

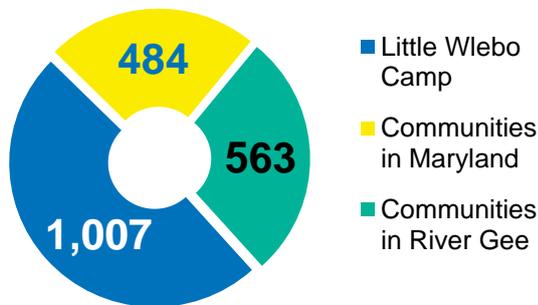
Liberia - Little Wlebo Refugee Camp & communities (Maryland and River Gee)

March 2018

<p>2,054</p> <p>Ivorian refugees in Maryland County</p>	<p>1,007</p> <p>Ivorian refugees In Little Wlebo Camp</p>	<p>1,047</p> <p>Ivorian refugees in Host Communities</p>	<p>10,728</p> <p>Refugees repatriated since December 2015</p>
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POPULATION OF CONCERN

2,054 people of concern live in Maryland and River Gee counties



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- The Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC): general security of the camp, camp management, and food distribution
- Special Emergency Activities to Restore Children Hope (SEARCH): Child Protection, Education and Community Mobilisation.
- African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD): Logistical support and maintenance of UNHCR and partner vehicles, Camp Shelter Management, and Voluntary Repatriation, support for Local Integration.
- Liberian National Police (LNP): Security for refugees at the camp under LRRRC supervision.

Overview

- Little Wlebo Camp (LWC) is located in Maryland County approximately 15km from Harper City. It lies at Latitude N4° 27' 02.68" and Longitude W 7° 44' 30.98". The Liberian government and people have been generous in the allocation of 3 square kilometres of land for use by refugees.
- The camp was first opened in 2002, when Ivorians fled into Liberia for fear of their personal safety and security, but the camp was later closed; it was re-opened in 2011.
- Following the Government of Liberia's encampment policy for refugees announced in 2012 and ended in June 2013, assistance to refugees in the communities — where most of those fleeing the electoral dispute were settled -- was discontinued. LRRRC/UNHCR relocated refugees to LWC on a voluntary basis. As of 28 February 2018, the refugee population in Maryland County is 1,491 (1,007 in LWC and 484 in Maryland host communities). There are also 563 Ivorian refugees living in River Gee host communities.
- Field Office Harper (Maryland) officially closed on 31 December 2017. UNHCR Liberia Sub Office in Zwedru (Grand Gedeh) oversees the activities in Little Wlebo Camp.
- The name of the refugee camp will be changed by the government authority to a preferred name as part of the local integration process and the corresponding Alternative to Camps policy. In line with the local integration strategy, LWC will be transformed into a village settlement in which both refugees and host communities will live together under the authority of a Town Chief.

Operational Priorities

Local Integration

Through a mixed solutions approach, UNHCR Liberia supports the local integration of Ivorian refugees in Maryland County who opt to remain in Liberia. The local integration of these refugees is done in phases: inclusion into national structures such as education and health; establishing livelihoods, transformation of camps into villages and settlements; and legalising the integration process.

EDUCATION TRANSITION

- Since February 2017, the now called Little Wlebo Extension Public Elementary School (LWC) has moved from the Ivorian curriculum to Liberian curriculum. In line with local integration, the primary school in LWC is now registered in the Education Management Information System (EMIS) and is full part of all primary schools registered in Maryland.
- Little Wlebo Extension Elementary School, supervised by the local Ministry of Education (MoE) Office in Maryland County, is also one of the 27 schools selected for Maryland County as a recipient of the World Food Programme (WFP) School Feeding Programme (SFP). As part of the activities in line with WFP School Feeding Programme (SFP) in this school, two gardens have been created to plant vegetables.
- 12 Liberian teachers work in this school and are being paid by UNHCR until they can be incorporated into the government payroll.

- UNHCR has provided a motorbike to the Liberian school principal.
- At the beginning of the school year, students received copy books and stationary. During the 2017/2018 academic school year, uniforms, shoes, book bags were also distributed.
- UNHCR has handed over the renovated teachers' quarters to the County Education Office.
- The primary school has 20 semi-permanent classrooms, a permanent building of six classrooms and an administrative block. The school fencing is being done by refugees themselves.



Little Wlebo Extension Elementary School fencing ©UNHCR

HEALTH TRANSITION AND WASH

- Little Wlebo Extension Clinic was officially handed over to the Maryland County Health Team (CHT) at the end of December 2017.
- Several construction works at the clinic have been carried out, including the incinerator and placenta pit, latrines and the delivery room. UNHCR has also handed over the renovated nurses' quarters to the County Health Team (CHT).
- In line with the local integration process, UNHCR partner AIRD is repairing shelters of Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs).
- All WASH facilities in Little Wlebo Camp were officially handed over to the Ministry of Public Works. The ceremony was attended by the Development County Superintendent, County WASH coordinator from the Ministry of Public works, AHA, UNHCR, LRRRC, refugee community, host community members and the CHT. Handed over material include pumps, bathhouse, tool kits, spare parts, protective personal equipment and environmental cleaning tools. WASH mobilizers and pump repair technicians have received their certificates of achievements.



WASH handover ceremony and technicians with their certificates. ©UNHCR

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LINKS

- [Operational Portal - Facebook](#)