county will be using Sinje and Teneh transit centers for medical activities and medical escort under the co-ordination of the African Humanitarian Action (AHA).

Bong County

Currently, two hospitals are in service—in Phebe District and Bong Mine District. There are 4 operation health centers and 30 clinics are functional.

River Cess County

There is one hospital operating in the county, one mobile clinic is operational, a health center and 16 clinics need rehabilitation

Lofa County

In Zorzor District - Borkeza Clinic is fully operational. Luyema Clinic, also in Zorzor District, is undergoing rehabilitation and should be open by mid-October. Bolahun Health Center in Kolahun District is fully operation, but currently inaccessible due to poor road conditions.

Maryland County.

In Borobo District - Glofakeh Clinic provides basic services,. In Harper District - Cavalla Health Center, Fish Town Clinic and Rock Town Clinic all providing basic health services. In Kurluway - Karloken Clinic has basic services, and in Pleebo - Pleebo Clinic and Little Wleebo Clinic basic services.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I am a refugee and I want to return home. What do I do?

You have to register with UNHCR to be issued a VRF, go through the medicals screening, pack your luggage

(max 50 kg. per person) and then you will be transported to Liberia. There, you will be received by the Liberian government and UNHCR.

What documents should I carry to Liberia?

In addition to your Voluntary Repatriation Form (VRF), you have to have your birth and marriage certificate, medical card, education and skills training documents, as well as employment, child custody and property related documents.

When do I register?

The repatriation is voluntary, which means that you need to decide in the best interest of your family. When you are ready, you should register with UNHCR. One thing to remember is that there will be no convoys between July and September because of the rains.

I am not registered with

For the sake of protection of family unity, you are encouraged to plan to repatriate together. No children should be left behind in the camps for any reason. If your family has adult dependents who wish to repatriate at a different time, you need to present your case to UNHCR for advice. If your request is approved, the VRF will be issued for departing family members only and the ration card will be changed accordingly.

What can I take as hand luggage?

You are advised to pack your hand luggage with essential items you may require for overnight stay at way stations, particularly for children (i.e. sleeping mats, blankets, change of clothing etc).

I'm a separated child/unaccompanied minor. Will UNHCR take me home?

You are not encouraged to



A Liberian family repatriated from Ghana by air on October 1, 2004

UNHCR. Can I be repatriated?

Only refugees registered with UNHCR can be transported back home. Unregistered refugees can come home and benefit from community-based assistance.

I want to return home, but some of my family members wish to stay behind. Can we separate?

repatriate during the facilitation phase unless your parents or a traditional caregiver has been identified in Liberia in advance. UNHCR will ensure that ICRC is advised of all separated children/UAM to assist in finding their family members and provide special assistance to reunite you with them when they are found.

PEACE EDUCATION

Liberian communities, which have been declared safe for the return, have started receiving the first groups of their fellow citizens who had sought refuge in neighboring countries during the war, and now have decided to return to their homes. The role of the host communities is significant, as their attitude towards the incoming returnees is a direct reflection of the reconciliation process.

In order to facilitate that process, UNHCR and Talking Drum Studio have devised a theater play on peace education entitled "Peace Forever". The play invites community members to seek a peaceful resolution for any problem they might encounter upon the arrival of the returnees, namely the property disputes. "Peace Forever" is of interactive nature and invites the audience to partake in the session, as well as educating them on the importance of always choosing peace to resolve problems.



Peace Forever" performance in Sinje Town, Grand Cape Mount County

GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION

Grand Cape Mount County

UNMIL's presence in the County, and their troops are based in Gbah, Sinje, Robers Port and Bo Water Side. Daily patrols along the main highway between 08.00 and 20.00 hours. Disarmament was completed on September 10, 2004.

Bomi County

UNMIL's presence in the county, and their troops are based in Tubmanburg and Clay. Regular patrols between Tubmanburg and Poo-River Bridge on the main highway (24 hrs), and also in Bopolu and Lofa Bridge. Disarmament ongoing.

Bong County

The payment of TSA to ex-combatants continues. The ex-child

soldier were to begin receiving their TSA payment on 01/10/04 but was postponed by the pay team, according to them for administrative reasons.

Gbarpolu County

Currently, no UNMIL presence in this county, but plans are underway to deploy by the end of October 2004. Patrols twice a week in Bopolu. DDDR completed in this county.

Maryland County

The DDDR exercise commenced on September 29, 2004. The food distribution to MODEL ex-combatants in the Harper District has begun.

Nimba County

The DDDR was completed in Nimba County on September 28, 2004. The DDDR operations will continue in Nimba officially until 31 October for residual caseloads.

River Cess County

As of recently, the security phase in this county has been downgraded from level V to level IV.

Lofa County

The DDDR process continued as planned although at a slow pace. The cantonment sites occupied at full capacity, meaning that large

numbers of ex-combatants are disarming.

Montserrado County

The security situation remains relatively calm, but unpredictable. At times, demonstrations have become violent sometimes causing civil unrest and danger to communities in Monrovia.

UNMIL'S MANDATE EXTENDED

The Security Council session voted unanimously on September 17, 2004, to extend the UN peace-keeping mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for another year.

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) marked on October 1, 2004 one year anniversary. UNMIL arrived to Liberia following a UN Security Council Resolution in September 2003. UNMIL peace-keeping force took over from the ECOWAS vanguard force, which was deployed in Liberia to enforce the ceasefire agreed in Accra by the now former fighting forces. UNMIL's one year of operations in Liberia has been marked by much progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The DDDR exercise is due to be completed by October 31, 2004.

UNHCR Interventions by Counties

UNHCR OFFICES	SACLEPEA	VOINJAMA	ZWEDRU	MONROVIA	TUBMANBURG	GBARNGA	HARPER
COUNTIES	Nimba, Rivercess	Lofa	Grand Gedeh, Sinoe	Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa	Gbarpolu, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount	Bong	Maryland, Grand Kru, River Gee
TRANSIT CENTERS	Ganta Saclepea	Soleyey Voinjama Zorzor	Zwedru Toe Town	Perry Town	Sinje	Gbarnga	Pleebo Harper
WAY STATIONS	Ganta Yekepa under construction Loguatio under construction				Bopolu Bo Water Side	Salayea	
HEALTH	<p>1) Methodist Hospital in Ganta operating.</p> <p>2) Catholic-run clinic in Tappita operating.</p> <p>3) Saclepea community clinic to be rehabilitated by MERC1</p>	<p>1) Borkeza Clinic operational</p> <p>2) Rehabilitation of Luyema Clinic starts mid-October</p> <p>3) Kolahun Hospital rehabilitated</p>	<p>Rehabilitated 80%</p> <p>Corwogba Town Clinic, Kumeh Town Clinic, Polar Gberzon Clinic, Janzon Clinic, Putu Jaiwodsee Clinic, Toe Town Clinic, Zai Town Clinic, Zieh Town Clinic, Putu Pennokon Clinic</p>	<p>1) HCR provides two ambulances.</p> <p>2) UNHCR IP supporting health activities in Perry Town and Seighbeh camps.</p>	<p>Operational:</p> <p>Bopolu Health Center, Henry's Town Clinic, Gbangay Clinic, Tarkpoina Clinic, Kungbor Clinic, Sinje HC, Lofa Bridge Clinic, Damballa Clinic, Sembehun Clinic and Robertsport</p>	<p>1) Needs adequately covered by health agencies.</p>	<p>Basic services:</p> <p>Glofakheh Clinic, Cavalla Clinic, Fish Town Clinic, Rock Town Clinic, Karloken Clinic, Pleebo Clinic, Little Wleebo Clinic</p> <p>Barraken Clinic being rehabilitated</p>
WATSAN	<p>1) Over 30 wells identified for rehabilitation.</p> <p>2) Six hand pumps available.</p> <p>3) Several private toilets rehabilitated.</p>	<p>1) Assessment in Lofa for Watsan activities completed.</p>	<p>1) Over 54 hand pumps to be rehabilitated in 13 priority villages.</p> <p>2) Several hand pumps/few private wells available.</p> <p>3) 18 hand pumps identified for rehabilitation.</p>	<p>1) 15 wells to be rehabilitated in key districts of Montserrado County and will be involved in community training and slab making for individual family latrines.</p>	<p>1) Hope Int. Mission completed rehabilitation of 4 wells and 7 (two room) latrines in Totoquelle.</p> <p>2) ADEN and JPF will be constructing wells and latrines in 6 districts in Grand Cape Mount</p>	<p>1) Water points and sanitation facilities have been rehabilitated in five primary schools.</p>	<p>1) Three hand pumps constructed in Karmweaken.</p> <p>2) ICRC installed 3 new pumps in Harper.</p> <p>3) In Fish Town 4 hand pumps being repaired</p>
EDUCATION	<p>1) One public school in operation.</p> <p>2) Mempa and Bellewaley community schools under construction.</p> <p>3) PWJ rehabilitating 5 schools</p>	<p>1) Several schools rehabilitated as a part of the UNHCR school renovation project.</p> <p>2) 10 Schools to be rehabilitated in Lofa.</p>	<p>1) 28 schools identified for rehabilitation by community and local authorities.</p>	<p>1) UNHCR partner to rehabilitate seven schools to in Montserrado County with community involvement.</p>	<p>1) Seven primary schools, including education offices in Tubmanburg and Robertsport, identified for rehabilitation by UNHCR implementing partner.</p>	<p>1) Gorpuldoloboi Primary School in Belefenal undergoing rehabilitation</p> <p>2) Rehabilitation of 5 schools</p>	<p>1) One govt. school in Karmweaken</p> <p>2) Little Wiebo elementary school under construction</p>