



Focus Group Discussion with Refugee Adolescent Girls

## SIERRA LEONE

## FACTSHEET

APRIL 2016

### HIGHLIGHTS

Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) assessment conducted with refugees

Refugees and hosts benefit from sensitization workshop on Sexual Offences Act 2012

UNHCR engages government authorities on statelessness and refugee related issues

#### Population of concern

As of 31 April 2017, Sierra Leone is host to 689 Persons of Concern, of which 688 are Refugees and 1 Asylum Seeker.

#### By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Liberia	657
Sudan	8
Ivory Coast	22
Mali	1
Palestine	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>689</b>

#### Funding

USD 362,000 requested

Funded	Gap
218,343	143,657

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

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**Describe, in a few words, UNHCR's involvement in coordination mechanisms, including in sector groups, working groups and clusters.**

- In 2017, UNHCR Sierra Leone continues to work with only one implementing partner-the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) which is the Government Partner implementing Protection-related activities.
- UNHCR works in close collaboration with relevant Government Line Ministries, Departments and Agencies, the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) and National Human Rights Commission for Sierra Leone for the development of its National Action Plan to eradicate Statelessness; Revision of the Refugee legislation and issuance of long term residence permit as an alternative status to the remaining refugee population.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

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**Describe main activities in the country and their impact on the population.**

- UNHCR in collaboration with its Implementing and Government Partner, the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) conducted an Age, Gender and Diversity Assessment to identify protection risks refugees face in their local communities and propose possible solutions for redress. This exercise informed programme planning for 2018 and the review of 2017 activities to ensure appropriate actions are taken to address some critical concerns such as reinforcing information campaigns to minimise false and high expectations of third country resettlement; local integration as a viable durable solution in Sierra Leone and teenage pregnancy.
- In March 2017, the National Refugee Secretariat located within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened two meetings with members of the National Refugee Authority namely; Government Line Ministries, Agencies and Departments, Parliament, Human Rights Commission for Sierra Leone, National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) and UNHCR to discuss the way forward to expediting the revision of the National Refugee Legislation to ensure consistency with International Standards; reinforce advocacy with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Immigration for issuance of residence permits to integrating refugees with a minimum validity of 5 years rather than the standard one year validity. This would facilitate refugees' smooth integration in the country and enhance their physical protection.
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs in collaboration with UNHCR conducted three meetings of interim-task force committee in February and March 2017, in preparation of its National Action Plan workshop scheduled to take place in June 2017.
- With funds from UNHCR, NaCSA conducted Five (05) workshops on the Sierra Leone Sexual Offences Act 2012 and SGBV referral pathways in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs and the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police for refugees and hosts in the South-Eastern refugee hosting communities, in March 2017. A total of 332 individuals benefitted from the workshop of which of 127 were refugees (80 female and 47 male). Participants were equipped with basic knowledge/skills in SGBV prevention and response including provisions in the Act.

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