

# Republic of Liberia



## LIBERIA GOVERNMENT NATIONAL COMMUNITY RESETTLEMENT AND REINTEGRATION STRATEGY

Adopted by  
Results Focused Transitional Framework  
Working Committee (RWC # 3) for Displaced Population  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 2004

(LRRRC)

Map of Liberia



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## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

The crisis in Liberia is most often dated after 1980 bloody coup which brought to an end 100 years of True Whig Party. However, cleavages in Liberian society have a long history and have been shaped by the social, political and economic make-up of the country. The eruption of armed violence in 1989, that led, in part, to 14 years of intermittent conflict, further devastated a declining economy and provoked significant population flows. The intensification of factional fighting in and around Monrovia in mid-2003 gave rise to increased concerns about peace in the wider West African region. The subsequent forced departure of former Charles Taylor on 11 August 2003, the signing of the Accra Agreement on 18<sup>th</sup> August, and UN Security Council Resolution 1509 (19<sup>th</sup> September, 2003) signaled opportunities for change and a more peaceful future in Liberia. It is within this context that the NTGL (National Transitional Government of Liberia), humanitarian and other actors are contemplating the return, reintegration and longer-term recovery of up-rooted and war-affected Liberians.

The Accra Peace Agreement forms the basis for a comprehensive peace process in Liberia encompassing relief to development activities. One of the main tenants within the relief to development continuum is the disarmament and demobilization of ex-combatants and their reintegration back to society.

Sustainable community reintegration of ex-combatants, returnees and IDPs remains the most preferred durable solution. However, reintegration is a complex and multi-dimensional process with legal, economic, social and psychological dimensions. It is in this regard that the design of the reintegration programmes has to be in line with Results Focused Transitional Framework (RFTF) for Cluster 3 covering Displaced Populations. The priority needs of this sector have to be addressed in a systematic and integrated fashion incorporating transition and recovery plans of governments, the donor community, the UN system and the needs of returnees, the displaced, and the host communities accepting them.

The resettlement and reintegration strategy sets in place the positive contribution and participation of displaced populations in development planning thereby enhancing a comprehensive and institutional approach leading to improved social services and sustainable livelihoods.

### **1.2 Objectives and Aims of the Strategy**

This Community Resettlement and Reintegration Strategy provides a framework for the planning and implementation of the RFTF for Cluster 3. The implementation of the RFTF key priority needs will require concerted efforts from all stake holders. In addition, many of the structures related to coordination and implementation of these activities may, and are likely to change, to keep pace with a changing political and operational environment. It is intended then, that this document will be the first in a series of documents related to return and resettlement that will provide policy guidance.

The Community aspect of this strategy has been deliberately chosen. While much of the document focuses on the specific needs related to the displaced, the ultimate goal of the resettlement process is to create a strong foundation on which the physical, economic and social reconstruction of communities as a whole can take place. It takes into account the need for tangible provision of goods and services, such as assistance packages and transportation for individuals, while also recognizing the need for parallel processes of normalization, healing and reconciliation in communities as outlined in the RFTF. The resettlement strategy itself is intended to be complementary to other community development initiatives, such as the return and reintegration of ex-combatants, and reference is made to these through the text. By focusing integrated assistance efforts on the community, rather than promoting the needs of selected groups, an element of the cycle of violence that stems from injustice can be broken while also better ensuring that all can reap the benefits of peace.

### **1.2.1 Objectives:**

- To support the resettlement and reintegration of internally displaced, refugees and ex-combatants to return voluntarily, in safety, and with dignity, to their homes or habitual place of residence, or location of their choice and to strengthen their livelihood security and promote reconciliation.
- To generate conditions and support mechanisms, in a coordinated and structured manner.
- To develop an environment conducive to return and the successful and sustainable re-integration and recovery.
- To give emphasis on an integrated approach that is designed to avoid disparities between different categories displaced persons, whether IDPs, non-IDP poor, ex-combatants, war-affected communities or returnees from abroad.
- To assist the majority of displaced persons to regain their areas of habitual residence before the 2005 elections, thus enabling the population to participate in the democratic process;
- To promote national recovery that fosters peace and stability and lays the foundation for medium and long-term development.

### **1.2.2 Return and Reintegration Principles:**

The community resettlement and Reintegration strategy is based on the following principles;

- All humanitarian action should be undertaken in line with universal humanitarian values including principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and without discrimination factoring in the reality that while all in need are entitled to assistance, degrees of assistance vary depending upon the circumstances of the individual or population;
- The NTGL has the primary duty and responsibility to generate the conditions conducive to the safe return and sustainable re-integration of displaced Liberians including facilitating discussions between the different war affected populations;
- Returnee, IDPs and receiving communities should participate in a representative and meaningful manner in the planning and organization of return and reintegration activities;
- Special measures should be taken to avoid disparities and distinctions that could be perceived as discriminatory or provoke tensions between different groups, returnees (IDPs, returnees, ex-combatants) or the settled community.
- Support for the settled community and returnees should be provided as part of an integrated package that is community-focused and within the context of the RFTF and supports a long-term vision of sustainable recovery.
- Special measures should be taken to minimize the negative impact on host communities of closing IDP camps without proper phase-out and rehabilitation inputs.
- Support for return and reintegration activities should be closely coordinated with all relevant actors involved in this process and should be undertaken in a manner that targets intended beneficiaries, avoids gaps and duplication, and maximizes use of available resources.
- Resettlement and reintegration programmes for IDPs, refugees and ex-combatants are integrated as far as possible
- Every effort will be made to ensure that there is close co-ordination of all aspects of assistance for the resettlement process to ensure appropriate targeting and efficient use of resources
- Return and reintegration activities should be closely monitored, reviewed, and modified in a well-coordinated and transparent manner so that the best interests of the intended beneficiaries reflects informed decision-making and subsequent interventions.
- Attention should be given to past inter-group conflicts and the unique experiences of the different war affected populations promoting reconciliation in all actions.
- Special attention will be given to children, youth and people with disability in resettlement and reintegration programs.

## **2 Resettlement Planning and Coordination Structures**

### **2.1 Overview of Coordination Structures**

The complexity of the return and resettlement process necessitates active coordination among a wide range of actors at various programmatic and geographic levels. The scope of issues to be addressed and the volume of activity taking place across the country will mean that a variety of coordination activities are being carried out simultaneously. Key to ensuring that all efforts are mutually reinforcing are clearly defined levels of decision-making authority and well-established mechanisms for communication and information flow.

It is important to note that at the time of writing, many coordination mechanisms, particularly those related to the presence of local administration bodies and officials, are still to be constituted. Their membership, mandates and scopes of work will be further articulated in subsequent documents.

### **2.2 Return and Resettlement Coordination**

Coordination mechanisms have been and will continue to be developed at national and sub-national levels to take decisions, share information, and formulate joint plans according to their respective terms of reference. In the interim this will be undertaken by RIMCO structure RFTF Working Committee for Cluster 3 (RWC-3<sup>1</sup>) The RWC 3 is chaired by the Ministry of Internal Affairs with LRRRC, UNHCR and OCHA as Co chairs. Other members are drawn from NTGL, Ministries, UN Agencies, donors and local and international NGOs. (Annex 7) It is tasked with harmonizing the plans of all actors whose activities related to return and reintegration activities outlined in the RFTF. While it is expected that the RIMCO will continue to function for two years there will be other bodies listed below that will relate more specifically to the return and resettlement process beyond 2005.

#### **2.2.1 National Level**

##### *Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement (SACR)*

The responsibility for determining whether or not a certain geographical area (county, district, etc.) meets the established benchmarks for being declared to be “safe for resettlement” will be taken by this committee consisting of representatives of the NTGL, the UN, NGOs and other stakeholders (See Section 2.3). The committee will continue to meet until all counties have been declared safe for resettlement.

##### *Technical Committee on Resettlement and Reintegration (TCRR)*

The Technical Committee on Resettlement and Reintegration TCRR is the national-level body supporting the policy, planning and coordination of resettlement. Among its responsibilities are the preparation and dissemination of policies related to resettlement, the provision of support to county-level County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee and monitoring and evaluation of the resettlement process.

#### **2.2.2 County Level**

##### *County Resettlement Assessment Committee (CRAC)*

Using general benchmarks developed for the Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement at the national level, County Resettlement Assessment Committees, to be established once there's adequate representation of all key stake holders, will assess the security situation in a given area. The CRAC will be tasked to assess whether each county is sufficiently safe to allow for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons and make recommendations to the Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement on their findings. The Committees will be chaired by respective County Superintendents and will include

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<sup>1</sup> For more information see Liberia National Needs Assessment, “Modus Operandi: RFTF Working Committees”, RWC 3 Terms of Reference

county or regional-level representatives of the same or similar bodies present in the National Committee. (See Section 2.3)

*County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee (CRRC)*

The County Technical Committee on Resettlement and Reintegration will act as an overall co-ordination body for the planning and implementation of resettlement for each county. These groups, chaired by the LRRRC in collaboration with the County Superintendent’s office, will aim to integrate the work of all agencies present into a cohesive program of community development. Membership of the group will include local administration officials, UNMIL Civil Affairs personnel, UN agency representatives and senior representatives of key operational agencies in all major sectors. (See Section 2.4)

**2.3 Declaration of Safe Areas:**

**2.3.1 Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement (SACR)**

In line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the NTGL and the UN will only facilitate resettlement into areas that have been declared safe for resettling IDPs and returnees. To assess whether an area can be declared safe, a two-tiered system will be developed at the County and National-levels. The basis for any organized resettlement movement will be an authoritative decision that the security situation in the resettlement area has been re-established to a satisfactory level.

For this purpose, the Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement (SACR) will be set-up in order to assess the security situation in every County/District and to inform RWC3 and all other stakeholders. The Executive Director of LRRRC will be the Chairman of the SACR.. The SACR, based on information and deliberations received from the respective CRAC and other sources, will be solely responsible to decide whether and where organized resettlement activities can commence.

The SACR will undertake the following activities:

- Develop a set of objective criteria through which the County Resettlement Assessment Committees will assess the safety of Districts for resettlement
- Review the outcomes and recommendations made by County Resettlement Assessment Committees
- Endorse or reject with reasons, the recommendations made by the County Resettlement Assessment Committees as to the Districts they have deemed safe for resettlement.
- Upon areas declared safe it is the responsibility of the chairperson to inform the County Resettlement Assessment Committees and County Resettlement and Reintegration committee of their decisions. This information should also be made public.

SACR will continue to meet until such a time as all Districts have been declared safe and that, following this, a sufficient period of time has elapsed for the committee to have confidence that resettlement has occurred both safely and securely.

<b>Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement (SACR)</b>
1. LRRRC Executive Director (Chairman)
2. Ministry of Internal Affairs
3. Police Director
4. UNMIL/HC/RR
5. UNMIL Force Commander
• UNMIL Deputy Force Commander
6. UNMIL CivPol Commissioner
• UNMIL Head of MilObs
7. UNHCR

8. UNOCHA
9. ICRC
10. 2 Representative of International NGOs
11. 2 Representative of National NGOs
12. Representative of Interfaith Council
• Representative of the Liberian Marketing Association

SACR will base its recommendations on precise information gathered in specific areas under discussion. The committee may send out surveillance missions or invite participating agencies to study the situation and to provide consolidated assessment reports. However, the SACR will take into full consideration the assessment and recommendations received from the County Resettlement Assessment Committee which is set-up to be a subsidiary body of the SACR, as well as the UN's Area Security Management Teams.

All information must be submitted to the committee through the office of the Executive Director of LRRRC, which acts as the secretariat of the SACR, well in advance. It must be circulated to the committee members prior to the meeting that deals with the respective issue(s).

On reaching an agreement that a particular district is safe for the resettlement of IDPs and/or returnees LRRRC through the Executive Director will recommend and seek approval from the SACR. When the SACR is satisfied that a particular district can be declared safe, it is the responsibility of the Executive Director of LRRRC to ensure this message is made public. It is upon this decision that displaced persons emanating from this area will enter onto the resettlement programme described in section 4.1. The chairperson shall call a meeting of the SACR every two weeks at a specified location.

### **2.3.2 Criteria and Benchmarks for Security Assessment**

The Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement will deliberate whether the following criteria for resettlement in a specifically defined County/District has been met:

#### *a) General Security*

Security is a state of affairs whereby the resident population in a given area can live free of fear of being harassed, injured, kidnapped, forced against their will, or even killed by armed individuals and groups. Security benchmarks for safe return will include :

- Full deployment of UNMIL along main roads and in major towns
- Regular static and mobile UNMIL patrols in all other areas
- Disarmament of all previously armed Liberian elements (AFL, government militias, police, LURD, MODEL, and others)
- General absence of hostilities
- Few, if any reports on security incidents

#### *b) Restoration of State Authority*

Restoration of state authority at the county and district level will remain a high priority for NTGL, this will further enhance the confidence of displaced people to return to their original homes. Key benchmarks are:

- Presence of superintendents at county level
- Growing presence of Development Superintendents
- Presence of commissioners at district level
- Reopening of police stations,
- Reopening, on-going rehabilitation or plans for rehabilitation of courts and prisons factoring in adequate human resource capacity
- Reopening basic public services such as schools and hospitals
- Visible activities of civil administration, including FDA, LRRRC, NCDDRR



- Return of traditional chiefs

*c) Unhindered access of Relief and Development Agencies*

Free and unhindered access of relief and development co-ordination to the needy population would include ;

- Deployment of UN agencies and NGOs to various field locations
- Presence of agencies supporting the population in improving basic services ( Education, Water , Sanitation Health ) and access to shelter
- Existence (or creation) of community structures to support relief/social services”
- Existence of Food distribution mechanism and supply of agriculture inputs
- Community Empowerment projects aimed at supporting self-reliance.

*d) Assessing Spontaneous Returns*

The presence of sizeable numbers of spontaneous returnees can be regarded as a sign that living conditions are in the process of returning to normal. The CRAC and SACR might consider any other issue brought to its attention, in particular issues relating to peace, security and inter-communal relations.

The Terms of Reference for the both committees are presented in Annex 1 and 2 .

### **2.3.3 Policy on non-accessible and Insecure areas**

- Registered IDPs and displaced returnees whose district of origin is deemed unsafe for resettlement will retain the right to accommodation and support services within a camp environment or in other safe resettlement areas.
- SACR will not facilitate return to insecure resettlement areas. Registered IDPs spontaneously resettling into insecure areas will not benefit from any targeted resettlement assistance.
- In areas yet to be declared safe for resettlement, assistance can be provided by humanitarian agencies according to need and accessibility. Spontaneously resettling IDPs may benefit from community-based interventions being provided. But they will not have access to the same return/resettlement packages that will be provided alongside facilitated return.

## **2.4 Resettlement and Reintegration Planning**

There will be two bodies responsible for resettlement and reintegration planning at National and County level

- Technical Committee for Resettlement and Reintegration (TCRR)
- County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee (CRRC)

### **2.4.1 Technical Committee on Resettlement and Reintegration (TCRR)**

As part of the implementation arrangements for achieving the RFTF, the RWC-3 is intended to provide overarching framework for harmonization, monitoring and reporting of all activities being undertaken by various actors towards the attainment of the priority objectives. However, the implementation and operational coordination of these activities remain the responsibility of the various actors – Government, donors, NGOs, CSOs, UN agencies, etc., working within their various mandates.

To facilitate operational coordination in the context of RWC-3 a Technical Committee on Resettlement and Reintegration will be formally established. The committee, which will basically support the resettlement and reintegration of internally displaced, refugees and ex-combatants with their dependants back into their communities, strengthen their livelihood security and promote reconciliation will embrace all actors that are currently active in the pursuit of RFTF cluster 3 priorities. The membership at the national level is outlined below:

<b>Technical Committee for Resettlement and Reintegration</b>	
1.	LRRRC (Chair)
2.	NCDDR
3.	Ministry of Interior
4.	Ministry of Gender and Development
5.	Ministry of Rural Development
6.	UN-OCHA
7.	UNHCR
8.	UNMIL / HCRRR
9.	UNDP
10.	UNFPA
11.	WFP
12.	IOM
13.	FAO
14.	UNICEF
15.	WHO
16.	USAID
17.	EU/ECHO
18.	Representative UN Gender Theme Group
19.	2 Representatives from NGOs
20.	2 Representative of IDPs,

TOR for Technical Committee on Resettlement and Reintegration is detailed in Annex 4

#### **2.4.2 County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee (CRRC)**

The County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee under the auspices of RWC3 will operate at each county level essentially to plan and co-ordinate resettlement activities. The membership<sup>2</sup> for this working group should include:

<b>County Resettlement and Reintegration Working Committee</b>	
1.	LRRRC (Chair)
2.	NCDDR
3.	Ministry of Interior
4.	UN OCHA
5.	UNHCR
6.	UNMIL /HCRRR
7.	WFP
8.	IOM
9.	UNICEF
10.	FAO
11.	WHO
12.	ICRC
13.	Representative of Child Protection agency
14.	Representative of IDPs

<sup>2</sup> For the different sectors, representation could come from a NTGL line ministry, a UN agency or an NGO, as decided by the local sector coordination group.

Membership at the county level is bound to vary LRRRC and County Superintendents will ensure that other major stakeholders present in the respective areas are represented in the working committees.

The aims of the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee are:

- To develop comprehensive sectoral operational plans in each county
- To ensure coordination of planning and implementation within each sector and develop gender sensitive procedures and timelines etc.
- To integrate resettlement and reintegration programmes for IDPs, refugees and ex-combatants and to endeavor to achieve equity of assistance and access to assistance between all categories of beneficiaries.
- To strengthen and encourage community based organizations / traditional village committees to facilitate planning and participation from communities in main areas of return in the resettlement and recovery process.

The responsibilities of the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee in regard to the resettlement programme include:

1. Identifying, planning and coordinating the distribution of reintegration packages at the designated drop off points;
2. Informing the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee in the County from which IDPs or displaced returnees are departing or the country from which refugees are repatriating of the system in place for supporting displaced persons as they arrive in their resettlement areas. This information will then form the basis of the information and sensitization campaign within the area of departure;
3. Co-ordinate with the IDP committee, camp management forum and the camp managers the mass information campaigns on the counties and districts of planned return. This can include facilitation of visits by both IDP camp representatives to areas of return as well as visits by Paramount Chiefs to the camps to inform camp populations of the conditions in their area of resettlement.
4. To inform District-level officials of the declaration of safety for resettlement and expected numbers that may return;
5. To assess critical gaps in basic service provision, under the auspices of the RWC6 (basic services) within each area of resettlement and prioritize how these are to be addressed to ensure basic coverage within a reasonable timeframe
6. To explore the opportunities for absorbing resettling displaced persons into seeds and tools programmes, rural banking / micro credit programs and/or other income generating initiatives;
7. Encouraging the development of employment-based safety net schemes (e.g. food-for-work, agriculture, public works schemes, shelter programmes);
8. To ensure that a system is in place to monitor the food security and nutritional situation within resettlement areas. Information emanating from the monitoring system should be used for recommending further support mechanisms for vulnerable groups, whether returnees, resettling IDPs or existing resident populations;
9. To monitor and evaluate the resettlement process to ensure that people return in safety and dignity. This will include ensuring that appropriate mechanisms and measures are in place to respond to any specific problems that may be encountered during resettlement. This may relate, for example, to the protection of resettling or resident populations or to the resolution of property or other disputes.
10. The CRRCs will be supported by HIC in terms of planning, actor mapping and information management.
11. To ensure that a gender perspective is included and to support community participation in all activities.

The County Resettlement and Reintegration committee will act as the overall co-ordination body for the planning and implementation of resettlement for each County. It will report to TCRR that will in turn and

inform the RWC-3. The setting up of the committee overseeing resettlement and reintegration is not intended to duplicate existing co-ordination committees, such as the sectoral committees and inter-agency forums, rather it is to act as a focal point into which existing committees can both provide inputs and co-ordinate the implementation of their sector responsibilities contained within the Resettlement Strategy.

The Terms of Reference for the County Resettlement Reintegration Committee is presented in detail in Annex 4.

## **2.5 Co-ordination and Management of Process**

Throughout the process of declaring safe areas, phasing down IDP camps and maintaining others, there will be a need for ongoing co-ordination and information sharing between the CRRCs and existing IDP / returnee management forums. Some of the issues that will be paramount include:

- Close liaison with the Resettlement Assessment Committees regarding districts that have been declared safe for resettlement of displaced persons from IDP camps and temporary settlements.
- Work with camp management and other agencies to develop procedures and timelines for the phasing-down of food aid and other assistance to displaced persons entering into the resettlement programme.
- Planning for the continued provision of humanitarian aid and support services to those displaced persons from areas yet to be declared safe.
- To inform the other CRRC's of the indicative number of displaced persons that are to resettle in their County
- To inform the RWC3 and TCRR of the status and experience of the IDP camp phase-down process.
- To maintain effective camp funding monitoring mechanisms to ensure adequate level of service provision in remaining camps.
- To work closely with agencies supporting longer-term development programs to begin to phase out emergency aid.

### **3 Categories of Beneficiaries**

Fourteen years of intermittent conflict in Liberia has created several categories of beneficiaries that require reintegration assistance. Past experience has taught us that the RR strategy ensures that assistance is targeted to covers all needy populations in order to consolidate peace and community cohesion. Thus, the categories to be supported in this RR strategy include:

- Registered IDPs in the Camps
- Unregistered IDPs living with the communities.
- Refugee and Returnees
- Host and receiving communities
- Ex combatants and their dependents
- Persons with special needs

#### **3.1 Registered IDPs in Camps <sup>3</sup>**

This category of displaced persons estimated at 260,000 consists of IDPs who have been verified in the IDP survey, and are currently receiving assistance in recognized IDP camps in Montserrado, Margibi, and Bong Counties.

When their respective district of origin is declared safe for resettlement, these IDPs will receive resettlement and reintegration assistance, which is described in detail in Section 4. This will include transportation assistance and the receipt of a resettlement packages and assistance directed towards the promotion of community-based activities; with a view to strengthening existing social infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods in the areas of return. This may be in the form of employment-based safety-net programmes that benefits from community rehabilitation and reconstruction targeted at basic service provision and income generation.

#### **3.2 Unregistered IDPs Living in the Communities**

Many IDPs live within the community particularly in urban areas. The unregistered IDPs will receive benefit from community based assistance. In cases where there is clear evidence of unregistered IDPs being resident in a camp for a reasonable period of time, then transport assistance may be provided to support their return to areas of origin or resettlement. This will be undertaken separately from the transport assistance provided to registered IDPs and returnees. No other targeted, resettlement assistance will be provided. Given the drive to phase-down IDP camps and support resettlement, the NTGL does not support the registration of new caseloads, unless there is a significant new displacement of people.

Unregistered IDPs may receive assistance that is geared towards the promotion of community-based activities thereby strengthening existing socio-economic infrastructure and livelihoods. This could include, for example, entry onto seeds and tools programmes and/or other employment-based safety net / income generating schemes.

Provision of food aid to vulnerable groups within this category may be provided through school feeding programmes, VGF rations in cases of food insecurity and in cases where there is acute malnutrition, therapeutic feeding. The needs for such interventions will be determined through food security and nutritional monitoring. Similarly, they may also be supported with non-food assistance.

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<sup>3</sup> IDPs are defined as: “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international recognised State border.

### **3.3 Liberian Refugees**

There are estimated to be over 350,000 Liberian refugees currently living in countries of asylum, the majority of which are in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. Repatriation of Liberian refugees will be facilitated and/or promoted in accordance with generally accepted norms and principles of refugee law and human rights. These include, in particular, that repatriation shall be voluntary. Organized repatriation can either be Facilitated or Promoted.

#### **3.3.1 Facilitated Repatriation**

Facilitated repatriation refers to a situation when refugees indicate a strong desire to return voluntarily and/or have begun doing so on their own initiatives, even where UNHCR does not consider that conditions exist for return in safety and dignity<sup>4</sup>. Facilitation involves protection and assistance measures aimed at refugee-induced voluntary repatriation in situations where UNHCR cannot encourage such repatriation, but is respecting the strong desire of refugees to return voluntarily. Although facilitation is often considered solely in relation to spontaneous self-movement, UNHCR facilitation of voluntary repatriation may in some cases involve transport assistance. Registered returnees, voluntarily deciding to return to Liberia and originating from safe areas, will benefit from the same support measures offered to registered IDPs resettling to safe areas.

For registered returnees coming from areas yet to be declared safe for resettlement, UNHCR and its implementing partners are providing humanitarian assistance in temporary settlements and transit camps. When their districts of origin are declared safe for resettlement, these returnees will enter the resettlement programme and receive the same benefits and support offered to registered IDPs (see Section 2.1).

#### **3.3.2 Promoted Repatriation**

Promoted repatriation can take place only when overall conditions are conducive for mass return in safety and dignity and such returns have good prospects of being durable. Promoted repatriation relates to UNHCR role in encouraging the return once conditions conducive to a sustainable return are met. Promotion of voluntary repatriation movements means actively undertaking broad and wide-ranging measures for that purpose. Promotion of repatriation can only take place when a careful assessment of the situation in the country of origin shows that stability is durable and overall improvements permit return in "safety and dignity"<sup>5</sup>.

The basic criteria and preconditions for promoting voluntary repatriation includes;

- Complete absence of hostilities
- Full deployment of UNMIL in major towns, along main roads, and regular patrols in populated areas;
- Demobilization and disarmament of the different armed factions underway;
- Visible security maintenance support by UNMIL;
- Presence of Superintendents at the County level;
- Presence of Commissioners at the District level;
- Functioning Police system with UNMIL CivPol support;
- Civil Administration re-generated and/or re-invigorated;
- Return of Traditional Paramount Chiefs
- Significant spontaneous returns of returnee and IDP movements to areas of origin
- Unhindered humanitarian access and establishment of basic social services (including for family tracing purposes);

Provided that these conditions are met, refugees will be able to proceed directly to their areas of return. All aspects of promoted repatriation, including issues of protection, beneficiary rights, responsibilities and

implementation arrangements, will be based on firm legal principles and formulated and articulated in tripartite agreements between NTGL, the Governments of the principal countries of asylum and UNHCR.

Targeted assistance, such as transportation and reintegration packages, offered to returnees under promoted repatriation will be in parity to that provided in the resettlement of registered IDPs and displaced returnees. This support will be provided alongside community-based programmes to support the overall enhancement of livelihood security of community members and to avoid inter and intra community tensions.

### **3.4 Host and Receiving Communities**

Communities living in war-affected areas of resettlement may receive benefits in the resettlement process similar to that of unregistered IDPs.

It is envisaged that in areas yet to be declared safe for resettlement, this population group will be provided with humanitarian assistance according to need and where access is feasible.

### **3.5 Ex-combatants and their Dependants<sup>6</sup>**

The DDRR reintegration program phases into community based reintegration program maintaining continuity of support once DDRR sponsored support program ends. The community can hence support ex-combatants by allowing them to participate in existing support program and activities in agriculture, education, micro- financing schemes and provision of referral for sustainable employment. This calls for sensitization of communities on the need to accept and reintegrate ex-combatants and their dependants.

### **3.6 Persons with Special Needs**

While assistance should, to the extent possible, be standardized it is widely recognized that within war-affected populations some individuals have needs deserving special attention during movement, upon arrival at the return destination and/or during the resettlement process. It is also widely recognized that gender based discrimination exists and hinders the access of women to services. Therefore, a guidance note has been developed to facilitate service provision to certain categories. The specified categories are in no way prescriptive and special needs individuals will be reviewed on a case by case-by-case basis. Persons with special needs for the specific purposes of the return and reintegration will include but not be limited to;

- Female-headed households
- Unaccompanied Women
- Disabled physically
- Disabled mentally
- Unaccompanied / separated children
- Elderly above 59 years
- Chronically ill (emphasis on people living with HIV/AIDS)
- Expectant and lactating mothers
- Single males in the custody of children below the age of 5
- Elderly above the age of 59 years in the custody of children.
- Child headed households
- Survivors of violence (physical violence, sexual violence, abducted women and other forms of abuse)

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<sup>6</sup> Refer to “NDDRRC Strategic and Operational Framework”

### **3.6.1 Principles of Assistance to Persons with Special Needs**

During the return and reintegration, humanitarian and development agencies will be encouraged to target these groups in order to promote and ensure sustainable livelihoods and protection from violence and exploitation. Special programmes will need to be developed alongside the resettlement programme for specific groups but agencies will collaborate to ensure that assistance is not duplicated. Close monitoring by the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee (see Section 3.2) of their ability to cope during this transitional process is crucial.

The following principles will guide the assistance to special needs groups;

- Assistance is provided in accordance with assessed needs.
- Assistance is a service not a right
- Assistance is time bound. People with special needs have capacities, which should be enhanced so that they develop independence as soon as possible.
- Assistance is community based. The responsibility for looking after special needs groups remains with the community and agencies only support the process.
- The credibility of assistance measures depends on impartiality, transparency and clear procedures. Civilians and combatants with special needs will be treated equally.
- Inherent dignity and worth of the recipient should in no way be undermined by the manner in which assistance is disbursed.

It is envisaged that a number of vulnerable people eligible to receive targeted resettlement assistance will not be in an appropriate condition to enter into the resettlement process when their area of origin is declared safe for resettlement. The County Resettlement and Reintegration committee will decide, in cooperation with the Camp Management Agency or other mandated agencies, when such persons will enter the resettlement process on a case-by-case basis. The committee will however, ensure that persons with special needs are not separated from their families in an effort to provide them assistance.

Annex 6 provides a guide to special arrangements to meet some the needs of these categories.

## **4 Return and Resettlement Activities**

### **4.1 Entry into the Resettlement Programme**

As a County is declared safe for return and resettlement, it will begin to be assessed which IDP and displaced returnee families will be eligible to enter the resettlement programme. The IDP survey will be the basis of verifying eligible families. All registered IDPs and displaced returnees originating from a newly declared safe district will voluntarily enter the resettlement process.

The information and sensitization campaign will be initiated and the IDPs and displaced returnees informed of the return plan. IDPs and displaced returnees will be issued with a Green Return and Reintegration Card (RR Card) which will make them eligible to access assistance in their respective counties of return. The Green RR Card will only be issued to IDPs and Returnees leaving the camps by their own. The Green RR Card will be honored by all agencies providing assistance in all the counties.

IDPs and displaced returnees will be informed the location where the assistance will be accessed. The assistance at the final destination will include food and non food items as outlined in this strategy. For those who cannot arrange their own transport, information pertaining to registration for transport will be issued with a Yellow RR Card.



Assistance in the camps will be provided for a period of two months after the date the county is declared safe for return. However, it is assumed that sufficient transportation and other resettlement packages will have been mobilized and made available to facilitate this process.

**Entitlements of Registered IDP and Displaced Returnees According to the Security Status of Their District of Origin.**

Category	District Security Status	Entitlements
A	Unsafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remain in an IDP camp, temporary settlement receiving all appropriate services</li> </ul>
B	District Of Origin Declared Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go and see trips for IDP leadership.</li> <li>• IDPs issued with Return and Reintegration family card (RR Card) according to IDP survey results.</li> <li>• IDPs encouraged to make own transportation arrangement back to county of origin.</li> <li>• Reimbursement of standard transportation fare as part of the return package in county of return</li> <li>• Retain the right to accommodation in an IDP camp, temporary settlement for a further <b>Two Months</b> following the declaration of the area as safe for resettlement, receiving all appropriate services. After this period, the displaced persons from the newly declared safe area will be expected to enter the resettlement process.</li> <li>• Eligible for transportation assistance to area of return in the newly declared safe Districts.</li> <li>• Eligible to receive two months of resettlement food and non-food assistance. These food and non-food rations will be distributed in bulk from centralized distribution points within the District of resettlement at a scheduled time once the resettlement process has begun. Normally these rations will be given at one of the designated drop-off points used for transport assistance.</li> </ul>

**4.2 Mass Information campaign**

A clear, coherent comprehensive information and sensitization campaign enabling individuals to make well-informed decisions is a crucial component of the resettlement process. Messages addressing the special needs of women, children, and vulnerable groups will equally be developed taking into account the sensitivity of some issues, notably property and ownership and cultural perspectives. The new Inheritance Act will be also be appropriately incorporated to protect women’s legal rights to property. In particular it is important that IDPs and displaced returnees understand the conditions in their area of return, registration and transport procedures and assistance packages. It is also important that humanitarian and other actors appreciate the significance of such a decision for a displaced person and all the factors that influence such a decision including previous experienced persecution. Lack of clarity or consistency in information campaigns on runs the danger of exposing government and non-government staff to security risks and of impeding the smooth flow of the resettlement process and could equally jeopardize the voluntary nature of the return.

The central aim of the information and sensitization campaign is to ensure that the wider public, particularly all IDPs and returnees, are informed about:

- Promotion of their participation in establishing priority needs
- Status of security situation in area of return
- Issues that may cause tension/friction in return areas
- Basic social services
- Procedures for transport
- Promotion of family unity
- Property/ownership issues
- Local governance mechanisms
- Rule of law/conflict resolution mechanisms
- Special measures to protect individuals with particular protection concerns
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- Procedures for the phasing-down of IDP camps
- Entitlements and support services provided within the resettlement programme
- Procedures and designated areas for accessing entitlements

The campaign will make use of existing information dissemination and consultation mechanisms within the camps (co-ordinated with camp management agencies). Existing media organizations and institutions will be involved in the development of messages and their transmission / dissemination. Since most IDPs get their information from Liberians passing back and forth to home areas, steps will be taken to initiate a dialogue with IDPs in different camps so that there is a two-way flow of information that informs planning by aid agencies as well as return decisions; camp management agencies have an important role to play in this regard. In the areas of return formal and informal channels for information dissemination will be used to inform communities relating to resettlement.

The entire information campaign will be coordinated by a LRRRC with the involvement of all stake holders. The Public Information group will design all messages and modalities of information distribution.

To better ensure that women are able to make well-informed decisions assertiveness training and rights awareness will be undertaken prior to movement. Simultaneously local mechanisms will be enhanced in areas of return to avoid decisions that are governed by negative cultural norms and discriminate against women.

### **4.3 Transportation of Returnees and Registered IDPs**

Prior to organizing return movement, government representatives with the support of the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committees will meet with the concerned community leaders to discuss planned movements. These discussions shall alert communities of incoming populations while also providing them with the opportunity to raise concerns such as any inter-group conflicts or reception capacity. Concerns raised will be addressed as possible by the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committees with necessary support from the national committee.

Registered IDPs and displaced returnees will be provided transport assistance or reimbursement of actual transport fare to a place close to their area of resettlement as part of reintegration package. RWC3 will issue standard rates and procedures for payment.

Registered IDPs and displaced returnees entering the resettlement process will register for transportation support to one of the designated drop-off points of their choice. Transport registration will be undertaken by the transport management agency with support from LRRRC.

In case transport is provided IDPs and returnees will be allowed to take 50 kgs of luggage for the resettlement journey. The transport management agency will be is tasked with handling the logistics of transporting returnees and their baggage.

Medical checks will be carried out prior to transportation to ensure that all passengers are medically fit to travel. Any passenger whose health may be jeopardized by the journey will not be authorized to travel. For journeys over four hours, a meal will be provided en route by the transport management agency.

Designated drop-off points will be identified in areas of resettlement by LRRRC and the transport management agency in consultation with local communities. These will take into account where it is anticipated people will be resettling to. Resettlement packages will be distributed at these points and basic overnight accommodation, water and wet or dry feeding will be provided where necessary. Efforts will be made to ensure these areas do not become makeshift encampments. Secondary transport to places in closer proximity to their area of return will be provided where it is deemed appropriate and where the necessary resources are available to do this.

A logistics plan will be drawn up by the transport management agency in consultation with LRRRC and all other stakeholders including the distribution agencies and local communities. The plan will also include information on drop off points and times from the place of departure. The LRRRC Information and Sensitization Unit, supported by camp management agencies, will use this for informing registered IDPs and displaced returnees. There may exist an opportunity for resettling IDPs to make use of way stations that UNHCR may establish for the repatriation of refugees.

The logistics plan will be presented to the respective County Resettlement and Reintegration Committees.

#### **4.4 Return Assistance Packages**

##### **4.4.1 Resettlement Food Rations and Food Aid**

When registered IDPs and returnees enter into the resettlement programme, they will be entitled to receive a four-month food ration in two installments. The first two month food ration will be collected in bulk from a centralized distribution point within the district of resettlement. IDPs and Returnees will be informed of collection date for the second installment.

The standardised procedures for the distribution of resettlement food rations are:

- Centralised distribution points will be at the designated drop-off points within each district of resettlement.
- To collect resettlement food rations, the IDP will present documentation from the camps (RR Cards) while the returnees will present the Voluntary Repatriation Form (VRF). These documents will be used for subsequent food distributions.
- Spontaneous returnees with registration cards from countries of asylum will be recognised and honoured by all food aid agencies after verification by UNHCR.
- Food pipeline agencies in their areas of operation will organize the transport and distribution of resettlement food rations to the designated locations.

##### **4.4.2 Non-Food Items Package**

The resettled population will receive non-food items (NFI) to ease their task of re-building their homes and households. Certain NFI will be distributed to each and every individual while certain selected items will only be provided to adults (individuals of 18 years and older) only. The composition of the NFI package is outlined below;

*For every individual (regardless of age)*

- Jerry Can (1)
- Blanket (1)
- Sleeping Mat (1)
- Soap ( 2 bar of 250 grammes)

*Additional NFIs for Adults (over 18 years old)*

- Water Bucket (1)
- Lamp(1)
- Plastic sheet (1)
- Kitchen Set (1)
- Empty bag (1)
- Condoms ( 1Packet)
- Sanitary Kits ( For females above the age of 12 )
- Returnees and IDPs living in rural areas will also be provided with agricultural tools

It is envisaged that in many of the districts, the distribution of these packages will be carried out in cooperation with food pipeline agencies given their logistical capacity. The decision as to who does what will be determined by the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee.

#### **4.4.3 Shelter**

Assistance regarding shelter is based on a standard kit, the following shelter items will form part of the resettlement package for registered Returnees and IDP households.

##### *Shelter Kits:*

The kit will be composed of 2 bundles of zinc roofing material and nails per family. The kits will be provided to families which have constructed initial sub-structure (walls constructed from ground to roof) within maximum of 2 months.

Further shelter assistance may be provided later through community-based reconstruction projects, or link into existing or planned projects being implemented by partner agencies.

#### **4.4.4 Distribution Centres:**

In order to encourage Self-Return/ Repatriation of IDPs and returnees, LRRRC in conjunction with UNHCR and other stake holders will establish distribution centres at all strategic concentration centers in main counties of return for the distribution of reintegration packages and reimbursement of transportation cost to registered returnees and IDPs.

The distribution guidelines to be issued by RWC3 will ensure that all registered individual IDPs and returnees have equitable access to these items.

### **4.5 Phasing out and Consolidation of IDP camps**

As areas are declared safe and the resettlement process commences, the number of registered IDPs remaining in IDP camps will significantly reduce. Plans for the consolidation and/or phase-out of the camps shall be prepared by the Camp Management for consideration by County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee . The overall goal will be to reduce the number of camps, so the camp areas can be returned to their former use. Efforts will be made to avoid the possible occupation of such camps by other non-displaced persons. This plan will examine the possibilities to relocate remaining IDPs to alternative campsites if their camp is to be closed. A similar process will also be used for displaced returnees in temporary settlements. At the same time government will identify land for displaced families which choose to remain in the surrounding area.

In the consolidation exercise, there is a need to be familiar with the individual circumstances of remaining displaced families. Critical elements to consider include but are not limited to the following:

- Estimated time period for non-safe areas to be declared safe,
- Trauma,
- School attendance, and
- Coping strategies.
- Receptivity of home communities

#### **4.5.1 Community Environmental Rehabilitation Programme (CERP)**

Due to prolonged civil conflict in Liberia, IDP camps have been in existence mainly around Monrovia for over a decade. Many local communities in Montserado, Bong and Margibi Counties have become overwhelmed by increased needs of tens of thousands of IDPs. There has been significant destruction of environment as people settled and searched for building materials to build shelter. Additionally, water tables have been reduced by the increased tapping of water resources for the camp residents. There will be need to develop a comprehensive Community Environmental Rehabilitation Programme (CERP) aimed at addressing these environmental concerns at the existing IDP camps, during the return process and after the camps have been closed. The programmes will be developed with the local communities and relevant government authorities.

#### **4.5.2 Camp closure**

As counties / districts are declared safe for return a gradual process of preparing IDPs currently resident in camps for transportation and resettlement will begin. Consolidating existing IDP camps and working closely with the host communities to rehabilitate local infrastructure and the local environment will be planned for in advance. A number of steps will be taken, that will be slightly different on a camp by camp basis depending on the type of impact the IDPs have had on the local environment. A summary of the key issues that all camps will need to be prepared for includes:

1. Information / sensitization

As IDPs are informed of the planned transportation and resettlement arrangements, local community leaders should be included in the planning and implementation of the process.

2. Host community restoration / rehabilitation

This includes undertaking a thorough analysis of each camp and the level of damage that has occurred to the local environment as a result of the construction of camp, deforestation and pollution factors. This is particularly relevant in communities where income generating resources such as palm trees have been removed to make space for the camp. Additionally, efforts to examine economic repercussions of the departure of displaced families will be undertaken with assistance provided as needed and as possible.

3. Security

Adequate measures will need to be in place which address minimizing influxes of new inhabitants from local community as IDPs depart and adequate protection measures for IDPs during camp closure.

4. Camp Consolidation

As counties of return are declared safe, certain camps that have a majority of IDPs from that location will be targeted for consolidation. Specific issues that should be anticipated include:

- relocation between camps (including policy of relocation of Extremely Vulnerable Individuals)
- forward planning based on levels of security in return Counties and subsequent return of IDPs.
- policy on maintenance or closure of certain camps: based on camp resources and camp management capabilities.
- use / management of empty huts.
- tracking system for monitoring population flow.
- consolidate planning figures for phase-down and resettlement.<sup>7</sup>
- planning and coordination of the consolidation of IDP camps and temporary settlements as beneficiaries enter the resettlement process. This will include the dismantling of booths of resettling people and, where feasible, the relocation of remaining displaced people from unsafe areas into a smaller number of camps to allow for the closure of others.

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<sup>7</sup> This information will be consolidated through information provided by LRRRC, OCHA, UNHCR and other agencies. Actual entrants onto the resettlement programme (IDPs and returnees) will be monitored by HIC

## **5 4Rs<sup>8</sup> Transitional Planning Approach**

In order to ensure a systematic approach to the needs of displaced populations, the related Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction (4Rs) processes will have to be linked from the onset. It is essential that immediate community assistance upon return have direct linkages with long term national development goals in line with the 4Rs transitional planning. As outlined in the RFTF for cluster 3, resettlement programmes should address the four sector priorities through community involvement in the prioritization, design and implementation processes. They should also avoid the establishment of parallel structures and incorporate a transition plan that avoids leaving the communities without social services. The key priority needs for RFTF for Cluster 3 include;

- Essential restorative support in transport and logistics, household, food assistance, basic services and shelter to all displaced populations
- Social Protection and Legal Assistance during return and while settled in the communities
- Strengthening Community Structures in managing community recovery process
- Enhancing Community Based Recovery by providing opportunities to the communities to develop themselves

Resettlement and Reintegration programmes should aim at addressing these RFTF priority needs in a comprehensive manner. Building capacity of local institutional and involvement of line ministries in the planning process will certainly ensure sustainable phase out by humanitarian partners. Developing community inclusiveness in the implementations of the programmes will enhance community ownership of the programmes further developing sound foundation for long term development initiatives, sustainability and consolidation of peace.

### **5.1 Rehabilitation of Basic Services**

Various assessments have revealed that return of the displaced populations to their counties of origin is significantly contingent on the revitalization of basic social services. Thus, one of the main focuses of the NTGL and humanitarian communities is to carry-out the immediate improvements needed in the social service sectors in previously inaccessible areas. This mainly includes activities in Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Education and activities supporting shelter rehabilitation.

Planning for basic services has to include all actors including the local community, NTGL, the donor community and UN agencies from the onset. It is critical that line ministries approve all projects to ensure coordination, the staffing and maintenance of facilities and the eventual ownership over basic services. The involvement of line ministries and relevant state authorities is vital for long-term sustainability of programmes. UN agencies and other stake holders will be encouraged to develop a common integrated approach towards the rehabilitation of basic services.

Information gathered on the status of basic services will be entered into a management information system to support targeting and monitoring. This will be managed by the HIC and be inter-linked with information on the broader recovery process. These should be coordinated fully within the cluster dealing with Basic Services (RWC#6.)

#### **5.1.1 Health and Nutrition Sector**

In the case of the health and nutrition sector, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, in association with the national-level health technical sub-committee, will inform the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee of any new central policies or procedures that are enacted. These may relate to

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<sup>8</sup> The 4R Approach (Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction) is further explained in the 'UNHCR Framework for Durable Solution.'

the way health personnel are paid or the resumption of cost-sharing schemes whereby local communities effectively cover the costs of primary health care services. The Ministry will also develop close partnership with UN agencies, county health authorities and other key players during the planning and implementation of projects. and approve all health care projects The main activities envisaged in this sector include:

- The relocation of County Health teams and essential services, primary health care networks, structures and capacities in all counties and districts.
- Ensuring that at least one referral secondary level hospital exists for a region of no more than three counties.
- The strengthening of existing community outreach health services, including reproductive health, sensitization campaigns and home care for HIV/AIDS patients
- Placement of trained social workers at county and district levels to support communities during resettlement and reintegration.
- Training of all health workers to identify incidence of SGBV and establishment of medical response team for survivors of sexual and gender based violence
- Provision of equipment and drugs, medical supplies and other consumables as required.
- Provision of ambulance services to main referral hospitals and health centers.

### **5.1.2 Water and Sanitation**

In regard to water and sanitation the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee will support programmes aimed at rehabilitation of rural water and sanitation facilities in the main areas of return in collaboration with County Watsan committees and with the approval of the line ministry and the full participation of the community, the interventions will aim at;

- Supporting inter agency initiatives on training the community on household chlorination through local production of chlorine, water management and usage
- Encourage community participation in Watsan by involving men and women community leadership in selection and management of facilities
- Support and train the communities to construct community and household VIP latrines and waste disposal methods
- Rehabilitate existing wells and hand pumps in main areas of return
- Revitalize environmental sanitation programmes within the community

### **5.1.3 Education**

In coming returnee and IDPs will exert immense pressure on education facilities. Programmes must aim at rapidly increasing the holding capacity of primary schools and teacher training programmes. Activities in this sector should be strictly planned with Ministry of Education and other actors in prioritization and mapping of projects and locations of interventions with the aim of:

- Rehabilitation and construction of primary and secondary schools
- Supplying of furniture and learning materials ,
- Mobilization of communities to support educational initiatives..
- Supporting vocational training institutes,
- Identification and in service training for teachers,
- Integrating peace, education, gender, HIV/AIDS and environment issues in schools curricula, and
- Promoting equal participation of girls.

## **5.2 Start Up Reintegration Assistance**

Given that resettling IDPs and returnees will be only provided with a food ration for two months from their time of arrival in their resettlement area, many will face a food gap before the first harvest or, in non-agricultural areas, before their livelihoods are in such a position as to be free standing. As a result, employment-based safety net schemes may be provided to support them during this initial period. These

could include public works schemes in which food or other remuneration are received; for example, the reconstruction of roads and food-for-agriculture activities. These schemes would be gender sensitized and when necessary provide additional support to better ensure the active participation of women. Long term livelihood programs should begin during this period and be integrated into humanitarian programs.”

The Resettlement and Reintegration Working Groups, within which food aid and agricultural agencies are represented, will assess opportunities for initiating such schemes. These schemes should be targeted at the most vulnerable within the community and be open to all beneficiary types. Particular attention should be given to vulnerable female-headed households and other especially vulnerable groups when designing these schemes.

### **5.2.1 Support to Agricultural Practices**

Pre-production interventions should be coordinated with the Ministry of Agriculture and RWC #7 and will include:

- Targeted distribution of food inputs to displaced and host communities.
- Farm families in camps could be provided with information pertaining to the state of agricultural conditions and potential before departure.

Anticipated interventions include:

- Provision of agricultural inputs (seeds and tools)
- Provision of seed protection ration (food)
- Provision of Food for Work/Food for Agriculture
- Capacity building of local NGOs to deliver inputs to beneficiaries (i.e. transportation, logistics, administrative costs, etc.)
- Provision of technical assistance and extension services from the Ministry of Agriculture and NGOs.
- Provision of post-harvest loss measures such as processing equipment (rice mills and cassava graters) and infrastructure (drying floors, seed stores and market structures).
- Establishment of community seed saving operations (e.g. seed banks and seed exchange schemes).
- Particular attention should be given to female and child headed households

In addition to standard seeds and tools assistance, there are other support measures that can be provided to support agricultural and livelihood start-up. These include small-scale cash crop plantation rehabilitation, small livestock promotion and fishing. It is envisaged that these will be predominantly community-based activities.

### **5.2.2 Self Reliance Support In Urban Areas**

The most vulnerable groups in urban areas will need to be monitored by the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee to gauge their coping mechanism during this transitional period. Opportunities through employment-based schemes, such as skills training and youth employment projects will be specifically developed. These programmes will target the support to vulnerable groups mentioned in xx. Returnee and IDPs returning to urban areas will benefit from non-farm, start-up livelihood support measures as alternative safety nets and means of subsistence. These livelihood programmes will include;

- Micro Credit Schemes
- Small Business Management Training
- Technical Skills Training
- Marketing Assistance



### **5.3 Community-Based Recovery**

All displaced populations will also benefit from targeted employment-based safety net schemes. It is expected that these will be provided during the first agricultural season, after this time, it is envisaged that food security monitoring in resettlement areas will clarify whether further food assistance is required. Following resettlement, continued support may be available in the form of community-based reconstruction and rehabilitation activities that enhance reconciliation and livelihood development underlining the community participatory approach. Guidelines for this will be developed by Community Development Working Group (CDWG) which will focus on common approach to community development. Activities aimed at Community based recovery will include:

- Community shelter rehabilitation and construction programmes
- Water management and sanitation
- Support to agriculture practices
- Fishing implements and livestock rehabilitation
- Support to programmes targeting women and youth
- Rehabilitation of community infrastructure
- Provision of micro-credit and management training
- Leadership training for women, girls and youths
- Support to local environmental programmes
- Small enterprise promotion and vocational training schemes
- Provision of nets, traps and other fishing equipment
- Capacity building of community structures in particular women and gender groups as well as community workers

#### *Community Reconciliation and Consolidation of Peace*

Programmes addressing consolidation of peace among different communities will be given priority in order to address past inter-group conflicts and to avoid potential conflicts among different war affected populations. As noted in section 4.3 these programs will commence simultaneously with the host and receiving communities and in Refugee/ IDP camps before the return commences. Civil society and local NGOs will be at the forefront of all interventions with attention given to the equal participation of women and children.

At the same time efforts will be made to coordinate the return and resettlement of displaced populations with on-going reconciliations activities for ex-combatants. Additionally, matters of concern to displaced populations will be brought to the attention of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia and the working group on Rule of Law for inclusion in their activities.

Community-based activities should involve the participation of all members of the community, ensuring the equal participation of women and different war-affected populations, this is a pre-requisite for building both the community and households' livelihood security and will facilitate the reconciliation process. It is therefore crucial that the communities concerned have a sense of ownership and are empowered to determine their own destiny, this includes community prioritization of needs and participation in the project design and implementation process. Such activities will be the cornerstone for supporting the resettlement and reintegration of and different war-affected populations." and their dependents into the local economy and society.

Community Based Recovery programmes can benefit from the following funding programmes.

- UNDP DRR Trust Fund
- UNDP Governance Trust Fund
- World Bank Post Conflict Fund-
- UNHCR Community Empowerment Projects (CEPs)
- UNHCR Sectoral Reintegration Programs

- Funding from USAID, ECHO, Dfid
- Multilateral donors EU, World Bank .
- Reintegration Programmes by NGOs, international organization, UN agencies and line ministries

## **6 Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **6.1 Information Management System**

The Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) will act as a focal point for managing information pertaining to the resettlement process. HIC will provide support and technical back up on collection of relevant data, which includes tools for monitoring gender for the creation of sectoral data packs for all the counties and identifying priority vulnerable areas and critical gaps that exist both sectorally and geographically. The information generated by HIC will be made fully available to line ministries, partner agencies and donors. Furthermore, HIC will establish a decentralized structure by which up-country information kiosks allow all interested partners easy access to the information gathered. There should be ongoing strong effort to provide the NTGL including the RWC chairs and the line ministries with all available information.

### **6.2 Monitoring of the Resettlement Process.**

The Technical Committee on Resettlement and Reintegration (TCRR) will monitor the overall resettlement process nationally. The County Resettlement and Reintegration Committees will monitor the resettlement process within their respective Counties. This will including ensuring that adequate measures are put in place at each stage of the resettlement process.

Periodic assessments of how resettling populations are managing to cope in their areas of resettlement will be undertaken by the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee that will also coordinate the response to critical issues identified.

The safety and protection of resettling IDPs and returnees are to be monitored by the Security Assessment Committees for Resettlement ( see Section 3.1 above). This is to be supported by regular on the ground monitoring by LRRRC the field monitors.

## **ANNEX 1: Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement (SACR)**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### Overview

1. The implementation of the Accra peace accords (CPA) and of Resolution 1509 (2003) of the UN Security Council will result in the end of years of civil war in Liberia and provide the basis for the voluntary return in safety and dignity of all displaced populations, in particular refugees and IDPs in Liberia.

2. The resettlement of the displaced populations will be a process which depends on the improvement of the security situation, the effective deployment of UNMIL peacekeepers, the disarmament and demobilization of combatants, the restoration of state authority, and the free and unhindered access by relief and development agencies to all segments of the population.

3. The Integrated Mandate Implementation Plan (IMIP) sets-out in detail UNMIL mission goals, core programmes, and activities. The Results Focused Transition Framework (RFTF) establishes high level objectives in nine “clusters” jointly agreed upon by the NTGL, the aid and development agencies and the donors who pledged substantive funds in its support.

#### 4. Activities of SACR:

- Develop a set of objective criteria through which the Resettlement Assessment Committees at national and County level will assess the safety of Districts for resettlement
- Review the outcomes and recommendations made by County Resettlement Assessment Committees
- Endorse or reject the recommendations made by the County Resettlement Assessment Committees as to the Districts they have deemed safe for resettlement.
- Inform the public and County Resettlement Assessment Committees and County Resettlement and Reintegration committee the decision

#### 5. Composition of the Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement

The committee has following membership:

<b>Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement (SACR)</b>	
Membership	
1.	LRRRC Executive Director (Chairman)
2.	Ministry of Internal Affairs
3.	Police Director
4.	UNMIL/HC/RR
5.	UNMIL Force Commander
6.	UNMIL Deputy Force Commander
7.	UNMIL CivPol Commissioner
8.	UNMIL Head of MilObs
9.	UNHCR
10.	UNOCHA
11.	ICRC
12.	2 Representative of International NGOs
13.	2 Representative of National NGOs
14.	Representative of Interfaith Council

<sup>9</sup> The clusters are: 1) Security, 2) DDDR, 3) Resettlement, 4) Governance, 5) Elections, 6) Basic Services, 7) Productive Sectors, 8) Infra-Structure, 9) Economic Management

15. Representative of the Liberian Marketing Association
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- LRRRC Executive Director will be the chairman of the SACR and the office of LRRRC acts as the committee's secretariat. The quorum for SACR to make a recommendation is a majority of two thirds of at least ten members or alternate members being present.
- SACR will continue to meet until such a time as all Districts have been declared safe and that, following this, a sufficient period of time has elapsed for the committee to have confidence that resettlement has occurred both safely and securely.

## 6. Criteria and Benchmarks for Security Assessment

The committee will deliberate whether the following criteria for resettlement in a specifically defined County/District have been met:

### *a) General Security*

Security is a state of affairs whereby the resident population in a given area can live free of fear of being harassed, injured, kidnapped, forced against their will, or even killed by armed individuals and groups. Security benchmarks for safe return will include :

- Full deployment of UNMIL along main roads and in major towns
- Regular static and mobile UNMIL patrols in all other areas
- Disarmament of all previously armed Liberian elements (AFL, government militias, police, LURD, MODEL, and others)
- General absence of hostilities
- Few, if any reports on security incidents

### *b) Restoration of State Authority*

Restoration of state authority at the county and district level will remain a high priority for NTGL, this will further enhance the confidence of displaced people to return to their original homes. Key benchmarks are:

- Presence of superintendents at county level
- Presence of commissioners at district level
- Reopening of police stations,
- Reopening, on-going rehabilitation or plans for rehabilitation of courts and prisons factoring in adequate human resource capacity
- Reopening of basic public services
- Visible activities of civil administration, including FDA, LRRRC, NCDDRR
- Return of traditional chiefs

*c) Unhindered access of Relief and Development Agencies*

Free and unhindered access of relief and development co-ordination to the needy population would include ;

- Deployment of UN agencies and NGOs to various field locations
- Presence of agencies supporting the population in improving basic services and access to shelter,
- Distribution of food, and agricultural inputs
- Community Empowerment projects aimed at supporting self-reliance.

*d) Assessing Spontaneous Returns*

The presence of sizeable numbers of spontaneous returnees can be regarded as a sign that living conditions are in the process of returning to normal. The CRAC and SACR might consider any other issue brought to its attention, in particular issues relating to peace, security and inter-communal relations.

*e) Other issues*

SACR might consider any other issue brought to its attention, in particular issues relating to peace and security, inter-communal relations etc. Another indicator, which will guide the deliberations of the committee, is the analysis of UNSECOORD and the security phases in place for UN agencies.

**7. Information Gathering**

SACR will base its recommendations on precise information gathered in the areas under discussion, in particular discuss the reports and recommendations of the County Resettlement Assessment Committee (CRAC) and the UN's Area Security Management Teams. In addition, SARC may send out surveillance missions or invite participating agencies to study the situation and to provide consolidated assessment reports. All information must be submitted to the committee through the secretariat well in advance and must be circulated to the committee members prior to the meeting that deals with the respective issue(s). Information that is not circulated prior to a meeting cannot be considered for that particular meeting.

**8. Internal Procedures**

The Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement (SACR) may establish detailed internal procedures at any time.

## **ANNEX 2: County Resettlement Assessment Committee (CRAC)**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The main aim of the CRAC is assess whether each District within the County is sufficiently safe to allow for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons

The County level committees will meet on two times a month to assess the safety of the Districts within their jurisdiction. Their assessment will be based on a national-level set of objective criteria developed by the National Resettlement Assessment Committee. The County Resettlement Assessment Committee will recommend to the Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement those Districts it deem safe. The responsibility of the National body is to assess the recommendations made and either endorse or reject them. If the safety of a District is endorsed, the SACR, through its chairperson, will make this decision public and those displaced persons wishing to resettle in such a District will enter into the resettlement programme.

Membership

<b>County Resettlement Assessment Committee</b>
1. Regional LRRRC Co-coordinator / District Supervisor, LRRRC (Chair)
2. Deputy Superintendent for Development (Ministry of Local Government)
3. UN –CIVPOL
4. NCDDR Representative
5. UNMIL Sector Commander
6. UNMIL /HC
7. UNHCR
8. UNOCHA
9. ICRC
10. 2 INGOs Representative
11. 2 NNGOS Representative
12. IDP Representative
13. Representatives of Paramount Chiefs

Membership at the county level is bound to vary since not all agencies listed below are presented in all counties. LRRRC and County Superintendents will ensure that other major stakeholders present in the respective areas are represented in the working committees.

#### **Duties:**

The chairperson can call a meeting of the County Resettlement Assessment Committee each month (or as at a specified location).

Using the objective assessment criteria developed by the National Security Assessment Committee, the County Resettlement Assessment Committee will undertake the following for each District within their jurisdiction:

- Assess whether each District is sufficiently safe to allow for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons
- Upon consensus, to recommend to the National Resettlement Assessment Committee those Districts which are deemed sufficiently safe for resettlement

*Community Resettlement and Reintegration Strategy*

- For those Districts that have already been declared safe, to reassess whether the criteria set are being upheld and to assess whether those displaced persons resettling within the District under the Government of Liberia's resettlement programme are doing so in safety. If there are grounds to believe that the safety of resettling displaced persons is in jeopardy, to inform the National Resettlement Assessment Committee of these.

It is envisaged that the County Resettlement Assessment Committee will continue to meet until such a time as all Districts in the County have been declared safe and that, following this, a sufficient period of time has elapsed for the committee to have confidence that resettlement in the County has occurred both safely and securely.

## **ANNEX 3: Technical Committee on Resettlement and Reintegration (TCRR)**

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Technical Committee on Resettlement and Reintegration is the national-level body supporting the policy, planning and coordination of resettlement.

<b>TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR RESETTLEMENT AND REINTEGRATION</b>	
<b>Membership</b>	
1.	LRRRC (Chair)
2.	NCDDR
3.	UN-OCHA
4.	UNHCR
5.	UNMIL Civil Affairs
6.	Representative, Committee on Food Aid (CFA)
7.	Representative IDP Technical Committee
8.	IOM
9.	FAO
10.	UNICEF
11.	WHO
12.	USAID
13.	ECHO
14.	Representatives from NGOs
15.	Representative of IDPs,

#### Terms of Reference:

- To develop comprehensive strategic and operational plans, and coordinate the phase down of assistance in camps and host communities and the resettlement of displaced persons returning to various communities. Incorporate appropriate benchmarks, indicators and relevant tools into strategic plans and frameworks.
- To develop an integrated plan to align resettlement and reintegration programmes for IDPs, refugees, returnees and ex-combatants, and consolidate the planning figures for phase-down and resettlement.
- Planning and coordination of the consolidated of IDP camps and transitory settlements as beneficiaries go through the DD into the RR processes. This will include the dismantling of camps and resettlement areas and, where feasible, the relocation of remaining displaced people from insecure areas into a fewer number of camps to allow for the closure of others.
- Planning for the continued provision of humanitarian aid and support services to those displaced persons from areas yet to be declared safe and secure. To ensure that a system is in place to monitor the food security, health and nutritional situation within resettlement areas, and recommending further support mechanisms for vulnerable groups, whether or not they are returnees, resettling IDPs or existing resident populations.



### *Community Resettlement and Reintegration Strategy*

- Monitoring and evaluating the resettlement process to ensure that people return in safety and dignity. This will include ensuring that appropriate mechanisms and measures are in place to respond to any specific problems that may be encountered during resettlement. This may relate, for example, to the protection of resettling or resident populations or to the resolution of property or other disputes.
- To explore the opportunities for absorbing resettling displaced persons into income generating initiatives. In conjunction with cluster 7, encouraging the development of employment-based safety net schemes (e.g. food-for-work, agriculture, public works schemes and shelter programmes) and integrating these into the consolidated plan.
- Ensuring effective coordination, interaction and operational linkages with other working groups and RFTF working committees to ensure appropriate sequencing and enhanced impact. Also, ensure that the RWC 3 is adequately provided with operational progress and monitoring information in line with the RIMCO-approved implementation arrangements.
- Designing and overseeing the establishment of ad-hoc, sectoral task groups, and the evolution of lower-level (County, District and / or Area) coordination structures for the effective coverage of the entire country.

## **ANNEX 4: County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Introduction**

County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee will be formed under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Forum operating within each County to plan and co-ordinate resettlement activities. The main aim of the CRRC will be to develop comprehensive operational plans and coordinate the phase down of assistance in camps and host communities and the resettlement of displaced persons returning to the County CRRC will also be expected to integrate resettlement and reintegration programmes for IDPs, refugees and ex-combatants

The membership for the CRRC will include:

<b>County Resettlement and Reintegration Working Committee</b>
1. LRRRC (Chair)
2. NCDDR
3. Ministry of Interior
4. UN OCHA
5. UNHCR
6. UNMIL /HCRRR
7. WFP
8. IOM
9. UNICEF
10. FAO
11. WHO
12. ICRC
13. Representative of Child Protection agency
14. Representative of IDPs

### Activities

- A. Planning and co-ordination for the phase-down of assistance in camps and host communities

The responsibilities of the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee in regard to phase down include:

1. Close liaison with the Resettlement Assessment Committees regarding Districts that have been declared safe for resettlement of displaced persons in IDP camps and temporary settlements
2. Information sensitization campaign for phase down and resettlement
3. Inform camp management and other agencies of the procedures and timelines for the phasing-down of food aid to displaced persons entering into the resettlement programme
4. Consolidate planning figures for phase-down and resettlement<sup>10</sup>
5. Planning and coordination of the consolidation of IDP camps and temporary settlement as beneficiaries enter the resettlement process. This will include the dismantling of booths of

<sup>10</sup> This information will be consolidated through information provided by LRRRC, OCHA, food pipeline agencies, UNHCR and other agencies. Actual entrants onto the resettlement programme (IDPs and returnees) will be monitored by an information system, which is to be set up and managed (HIC)

resettling people and, where feasible, the relocation of remaining displaced people from unsafe areas into a smaller number of camps to allow for the closure of others.

6. Planning for the continued provision of humanitarian aid and support services to those displaced persons from areas yet to be declared safe
7. To inform the other County Resettlement and Reintegration committee of the indicative number of displaced persons that are to resettle in their County
8. To monitor and evaluate the phase-down process
9. To inform the Technical Committee on Resettlement and Reintegration (TCRR) and Inter-Agency Forums of the status and experience of the phase-down process.

#### B. Resettlement planning and co-ordination

The responsibilities of the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee in regard to the resettlement programme include:

1. Identify, plan and coordinate the distribution of resettlement “start-up” packages at the designated drop off points;
2. To inform the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee in the County from which IDPs or displaced returnees are departing or the country from which refugees are repatriating of the system in place for supporting displaced persons as they arrive in their resettlement areas. This information will then form the basis of the information and sensitization campaign within the area of departure;
3. To co-ordinate with the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committees in the County from which displaced persons are departing of visits of these people to their resettlement areas so that they can inform camp residents of the support mechanisms that have been put in place for their resettlement. This may also include the organization of visits by Paramount Chiefs to camps or host communities to provide further confidence to displaced persons about to enter the resettlement process;
4. To inform District-level officials of the declaration of safety for resettlement and expected numbers that may return;
5. To assess critical gaps in basic service provision within each area of resettlement and prioritize how these are to be addressed to ensure basic coverage within a reasonable timeframe<sup>11</sup>;
6. To explore the opportunities for absorbing resettling displaced persons into seeds and tools programmes and/or other income generating initiatives;
7. Encouraging the development of employment-based safety net schemes (e.g. food-for-work, agriculture, public works schemes, shelter programmes);
8. To ensure that a system is in place to monitor the food security and nutritional situation within resettlement areas. Information emanating from the monitoring system should be used for recommending further support mechanisms for vulnerable groups, whether returnees, resettling IDPs or existing resident populations;
9. To monitor and evaluate the resettlement process to ensure that people return in safety and dignity. This will include ensuring that appropriate mechanisms and measures are in place to respond to any specific problems that may be encountered during resettlement. This may relate, for example, to the protection of resettling or resident populations or to the resolution of property or other disputes<sup>12</sup>.

#### Responsibilities of LRRRC

- To chair the Resettlement and Reintegration committee

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<sup>11</sup> This will be assessed by each of the relevant sectors, which can also be supported by LRRRC’s field monitors.

<sup>12</sup> For example, use may be made of Housing Committees at the local-level for resolving cases in which houses of returning populations have been occupied. Such committees be established by UNMIL Civil Affairs and comprise the District Authorities, LRRRC, local community leaders, representatives of ex-combatant groups, representatives of the IDP or returnee community and UNMIL Civil Affairs.

### *Community Resettlement and Reintegration Strategy*

- As Chair, to prepare draft plans and minutes of each meeting, as well as to act as a focal point for information dissemination
- To co-ordinate and implement the information and sensitization campaign. This will include close collaboration with IDP and returnee representatives, camp management agencies and the County Resettlement and Reintegration Committee of the region in which IDPs are resettling.
- To inform the Inter-Agency Forum and TCRR of the status and developments within the resettlement process

The setting up of CRRC is not intended to duplicate existing co-ordination mechanisms, such as the sector committees and inter-agency forums, rather it is to act as a focal point into which existing committees can both provide inputs and co-ordinate the implementation of their sectoral responsibilities contained within the resettlement plan.

## **ANNEX 5 : Protection Related Issues**

Protection issues will form the core of the overall return and resettlement planning process and the following issues will be specifically considered.

### **Informed Decision-Making**

Information dissemination regarding return and resettlement should aim to ensure that returns are made voluntarily, in safety and with dignity. Voluntariness requires: access to relevant, accurate, and neutral information and freedom of choice. Freedom of choice is measured by an absence of physical, psychological or material pressure. IDPs and Returnees should have viable options – if they do not wish to return home then reintegration support and basic services should be available in the communities where they choose to settle. Information on the conditions in home communities, return policies and procedures, and reintegration support should be provided directly to IDPs and Returnees and not only through camp leadership structures. Special efforts should be made to ensure that information reaches vulnerable groups such as the elderly, the chronically ill, the disabled, women and children. The humanitarian community should facilitate “go and see” as well as “come and tell” visits to/from areas of return. Finally, IDPs and Returnees themselves should participate in planning and implementing information campaigns.

### **Property Rights**

Measures will be taken to ensure that local mechanisms – either civil courts or traditional structures - are in place to resolve disputes over land and property ownership. Where traditional structures exclude minority groups, minorities seeking to return home should have effective access to redress for property rights violations. Such redress might be found in alternative mechanisms composed of members of a broad spectrum of the community (women, religious leaders, etc.). Women will be informed of their legal right to inherit property from deceased relatives, including their husbands, and communities should be sensitised to the rights of returnees, especially women, to their land and property. Children, especially those that have been orphaned, should be assisted to get their parents' property and their right to inheritance must be protected

### **Special Measures to Protect Individuals with Particular Protection Concerns**

*Registration, profiling, and analysis:* IDPs should be registered and profiled before return to identify potential protection problems. Separated children should be registered separately, but cross-referenced to the family with whom they are staying.

*Victims and perpetrators of violence:* Reconciliation processes (such as peace building activities) should be in place at the community level to support the protection concerns of people associated with the fighting forces (women, girls, boys and XCs), and victims of the war.

*Women and girls:* Assistance programs should empower women, including female-headed households and women associated with the fighting forces. Local security forces will receive gender and protection training so that they can respond appropriately to protection needs, particularly those of women and children.

*Separated/Unaccompanied children as well child headed households .* Children under these categories must be identified prior to the return process to ensure that a best-interest determination is made with regard to their return or resettlement. Tracing agencies should be informed about the location of all separated children. Children should not be moved in the absence of a caregiver. Families should be encouraged to keep their children together as much as possible during return, and to minimize the risk of them becoming separated (for example by giving them a heavy load to carry). “

**Monitoring**

Returnee monitoring will be ensured through protection networks of CBOs and national agencies and local authorities including female members at the District level. For the purposes of return planning, mechanisms should be established to monitor protection issues:

- Before return – security, existing/potential inter-group conflict among XCs, between XCs and civilians, between different ethnic communities, between the settled communities and returnees, etc.
- During return – mere presence can enhance protection. Monitors (including females) should be present at transit points to ensure that searches and distributions are conducted in a dignified manner; along the road to promote the free movement of IDPs and returnees returning by foot; and in communities of return to assess the way in which new arrivals are received. Children easily get lost in crowd, therefore, there is a need to have systems to monitor and track children who get lost during the return process.
- After return - discrimination (with respect to employment, participation in local governance, etc.), stigmatisation of survivors of GBV, lack of access to land and property, lack of access to education, etc.

In particular, monitoring should focus on persons without access to two significant sources of protection: the family (i.e. unaccompanied/separated children, female heads of households including widows, ex-combatants who may be rejected by their parents, single elderly) and the community (i.e. members of minority groups not represented by the dominant clan chief).

## **ANNEX 6 : Guidance Notes on Persons with Special Needs**

### **Transport Related:**

1. Certain categories e.g. expectant mothers, elderly and frail, chronically ill and newly born should be supported with more appropriate means (road conditions permitting) e.g. by the use of buses.
2. Use of steps (ladders) will be available to facilitate people with the boarding and disembarkation of passengers including, in particular, vulnerable persons.
3. A medical escort, equipped with first aid equipment, will be provided for each convoy to cater for any health incidents.
4. Provide basic feeding for the convoy trips e.g. high protein biscuits or bread and sardines and drinking water will be provided for each person on the journey.
5. Provision for medical screening before people board the vehicles for repatriation to avoid people unfit to travel getting onboard and becoming critically ill during the journey. Ideally, allowance will be made to enable family members to wait for patients and travel at a later date.

### **Mass Information:**

6. Mass information campaigns will be developed to specifically target the different needs of men and women and children. Women and children should be facilitated to make informed choices and know their rights so as to limit vulnerability that may lead to exploitation and other forms of abuse. The option of using some of the IDPs in the mass campaign should be considered. Special measures should be taken to reach those who are chronically ill and/or are not in a position to benefit from a mass information effort.

### **Child Protection:**

7. Presence of Child Protection agencies to screen, identify document and register separated/unaccompanied children and, where possible, to link up with family tracing agencies in areas of origin will be supported. Child protection agencies should also be involved in sensitization on the return and reintegration process. The best interests of the child should be the guiding principle in any decisions taken.

### **Way Stations**

8. Separate toilet and bathroom facilities for men and women but both at a safe or culturally acceptable distance from each other will be provided.
9. Ensure that female NGO, LRRRC and UN staff are part of the return process to provide support and guidance for such groups.

### **Return Kits**

10. Provision of kits to all assisted returnee families should include sanitary material for all girls and women above the age of 12 years. (The suggested package is 2 Lappas, 1 medium towel and 2 underpants per individual female.

### **Return Assistance**

11. Special help with shelter and other “settling-in” requirements for FHH (female headed households) and others with special needs should be planned for.

## **ANNEX 7 : Results Focused Transition Framework Working Committee RWC # 3**

**1. Chairman: Minister of Internal Affairs**

**2. Co-Chair: LRRRC**

**3. Co-Chair: UNOCHA**

**4. Co -Chair: UNHCR**

### **Members**

5. Ministry of Rural Development
6. Ministry of Health Social Welfare
7. Ministry of Gender and Development .
8. Ministry of Youth and Sports
9. ICRC
11. UNDP
12. WHO
13. UNFPA
14. FAO
14. UNICEF
15. WFP
16. UN -Habitat
17. EU/ECHO
18. USAID
19. ARC
20. NRC
21. CCF
22. LUSH
23. NARD-TRA