



HIGHLIGHTS

1,108

Refugees repatriated during March 2017

56

Liberian teachers, including 3 Principals, hired by the Ministry of Education

33

Ivorian teachers, including 5 Vice Principals, hired by the Ministry of Education

21,832

Ivorian refugees repatriated since 18 December 2015

Population of concern

A total of **16,765** Persons of Concern

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Côte-d'Ivoire refugees	16,310
Sierra Leonean refugees	376
Various nationality refugees	63
Asylum seekers	16
Total	16,765
Others of concern	1,479

Funding

USD 16,194,818 requested

0% funded

UNHCR Presence

Offices

- 1 Country Office in Monrovia
- 1 Sub-Office in Zwedru
- 1 Field Office in Harper

Staff

- 72 national staff
- 13 international staff

Liberia

Reference map

as of 06 Apr 2017



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
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WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR works with the Government of Liberia through the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and provides funding to the following NGOs: Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), and Special Emergency Activity to Restore Children's Hope (SEARCH), to implement assistance in favour of refugees. Finnish Refugee Council, an operational partner supports adult literacy in PTP and Bahn camps.

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Voters' Registration (VR) exercise in preparation for the presidential and legislative elections that will take place in October 2017 finished on 14 March 2017. The National Elections Commission (NEC) received and processed 2,026,426 VR forms from 11 of the 15 counties. The NEC target was for 2.5 million registrations. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) foresees nonviolent elections. Following a visit to Liberia on 20-24 February 2017, an international delegation of the NDI is encouraged that all Liberians with whom they met have expressed "resolute commitment to nonviolence and peaceful elections". NDI disclosed that Liberians have expressed general confidence in the commitment of the NEC to running credible elections in the country.
- Liberia and the World Bank signed a USD16 million deal to strengthen the Health Sector. The Finance Minister of Liberia commended the World Bank during the signing ceremony of the project on 22 March 2017. This initiative seeks to improve the reproductive, maternal, new born child, and adolescent health.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- **Voluntary repatriation remains a key operational priority.** UNHCR, continues the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Grand Gedeh, Nimba, River Gee, and Maryland counties. In close collaboration with the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), 1,108 refugees returned to Cote d'Ivoire throughout March 2017. To date, 21,832 refugees have returned home since the resumption of the repatriation programme on 18 December 2015. Voluntary repatriation will be carried out until 30 June 2017. This number includes 36 UAMs (Unaccompanied Minors) who reached Cote d'Ivoire in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- **Education and Health Transition continues.** UNHCR, in collaboration with LRRRC, SEARCH and AIRD, have identified several facilities for the Liberian teachers in PTP Camp (Grand Gedeh County) and Little Wlebo Camp (Maryland County). These facilities will accommodate all teachers recruited as a result of the introduction of the Liberian curriculum in all primary schools in the camps, while renovation works also take place in Bahn refugee camp (Nimba County). As part of the integration process of Ivorian refugees in Liberia, classes are now fully in English from pre-grade to third grade. Following the merger of the primary school from Bahn Community with the camp schools, both Liberian and Ivorian children are accessing primary education in the newly named 'Bahn High Extension School'. Health clinics in the communities continue the merger process of most services with the clinics in the camps.
- **BPRM mission visits all 3 camps in Liberia:** From 10-16 May 2017, a delegation from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) visited Harper, Zwedru and Bahn as part of a 7-day mission to Liberia. The mission met with UNHCR, the newly recruited Liberian teachers, county officials, UN Agencies and NGO partners. Both the BPRM Refugee Coordinator and the Political Officer at the United States Embassy in Monrovia highlighted the favorable security situation in Cote d'Ivoire. In their meetings with refugee leaders, women and youth, the delegation encouraged them to take part in the voluntary repatriation, as it continues to be the best available durable solution, particularly those who want their children to continue their education in French and do not want to be integrated in Liberia.
- **Country Operation Plan (COP) Meeting for 2018-2019:** UNHCR Liberia held a four-day meeting in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County to discuss the Country Operation Plan (COP) for 2018-2019. On 27 and 28 February, discussions were internal and included staff members from Monrovia, Harper and Zwedru. On 01 and 02 March, participants included the Government of Liberia (LRRRC, representatives of several ministries), Implementing Partners, UN Agencies and refugees from Monrovia, PTP, Little Wlebo and Bahn camps. At the 2-day meeting with partners, group discussions took place on issues such as Education; Health; Alternatives to Camps and Social Cohesion; Livelihood; and Protection (SGBV, Child Protection, Person with Specific Needs, legal aspect). The Executive Director of LRRRC stated that the government of Liberia embraces the idea of integration and would work with UNHCR in developing a formal policy related to the local integration of Ivorian refugees.
- UNHCR has received \$10,000 of the SIDA funds specifically for institutional strengthening pillar. UNHCR is working to support the law reform process. There are 5 pillars on prevention, response, institutional strengthening, advocacy and social mobilisation and coordination. The funds was allocated to the UN agency leads. UNHCR only leads one activity under the pillar headed by UNDP. UNHCR will incorporate refugee SGBV programs into the national program. 6 counties including Nimba and Grand Gedeh are targeted for prevention and response under the joint programme.
- **International Women's Day (IWD):** Various activities and informative sessions took place in the Field Offices, as well as in the Branch Office, to mark the celebrations of the IWD. In Monrovia, and under the auspices of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Liberian government held a 2-day colloquium on 07-08 March under the national theme "Women Bold in Change for a Better World" and the Global theme "Be Bold for Change".

The ceremonies included speeches, musical concerts and marches, in which UNHCR participated along with LRRRC and SEARCH. On 09 March, refugees in the camps paraded with posters on SGBV awareness messages and t-shirts showcasing the UN theme for 2017, "Women in a changing world of work. Planet 50-50 by 2030. Speeches and indoor programmes also took place, and women and girls were encouraged to go to school and participate in skills training activities in the camp.



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