



## HIGHLIGHTS

**4,904**

Extreme and Highly Vulnerable refugees benefited from Targeted Food Distribution

**6**

Primary Schools throughout PTP, Little Wlebo and Bahn camp are gradually transitioning to Liberian Curriculum

**19,848**

Ivorian refugees repatriated since 18 December 2015

**18,592**

Ivorian refugees remaining in Liberia as of January 2017

## Population of concern

A total of **19,047** Persons of Concern

### By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Côte-d'Ivoire refugees	18,592
Sierra Leonean refugees	376
Various nationality refugees	62
Asylum seekers	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,047</b>
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
- 14 international staff

### Liberia: Operational map



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
Printing date: 02 Feb 2015 Sources: UNHCR Feedback: mapping@unhcr.org Filename: lbr\_factsheetmap\_26-01-2015

## 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

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf applauded the peace Liberia has maintained in the past 11 years, and pledged to continue working with the UN and the international community. On 23 January 2017, President Sirleaf addressed the country in what was her last State of the Nation Address, as Liberian general elections are taking place on 10 October 2017. The Voter Registration Exercise begins on 01 February 2017 and the period leading up to the elections will be supported by the UN Mission in Liberia, which has extended its mandate until 30 March 2018 (Resolution 2333 of the Security Council).

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Protection

- Voluntary repatriation remains a key operational priority.** UNHCR, in close collaboration with the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) continues the screening and registration of refugees in Grand Gedeh, Nimba, River Gee, and Maryland counties, who are opting to voluntarily repatriate to Cote d'Ivoire. Voluntary repatriation will be carried out until 30 June 2017. Meanwhile, on 25 January, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 5 UAMS (Unaccompanied Minors) from PTP Camp joined their families in Cote d'Ivoire, becoming the first Ivorians to be voluntarily repatriated in 2017. This brings the total number of refugees repatriated since the resumption of the repatriation programme on 18 December 2015 to 19,848 refugees.
- Bilateral meeting with the Government of Liberia.** On 17 and 18 January 2017, the senior management of UNHCR and LRRRC held a two-day meeting to evaluate 2016 achievements and challenges, as well as the way forward on 2017 and beyond. The Executive Director of LRRRC highlighted the key role of the government in the implementation of UNHCR strategy in the country. This includes the active support to voluntary repatriate Ivorian refugees to Cote d'Ivoire, as well as the transfer, from UNHCR to the government of Liberia, of services such as Health, Education and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene). UNHCR and the Ministries of Health and Education have met throughout 2016 both in Monrovia and at Field level to develop the strategy that will guide the transition process.
- Education Transition continues.** Following the nomination of all corresponding principals, the Ministry of Education (MoE) continues to play an active role in the transition from Ivorian to Liberian curriculum in all refugee primary schools in the three camps. Amongst other steps taken, the MoE has nominated 7 Liberian teachers for Little Wlebo camp, and will also provide training to 11 bilingual teachers at PTP camp. Meanwhile, in Bahn camp classes will be imparted strictly in English from nursery to third grade. As part of the process of handing over all refugee schools to the Government, UNHCR, LRRRC, SEARCH and the MoE continue to work together towards the integration of refugees' education into the national structure. The transition will gradually begin in the second semester, which starts on 20 February 2017.
- Mission to Re-vet Red-Coded Cases.** 709 red coded individuals and their dependants have been re-vetted in Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal, who require passports. Of the 910 original 'Red Coded' individuals 561 were located in these 6 countries while 349 did not show up including Cote d'Ivoire and Mali who could trace only one person each out of 17 and 7 persons respectively. 148 individuals were vetted as dependents of the 561. 5 people were rejected in Ghana after being re-vetted and determined not to be Liberians. As 1 red coded case in Sierra Leone had his passport already printed, the government of Liberia has to provide 703 passports which still remains pending.
- Joint UN and Government Programme on SGBV.** Following on the MoU that was signed in December 2016 between the Minister of Gender and the UN Resident Coordinator on the behalf of five UN Agencies (UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNFPA), the UN Gender Theme Group (GTG) held its first meeting of 2017 on 31 January. Among other issues discussed was the annual work plan for the joint programme and the implementation and support from UN Agencies to government functionaries and civil society organizations for the 61st session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. It was agreed that in future, support to government should be channeled through the Resident Coordinators (RC's) office and the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) to prevent its abuse. In addition, UN Women would map existing services for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) survivors, especially for areas where refugees reside taking into account that UNHCR services to refugees are being integrated and are furthermore affected by budget cuts.
- Targeted Food Distribution (TFD):** Based on the vulnerability and food security assessment conducted after the cut-off of General Food Distribution in July 2016, UNHCR, WFP and LRRRC, concluded a Tripartite Agreement for TFD. Beneficiaries include refugees that are Extreme and Highly Vulnerable, which account for 5,393 refugees out of the overall 14,352 refugees living in the three camps.

TFD took place from 30 January to 01 February 2017, and will be carried out monthly until June 2017. During the distribution, 91% (4,904) of all targeted refugees showed up with their ration cards, previously distributed by UNHCR in collaboration with WFP, LRRRC and AHA. This is the first time vulnerable refugees will receive food support after general food distribution was ended in July 2016 due to financial constraints.

#### Contacts:

Ndeye Ndour, Representative, [ndour@unhcr.org](mailto:ndour@unhcr.org)  
Ana Biurrun Ruiz, Associate External Relations & Reporting Officer,  
[biurrun@unhcr.org](mailto:biurrun@unhcr.org)

*UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of the donors who have provided non-earmarked funding to UNHCR as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the Liberia operation so far in 2016: Denmark | UN Program on HIV/AIDS*

