

## ROLL-OUT OF THE CLUSTER APPROACH IN LIBERIA

### **Status of the Roll-Out of Cluster Approach**

- Some 321,000 of the initial 325,095 IDPs registered in camps in November 2004 have left the camps and have been provided with transportation allowances, NFIs and food assistance.
- The gap analysis contained in the Joint Action plan for community based recovery, developed with the FAO, UNICEF, UNDP and WFP, is being used to prioritize needs in areas of return and prioritize interventions. UNHCR is also advocating for bilateral and multilateral development actors to prioritize main areas of return in developing and implementing reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes.
- Under the chairmanship of UNHCR the Protection Core Group has been re-structured and strengthened through the adoption of new terms of reference and workplans covering priority areas including monitoring of return, rule of law, SGBV, and child protection.
- UNHCR acts as the secretariat and has worked at County level to bring protection coordination and response in line with the national approach. In this respect, a total of eleven (11) Counties are now covered by County or regional level Protection Core Groups.
- A common Protection Monitoring Form has also been adopted and circulated for use. More than 500 NRC monitors are now trained in its use, meanwhile LRRRC, SC-UK, IRC, and OXFAM have either taken it up or are considering its adoption. Protection concerns throughout the country are identified through regular analysis by the PCG. Identified gaps in protection, are to be addressed with the government, relevant agencies and donors.
- Gaps already identified include weaknesses in the application of the rule of law (absence of the judiciary, national police, lack of physical structure, materials, communication, insufficient training, inadequate handling of SGBV and juvenile justice) inadequate reconciliation/mediation systems and failure to address earlier human rights abuses, poor system for restitution of property, low-level participation by women in decision-making, lethargy or lack of community motivation to address community problems, and general lack of awareness on human rights and SGBV.
- Community Based Recovery Joint Action Plans have been developed at County level, and have identified gaps, *inter alia*, in basic services. The plans also recognize actors with programmes that aim to address these gaps in 2006.

### **Challenges**

- Dismantle the camps mitigating environmental degradation
- Identify durable solutions (local integration or integration in another part of the country) for remaining IDPs, including unregistered.
- Ensure that the Early Recovery Cluster responds to the concerns identified through the camp closure strategy, even where these may fall outside the purview of the priority areas of rule of law, income-generation and roads/bridges.
- Gather information on IDPs living in public buildings
- Ensure the sustainability of return in view of the immensity of community reintegration assistance needs e.g. basic social services
- Monitor the situation in areas of return to ensure that the reintegration takes place in conditions of safety and dignity

- Improve coordination, particularly in the area of rule of law, between the Protection and Early Recovery Clusters in view of the slower development of an Early Recovery Cluster.
- Maintain secretariat capacity at the County-level, to ensure intervention in individual cases as well as analysis of general trends, and to further strengthen the various sub-groups, which have a key role in providing protection.
- Weak capacity among national institutions and national NGOs
- Prepare the ground for phase-out of the protection cluster and handover to national institutions

#### **Future Activities**

- An Independent evaluation of the IDP programme will be organized in cooperation with NRC to take stock of lessons learned and inform future operations.
- UNMIL IDP Unit will be dissolved as of June 2006
- Conduct an assessment of the 35 camps covering protection, property, environment and basic services, identify outstanding needs, and develop recommendations for the government
- Continue to extend the Cluster approach to Counties where UNHCR does not have a presence and where the number of protection-actors is limited

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