

UNHCR Liberia

July-September 2019

The Minister of Internal affairs hands over the first **13 permanent refugee housing units** in Bahn Settlement at an official ceremony.

272 Ivorian refugees return voluntarily to Cote d'Ivoire, raising the number to **987 Ivorian refugees repatriated in 2019**.

8,662 Total number of Persons of Concern in Liberia

POPULATION OF CONCERN

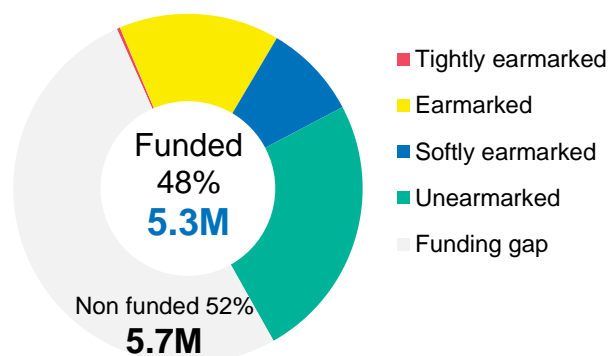
By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	8,539
Various nationality refugees	77
Asylum seekers	46
TOTAL:	8,662

* FUNDING (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2019)

USD 11M

requested for the Liberia situation



* For detailed information, [please see the funding update](#).

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

4 International Staff
40 National Staff
Affiliate Workforce =15

Offices:

1 Branch Office in Monrovia
1 Field Offices in Zwedru (PTP Settlement)
1 antenna presence in Harper (Little Wlebo Settlement)
1 antenna presence in Saclepea (Bahn Settlement)

Contacts

Zulqarnain Hussain Anjum, UNHCR Liberia Country Representative a.i.
anjum@unhcr.org, Tel: +90231012100

Ana Biurrun Ruiz, UNHCR Liberia Associate External Relations & Reporting Officer,
biurrun@unhcr.org, Tel: +90 231 01 2105,
Cell +231 880 823 283

LINKS: [Regional Portal](#) – [Facebook](#)



Highlights

1. Protection

In July 2019, UNHCR, UNHCR government partner the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) visited Sinje (Grand Cape Mount County) to continue the registration and certification of refugee children born in the county under the age of 12. Some 287 certificates were distributed and four (4) booklets of registration forms were provided to community volunteers to continue the registration process. From July January to September 2019, some 131 birth certificates have been distributed in PTP Settlement (Grand Gedeh).

As part of the capacity development initiatives to improve the national asylum system, UNHCR carried out a Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Induction workshop for five days. UNHCR and LRRRC jointly organized a briefing session on Protection Induction Programme. The session, attended by 30 participants, was aimed at UNHCR Counterpart LRRRC protection staff and refugee leadership.

2. Education

All locations: enrolment for 2019/2020 academic year.

The current enrolment of school going age (5 to 18 years-old) starting at grade 1 in all locations is close to 67 per cent. In order to achieve 100 per cent school enrolment rate, the office is working at all locations with the refugee parents in order to bring the children back to school and retention.

Tertiary education: on 13 July 2019, two male DAFI scholarship students successfully graduated from Grand Gedeh Community College in Zwedru. Interviews for candidates for the 12 new slots under DAFI scholarships are taking place in all the locations.

3. Handing over of Structures

Several structures completed last year were handed over to the government authorities and the local communities. In Bahn Health Centre, UNHCR turned over a waiting hall, female & male wards, an incinerator and an ambulance; in Bahn High Extension School, UNHCR handed over the newly built two annex classrooms, and at Bahn Police depot, a modern latrine was handed over.

UNHCR Representative a.i. and the Fiscal Affairs Superintendent, Radall Saydee, inaugurated the bridge linking PTP-1 and PTP-2. Saydee highlighted the value of the infrastructure in safe access of students to Tchien Public School and in the exchange of goods and services between refugees and host communities.



Local and county authorities of Nimba County, UNHCR government partner the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), UNHCR livelihoods Implementing Partner AIRD (African Initiatives for Relief and Development), and UNHCR staff, including UNHCR Liberia Country Representative a.i. Zulqarnain Hussain Anjum, during the mission in Nimba County. Photo: UNHCR and LRRRC/July 2019.

4. Shelter and NFIs

■ Shelter

On 11 September 2019, a local integration milestone was reached with the official handover of the 13 permanent refugee housing units in Bahn Settlement in Nimba county for Ivorian refugees wishing to remain in Liberia.

The Minister of Internal Affairs handed over keys to the refugee families and also presented the documents for provision of 315 acres of land to the refugees. He expressed strong appreciation to the land owners for providing land for the local integration of Ivorian refugees in Bahn and the deep hospitality showcased by Liberians.

LRRRC Executive Director, reminded each recipient to remain law-abiding and encouraged them to contribute to Liberian society. UNHCR Liberia Country Representative a.i., stated that Liberia continues to provide one of the most favourable protection environment for refugees in Africa. “We are far ahead for local integration of those unable/unwilling to return to Cote d’Ivoire”, he said.

Out of 70 units planned for this year, 45 are close to its finishing stage and UNHCR Liberia hopes to meet the target before the end of this year.



Some of the 13 durable shelter housing units handed over on 11 September 2019 in Bahn Settlement (Nimba County). Photo: UNHCR/A. Biurrun Ruiz/September 2019.



(L) The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Varney Sirleaf hands over the keys to the new tenants. (R) The MIA, Honourable Varney Sirleaf, unveils the plaque commemorating the handing over of the durable shelter housing units in Bahn Settlement. From left to right, UNHCR Liberia Country Representative a.i. Zulqarnain Hussain Anjum (behind); the MIA, Hon. Varney Sirleaf (front); Railey Myers, Development Superintendent of Nimba (behind); and LRRRC Executive Director, Reverend Festus Logan (front right). Photo: UNHCR/A. Biurrun Ruiz/September 2019.

In Zwedru (Grand Gedeh), UNHCR, UNHCR livelihoods Implementing Partner AIRD (African Initiatives for Relief and Development), LRRRC and block leaders completed the distribution of zinc to 275 head of households in PTP Settlement. Refugees in this location are targeted with shelter kits instead of provision of durable housing units like in Nimba County.

■ **NFIs**

UNHCR together with LRRRC and the Ministry of Gender, carried out the distribution of Non Food Items (NFIs) in Bahn Settlement and Saclepea. The distribution, which targeted 357 refugee families, included soap and used clothes.

Items also included mats, buckets, jerry cans, blankets and sanitary pads for targeted beneficiaries following vulnerability and special needs.

Sanitary kits (sanitary pads, soap and underwear) were distributed to females of reproductive age in PTP Settlement. Out of the 1359 targeted, 1335 showed up and received the kits. UNHCR and LRRRC distributed sanitary pads to 199 female refugees of reproductive age in Little Wlebo Settlement

5. **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

Starting after the mid-year, CBI interventions for livelihoods covered 366 families out of planned target of 970. As part of the local integration package for refugees wishing to remain in Liberia, livelihoods support is provided to them through CBI after conducting Small Business Management Training (SMBT). Following the vulnerability criteria, 20 per cent of the host community members are also included in the livelihoods programme under the local integration strategy as beneficiaries.

UNHCR, together with LRRRC, finalized the first phase of the livelihoods support to urban refugees in Monrovia. 85 per cent of the Ivorian refugee households (98 in total) living in the urban area of Monrovia are interested in receiving livelihoods support.

In Harper, a total of 59 heads of households who started livelihoods activities have finalized the small training on business management and are working on their business plan. They are being provided financial support through CBI. As of September 2019, UNHCR has reached all refugees interested in livelihoods activities in Nimba County. This represents 82 per cent of the total refugee population in the county. SMBT training is ongoing at PTP Settlement.

In addition, UNHCR's operational partner CARITAS has begun livelihoods activities in PTP Settlement, including the selection of 150 female-headed households to start an 18-month livelihoods programme. Livelihoods activities currently ongoing in the settlement include agriculture and the running of fish ponds, poultry and piggeries



Participants of the Small Business Management Training (SMBT) in PTP Settlement (Grand Gedeh County). Photo: UNHCR/J. Suah/September 2019.



Participants of the Small Business Management Training (SMBT) in PTP Settlement (Grand Gedeh County). Photo: UNHCR/J. Suah/September 2019.

6. Voluntary Repatriation

272 Ivorian refugees return voluntarily to Cote d'Ivoire, raising the number to **987 Ivorian refugees repatriated in 2019**. UNHCR Liberia is expecting to repatriate some 650 more refugees till the end of this year. The initial planned target for 2019 is 1500 (it is revised upward to 1650)

