

**Liberia**

Nairobi, 8 December 2020

SITUATION

On the morning of Monday the 2 November 2020, the region of four border Counties of Liberia and Ivory Coast, were occupied by thousands of Ivorians refugees near the borders with Côte d'Ivoire due to political clashes between opposition and pro-government supporters in Côte d'Ivoire's (CDI) Central and West-Central regions following continued disputed 2010 presidential elections differences. Despite the political crisis now being over, there continues to be a significant movement of refugees across the Ivorian border into Liberia. With continued instability in areas of CDI, it is highly probable that many refugees will remain in Liberia for the near future, until it is safe for them to return home. Current tensions in Cote d'Ivoire are triggering fears among Ivorians reminiscent of the country's 2011 presidential election, which claimed the lives of more than 3,000 people, forced over 300,000 to flee across the region, and displaced more than one million inside the country. About 15,085 Ivorians have found refuge in Liberia according to UNHCR and Liberia Refugees Repatriation and Resettlement Commission since the crisis started in Côte d'Ivoire. Over 60 per cent of the arrivals are children, some of whom arrived unaccompanied or separated from their parents. Older people and pregnant women have also fled, most carrying just a few belongings and little or no food or money. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) airlifted 95 tons of emergency supplies of food and non-food items to the over 15,000 refugees since the beginning of the crisis. The African Initiative for Development (AIRD) and CARITAS are presently working with the refugees. The UN refugee agency said it was "ramping up its support fearing that continuing violence will force more people out of the country (Info Migrants, 2020).

NEEDS

The conflict has put the region in a state of crisis. The conflict-affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to Food and non-food items, safe drinking water, health services, shelters and education are urgently needed due to the influx of refugees crossing the border into Liberia daily. The refugees need shelter for their family members especially currently due to climate change. The weather is very cold in the areas they are settled as the result of high mountains, rivers, and sea. Food and nutritional items are needed because most children arriving are exhausted and malnourished. They also need clothes and other household utensils for their daily use. The refugees currently need safe drinking water to avoid the outbreak of waterborne diseases in the camps or communities in which they lived due to the limited sources of getting safe drinking water. Most of the refugees are drinking from creeks and other rivers closed to their communities. They have limited health services in the host communities. The need to improve the existing health facilities to meet their health needs is paramount. As education has been disrupted due to the crisis in their country, the need for the kids to return to school to continue their education is necessary. Empowerment trainings to engage in agriculture for their livelihood in the host communities is needed.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | sufficient food |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | safe shelter and basic non-food items |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | basic health services and facilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | livelihood activities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | protection services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | adequate nutrition |

The dire situation is further compounded for the conflict-affected people with vulnerabilities, more specifically for woman and girls in the host communities. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | National government | Liberia Refugees Repatriation Resettlement Commission |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | UN Agencies | UNHCR |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | INGOs | CARITAS, AIRD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Red Cross Red Crescent Movement | Liberia National Red Cross Society |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | National NGOs | Lutheran Development Service in Liberia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Faith based groups | Lutheran Development Services is helping and planning to support |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Affected communities | The new arrivals are entering into Liberia and settling in bordering communities Liberia. |

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by Liberia Refugee Repatriation & Resettlement Commission LRRRC-Liberia. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (in Liberia) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

ACT Liberia Forum

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Liberia Forum has been working in Liberia since 2000, now helping/planning to help people affected by the conflict |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Liberia Forum works in areas affected by the conflict, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Liberia Forum is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ACT Liberia Forum is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT Liberia forum has identified a gap in WASH and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The ACT Liberia forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide support to the humanitarian needs of the refugees to ensure that the conflict affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to the assessments of the affected persons needs. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lutheran Development Services, a member of ACT Liberia Forum is ready to respond, providing assistance to the refugees affected households in the coming months with NFI, WASH, Food for the at-risk segment of the population that includes small children and those who are sick. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Furthermore, ACT Liberia Forum will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the conflict are amplified. |

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Humanitarian Affairs Alwynn JAVIER (Alwynn Javier (Alwynn.javier@actalliance.org))

For further information, please contact:

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