

Liberia

December 2017

Voluntary Repatriation
7,638 Ivorian refugees repatriated in 2017

1,233
Birth certificates issued in 2017

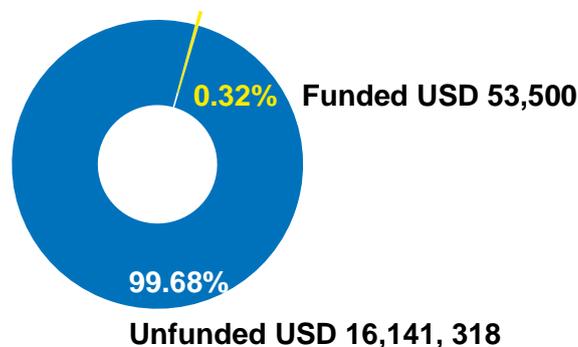
11,063
Ivorian refugees remaining in Liberia

POPULATION OF CONCERN: 11,533

By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	11,063
Various nationality refugees	63
Asylum seekers	33
Others of Concern (protracted Sierra Leonean refugees)	374
TOTAL:	11,533

FUNDING (AS OF DECEMBER 2017) requested for the Liberia operation



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 to provide protection and assistance in favor of refugees and asylum seekers:

- Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)
- African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)
- Special Emergency Activity to Restore Children's Hope (SEARCH).



Offices

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

Staff

- 59 National Staff
- 14 International Staff

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

2017 Presidential and Legislative Elections

- On 29 December 2017, the National Elections Commission (NEC) declared Senator George M. Weah, candidate of the Coalition for Democratic Change, winner of the Presidential runoff election held on 26 December 2017. Weah attained 61.5 % of the votes, while his contender, Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the former ruling Unity Party attained 38.5% of the votes.
- In a nationwide address, Boakai congratulated Weah and conceded his defeat appealing for unity. The elections were conducted in a peaceful manner and there were no incidents reported in any of the refugee camps in Liberia: PTP Camp (Grand Gedeh), Little Wlebo Camp (Maryland) and Bahn Camp (Nimba), or any of the hosting communities.
- The UN Security Council encouraged the incoming government and the UN to continue to coordinate on the transfer of responsibilities, taking into account UNMIL's closure at the expiration of its final mandate extension on 30 March 2018 -Resolution 2333 (2016).
- The President-elect is due to be sworn in on 22 January 2018, taking over from Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who has presided Liberia for the last 12 years leading Liberia's transition from a 14-year civil war.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Field Office Harper (Maryland) officially closed on 31 December 2017, while Field Office Saclepea (Nimba) closed on 31 December 2016. UNHCR Liberia presence remains a Branch Office in Monrovia (Montserrado), which oversees the activities in Bahn Camp (Nimba); and a Sub Office in Zwedru (Grand Gedeh), which oversees the activities in Little Wlebo Camp (Maryland).
- On 29 December 2017, the last convoy reached Côte d'Ivoire and officially closed the voluntary repatriation exercise facilitated by UNHCR Liberia and LRRRC. Since 18 December 2015, 27,481 Ivorian refugees have returned home. This figure includes 41 Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) and Separated Children (SC) reunited with their families by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).



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Since 18 December 2015, 27,481 Ivorian refugees have returned home from both refugee camps in Zwedru, Harper and Saclepea, as well as from host communities and urban areas.

- Following the phasing out of the care and maintenance of the refugee programme, UNHCR Liberia's priority for 2018 is the local integration of those refugees who wish to remain in Liberia, as well as the implementation of other durable solutions.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Local Integration

Education transition

Harper (Maryland)

- The ongoing distribution of school uniforms, backpacks, shoes and stationary benefitted 291 Ivorian pupils. Janitorial and cleaning material were also distributed, along with chairs, beds, mattresses and pillows for teachers, donated by UNHCR.

Health transition and infrastructures

- UNHCR was recognised and awarded by the Minister of Health at the 9th Annual Health Review Conference held in Monrovia from 6 to 8 December 2017. UNHCR among some others UN Agencies and donors (EU, USAID, World Bank, AFDB, etc.) was recognised and awarded for making significant contribution to the health sector in Liberia.
- This conference is an annual event where Government and partners review the performance in the sector, discuss achievements, gaps and challenges and agree on upcoming priorities.



The award ceremony took place on Friday 8 December 2017. ©Ministry of Health

Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- In line with the local integration process, PTP clinic has been fully integrated in the Health Management Information System (HMIS) and is now under the full supervision of the Grand Gedeh County Health Team (CHT). Refugees with HIV/TB and leprosy are being treated at the government Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital; and both Partners in Health and the Ministry of Health (MoH) continue providing support to these patients.
- All WASH activities will be transferred to the Ministry of Public Works (MPW). During the reporting period, UNHCR, MPW and AHA (African Humanitarian Action) held a four-day WASH for 15 pumps mechanics from the refugee community. The training sessions will continue in 2018. 50 WASH committee members were also trained on WASH activities during a follow up two-day sessions.



These mechanics will be the focal people in maintaining the pumps in the camps. ©UNHCR

Harper (Maryland)

- Little Wlebo Extension Clinic was officially handed over to the Maryland County Health Team (CHT) at the end of December 2017. As well as donating assorted drugs and medical supplies to the CHT, UNHCR continues to provide transportation for health workers at the clinic until the nurses' quarters is fully completed and turned over to the CHT.

Protection

Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- On 4-6 December 2017, UNHCR's annual age, gender, and diversity (AGD) participatory assessment took place. A refresher training was organised for facilitators and guiding questions covering 3 thematic areas (protection, local integration, self-reliance) were shared. Following the exercise, all multi-functional groups systematised the information gathered during the assessment.

Community Services

■ Celebration of AIDS Day and Polio campaign

- HIV/AIDS Day was celebrated in several locations on 1 December 2017. LRRRC, in collaboration with SEARCH and the refugee leadership, raised awareness on the disease. UNHCR is contributing to engaging 100 refugees and members of the host community in Monrovia (Montserrado). In Zwedru (Grand Gedeh), the day was commemorated at PTP Camp and county level with speeches, parades and drama. In Harper (Maryland), AHA brought together a cross-section of refugees, locals and partners.



The theme for the day was "making Liberia HIV free treatment for all". ©UNHCR

Harper (Maryland)

- AHA in collaboration with UNHCR distributed assorted sanitary materials to reproductive age women living at the LWC, benefitting 340 women. 1,092 individuals also benefitted from mosquito nets to prevent Malaria.

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (266 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Priv Donors Spain (60 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | United Kingdom (45 M) | Norway (41 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (29 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Priv Donors Italy (19 M) | Australia (19 M) | Priv Donors USA (16 M) | Canada (16 M) | Priv Donors Japan (15 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Sweden (12 M) | Germany (12 M) | Italy (10 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

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LINKS

[Operational Portal - Facebook](#)