



**REPORT OF UNHCR /WFP
JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSION
For Liberian Refugees in Sierra Leone
(June 30 – July 10, 2006)**

AUGUST 2006

Team Members:

WFP:

Jyoti Rajkundlia	Senior Programme Officer, WFP, Sierra Leone
Mamadou Diouf	Regional Emergency Assessment Officer, WFP (ODD-Dakar)
Lansana Wonneh	Food Security Officer, WFP, Sierra Leone
Fatmata Kokobaye	Programme Assistant WFP, Sierra Leone

UNHCR

Nyanjagi Ally	Repatriation Officer UNHCR, Sierra Leone
Linus Sarkor	Programme Officer, UNHCR, Sierra Leone
Abubakarr Jalloh	Assistant Programme Office, WFP, Sierra Leone

NaCSA

Mrs Janet Momoh	Project Officer Repatriation, Bo
Alhaji Daramy	Camp Superintendent, Jembe Camp

Acknowledgements

1. The mission members wish to thank the Government of Sierra Leone and all Donors, UN agencies and NGOs based in Freetown, Kenema and Bo for the extensive support provided. In particular, the team is grateful to all of those who provided the briefing materials, organised schedules, provided logistical support, briefed the team and participated in the meetings, particularly the Sub-Offices staff of UNHCR and WFP in Kenema as well as the refugees and their host communities.

ACCRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

ACF:	Action Contre la Faim
BPDA:	Bo-Pujehun District Association
CARE:	Cooperation of American Relief Everywhere
CRS:	Catholic Relief Services
CSB:	Corn Soya Blend
ECOWAS:	Economic committee of West Africa States
EDP:	Extended Delivery Point
EU:	European Union
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FBM:	Food Basket Monitoring
FFT:	Food for Training
FFW:	Food for Work
GAA:	German Agro Action
GoSL:	Government of Sierra Leone
IMP:	Information Management Platform
IP:	Implementing Partner
IRC:	Internal Rescue Committee
JAM:	Joint Assessment Mission
MOU:	Memorandum of Understating
MSF:	Médecins Sans Frontières
MT:	Metric Ton
MUAC:	Mid – upper – arm - circumference
NaCSA:	National Commission for Social Action
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organisations
NFI:	Non-Food Item
OAU:	Organisation for African Unity
PDM:	Post Distribution Monitoring

PRRO:	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
PWJ:	Peace Wind Japan
SFC:	Supplementary Feeding Centres
SGBV:	Sexual Gender based Violence
TFC:	Therapeutic feeding Centres
TFP:	Therapeutic Feeding Programme
TOR:	Terms of Reference
UN:	United Nations
UNHCR:	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF:	United Nations Children Fund
VAM:	Vulnerability Assessment Monitoring
WAC:	West Africa Costal Operation
WFP:	World Food Programme

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACCRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	iv
LISTS OF CHARTS	iv
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	v
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Objectives.....	1
3. Methodology	2
PART I – BASIC FACTS	3
4. Refugee Numbers and Demography	3
5. General Context.....	6
6. Relationships between refugees and local communities	8
7. Health and nutrition situation; environmental conditions	9
PART II – FOOD SECURITY AND SELF-RELIANCE	11
8. Food access and use	11
9. Food aid targeting, distribution and monitoring.....	13
10. Selective feeding programmes	16
11. Food supplies.....	17
12. Self-reliance opportunities and strategies	18
PART III – NON-FOOD AND OTHER RELATED CONCERNS	19
13. Non-food items – requirements and distributions	19
14. Gender and protection concerns	20
PART IV – LOGISTICS	21
15. Logistics	21
PART V – PARTNERSHIPS, PLANNING AND OTHERS ISSUES.....	22
16. Partnership and coordination.....	22
PART VI – OPTIONS AND SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS	23
17. Recommendations	23
18. Programme options	26
APPENDICIES	27
Appendix 1	27
Appendix 2	30
Appendix 3	31
Appendix 4	32
Appendix 5	33
Appendix 6	36

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:	Statistics on Repatriation of Liberians Refugees from Sierra Leone	5
Table 2:	Decisions of WAC Strategic Meeting (May 2006) and Updating by JAM	7
Table 3:	The Different Wealth Groups within the Population	12
Table 4:	Percentage Contribution of Different Sources to the Total Household Food Basket	13
Table 5:	Food Ration of Different Wealth Groups	14
Table 6:	Food Ration for Refugees (Current Ration Sizes)	17
Table 7:	Recommendations and Actions to be Undertaken	24

LISTS OF CHARTS

Chart 1:	Liberians Refugees Statistics in Kenema and Bo Camps (June 2006)	3
Chart 2:	Sexual Distribution of Refugees into Different Camps	4
Chart 3:	Distribution of Refugees' Population by Age	4
Chart 4:	Total and Cumulative Figures of Refugees' Repatriation	6
Chart 5:	Water supply in Refugee camps	10
Chart 6:	Assisted Refugees from Jan-June 2007	14

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) for Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone was conducted from 30 June– 10 July 2006. In accordance with the Terms of Reference (TOR), the mission carried out a comprehensive review of on-going programmes covering the issues of protection, nutrition, health, food security, food and non-food supplies, self-reliance, logistics, and repatriation; and proposed programmes for phasing-out including food and non-food assistance as well as options for durable solution. This work was carried out in close consultation with the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) at both central and local levels, Donors, UN Agencies, and NGOs; and with the participation of UNHCR and WFP Country and Sub/Field Offices in Freetown, and Kenema respectively, the National Commission for Social Action- representing the GoSL, Implementing Partners (IPs), refugees and their representatives. The major findings and recommendations of the mission are as follows:

Currently UNHCR and WFP are assisting a total population of 24,000 Liberian refugees who are residing in eight camps in Sierra Leone. UNHCR is responsible for protection and provision of non-food items including shelter materials, domestic items, water supply etc. while food aid is provided by WFP. The refugee population is almost equally distributed by gender with females comprising 51% and males 49%. In the whole population, 44% are in the age group 5 to 17 years, 19% are children > 5 years of age, and 3.9% are (elderly persons) 60 years and above. A total of 1200 persons, about 5% of the entire population, are considered as extremely vulnerable persons or people with special needs.

In October 2004, UNHCR began the facilitated voluntary repatriation operation for the Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone. The operation was initially very slow up to December 2005, but has improved considerably since the beginning of 2006, following the successful disarmament of ex-combatants and the presidential election in Liberia in January 2006. Between January and June 2006, a total of 9000 refugees have been repatriated. It is expected that another 4000 refugees would be repatriated by the end of the year, thus bringing to 13,000 the total repatriation in 2006. Given this trend, it is therefore anticipated that a caseload of about 20,000 requiring assistance would remain in the camps by January 2007.

With the trend in the on-going repatriation process, UNHCR plans to repatriate a total of 12,000 refugees through organised convoys, and estimates that another 2000 refugees will repatriate spontaneously during the first half of 2007. This leaves an estimated 6000 refugees that may be considered as residual caseload for local integration in Sierra Leone.

Current WFP assistance to the Liberian refugees is provided under the PRRO 10064.3, which was approved by the Executive Board in 2004, for duration of two years, from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2006. The PRRO 10064.3 was planned in close association with the facilitated repatriation plans for the Liberian refugees. In 2005, the actual average monthly refugee caseload (49,605), however, far exceeded the planned figures due to the low rate of repatriations during the year compared to the target. In dealing with the higher than planned refugee caseload, and the ensuing pipeline constraints, both Food-for-work (FFW) and Food-for-training (FFT) activities were suspended from January to September 2005. Furthermore, since May 2005, food rations of the refugees were reduced from the daily Kcal/person value of 2100 to 1660, for all except the extremely vulnerable refugees (1500 persons at that time), and who have continued to receive the full 2,100 Kcal daily rations.

Despite the reduction in the food rations since May 2005, the mission's findings indicate that the general food security situation of the refugees has continued to improve as a result of their positive coping strategies. This observation is validated by the declining trend of the contributions of food aid to the total household monthly food basket, which averaged 69.0% in April 2004, 61.4% in May 2005, and 58.8% in May 2006.

Through focus group discussions held in the camps, it was revealed to the mission that refugees engage in variety of activities that provide them additional food or cash income to purchase food.

They engage in laboring, cutting and selling firewood, selling of sand, stones, and charcoal, farming, petty trading up to substantial business, and incentive work.

While all refugees are considered to be vulnerable, the mission however found out that in the camps some groups of refugees are less vulnerable than the others. Analyses of the Quarterly PDM surveys conducted by WFP Country Office in the refugee camps show that there are four broad socio-economic categories within the entire refugee population. They are referred to as: (i) “Better-off” wealth group, (ii) “Middle” wealth group (iii), “Poor” wealth group and (iv) “Very poor” wealth group. “Better-off” category was described as the least vulnerable and the “Very poor”, the most vulnerable. What separate the groups essentially are the levels of livelihood opportunities, degree of self-reliance, and effectiveness of coping mechanisms.

A Nutrition Assessment conducted in July 2005 revealed that severe malnutrition was generally, not a significant problem among refugees in the eight camps. According to the results, the prevalence of severe malnutrition was very low (1%) in two camps (Taiama and Tobanda). No cases of severe malnutrition were found in the other six camps. Prevalence of moderate malnutrition, however, was relatively high in some of the camps. The most affected was Taiama camp, which had prevalence of 15.5 percent and Tobanda 6.0 percent. In the rest of the camps, prevalence of moderate malnutrition was below 3 percent. Prevalence of global malnutrition (severe + moderate malnutrition) was highest in Taiama camp at 16.5 percent, followed by Tobanda at 7.0 percent. In the other camps, the rate of prevalence was the same as that of moderate malnutrition.

The mission also observed that nutritional status was better among the children in the refugee camps as compared to host population’s children living in the villages surrounding the refugee camps. In the four camps covered by the mission, it was observed that majority of the <5 children admitted at the Supplementary Feeding Centres (SFC) were from the host communities. Admissions from the refugee camps were of a relatively smaller proportion. Similarly, the ratio of host populations’ children to the children of refugees admitted at the Therapeutic Feeding Centre (TFC) in the Gondama camp was found to be very high.

Water supply in the camps was found to be adequate. On average, each refugee has at least 20 litres per day. With the on-going repatriation of refugees more water is now available in the camps as the population continues to decline. But even if water is available in the quantity and quality at the distribution point, the storage capacity (number of containers) at the household level could limit both the quantity and quality of water that is actually used by the refugees. Water is regularly chlorinated once a month and tested everyday to ensure that it is of good quality.

Regarding Non-food Items (NFIs), UNHCR had supplied all refugees’ households with a set of domestic items including cooking pots, spoons, cups and plates at the time of arrival in the camp. Plastic buckets have also been distributed as part of Lassa fever prevention scheme. These items have not been replaced and refugees claim that they have worn-out, damaged or lost. Every refugee also receives a monthly supply of soap (250 grams/refugee). As with the other domestic items, the refugees claim that the quantity of soap that is supplied by UNHCR does not last them the entire month. In general, however, refugees have developed coping mechanisms and have thus been able to purchase and provide for themselves the needed domestic items. The shelter situation in the camps was observed to be generally good for the vast majority of the refugee households.

The mission recognized the poor road conditions to some of the camps, coupled with a weak commercial transport sector to be the main factors that affect the logistics operations of both WFP and UNHCR.

Concerning durable solution, the discussions with refugee’s representatives revealed that the favoured option of the majority of refugees is repatriation to Liberia. There were few requests for information on resettlement options. The mission also noted that due to variety of reasons some (no firm idea of

numbers) of the refugees would prefer to remain in Sierra Leone (no clear idea of where). This therefore calls for in-depth look at possibilities for local integration options for this group. During the mission's discussion, with the host community it came out clearly that the issue of local integration would require adequate negotiations with the local traditional authorities and the communities. It was suggested that the National Commission for Social Action, which is representing the GoSL, could lead the process.

The mission proposed several recommendations with respect to continuation of food and non-food assistance in the period January to June 2007; repatriation operations, local integration of residual caseload and support to host communities, especially in terms of environmental rehabilitation.

With regards to food aid assistance during the period January to June 2007, the mission proposed two scenarios for targeting beneficiaries:

Scenario A:

In this option it is proposed that: (i) the full 2100 Kcal ration be provided to the refugee population classified as extremely vulnerable, with no other recognizable coping mechanisms. The proportion of refugees in this category is about 5 % of the total caseload (ii) the remaining less vulnerable are proposed to receive 50% of the full ration (1050 kcal/person/day). This is in recognition of the fact all the refugee households, with the exception of the extremely vulnerable ones, on the average, can be able to source up to 50% of the household food needs from other sources, apart from WFP's food aid.

Scenario B:

This second option for targeting is based on the socio-economic differentiation of refugee households that has been established by WFP in partnership with refugees themselves.

Sub-groups	Proportions	Rations proposed (targeted)
Lowest economic group or very poor	4% - 8%	Full ration (2100 kcal/person/day)
Poor households	45% - 55%	1660 kcal/person/day
Middle	30% - 35%	50% of full ration (1050 kcal)
Upper economic group	8% - 15%	No food distributed

This scenario calls for the number of refugees in the different wealth group to be determined for each camp (based the percentages established by the PDM studies), and an identification of the individual households that fall into each category. Food requirements are therefore calculated for the different groups with the: "Very poor" households receiving full ration, the "Poor" and "Middle" households will receive fractions of full ration, proportionate to the level self-reliance among the group, while the "Better-off" will not receive any food assistance.

The Very poor sub-groups include people without any support and unable to get complementary food by themselves. These households are easy to be identified in the refugee population. In this group, each member is proposed to receive the full food ration of 2100 kcal. The number of beneficiaries is approximately 1200 people distributed across the eight camps. The Poor sub-group has at least 10 000 refugees on average (variation between 9 000 to 11 000 refugees). The members of this household group are proposed to receive 1660 kcal/person/day. The Middle household group, which has approximately 6 500 people, are recommended to receive 50% (1050 Kcal) of the full 2100 kcal ration. A small proportion of the refugee households representing on the average 10% of the population will not receive any food assistance from WFP under this framework.

While this household based targeting provides a framework for fairer distribution of assistance, in practical terms, it would prove difficult to implement. Although refugee leaders might be aware of whom the better-off are, they may be unwilling to separate them out, this is because the better-off are mobile and some of the leaders and their families may be included in that category.

From the practical and implementation point of view, Scenario A or the across-the-board reduced ration for all except the most vulnerable refugees, will be easier to implement, less costly, with less potential for conflict, than any specific targeting according to socio-economic grouping of refugees in the camps, given that the physical living arrangements of refugees in the camps is not based on any such status.

INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

1. The Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) for Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone was conducted from 30 June– 10 July 2006. In accordance with the Terms of Reference (TOR), the mission carried out a comprehensive review of on-going programmes covering the issues of protection, nutrition, health, food security, food and non-food supplies, self-reliance, logistics, and repatriation; and proposed programmes for phasing-out including food and non-food assistance as well as options for durable solution. This work was carried out in close consultation with the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) at both central and local levels, Donors, UN Agencies, and NGOs; and with the participation of UNHCR and WFP Country and Sub/Field Offices in Freetown, and Kenema respectively, the National Commission for Social Action- representing the GoSL, Implementing Partners (IPs), refugees and their representatives. This report details the major findings and recommendations of the mission.

2. Objectives

2. The main objective of the Joint Assessment Mission is to propose a detailed repatriation process and phase-out programme that would incorporate food and non-food assistance. The specific objectives are:

- i) Review the implementation of the food, non-food, and repatriation assistance strategies that have been used since October 2004 and highlight lessons learned that can contribute to the final phase-out programme;
- ii) Determine the number of Liberian refugees who a) are currently registered in Sierra Leone, b) have return to Liberia, and c) will remain in Sierra Leone from 1st January 2007 to 30th June 2007;
- iii) Assess the current food security and under-nutrition situations of refugees, analyse their livelihood strategies and evaluate their capacity to complement the food assistance with other sources of food and income;
- iv) Assess the current and future food and non-food needs of refugees, ensuring not only acceptable food security conditions, but also the achievement of ‘durable solution’ by 30th June 2007, including self-reliance, health and other non-food related issues;
- v) Evaluate the strategies pursued by the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and its partners (including UNHCR and WFP) for the repatriation of refugees.
- vi) Liaise with the Government of Sierra Leone and identify possibilities to collaborate with partners to support the implementation of the repatriation ‘phase out’ programme;
- vii) Define the types of food and related assistance (including assistance for self-reliance) required for the six months following the JAM (July to December 2006) and during the first semester of 2007 including: the number of people to be provided for; how the food and related assistance should be delivered, targeted and distributed; how assistance for self-reliance activities should be provided;
- viii) Observe the impact of the refugee’ presence in the region and propose socio-economic and environmental skills for analysis;
- ix) Analyse the effect of the refugee departure on the host communities;
- x) Support the development of specific, credible project proposal to be elaborated and submitted to donors for funding.

3. Methodology

3. The JAM team¹ held different meetings in Freetown with WFP and UNHCR staff, Officials of the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL)-NaCSA, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Agriculture; UN Agencies -FAO, and UNICEF; donors² (EU); and NGOs (CORAD Group). In the field, the mission met local authorities (NaCSA, and chiefdom authorities), camp managers, NGOs (German Agro Action, CRS, MSF Belgium, Peace Winds Japan, and BPDA), refugees in four of the eight camps (Largo, Bandajuma, Gondama and Jembe) and their host communities.

4. To achieve the objectives of this missions various social research methodologies were used including interviews with policy makers (Cabinet Ministers) and partners at national level, group discussions with local authorities in the host communities, general group discussion with refugee leaders and camp management, focus group discussion with refugee women and youth groups, interviews with key informants, observation, in addition to review and analysis of secondary data.

¹ WFP: Mamadou Diouf, Regional Emergency Assessment Officer (ODD-Dakar), Jyoti Rajkundlia, Senior Programme Officer, Lansana Wonneh, Food Security Officer, Fatmata Kokobaye, Programme Assistant (SLE Country Office); UNHCR: Nyanjagi Ally, Repatriation Officer (Sub-Office Kenema), Linus Sarkor, Programme Officer (Freetown), Abubakarr Jalloh Assistant Programme Officer (Sub-Office Kenema)

² The USAID was contacted by the mission but the responsible officer was out of the Country.

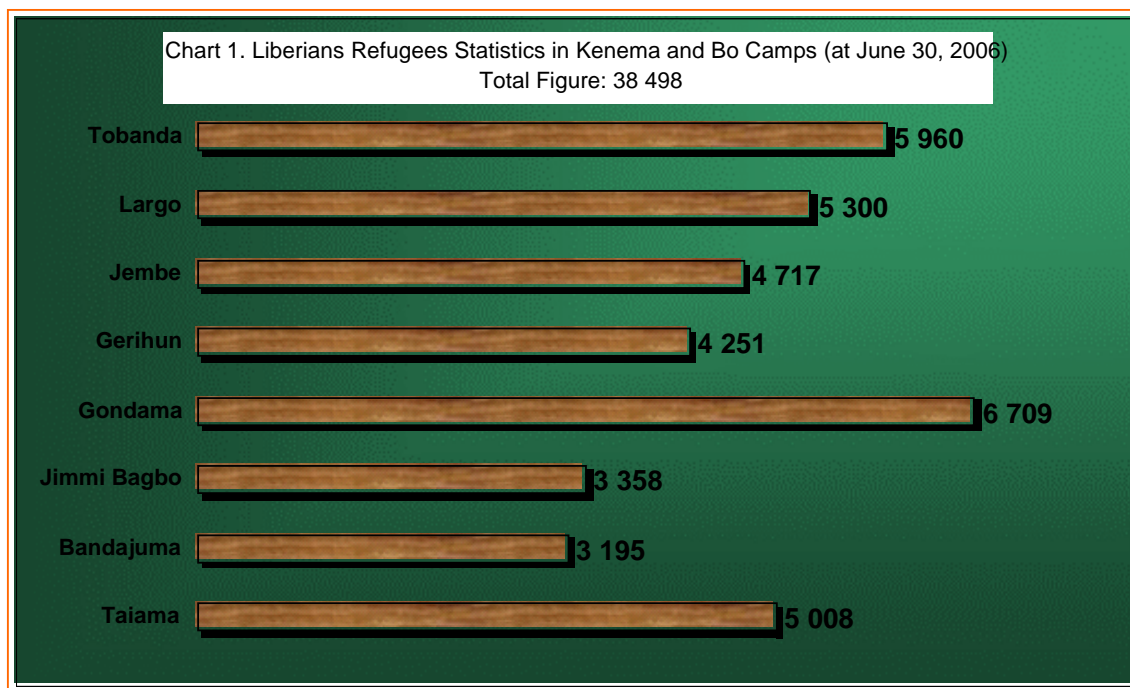
PART I – BASIC FACTS

4. Refugee Numbers and Demography

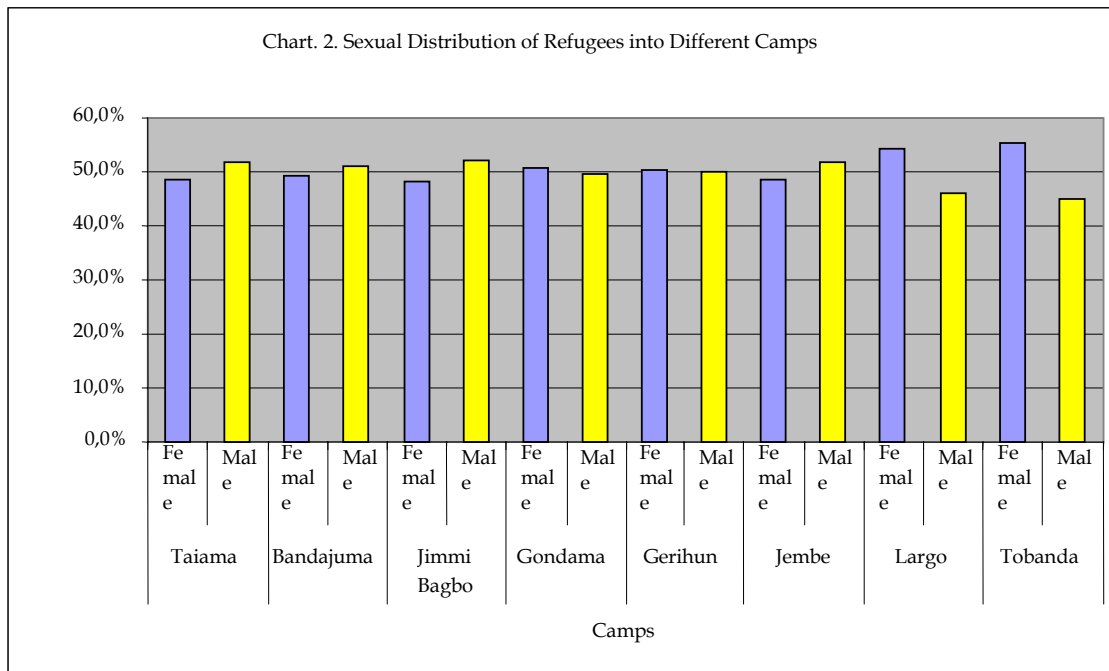
5. The Liberian refugee caseload presently in Sierra Leone is divided into two groups namely, (i) the ‘old caseload’ which is a residual group of those who fled Liberia in the early nineties and (ii) the ‘new caseload’ that arrived after 2001, who are in the majority. The old caseloads mainly reside in urban areas including Freetown, Kenema and Bo towns while the new caseload resides in eight camps, which are based in rural areas. (See appendix 3 for the summary description of the different camps and map 1 their location). The assessment mission covered only the refugees in the camps.

6. Currently, UNHCR maintains two population figures on the refugees in camps: (i) General Registered figure and (ii) Assisted figure. The former refers to the overall numbers of refugees who exist in the UNHCR database following a verification of refugees in May 2003, and includes both those physically present in camps and those whose current locations are not known. The latter refers to the number of refugees physically present in camps and receives regular assistance in terms of food, water, sanitation and other supports.

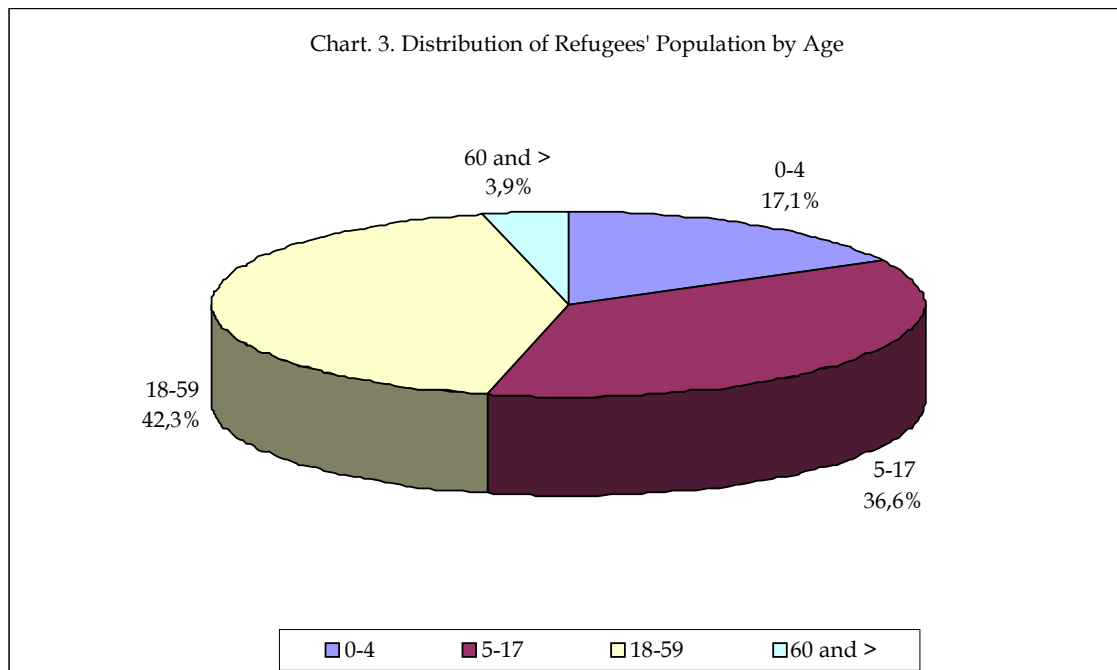
7. The current population of refugees according to the general registered figure is 38 498, distributed across eight camps (Chart 1): Gondama camp has the highest number of refugees, with 18% of the population, while Bandajuma contains the lowest number of refugees (8% of the population). In general, 51% of the refugees are females against 49% males.



The sex distribution however differs from one camp to another. In Taiama, Jimmi Bagbo, Bandajuma and Jembe camps, the population of males is higher than that of females, whereas, in Largo and Tobanda, there are more females than males in the population (Chart 2).



8. Refugees under 17 years old form 53.7% of the population, while under -5s comprise 17.1%. The elders (60 years and above) represent 3.9% of the population (Chart 3). Eighty percent of the refugees are from rural areas and mainly farmers.



9. In June 2005, UNHCR in collaboration with its partners undertook a verification exercise for the refugees in the camps. In June 2006, UNHCR undertook an exercise to ascertain the total number of “Assisted Refugees”; the exercise involved replacement of old ration cards that were held by the refugees with the new ones. According to the report of that exercise, the total number of “assisted refugees” as at the end of June 2006 was about 24,000. This figure, which represents about 63% of the “general registered” caseload of Liberian refugees that are supposed to be in the camps, constitutes the planning figure for the mission.

Recommendation:

The difference of 14,000 between the Registered and Assisted figures requires an immediate decision by UNHCR so that there is only one population figure for Liberian refugees in the camps.

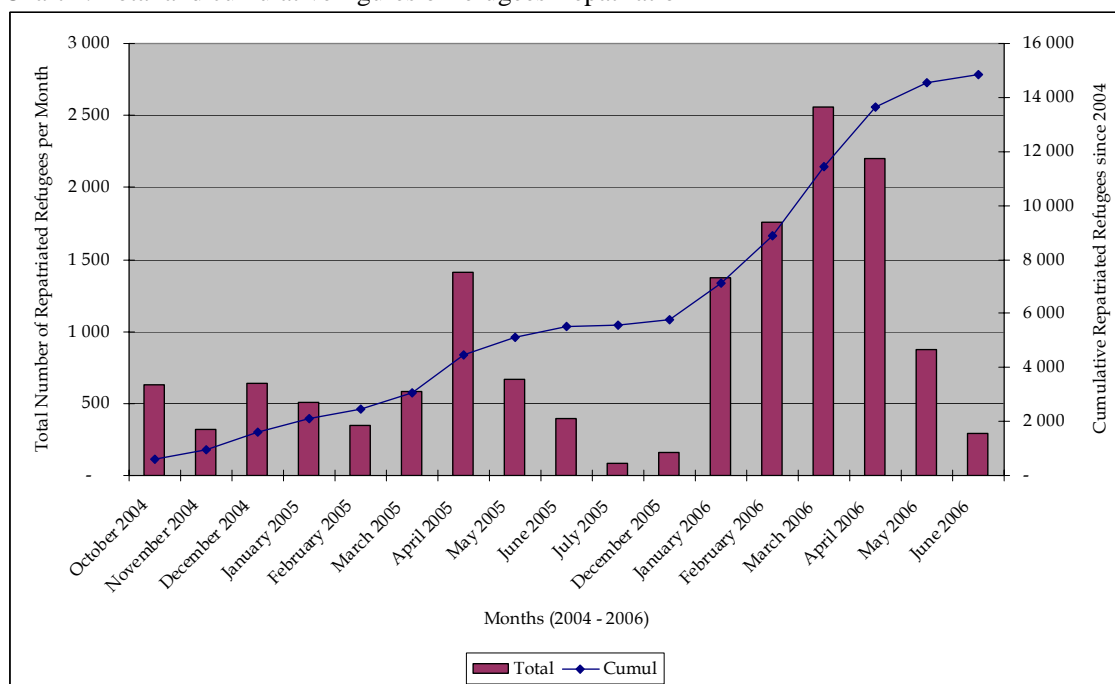
10. In October 2004, UNHCR began the facilitated voluntary repatriation operation for the Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone. At the end of June 2006, a total of 19 758 persons had already repatriated to Liberia including 75.4% through organised convoys and 24.6% spontaneously (Table 1). The repatriation is seasonal- during the peak of rainy season (August – September) the process is stopped or slowed down as conditions of the roads between Sierra Leone and Liberia become very bad during the rainy season. Other seasonal factors such as farming activities and the school year do also influence the pace of return.

Table 1. Statistics of repatriation of Liberians refugees from Sierra Leone

Year	Spontan. Returnees	UNHCR organized Repatriation		Grand Total
		Camp	Urban	
2004	4 268	1 592	5	5 865
2005	597	4 158	43	4 798
June 30, 2006		9 072	23	9 095
Total	4 865	14 822	71	19 758

11. Chart 4 shows the monthly distribution of repatriations since the beginning of the process. Although the pace of repatriation was slow up to December 2005, the refugees in the eight camps have shown increased interest in returning to their country since the beginning of 2006, following the successful disarmament and demobilization of former fighters at end of 2005, and the election of the new Liberian president in January 2006. Between January and June 2006, a record total of 9 095 refugees (or a monthly average of 1512 persons) have repatriated. Of that total, 9,072 were from the eight camps and 23 from the towns (Freetown, Kenema and Bo). Twice as many repatriated during the period as compared to the ones in 2005.

Chart 4. Total and cumulative figures of refugees' repatriation



12. It is expected that some 4,000 refugees would be repatriated between July and December 2006. This will bring the total number of refugees repatriating in 2006 to 13,000, which is slightly higher than the initial targeted figure (12,000) for repatriation by UNHCR in 2006. Given this trend, a caseload of 20,000 refugees requiring assistance is therefore anticipated to remain in the camps by January 2007. Between January and end of June 2007, UNHCR plans to repatriate a total of 12,000 refugees through the organised convoy, and estimates that another 2,000 will repatriate spontaneously. This leaves an estimated 6,000 of the refugees in camps, which may be considered as residual caseload for possible local integration in Sierra Leone.

13. For purpose of planning, the mission has considered two periods :(i) July to December 2006 and (ii) January to June 2007. During the first period, assistance is planned for a total of 24,000 refugees at the beginning July 2006. In the second period: January to June 2007, assistance will be planned for a total of 20,000 refugees in January 2007 and from that number, an average of **2333** persons, is expected to repatriate per month, during the period end of January to end of June 2007.

5. General Context

14. The Republic of Sierra Leone is a State party to the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and its 1967 Protocol. Sierra Leone has also acceded to the broader and regional 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of the Refugee Problems in Africa.

15. Currently there is no domestic legislation governing the status of refugees in Sierra Leone. A municipal law known as the Refugees Protection Act 2005 has been drafted and is yet to be deliberated upon by Parliament and consequently receive Presidential assent. In spite of the absence of national refugee legislation, the Government has granted Liberian refugees prima facie recognition under the broader refugee definition in the OAU Convention. As ECOWAS citizens, Liberian refugees have additional rights of entry to and residence in Sierra Leone. The Government has been flexible in permitting refugees to reside in camps and the urban towns of Freetown, Kenema and Bo, when they opt to do so.

16. In May 2006, WFP and UNHCR held a regional meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone (on the West Africa Coastal Operations) for the strategic programming of the repatriation process for Liberian refugees. The following decisions, inter alia, have been taken on this occasion both for the specific case of Sierra Leone and for the whole Sub- region (Table 2). The JAM in Sierra Leone was organised, among other objectives, to confirm the feasibility of some of these decisions and, to also provide updates on the implementation of some the recommendations.

Table 2. Decisions of WAC strategic meeting (May 2006) and updating by JAM

Activity	Timeframe	JAM update
1. 8 camps consolidated to 2	End of 2007	Discussion to be engaged with Government, beginning of the process
2. Coordinated planning with government and UNHCR for local integration of residual caseload	Start discussions May/June 2006	Contact with local authorities and communities around different visited camps
3. Headcount and revalidation of ration cards	June - Dec 2006	Ongoing
4. JAM mission	June 2006	Done
5. Repatriation exercise completed by June 2007		In line with planning
6. Active promotion of repatriation	Ongoing to June 2007	Main efforts done to encourage the repatriation (information, of refugees)
7. General Food Distributions ended	December 2006	In line with planning
8. Targeted feeding implemented	January 2007	Two scenarios proposed (see below)
9. JAM missions in host countries	June-July 2006	Host communities included in the JAM and met at the same level of refugees
10. Ration sizes to remain the same		Specific recommendations depending on targeting
11. Guinea and Sierra Leone repatriation, refugee assistance and local integration will be in line	Ongoing	Discussions with Government and local authorities on this item
12. Residual caseload absorbed in single country PRROs through targeted feeding for local communities	July 2007	
13. WFP to participate in UNHCR mission reviewing local integration and crossborder operations	Ongoing	Recommendation to undertake this mission asap

17. During the mission's discussions with the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), some Government Line Ministries, Traditional leaders (chiefs and elders in refugees host communities), Donors, UN Agencies, and NGOs, the following were general views expressed by the authorities regarding refugee residual caseload:

- That integration into local communities is a preferred option to camp situation in the case of refugees that would opt for local integration.
- That all Liberian refugees opting for local integration will be accepted and treated like any Sierra Leonean Citizen regarding access to education, health, and social services.
- That land ownership (at host communities' level) will have to be renegotiated with local authorities and Central Government (represented by NaCSA). Refugees involved in inter-

marriages with the host population could possibly access land through traditional norms.

- The need for transitional support was highlighted as a necessary intervention to augment the absorption capacity of communities that would be hosting residual refugee caseload and to promote self-reliance.
- The EU, FAO, UNICEF and NGOs (CARE and GAA) expressed willingness to support the communities into which refugees will integrate.
- That there is a need to identify, at the earliest possible time, the communities or villages into which the residual caseload of refugees is likely to reside.

6. Relationships between refugees and local communities

18. Refugees have contributed to the expansion of the economy in the host communities by selling goods and services in the nearby villages and towns and making purchases there as well. They have also increased the available labor force for agricultural production, and the overall demand for goods including food commodities in the respective host communities thereby stimulating the local economy.

19. Their continuing presence, however, is perceived to have contributed to the overall environmental degradation of surrounding areas through exploitation of the natural resources for fuel wood, charcoal, as well as construction materials including sticks, timber, stones and sand in order to generate income, and for household needs. The NGOs (German Agro-Action and CARE) are planning to implement projects on environmental rehabilitation in the refugee host communities in 2007.

19. In general, there is a good relationship between the local population and the refugees. The mission, however, observed some variations in host communities' attitude towards refugees. For instance, in Jembe camp, there is strong appreciation of the refugees among the host community. During discussions with the mission, the community elders expressed strong willingness to allow local integration of the refugees in their community. The existing relationship between the refugees and the host is such that there are no strong barriers for refugees to access land to cultivate; to collect wild food, firewood, sticks etc. or to engage in trading activities in the host community.

20. In other communities like Bandajuma, it was observed that competition with the refugees for natural resources and envy regarding assistance levels in the camps, have sometimes resulted in hostility, albeit on a manageable scale between local populations and refugees. Unlike Jembe, the local authorities in Bandajuma have put in place formal taxes for refugees wishing to cultivate land or collect firewood. In markets also, refugee traders are charged higher dues (taxes) than their compatriot from the host community. Refugees are accused of engaging in activities that destroy the forest and the land. For local integration of refugees, the host community leaders request that the Government, represented by NACSA will have to discuss with the local population on modalities and opportunities.

Recommendation:

Considering these different situations, the mission recommends that local integration would require very careful analysis of the situation and adequate negotiations with the local authorities and populations.

21. Concerning security, UNHCR has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sierra Leone Police to enhance security for all UNHCR registered refugee and returnee operations. Under this arrangement, six police officers are deployed in each camp to maintain law and order. A refugee warden system is in place in each camp to compliment the work of the police. They undertake patrols, crowd control and also report security incidents or suspicious occurrences in the refugee community for follow up by the police. Another major component of the camp security is the By-Laws, a set of

rules that governs certain aspects of the conduct of refugees administered by the grievance committee, a traditional quasi-judicial forum for adjudicating minor disputes. The process is subject to the laws of the host country and prohibits the hearing of serious criminal offences including sexual offences.

7. Health and nutrition situation; environmental conditions

22. In Sierra Leone, as in many other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, health and nutrition status in rural areas depends significantly on livelihood conditions. According to the VAM study in 2005, the prevalence of the maternal malnutrition in Sierra Leone was 13%. This prevalence is higher than the one found in VAM study in 2003 (10%). Access to safe water, health care, and sanitation remain scarce in rural areas. These factors determine mostly the prevalence of maternal malnutrition in the districts.

23. The 2005 VAM study also showed that, at national level, 15.1% of children under-five were acutely malnourished (wasting), as against 5.6% in VAM 2003. Malaria, diarrhoea, food intake are the main causes of malnutrition status of children.

24. Nutrition assessments have been part of the refugee operation in Sierra Leone. In July 2005, UNHCR, in collaboration with the medical NGO's operating in the camps (MSF and ACF), organized a nutrition assessment in all of the eight camps. The main objective of the 2005 nutrition assessment was to describe the nutritional status of the refugee children in the camps. The traditional anthropometric indices of weight-for-height (wasting), Height-for-Age (stunting) weight-for-age (underweight) and MUAC were used to assess the nutritional status of children. Results of the assessment showed very low (1.0 %) prevalence of severe malnutrition in two camps (Taiama and Tobanda). No cases of severe malnutrition were found in the other six camps. Prevalence of moderate malnutrition, however, was relatively high in some of the camps. The most affected was Taiama camp, which had prevalence of 15.5 percent and Tobanda 6.0 percent. In the rest of the camps prevalence of moderate malnutrition was below 3 percent. Prevalence of global malnutrition (severe + moderate malnutrition) was highest in Taiama camp at 16.5 percent, followed by Tobanda at 7.0 percent. In the rest of the camps the figure was the same as that of moderate malnutrition.

25. The mission noted that nutritional status among refugees is possibly better compared to the host population in the villages surrounding the camps. For example, during the nutrition assessment in July 2005, it was observed that majority of the <5 children admitted in at the Supplementary Feeding Centres³ (SFC) and Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFC) of Gondama⁴ were from the host communities. Admissions from the refugee camps were of a relatively smaller proportion as indicated in Appendix 5.

26. The mission visited a TFC centre at the Gondama refugee camp, where severely malnourished children from both the refugee camps and the surrounding host communities are referred. At the centre, it was observed that the ratio of malnourished host population's children to refugee children admitted to the Therapeutic Feeding Programme was particularly high. Over 95% of the total number (152) of malnourished children admitted was from the host villages bordering the refugee camps (Picture 2).

³ There are five SFC run by MSF-Belgium and located in five camps: Jimmi Bagbo, Bandajuma, Jembe, Gerihun and Gondama

⁴ There are three other centres of reference for severely malnourished Under-fives: ACF TFC in Magburuka, MSF Holland TFC in Kambia and Kailahun and Western Area TFC managed by Ministry. The TFC of Gondama is managed by MSF-Belgium

27. Only a few cases, less than 5% of severe malnutrition were referred from the refugee camps. A considerable segment of the host population surrounding the camps benefit from the TFC established for the refugees. Hence, demand for this programme remains high despite the on-going repatriation of Liberian refugees. During the first half of 2006, an average of 20 cases of severely malnourished children per day had been received at Gondama TFC.



28. In the camps visited, the mission also held discussions with health workers, who attributed the relatively low prevalence rate of malnutrition among the refugee children to the existing supplementary programmes, health care services, as well as the good water and sanitary facilities in the camps as compared to the host villages. Malnutrition among refugees' children is, according to the medical NGOs in the camps, significantly associated with malaria and acute respiratory infections. In the host communities the lack of food, access to water, sanitation conditions, poverty, ignorance and access to health services, in addition to malaria and acute respiratory infections, were indicated as factors linked with high prevalence of malnutrition among < 5 children.

29. Water availability (in quantity and quality) is one of the main factors closely linked with the health and nutrition status in the refugee camps. Most of the camps have sufficient water supply that meets the requirements of the refugees. Data obtained from the UNHCR Technical Unit in Kenema, however, revealed that the refugees in one camp (Jimmy Bagbo) received less water per day (17.9 litres) than the UNHCR standard of 20 litres during May 2006 (Chart 5). It should be noted here that even if water is available in the quantity and quality at the distribution point, the storage capacity (number of containers) at the household level could limit both the quantity and quality of water that is actually used by the refugees.

30. In all of the camps, water is regularly chlorinated once a month to maintain a high and adequate quality of water supply for refugees. Around the water points (boreholes, hand pump wells), small fences are built for protection against possible pollution, particularly from children. Hygienic measures (such as the practice of leaving foot wears behind the fences) are also observed to limit the risks of water contamination. ACF, PWJ, BPDA, IRC and CRS are the main partners of UNHCR in charge of water and sanitation in the camps.

PART II – FOOD SECURITY AND SELF-RELIANCE

8. Food access and use

31. Starting May 2005, food rations provided to refugees were reduced from the daily Kcal/person value of 2,100 (recommended by the 2003 JAM) to 1660 Kcal, for all except some 1500 persons who were considered to be extremely vulnerable who have continued to receive the full 2,100 Kcal rations. This action was taken due to pipeline constraints, which arose because the actual average monthly refugee caseload (49,605) in 2005 far exceeded the planned figures, in turn, due to the low rate of repatriations during the year compared to the target.

32. Refugees' households, however, undertake variety of activities that provide them additional food or cash income to purchase food. They engage in laboring, cutting and selling firewood; selling of sand, stones and charcoal; farming and petty trading up to substantial business; incentive work and skilled work such weaving (Picture 2), carpentry, tailoring, etc. The contributions these activities make to incomes and household food security has been measured through the quarterly Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Surveys carried out in the eight camps, of which the last one was undertaken in May 2006.



33. Through the PDM surveys some four broad socio-economic groups of refugees in the camps have been identified on basis of wealth status or ability to compliment the household food rations (degree of reliance on food aid rations). Wealth in the refugee context is a function of access and ownership of specific resources: asset ownership, sources of income and food, and size of the respective households. The percentage of households in each of the four categories including “Better-off”, “Middle”, “Poor” and “Very poor” have also been estimated through focus discussions in the May 2005 PDM survey and updated during the subsequent PDMs.

34. According to the key informants in the May 2006 PDM survey, poor households constituted the majority (45-55%) in all the camps, followed by middle (30-35%). The lowest economic group or very poor was the least in size (4-8%), followed by the upper economic groups (8-15%). Level of vulnerability in the camps is related to these economic grouping. While all refugees are considered to be vulnerable, the degree of vulnerability varies with the different socio-economic groups within the population. “Better-off” category was described as the least vulnerable and the very poor, the most vulnerable. Table 3 presents the four wealth groupings and their characteristics as described during the focused group discussions.

Table 3: The different wealth groups within the population

Defining Characteristics	Wealth Groups			
	Very Poor	Poor	Middle	Better-off
Number of active household members	0	1	2	2
Asset ownership including livestock	None	None or very few assets, Some can have few chickens, 1-2 farm tools, a bucket	Some can have poultry, a radio/musical set, and bed, few farm tools	Have radio, bed, table, chair, and for some, bicycle and goats, farm tools, generator, television
Income generation activities	100% relief dependent for food and clothing, few get money through begging	Sale of labour, sale of fire wood, charcoal, sand mining, petty trading	Sale of labour, small business, Sale of own production, fire wood, sticks, sand, charcoal skilled work	Salaries-incentives, big business, remittances From relatives abroad
Physical condition & health	Sick, very old, and lacks energy or ability to work	Fairly healthy outward looks, and physically strong	Fairly healthy outward looking and physically strong	Good physical outlook
Examples	Disabled, elderly widows and widowers	Petty traders, casual labourers, farmers	Small business owners, casual workers, farmers, crafts people-barbers, carpenters, tailors etc.	Teachers, nurses, engineers, other incentive workers, big business owners
Percentage of population	4% - 8%	45% - 55%	30% - 35%	8% - 15%

Source: PDM reports of WFP CO Sierra Leone, May 2006

35. In terms of food security, there has been continued improvement in the overall ability of refugees to compliment their rations with other sources. This observation is validated by the trend of the contributions of the different sources of food (notably purchase and own production), apart from food aid, to the total household food basket, which have continued to increase since May 2005. Table 4 summarises the percentage contribution of the different sources to the household food basket compiled from the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) reports produced by WFP in 2005 and the first half of 2006.

36. Despite the reduction in ration sizes since May 2005, WFP's food aid has still remained the dominant source of food for majority of the Liberian refugees in the eight camps. Its contribution to the household food basket, according to the various PDM studies, ranges from 44% to 86%, depending on the wealth group, and the season of the year. For the poorest group, WFP Food Aid is the main source of food representing at least 80% of the household food basket. Whereas WFP Food Aid, on the average, accounts for less than 50% of the food basket among Better-off households. Other sources with significant contributions to total household food basket are purchases (23% at average but with variations from 7% for poorest group to 38% for the richest group), followed by own production (5-10%; the poorest households do not produce anything), labor and exchange in that order. Seasonal food shortages in rural areas during July to October coupled with high prices of local foodstuff, and limited labor opportunities would increase refugees' dependence on food aid assistance in the coming months.

Table 4. Percentage contribution of different sources to the total household food basket

PDM reports	Category	Food Aid	Purchase	Exchanger Batter	Gifts	Own production	Labour	Loan	Fishing Hunting	Others
May 2005	Better-off	50,2	35,4	3,5	0,5	10,4	0	0	0	0
	Middle	53,2	29,6	6,2	1,2	5,3	1,3	1,2	0	0
	Poor	61,4	16,5	5,4	1,6	3,3	5,8	5	0,5	0,5
	Very poor	81,9	7,3	3,7	3,5	0	0,3	0,2	0	3,1
	All	61,7	22,2	4,7	1,7	4,8	1,9	1,6	0,1	0,9
August 2005	Better-off	43,8	40,7	6,4	0,5	8,6	0	0	0	0
	Middle	51,2	32,2	4,6	1,2	8,3	1,6	1,2	0	0
	Poor	61,4	12,2	4,1	1,6	4,9	10,8	5	0	0
	Very poor	81,9	7,3	3,7	3,5	0	0	0,2	0	3,1
	All	59,6	23,1	4,7	1,7	5,5	3,1	1,6	0,1	0,9
May 2006	Better-off	44.0	50.9	0.7	1.1	2.0	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.7
	Middle	49.3	37.5	1.2	0.9	4.1	3.9	2.0	0.3	0.7
	Poor	56.0	30.4	0.5	0.62	4.4	7.3	0.5	0.0	0.3
	Very poor	85.9	4.6	1.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
	All	58.8	30.9	0.9	1.9	2.6	2.8	0.8	0.1	1.3

Sources: PDM reports of WFP CO Sierra Leone, 2005-2006

37. Refugee households, in general, consume the bulk (75-95%) of their food aid rations. However, some refugees, especially those in the lower wealth categories do exchange some proportion (5-8%) of their ration with host community members for other preferred local foodstuff. Some households also sell small proportions (10-15%) of their ration and use the cash income to buy complementing food items including fish and vegetables in order to improve the taste and quality of their diets.

38. About two-thirds of the items purchased by refugee households are food commodities. These include local foodstuff like rice, palm oil, cassava, fish, pepper and vegetables. Basic essentials such as soap, toothpaste, kerosene, clothing, and footwear constitute the main non-food items purchased by refugees.

9. Food aid targeting, distribution and monitoring

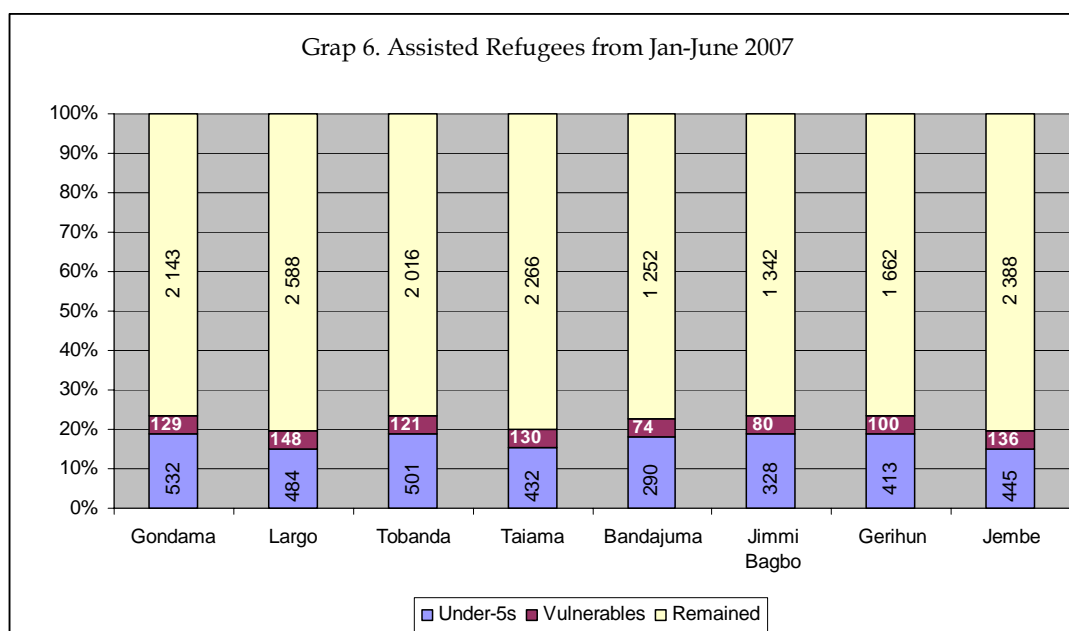
39. WFP continues to implement the general food distribution through cooperating partners to Liberian refugees in the different camps. The food aid is targeting two categories of the population, which are the extremely vulnerable and the less vulnerable populations. The extremely vulnerable group receives a ration at value 2100 kcal/person/day whilst the general or normal group receives a ration at value 1660 kcal per/person/day. The general food distribution will continue until the end of this year in December 2006.

40. Taking into consideration the decision taken during the Joint UNHCR/WFP Regional Strategic (WAC) meeting in May 2006 concerning phasing-out of the regional (WAC) programme and the repatriation planning for Liberian refugees; and based upon the mission's findings that Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone have, in general, not been able to achieve full self-reliance, the following options are being proposed for targeting food aid assistance in the second planning period (January - June 2007).

Scenario A:

41. The first option proposes: (i) the provision of the full 2100 Kcal ration to the refugee population classified as extremely vulnerable, with no other recognizable coping mechanisms. The proportion of refugees in this category is about 5 % (or 1200 persons) of the total caseload; (ii) the remaining less

vulnerable would receive 50% of the full ration (1050 kcal/person/day). This is in recognition of the fact all the refugee households, with the exception of the extremely vulnerable ones, on the average, can be able to source up to 50% of the household food needs from other sources, apart from WFP's food aid (Chart 6).



Scenario B:

42. The second option for targeting is based on the socio-economic differentiation of refugee households that has been established by WFP in partnership with refugees themselves (see table-). This scenario calls for the number of refugees in the different wealth group to be determined for each camp (based the percentages established by the PDM studies) an identification of the individual households that fall into each category. Food requirements are therefore calculated for the different groups with the Very poor households receiving full ration, the Poor and Middle Households will receive fractions of full ration, proportionate to the level self-reliance among the group, while the Better-off will not receive any food assistance.

43. Table 5 shows the proportion of the population in the different groups, and the size of food aid ration proposed for each of the categories.

Table: 5 Food ration for the different wealth groups

Sub-groups	Proportions	Rations proposed (targeted)
Lowest economic group or very poor	4% - 8%	Full ration (2100 kcal/person/day)
Poor households	45% - 55%	1660 kcal/person/day
Middle	30% - 35%	50% of full ration (1050 kcal)
Upper economic group	8% - 15%	No food distributed

44. It is assumed that the distribution of refugee household across the different socio-economic groups would not change significantly in January 2007.

45. The Very poor sub-groups include people without any support and unable to get complementary food by themselves. These households are easy to be identified in the refugee population. Each member in this group is proposed to receive full food ration. The number of beneficiaries is approximately 1200 people distributed across the eight camps. The Poor sub-group has at least 10 000

refugees on average (variation between 9 000 to 11 000 refugees). The members of this household group are proposed to receive 1660 kcal/person/day. The Middle household group, which has approximately 6 500 people, is recommended to receive 50% (1050 Kcal) of the full ration. A small proportion of the refugee households representing on the average 10% of the population will not receive any food assistance in the form general ration distribution from WFP.

46. While this household based targeting provides a framework for fairer distribution of assistance, in practical terms, it would prove difficult to implement. Although refugee leaders might be aware of whom the better-off are, they may be unwilling to separate them out, this is because the better-off are mobile and some of the leaders and their families may be included in that category.

Recommendation:

From the practical and implementation point of view, the mission considers option one or the across-the-board reduced ration for all except the most vulnerable refugees, to be easier to implement, less costly, with less potential for conflict, than any specific targeting according to socio-economic grouping of refugees in the camps, given that the physical living arrangements of refugees in the camps is not based on any such status.

47. For distributing strategy, a harmonized system is instituted in all the camps wherein preference is given to vulnerable, lactating mothers, and service providers (teachers, nurses). The first day of distribution is scheduled to cater for these categories; another mechanism put in place in aiding the extreme vulnerable is to take their food to their doorsteps. WFP has also lobbied partners to give priority to student to collect their food after 2:00pm when they shall have returned from school. The idea was to ensure that they do not miss out school during distribution days.

48. With respect to ration card control, women as well as men's cards are issued in their individual names. The aim is to empower the women and allow them to be in control of their own food. Another distribution system set up was to distribute food by ration sizes (if ration 1, 2, 3 are receiving food on one side of the centre, ration 4, 5, 6 will receive theirs on the other side of the distribution centre) to avoid double feeding.

49. In order to confirm the accuracy of the actual population to be fed for each month and enhance ration card control, UNHCR submits to both WFP and respective camp co-operating partners for food distribution a feeding list prior to the distribution date, and upon which food is pre-positioned to the camps for distribution. Though, this list is submitted, several problems have persistently been encountered during the distribution process which are:

- Omission of names
- Unclear photos on ration cards
- Lost cards
- Late submission of feeding list
- Data not updated, hence variations in the feeding figures keeps coming up.

50. The majority of the refugees' complains concerning the food aid is related to the problems associated with omitted names on the beneficiary lists.

51. Several monitoring tools are currently being used to enhance the quality of the food distribution systems and the efficiency in food aid delivery to the target beneficiaries. They include food basket monitoring, post distribution monitoring, monthly monitoring in camps, and pre and post food distribution meetings. These tools used together, are very effective under the current programming of general food distribution.

Recommendation:

In order to improve the distribution system, the database on beneficiaries should be updated regularly, after every distribution and repatriation before the feeding list is submitted. It is proposed that feeding list be submitted one week before distribution starts, to allow partners to crosscheck the accuracy in order to enhance smooth implementation and manage time effectively.

10. Selective feeding programmes

52. There are two selective feeding programmes. The supplementary feeding (SFP), which provides extra nutritious food to, groups at risk. It aims to rehabilitate undernourished individuals and to prevent further deterioration of nutritional status. Therapeutic Feeding Programme (TFP) on the other hand targets the < 5 children who are severely malnourished, and it entails provision of intensive nutritional and medical treatment.

53. Supplementary feeding is implemented in all the camps of which five are supported by MSF-Belgium and the other three by IMC. Beneficiaries are the moderately malnourished under-5 children, pregnant and lactating women. The therapeutic feeding is carried out in the Government hospital at Bo and in the Gondama TFC, which receive severely malnourished < 5 children from all the camps and surrounding host communities.

54. Under the SFP, the ration is provided to children once in a week, and includes a premix of CSB (1.5 kg), vegetable oil (0.26 kg) and sugar (0.16 kg). For the TFP different phases of feeding (intensive care, rehabilitation and recovery) are implemented depending on the severity status of the patients.

55. The performance of the supplementary feeding programme could be appreciated through specific secondary data reported mainly by WFP sub-office in Kenema (monthly monitoring reports) and considering the present nutritional status observed in the camp. At the same time, however, it should be noted that malnutrition is not totally eliminated in the camps; even if the prevalence is low, the phenomena remain important among the <5 children who are vulnerable groups. The performance of the monitoring (home visits and weekly screening) allows the medical staff in the camps to refer all possible serious cases to Gondama TFC. This continuing flow from the SFC to the TFC is an indication that the SFP need to be reinforced in the host communities and maintained during the coming months.

Recommendations:

As stated earlier, most of the beneficiaries of the selective feeding programmes belong to the host community; hence the JAM recommends the continuation and expansion of these specific supports for all malnourished children <5 years, pregnant and lactating women in the camps and the similar groups in the host communities around each of the camps.

11. Food supplies

56. WFP currently provides two types of general food rations to the refugees in camps: (i) ration for the less vulnerable refugees and (ii) ration for the extremely vulnerable groups (Table 6).

Table 6: Food rations for different categories of refugees

Food Items	General Food Ration for less Vulnerable Refugees			General Food Ration for Extremely Vulnerable Refugees		
	grams/day	Kg/month	Kcal	grams/day	Kg/month	Kcal
Bulgur	350	10.5	1225	420	12.6	1470
Pulses	15	0.45	51	50	1.5	170
CSB	45	1.35	175	50	1.5	195
Vegetable Oil	25	0.75	221	30	0.9	266
Salt	5	0.15		5	0.15	
Total	440	13.2	1,672	555	16.65	2 101

57. Food distribution is undertaken every 10th of the month. The food is distributed by implementing partners. WFP has a monitoring system that evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of the food distribution mechanism. In this direction, WFP conducts Food Basket Monitoring (FBM), which highlights the differences if any, between the planned and actual quantities of food received by the beneficiaries. In general, the implementing partners are correctly managing the food supplies. According to recent FBM reports, the global efficiency of the distribution of food aid commodities varies between 95% and 97%.

58. During the field visit, refugees complained about the quantity of the ration for general food distribution. But there was no complain concerning the quality of food and the type of commodities.

59. The stocks of food commodities within the Country for all components of PRRO 10064.3 (i.e. emergency school feeding, FFW/FFT, vulnerable group feeding, support to HIV/AIDS, SFP/TFC, and refugees general rations) as at end June 2006 were:

- Bulgur: 4,146 MT
- Pulses: 862 MT
- CSB: 360 MT
- Oil: 347 MT
- Salt: 23.5 MT
- Sugar: 1.45 MT.

60. There will be a pipeline breaks for sugar from August to September 2006, and for salt during December 2006. Because of the low stock of sugar in the CO, the supply of sugar will be reduced for most of the activities except SFP/TFC in the camps.

61. Local purchase is not feasible under the present PRRO and in light of the existing levels of food production in the country (terms of both quantity and quality). However, the local authorities are requesting WFP to consider local purchases of palm oil, rice and milled cassava. With respect to palm oil there is a need to consider local purchase in the future, but the processing and quality control has to be developed. For milled cassava (*gari*), it is preferred by the people but does not contain the same nutritional values of the cereals provided by WFP. To encourage increased production and market development for this commodity, the possibility of local purchases by WFP needs to be considered for future interventions in the medium-term.

12. Self-reliance opportunities and strategies

62. The governments policy of freedom of movement for refugees residing in Sierra Leone, complemented by the generosity of some of the host communities and support provided by the various humanitarian organizations have constituted the enabling factors for self-reliance among refugees in camps.

63. The increase in agricultural activities, micro-enterprises and skills training activities in the camps clearly demonstrates the positive results of the various self-reliance supports that have been provided to refugees. With the on-going repatriation some of these activities have slowed down because NGO's have shifted resources in order not to affect the repatriation process. Similarly, business links between host communities and refugees are becoming weaker, because of fear that the refugees may leave at any time.

64. One opportunity for self-reliance in the meantime is that provided through the social relationships between refugees and host communities, particularly in the area of farming, or access to land. This opportunity is not uniform across the different camps and socio-economic groups within camps. Some host communities have been found to be more generous than others. Also, women as social group do not have equal social skills and recognition like men to negotiate access to land. Female-headed household also do not have enough manpower to cultivate large plots as compared to men.

Recommendation:

The mission recommends that host communities be supported with development programmes as a way of laying the foundation for the eventual integration of refugees in those communities.

65. In general the food and self-reliance strategies that have been implemented so far can be described to be effective in terms of the impacts on refugees including low to negligible levels of malnutrition, ability of refugees to compliment food and non-food assistance; and reduction in the levels of vulnerability.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that UNHCR/WFP should undertake an assessment of the intention of refugees regarding local integration in Sierra Leone, how this integration must be negotiated and where refugees wish to integrate. This assessment should also determine the level and the type of support required by host community according to capacity, land availability, social structures, etc.

PART III – NON-FOOD AND OTHER RELATED CONCERNS

13. Non-food items – requirements and distributions

66. Non-food items (NFIs) including domestic items such as cooking pots, spoons, cups and plates were supplied by UNHCR to refugees upon their arrival. These have not been replaced and are, for the majority of the refugees, worn-out, damaged or lost. However, NFI supplies have continued for extremely vulnerable refugees and their families. Also, families that have experienced any form of disaster such as shelter and property destruction by rain storms and fire disasters have had their NFIs replaced.

67. Every refugee receives a monthly supply of soap (250grams/refugee). Refugees, however, claim that the quantity of soap that is supplied by UNHCR does not last them the entire month. In keeping with the High Commissioner's Commitment to Women, every female refugee of childbearing age receives sanitary kits, on a quarterly basis, as part of hygiene promotion. In addition, plastic buckets have been supplied to refugee families as part of a Lassa fever prevention scheme. Refugees complained that these buckets are no longer usable.

68. In general, however, refugees have developed several coping mechanisms and have thus been able to purchase and provide for themselves some of the needed domestic items including cooking pots, spoons, additional soap and various kinds of containers including buckets for water storage.

Recommendation:

JAM recommends that UNHCR continue to provide the refugees with basic domestic items until durable solution is achieved.

69. Regarding cooking fuel, nearly all refugees in the camps utilise either firewood or charcoal. These are readily available in large quantities and affordable by majority of the refugee families. Some refugees, in fact, sell firewood and charcoal to enhance their income capacities.

70. Almost all refugee shelters are presently in good shape. Adequate shelter materials have been supplied to all households and the strategy for the maintenance and rehabilitation of individual refugee family shelters is functioning well. Regarding the rehabilitation of shelters, less vulnerable refugee families are provided with only the materials while they undertake the rehabilitation themselves under the technical advice and supervision of camp management. In the case of vulnerable persons', the camp management will undertake the full rehabilitation of their shelters. Plastic sheets (as part of the shelter material for roofing) have been provided every other year to refugee families. However, the plastic sheets that have been supplied are not very visible in the camps visited.

71. Community sanitation tool kits including shovels, rakes, cutlasses, long hoes etc are also at the disposal of refugee communities (stored and managed by Camp Management) to ensure cleaning of public sites in the camps.

72. One aspect of the general arrangements for the distribution of NFIs that has come under scrutiny by the refugees is the time-frame; the one-off NFI assistance and the bi-annual plastic sheet distribution is regarded as far in between and inadequate to respond to the needs of refugees. On the other hand, the arrangement has urged some refugees to rely less on aid support in respect of domestic items and have been able to enhance their capacities to meet their household requirements.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the on-going structures in shelter management and hygiene promotion schemes be maintained, and to continue to support and strengthen the current refugee committees on hygiene promotion.

14. Gender and protection concerns

73. Both UNHCR and WFP in collaboration with their partners exhibit strong commitment to prevention of sexual violence and exploitation, through improvement in the delivery of assistance, sensitization and training initiatives for both staff and refugees, and improving reporting. In each of the camps visited, the JAM found functioning SGBV committees, which are involved in conducting sensitization and counseling. There are also NGO implementing partners for SGBV and child protection programmes in each camp. Despite these efforts, the risk of sexual exploitation of young refugee girls in the camps remains an issue of concern. Widespread poverty continues to foster an environment with the potential for sexual exploitation.

74. Concerning women's involvement in food aid distribution planning, management and control, WFP, in fulfillment of the "Enhanced Commitment to Women" framework, has through its cooperating partners continued to ensure that over sixty percent of the scoopers at the distribution sites are women.

75. The distribution arrangements in all camps has been harmonized in a way that allowed women to form separate lines from the men during food distribution thereby preventing them from being pushed at the back by their male counterparts. Information on food distribution modalities, ration sizes and food basket composition is provided to both male and female beneficiaries before commencement of each distribution. These mechanisms were put in place to minimize the risks faced by women, girls and other vulnerable people in receiving food together with their male counterparts

76. Women also continue to receive food rations in their names and serve as entitlement holders. With respect to enhanced commitment V (involvement of women in leadership committees), women constitute at least 45 percent of the refugee committees on food, NFIs, and the general executive body in all the camps. The women participate actively as their male counterparts in the respective committees thus leading to their empowerment, and enabling them to be self -confident.

PART IV - LOGISTICS

15. Logistics

77. WFP is responsible for the delivery of food commodities to the refugee camps. The agency contracts private commercial transporters to carry out the transportation of food items from the Freetown Port to the distribution sites in each of the eight refugee camps. In general, deliveries to the camp distribution sites have been very regular and timely except for couple of times, when as a result of a breakdown of the commercial vehicles food delivery could have been delayed for half a day or so. The breakdowns occurred as a result of the poor road conditions leading to 1 or 2 camps, and the impact such roads have on older vehicles, which are widely used by commercial transport operators in Sierra Leone. The present arrangement of the food supplies and deliveries are adequate.

78. WFP has its own fleet consisting of about 30 trucks. These trucks are used, largely for the delivery of food commodities to other projects, such as school feeding, food-for-work, MCHN etc. According to the Logistic Officer at WFP Country Office, it is less economic for the Organisation to use its own Fleet, as compared to commercial transports, taking into consideration the costs of spare parts, maintenance and personnel. However, deliveries involving small quantities of food commodities conveyed to multiple locations as in school feeding, food-for-work, MCHN etc are less attractive to commercial transporters, or less profitable from a business point of view. Hence the justification for WFP to use its own Fleet.

79. In addition to the central WFP warehouse at the Kenema sub-office, there is also a warehouse in each of the refugee camps with adequate capacity for storing the WFP food commodities provided to the refugees. Various NGO partners operating in the different camps manage the warehouses on behalf of WFP. Similar storage facilities also exist for the NFIs provided by the UNHCR. The ongoing repatriation has led to reduction in the refugee caseload, hence, the requirements for storage space for both food and NFIs has also decreased. The warehouse facilities in the camps were overall found to be adequate.

80. Warehouses are well maintained and food-handling practices are adequate at the FDPs and the distribution sites. Training in warehouse management was organised for all cooperating partners in the camps. This could have contributed to the highly satisfactory status of warehouses in all the camps visited.

81. The poor road conditions leading to some of the camps, coupled with a weak commercial transport sector are in general, the main factors that affect the logistics operations of both WFP and UNHCR. Five months of rains during the rainy seasons affects the road conditions, which in turn affects the conditions of the mostly ageing trucks that characterises the commercial transport sector in Sierra Leone. Ageing WFP Fleet and low productivity of the Freetown Port are other logistical constraints identified by the mission. Due to WFP's healthy pipeline, it was noted that the Port constraints has not yet affected operations at the beneficiary levels.



PART V – PARTNERSHIPS, PLANNING AND OTHERS ISSUES

16. Partnership and coordination

82. Coordination mechanisms are in place among UN agencies and NGO partners. These include regular meetings both in the camps and the NGO offices; and the existence of an Information Management Platform (IMP) managed by one of the NGO partners, which collects, analyse and stores data on refugee situation. These mechanisms are operating and functioning well and have ensured effective management of information in the delivery of assistance and support to the refugees. Refugees have a clear knowledge of who does what in the camp and therefore have structured themselves into committees to participate in the service delivery and to address problems with the appropriate bodies when necessary.

83. Notable co-ordination meetings are the Overall Coordination meetings held monthly at the NaCSA Regional Office in Bo to address policy related problems in the implementation of programmes. Camp Co-ordination meetings chaired by NaCSA are held on a weekly basis in each camp, to look into progress made and ensure common approaches in the implementation of programmes. Other important meetings include regular monthly sector-specific meetings such as Technical Coordination, Pre and Post-Food Distribution, Education Monthly, Protection Group and Repatriation Coordination

84. A significant element of these coordination meetings especially those held in camps such as Pre and Post-Food Distribution meetings and Technical Coordination meetings ensure meaningful refugee participation as there are sessions requiring refugees to contribute by giving their views and suggest possible solutions in the case of problems and accept tasks to be carried out by them in order to improve the situations as the case may be. Likewise, repatriation coordination meetings are held monthly to assess progress, trends and constraints. In line with the phasing-out process, all of these mechanisms could reinforce to inform, sensitize and help to promote the repatriation process.

85. In the case of one NGO partner, the MSF-B, the mission observed that there was a gap in the information-flow between the head office in Freetown and the field offices in the camps. As a result, the participation and cooperation of staff of this NGO to general issues of concern as well as sharing of data and information on their sector activity (health and nutrition) at the field level are difficult. It therefore requires additional efforts to access information from them.

86. During the coming months, especially in 2007, and considering the reduction in refugee population and scale of operation including those of NGOs, it is strongly recommended that the numbers of coordination meetings could be reduced to three broad thematic aspects. These include: (i) a meeting looking at programmatic issues including major sector activities such as education, environment, technical issues of daily implementation in camps; (ii) a higher coordination meeting to address issues referred to by the proposed programmatic body, policy-related matters and general protection concerns and (iii), repatriation meeting to share information, assess progress, draw lessons and chart out a way forward. Further, there is a strong need to continue Pre and Post-Food Distribution meetings and to enhance the participation of refugees in not only service delivery but also in monitoring and reporting on the various sector activities.

Recommendation:

It is strongly recommended that the numbers of coordination meetings be reduced to broad thematic areas.

87. The signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Operational Partners in the refugee operation and UN agencies is also recommended. Where such MoUs exist, their contents should be transmitted to staff in the field and the roles and responsibilities of various institutions in enforcing the Understanding at the field level should also be clearly defined.

PART VI – OPTIONS AND SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

17. Recommendations

88. The matrix in Table 7 shows the main recommendations, actions required and sharing responsibility between UNHCR and WFP.

Table7. Recommendations and actions to be undertaken

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Priority high/low</i>	<i>Action Required</i>	<i>Est. cost (US\$)</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
1. Carry out an assessment at household level to determine the return intention and time frame in order to estimate the possible number of refugees likely to opt for local integration	High	Meet each head of household in eight camp Meet local authorities (chiefdom, neighbouring villages, district, NaCSA...) List per camp refugees options		<u>UNHCR</u>	September October 2006
2. The prevailing food basket and ration sizes for vulnerable and non-vulnerable groups are considered adequate and should be maintained during the period July to December 2006	High	Provide the lists of beneficiaries timely Calculate the ration per sub-group Pre-position the food		<u>WFP</u> <u>UNHCR</u> Implementing partners (IPs)	July 2006
3. Considering that most of the beneficiaries of the selective feeding programmes belong to the host community, the JAM recommends the continuation and expansion of these specific supports for all malnourished children <5 years, pregnant and lactating women in the camps and the same group in the host community.	High	Medical and nutrition screening of groups at risk at surrounding villages Meet the medical and social services at chiefdom and district level Plan food basket for new admissions		<u>WFP</u> IPs	From January 2007
4. Undertake an assessment to map-out where refugees are likely to integrate and target host communities with development programmes as a way of starting to lay the foundation for the eventual integration of refugees in those host communities.	High	Prepare the terms of reference Plan the mission with authorities (NaCSA, Ministries of Education, Health, Rural Development, Forestry, Agriculture and Food Security) and partners to with meet local authorities an populations		<u>UNHCR</u> <u>WFP</u> IPs	June- March 2007
5. Taking into account the decision taken during the Joint UNHCR/WFP Strategic meeting in May 2006, the JAM recommends for next	High	Opt for one the two scenarios Draft the programme option based on the choice Calculate the food		<u>WFP/UNHCR</u>	July 2006

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Priority high/low</i>	<i>Action Required</i>	<i>Est. cost (US\$)</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
period (January – June 2007), and two scenarios for targeting the beneficiaries of food distribution.		basket and ration Plan food distribution			
6. The JAM recommends maintaining the on-going structures in shelter management and hygiene promotion schemes and continuation of the support and strengthening of the current refugee committees on hygiene promotion. Provision of support of NFIs for domestic needs (soap, detergent, sanitary kits, etc)	Low			<u>UNHCR</u>	July December 2006
7. To support the refugee's integration into host communities, the mission recommends the identification and implementation of transitional development support programmes.	Low	Combine this mission with the assessment in #4		<u>UNHCR</u>	June – March 2007
8. Database and statistics regularly updated after every distribution and repatriation and feeding list be submitted ten days before distribution starts	High	Reinforce reporting from IPs Allow sharing information between field staff (at Kenema sub-office level)		<u>UNHCR</u>	July 2006

18. Programme options

89. The programme options proposed by the JAM include:

90. For WFP:

- Budget revision to cover the period July to December 2006 and January to June 2007
- Prepare a new PRRO for the period beyond June 2007 taking into account support to local communities where refugees will be integrated.
- Jointly with FAO, undertake an assessment of food security and vulnerability situation in the host communities

91. For UNHCR:

- Engage key stakeholders (Government, donors, operation partners etc) on the prospect for local integration of possible residual refugee caseload.
- Consider integrating aspects of local integration preparation in the budget preparation for the detailed 2007 Project submission.

Appendix 1

Terms of Reference (TOR)
WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessment Mission in Sierra Leone
July 2006

Background:

Since 1990, tens of thousands of Liberians have taken refuge in Sierra Leone, with their vast majority settling in temporary camps, especially from 2001 to 2003. WFP in collaboration with UNHCR has assisted the Government of Sierra Leone in meeting the basic nutritional needs of the refugees since 2001.

Current WFP assistance to the Liberian Refugees is provided under the PRRO 10064.3, which started in January 2004, and is due to end in December 2006. As at the end of March 2006, the number of refugees receiving WFP assistance was 31,000. Refugees are provided with main food commodities of cereal, oil, pulses and salt. In addition, there is a supplementary feeding programme that provides for additional nutritional needs of the vulnerable groups, especially malnourished children less than five years of age.

Objective:

The security situation in Liberia has improved considerably during the last two years. With the disarmament of ex-combatants and the election of the new Government in November 2006, the conditions have now been created for refugees to return to their country in safety and dignity. Since October 2004, the UNHCR has been facilitating voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees. However, on the basis of the pace at which the refugees are currently repatriating, UNHCR anticipates that there will still be a significant number of Liberian refugees within the camps in Sierra Leone at the beginning of 2007. Against this background, UNHCR and WFP plan to organize joint assessment mission in Sierra Leone in order to propose a detailed repatriation process and phase-out programme that would incorporate food and non-food assistance.

Based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint UNHCR/WFP strategic meeting on West Africa Coastal Operations of May 15, 2006 in Freetown, the specific objectives are to:

- i) Review the implementation of the food, non-food, and repatriation assistance strategies that have been used since October 2004 and highlight lessons learned that can contribute to the final phase-out programme;
- ii) Determine the number of Liberian refugees who a) are currently registered in Sierra Leone, b) have return to Liberia, and c) will remain in Sierra Leone from 1st January 2007 to 30th June 2007;
- iii) Assess the current food security and under-nutrition situations of refugees, analyze their livelihood strategies and evaluate their capacity to complement the food assistance with other sources of food and income;
- iv) Assess the current and future food and non-food needs of refugees, ensuring not only acceptable food security conditions, but also the achievement of 'durable solution' by 30th June 2007, including self-reliance, health and other non-food related issues;
- v) Evaluate the strategies pursued by the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and its partners (including UNHCR and WFP) for the repatriation of refugees.
- vi) Liaise with the Government of Sierra Leone and identify possibilities to collaborate with partners to support the implementation of the repatriation 'phase out' programme;
- vii) Define the types of food and related assistance (including assistance for self-reliance) required for the six months following the JAM (July to December 2006) and during the first semester of 2007 including: the number of people to be provided for; how the food and related assistance should be delivered, targeted and distributed; how assistance for

- self-reliance activities should be provided;
- viii) Observe the impact of the refugee' presence in the region and propose socio-economic and environmental skills for analysis;
- ix) Analyse the effect of the refugee departure on the host communities;
- x) Support the development of specific, credible project proposal to be elaborated and submitted to donors for funding

METHODOLOGY

2) The JAM will combine various data collection techniques, while cross-checking the information, as to ensure the validity and reliability of the data. Information will be collected by the JAM through a combination of:

- i. Reviewing and analysing relevant reports;
- ii. Meetings with national, regional and local authorities, NGOs, and other organizations working with refugees in food and related programmes;
- iii. Meetings with UNHCR and WFP staff, as well as with representatives from the donor community;
- iv. Visits of refugee camps and locations (meetings with site administrators and personnel responsible for food, health, water, sanitation and community services; meetings with refugee leaders and representatives; discussions with groups of refugees – men, women and young people/adolescents; inspection of general conditions at the sites/camps, including food and water availability and cooking arrangements; observation of food distribution operations, selective feeding programmes operations and self-reliance activities; visits to clinics, schools and other community services and discussions with health workers, teachers and community service workers; visits to markets within the settlement and in the vicinity, and discussions with traders; and discussions with local communities...)

3) At the end of the mission, the JAM will summarize its key recommendations through an aide-mémoire signed by UNHCR and WFP leaders of mission and presented to the respective UNHCR and WFP Country Offices, as well as to donors, governments and representatives of other relevant UN and other organizations. The final report will be approved by UNHCR and WFP in accordance with the JAM Guidelines and the UNHCR – WFP MoU.

4) The JAM will be composed of joint UNHCR and WFP team with the participation of donors, Government, NGOs and other UN organizations. The mission is planned from -- to ---- July 2006. Country Offices of WFP and UHCR will prepare a tentative plan for meeting with partners and field visits.

REQUIRED OUTPUT:

The output required is a concise report summarizing the key findings of the mission and presenting a comprehensive repatriation 'phase out' programme, including a scenario for the evolution of future refugee and food beneficiary numbers, an estimate of food needs and related non-food needs, a proposal concerning the types of food aid interventions and operational measures to ensure an efficient and effective intervention.

WFP/UNHCR
Joint Assessment Mission: 3-7 July 2006: Activity Schedule

Friday 30 June 2006

Arrival of JAM mission members to Freetown

Saturday 1 July 2006

10:00 – 16:00 hrs **Briefing and preparation meeting of UNHCR and WFP Mission Members**

Monday 3 July 2006

09:15 -10:00 hrs **Meeting with NaCSA**
10:15 -11:00 hrs **Meeting with USAID/FFP**
11:15 -12:00 hrs **Meeting UNICEF**

12:00 – 1:00 hrs **Lunch**

13:15 –14:00hrs **Meeting with Ministry of Education Science & Technology**
14:15 - 15:00hrs **Meeting with Ministry of Health and Sanitation**
15:15 - 16:00hrs **Meeting with Ministry of Development**
16:15 - 17:00hrs **Meeting with Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security**

Tuesday 4 July 2006

09:00 - 09:45hrs **Meeting with FAO**
10:00 - 10:45hrs **Meeting with CORAD representative**
11:00 - 11:45hrs **Meeting with MSF**
12:15 - 12:45hrs **Meeting with German Agro Action (GAA)**

Wednesday 5 July 2006

7:15hrs **Travel to Kenema**

Field visit to two refugee camps, meetings with respective camp management partners, refugees and host communities.

Thursday 6 July 2006

Field visit to one refugee camp, district level discussions, visit to a school in Kenema (Not supported) and SFP centre

Friday 7 July 2006

Return to Freetown

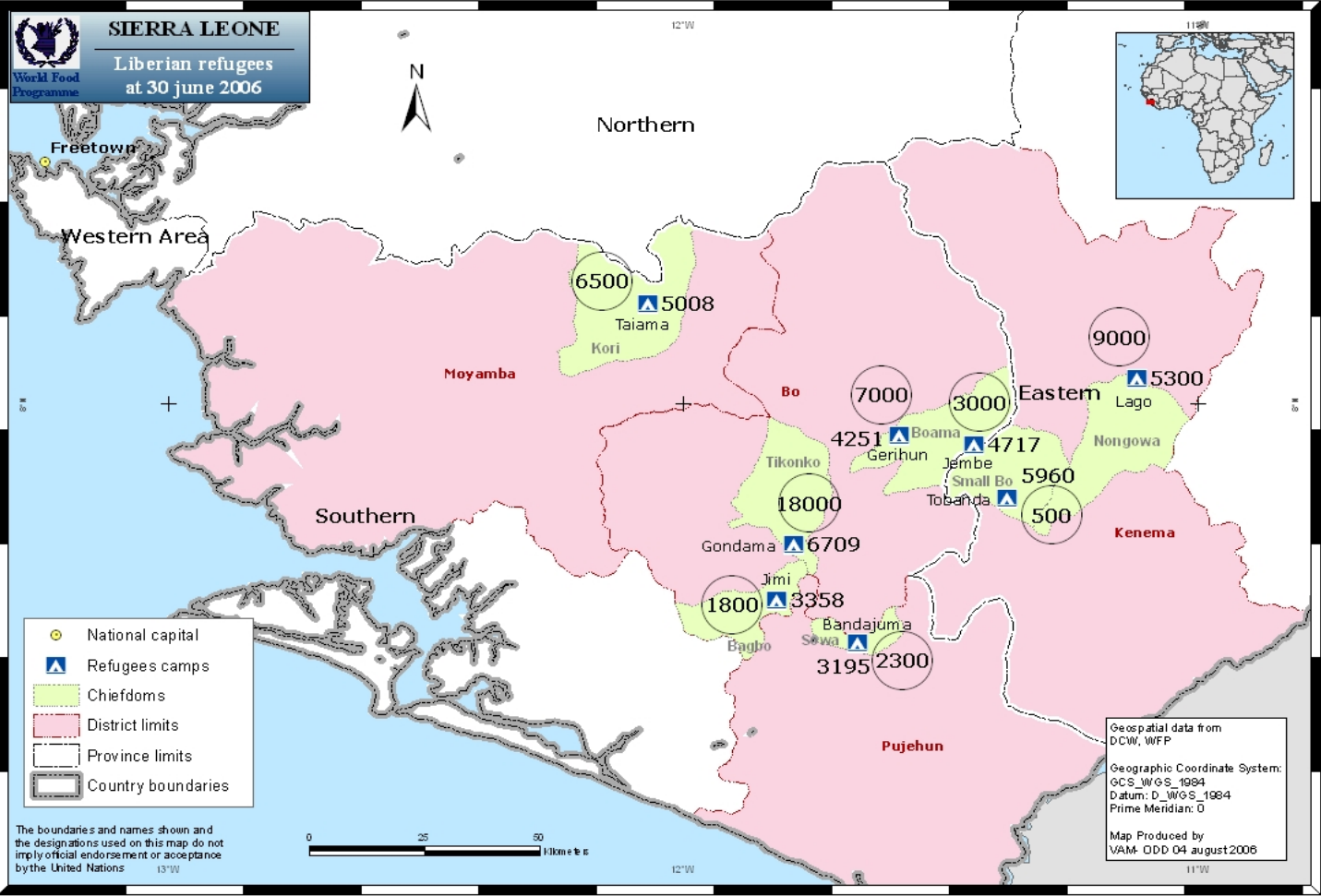
Saturday & Sunday 8-9 July 2006

Wrap up meeting among JAM team members and drafting of AIDE-MEMOIRE

Monday 10 July 2006

AIDE-MEMOIRE finalized.

Appendix 2



Appendix 3

Camps profiles

Camp	Brief description
Taiama	Located in Moyamba district, Kori chiefdom. Established as 'returnee camp' for Sierra Leoneans who had been refugees in Guinea? As these got repatriated to their home places, the camp received Liberian refugees. First influx May 2002, last influx August 2002. Declared refugee camp on 3 rd September 2002.
Tobanda	Located in Kenema district, Small Bo chiefdom. Established on 31 st March 2003. Today, still a trickle of Liberian refugees arriving.
Largo	Located in Kenema district, Nagoya chiefdom. Camp established on 26 th September 2002.
Jimmi Bagbo	Located in Bo district, Bagbo chiefdom, on outskirts of Jimmi town. Established specifically for Liberian refugees. Started receiving refugees November 2001.
Gondama	Located in Bo district, Tikonko, chiefdom. First received refugees from Liberia in 1991. Turned to temporary settlement of internally displaced Sierra Leoneans following civil war in 1993. With restoration of peace in 2001 – turned into disarmament, demobilization, reintegration centre (DDR). DDR dismantled in 2002. Refugees arrived from renewed fighting in Liberia. Camp officially established on 30 th May 2002.
Gerihun	Located in Bo district. Initially established for SL returnees from Guinea since 2001. Liberian refugees arrived Feb. 2002 and stayed alongside SL returnees. Returnees successfully relocated mid-2002. Last Liberian influx August 2002. Officially declared refugee camp 9 th September 2002.
Jembe	Located on Bo district, Baoma chiefdom. Established as temporary settlement for SL returnees from Guinea late 2000. Fully operational by March 2001. Liberian refugees arrived February 2002, lived alongside SL returnees. SL returnees relocated March – July 2002. Last Liberian influx July 2002. Declared refugee camp 11 th September 2002.
Bandajuma	Located in Pujehun district, Sowa chiefdom. Established as temporary settlement for SL returnees from Guinea April 2001. Liberian refugees arrived July 2001, lived alongside SL returnees. Returnees relocated March – July 2002 and therefore officially transformed into refugee camp on 3 rd September 2002.

Source: Dr. Sabas Kimboka. Nutrition situation analysis in refugee camps, Sierra Leone. July 2005

Appendix 4

Breakdown figures of assisted refugees per age and sex (July 2006)

Camp	Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
		Nb	(in %)	Nb	(in %)	Nb	(in %)
Gondama	0-4	339	20,0%	305	18,0%	644	19,0%
	5-17	610	36,0%	612	36,1%	1 222	36,0%
	18-59	713	42,1%	747	44,0%	1 460	43,1%
	60 and >	33	1,9%	32	1,9%	65	1,9%
	Total:	1 695		1 696		3 391	
Largo	0-4	312	17,4%	273	13,0%	585	15,0%
	5-17	701	39,1%	700	33,3%	1 401	36,0%
	18-59	701	39,1%	974	46,3%	1 675	43,0%
	60 and >	78	4,4%	156	7,4%	234	6,0%
	Total:	1 792		2 103		3 895	
Tobanda	0-4	319	20,1%	287	17,9%	606	19,0%
	5-17	574	36,2%	585	36,4%	1 159	36,3%
	18-59	670	42,3%	702	43,7%	1 372	43,0%
	60 and >	22	1,4%	32	2,0%	54	1,7%
	Total:	1 585		1 606		3 191	
Taiama	0-4	279	16,3%	244	14,3%	523	15,3%
	5-17	628	36,7%	628	36,7%	1 256	36,7%
	18-59	733	42,9%	698	40,8%	1 431	41,8%
	60 and >	70	4,1%	140	8,2%	210	6,1%
	Total:	1 710		1 710		3 420	
Bandajuma	0-4	176	17,8%	175	18,1%	351	18,0%
	5-17	352	35,6%	332	34,4%	684	35,0%
	18-59	422	42,7%	399	41,3%	821	42,0%
	60 and >	39	3,9%	59	6,1%	98	5,0%
	Total:	989		965		1 954	
Jimmi Bagbo	0-4	207	19,2%	190	18,3%	397	18,8%
	5-17	446	41,4%	428	41,1%	874	41,3%
	18-59	381	35,4%	402	38,6%	783	37,0%
	60 and >	42	3,9%	21	2,0%	63	3,0%
	Total:	1 076		1 041		2 117	
Gerihun	0-4	263	20,2%	236	17,8%	499	19,0%
	5-17	467	35,9%	468	35,2%	935	35,5%
	18-59	546	41,9%	597	44,9%	1 143	43,4%
	60 and >	26	2,0%	28	2,1%	54	2,1%
	Total:	1 302		1 329		2 631	
Jembe	0-4	287	17,4%	251	12,9%	538	15,0%
	5-17	667	40,4%	660	34,0%	1 327	37,0%
	18-59	662	40,1%	888	45,8%	1 550	43,2%
	60 and >	35	2,1%	141	7,3%	176	4,9%
	Total:	1 651		1 940		3 591	
Total	0-4	2 182	18,5%	1 961	15,8%	4 143	17,1%
	5-17	4 445	37,7%	4 413	35,6%	8 858	36,6%
	18-59	4 828	40,9%	5 407	43,6%	10 235	42,3%
	60 and >	345	2,9%	609	4,9%	954	3,9%
	Total:	11 800		12 390		24 190	

Appendix 5

New admissions for under-5s in SFC, first half of 2005

Month & Year	C A M P S										Total	
	J/Bagbo		Bandajuma		Jembe		Gerihun		Gondama			
	R	H	R	H	R	H	R	H	R	H	R	H
Jan 05	10	38	7	27	5	25	9	21	10	28	41	139
Feb 05	6	26	9	29	2	37	9	20	10	30	36	142
Mar 05	10	48	6	38	6	37	17	21	14	22	53	166
Apr 05	11	37	9	37	1	46	10	26	8	41	39	187
May 05	5	69	7	39	5	40	11	31	8	47	36	226
June 05	19	59	10	42	7	59	7	35	12	38	55	233
Total	61	277	48	212	26	244	63	154	62	206	260	1093

Key: R = refugees

H = Hosts (subjects from host community)

New admissions for pregnant/lactating women in SFC, first half of 2005

Month & Year	C A M P S										Total	
	J/Bagbo		Bandajuma		Jembe		Gerihun		Gondama			
	R	H	R	H	R	H	R	H	R	H	R	H
Jan 05	0	2	0	2	4	10	3	2	0	3	7	19
Feb 05	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2
Mar 05	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Apr 05	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	6
May 05	0	12	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	21
June 05	2	6	1	3	3	10	0	3	0	2	6	24
Total	2	23	1	10	8	25	3	6	0	10	14	74

New admissions for under-5s in SFP in the five camps run by MSF-B

(June 2004 to June 2005)

Month & Year	Subjects Status		Total
	Refugees	Hosts	
June 2004	212	0	212
July 2004	231	0	231
August 2004	177	0	177
September 2004	115	175	290
October 2004	54	171	225
November 2004	57	145	202
December 2004	89	142	231
January 2005	41	139	180
February 2005	36	142	178
March 2005	59	160	219
April 2005	39	187	226
May 2005	36	226	262
June 2005	56	233	289
Total	1202 (41.1 %)	1720 (58.9 %)	2922 (100 %)

New admissions in Gondama TFC, June 2004 to June 2005

Month & Year	Subjects status			Total
	Refugees	Hosts	Others	
June 2004	4	78	0	82
July 2004	4	96	0	100
August 2004	1	67	0	68
September 2004	2	57	1	60
October 2004	3	51	0	54
November 2004	No data	No data	No data	No data
December 2004	2	96	0	98
January 2005	5	86	0	91
February 2005	4	65	1	70
March 2005	3	106	0	109
April 2005	9	129	0	138
May 2005	6	192	0	198
June 2005	6	182	0	188
Total	49 (3.9 %)	1205 (95.9 %)	2 (0.2 %)	1256 (100.0 %)

Source: Dr. Sabas Kimboka. *Nutrition situation analysis in refugee camps, Sierra Leone. July 2005*

Criteria for admissions and feeding rations of children under-five in the SFC and TFC

Admission in SFC: In the five camps run by MSF-B the programme covers under-fives, pregnant women and lactating women. A child admitted to the programme must be moderately malnourished, with W/H 70 to < 80 percent of the median. Pregnant woman admitted is one with MUAC < 210 mm. Lactating woman, in addition to having MUAC < 210 mm, must have a child whose height (length) is < 60 cm.

Feeding: The five camps run by MSF-B provide food ration. The amount provided is the same for children and the adults, that is, 2 kg /person/week. The pack consists of three food ingredients: CSB = 1.5 kg; Vegetable oil = 0.26 kg; Sugar = 0.16 kg. For children the ration is collected on weekly basis. The women collect their ration every two weeks – an arrangement that saves them time.

Admissions in TFC: The subjects are referrals from the growth-monitoring programme implemented in the camps and clinics from outside the camps. The centre admits under-five children who are severely malnourished. The actual criteria is W/H < 70 percent of the median and/or presence of bilateral oedema.

Sometimes, when W/H is not very low but the condition of the child is clinically bad, MUAC is measured. The child gets admitted if MUAC < 110 mm.

Children with low birth weight (< 2.5 kg) are admitted if they present with feeding problems. This applies also to pre-term babies and twins.

The ward set-up and feeding:

The center is made up of three ward blocks, referred to as ‘phases’.

Phase 1: (intensive care phase). Here, newly admitted patients undergo intensive care and close follow-up. Milk is fed to the child until it regains appetite and is able to feed. The high-energy milk is referred to as ‘therapeutic milk’. Its ingredients include skimmed milk powder, vegetable fat,

lacto-serum, dextrin-maltose, sugar, minerals and vitamins. The child may stay for 2 to 7 days until the condition stabilizes.

Phase 2: (rehabilitation phase). These are patients transferred from phase 1 as they show some improvement. The milk quantity is increased and porridge is provided. The porridge is made from CSB that contains sugar and vegetable fat. The patients stay for 2 to 3 weeks.

Phase 3: (recovery phase). Patients transferred from phase 2. They already are on the road to recovery. In addition to milk and porridge the patients start taking family meals. The family meal consists of bulgur wheat, beans, vegetable oil and salt. Occasionally fish is provided. Condiments may be added, for example, maggi and pepper. The patients stay for about 1 week after which they are discharged.

Appendix 6

WATER SUPPLY: SITUATION AND STRATEGY FOR THE 8 REFUGEE CAMPS

JEMBE

With only one well in use, almost all water for Jembe camp comes from MSF-B's Water Technical Unit (WTU), which produces approx. 80'000 l/day. Water is taken out of the nearby river, is filtered and pumped to bladders where it is chlorinated and then distributed by different pipes to approx. 10 taps stands.

MSF-B is installing a new well which can also make use of water of the river by self-filtering. This system should be more cost-effective. It shall be run by NaCSA. MSF-B shall ensure a handover.

The remaining wells shall be well looked after as to keep the option for an alternative in case that the new system might not be as sustainable as requested.

Anyhow, regarding topography, the water has to be pumped up, making a WTU indispensable. The costs can be cut down a little, but the only alternative would be to relocate the entire camp.

BANDAJUMA

With only two boreholes and difficulty to find water by wells or boreholes in this area, the water is mainly provided by a WTU which produces up to 80'000 litres per day. The water is pumped out of the nearby river, filtered and chlorinated before distributed in a centralized system to 6 taps, since 6 other taps have been closed in 2006 due to decommissioning of areas (Phase 2).

A replacement of the costly WTU can only be reached by either (a) enlarging the yield of the two boreholes, which seems to be unlikely or (b) more boreholes, which is costly. Thus there seems to be no feasible alternative, except to have to collect the water from the river into a WTU. The production of the WTU shall be reduced to 45'000 l/day, to half of what it is producing now.

If the new system to be installed by MSF-B in Jembe proves sustainable and cost-effective, it might be also installed in Bandajuma. Otherwise the population has to be relocated to another place!

TOBANDA

Water is produced by a WTU, taking it out of the river, filtering and pumping and chlorination in bladders before being distributed by 11 taps. The system still produces 80'000 l per day. In addition, there are 21 wells, of which 13 are still in use.

Thanks to the wells, and in reference to the reduced camp population (still 3'700), there is only a lack of 20'000 litres per day to be filled by the WTU. This gap could be filled by just making use of 4 more wells (total of 15, approx 5'000 litres/day sums up to 75'000 litres = 20 l for 3'700 refugees).

This has to be checked on base of the awaited yield test by ACF.

But if this proves so, the Water Treatment Unit shall be closed mid 2006, latest end 2006.

GERIHUN

The population figure of still 3'300 seems much too high in relation to the small number of shelters. In fact, it seems as if the camp is not that much hampered by the fact that the spring catchment is out of use since 2 weeks. Technical Unit therefore encourages the Camp management to close the spring catchment by end June if the yield test by ACF do not prove that the water in wells is far to less to supply the camp by themselves.

If necessary, the well close to the upper primary school might be re-installed for water at the school.

LARGO

Water is conducted from a spring to 2 tanks, of which only 1 is still in use, where it is chlorinated. It is distributed to several pipes to 13 taps. – Also, out of a much higher total, 5 wells and 2 boreholes with very good water are still in use.

But as the yield of the wells and boreholes is most likely not sufficient, a production of one tank per day (45'000 l/day) seems adequate. As the water comes by gravity and is also distributed by gravity, the running costs are low, so that this system shall be continued.

JIMMY BAGBO

All water is produced from wells. From the initial 27 wells, only 10 are still in use. The upcoming yield test by ACF will have to prove if the water produced by this small number of wells is sufficient for the camp population, which shall be verified through the ratio card exercise.

For the moment, now more pumps of any wells shall be dismantled, as there is also a question of the security of the high number of now 17 pumps stocked by Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) in its warehouse in the camp.

TAIAMA

In and around the camps, UNHCR has funded the installation of 22 wells and 9 boreholes, of which 15 wells and 3 (or 6) boreholes are still in use. These cheap and sustainable water sources should provide sufficient water for an even still high population figure of 3'700 refugees.

This can be checked soon, as ACF is conducting a yield test of all wells and boreholes on the camp.

GONDAMA

Even as a river is close, all water is produced from hand dug wells. Out of the 36 wells installed by UNHCR, only 16 are still in use (the pumps of the others are dismantled and kept in the camp).

But in average, these remaining 16 wells should provide sufficient water for the camp population which is still estimated at 3'700, but this figure might drop according to the ratio card exercise.

The reduction of the still used areas and of the shelters shall be accompanied by a continuous reduction of wells, as discussed with Camp Management.

Source: UNHCR Sub-Office Kenema / Technical Unit (23 May 2006)