

Liberia

January 2018

George Manneh Weah
New President of Liberia

150
Birth certificates
issued

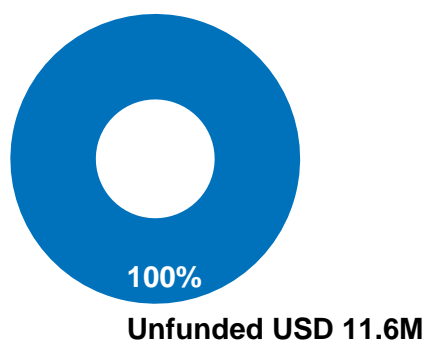
11,087
Ivorian refugees
remaining in Liberia

POPULATION OF CONCERN: 11,557

By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	11,087
Various nationality refugees	63
Asylum seekers	33
Others of Concern (protracted Sierra Leonean refugees)	374
TOTAL:	11,557

FUNDING (AS OF JANUARY 2018) 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:

- African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)
- Special Emergency to Restore Children's Hope (SEARCH)



Offices

1 Branch Office in Monrovia
1 Sub Office in Zwedru

Staff

48 National Staff
14 International Staff

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- **George Manneh Weah, new President of Liberia:** On 22 January 2018, George Manneh Weah took the oath of office as Liberia's 24th President, taking over from Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who presided Liberia for the last 12 years. UNHCR among other UN Agencies attended the ceremony. Liberia's vice-president, Jewel Howard-Taylor, took over from former Vice President Joseph Boakai (Unity Party).
 - Two of Weah's main issues to tackle are corruption and unemployment, mainly affecting youth. More than 60 percent of Liberia's 4.6 million citizens are under 25, and many voted for President Weah.
 - President Weah thanked UNMIL for its efforts in re-establishing peace and security following the two civil wars spanning over 14 years between 1989 and 2003.
- **One-year abolition of FGM:** Before stepping down, former President Sirleaf signed on 19 January 2018 an Executive Order on Domestic Violence Bill and a one-year abolition of FGM for the girls under 18.
- **The African Development Bank (AfDB) commits USD10 million as budget support to George Weah's administration:** Speaking 15 January 2018 at the Foreign Ministry in Monrovia, AfDB president Dr. Akinwumi Adesina also committed USD7 million to Liberia's agricultural sector and an additional USD33 million to improve the energy sector.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The new UNHCR Representative, Madam Fatima Mohammed, has taken up her assignment in Liberia.
 - Madam Mohammed presented her Letters of Accreditation to the former Foreign Minister, Madam Marjon Kamara and stated that UNHCR's primary focus in 2018 and beyond will be a mixed durable solutions approach, aiming at local integration and self-reliance.



Madam Kamara (right) shakes hands with new UNHCR Representative, Madam Fatima Mohammed (left), following the presentation of her Letters of Accreditation on 12 January 2018. ©Government of Liberia

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Local Integration

Education transition

- Each of the 373 regular school attending students at Tchien Public School (Zwedru) benefitted from school uniforms and other items such as shoes and back-bags.
- In Little Wlebo Extension Public Elementary School (Harper) 274 uniforms were distributed. As part of the activities in line with WFP School Feeding Programme (SFP) in this school, two gardens have been created to plant vegetables.

Health transition and infrastructures

Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- The clinic at PTP Camp has officially changed its name to Kanneh Community Clinic, it is now under the full supervision of the Grand Gedeh County Health Team (CHT) and continues to serve both refugees and the local population.
- The County Health Team (CHT) has chosen 11 medical staff of UNHCR Partner AHA (African Humanitarian Action) to continue working in the clinic and UNHCR will pay the salaries of the 11 medical staff at the government salary scale.
- Renovation and rehabilitation works continue on several structures in PTP Camp, such as the clinic, included in the Health Management Information System (HMIS), and the teachers' and nurses' quarters. The refugee and host community youth engaged in livelihood and self-reliance activities in PTP Camp have also taken up fencing and repair works in Kanneh Community Clinic.
- Refugee members of the Child Welfare Committee, SGBV Men/Women Mobilizers, Peer Educators and Grievance Committee, take part in the rehabilitation of the Women Community Centre under the leadership of those members with skills in painting.



Refugees support the renovation works of the nurses' quarters at PTP Camp. ©UNHCR

- The integration of WASH activities in the national structures continues. Meanwhile, refugees are maintaining their latrines and bathhouses with support from Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and UNHCR. Maintenance of the hand pumps is fully under the supervision of MPW.
- The Ministry for Public works in collaboration with AHA and UNHCR trained 40 WASH committee members and 16 Pump mechanics in PTP Camp.

Harper (Maryland)

- UNHCR handed over the renovated teachers' and nurses' quarters to the County Education Office and the County Health Team (CHT), respectively.
- Several construction works at the clinic have been finalised, including the incinerator and placenta pit, latrines and the delivery room.
- In line with the local integration process, UNHCR partner AIRD (African Initiatives for Relief and Development) is also repairing shelters of Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs).

LIVELIHOODS

Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- As part of women empowerment project supported by SEARCH (former UNHCR partner) with funding from the US Government, 60 refugee women have started working on producing Attieke. The production has attracted buyers from refugee and community people in Zwedru.
 - The US Embassy Political Officer and the Grant Manager visited the Attieke production project and appreciated the commitment of the women's association and encouraged them to continue working to become self-reliant.



Attieke production site in PTP Camp. ©UNHCR

Protection

Monrovia (Montserrado)

- With the closure of UNHCR Sierra Leone, Monrovia Branch Office has received 112 Liberia passports which will be handed over to the Government of Liberia. The 112 Liberian passports, intended for the Liberian refugees integrated in Sierra Leone, were returned due to refugees not showing up to collect their passports.
- UNHCR provided 5 asylum seekers with certificates that facilitate their free movement within Liberia.
- On January 2018, 138 birth certificates were distributed to refugee parents in Zwedru (Grand Gedeh) and 12 in Harper (Maryland) with the support of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Community Services

Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- SGBV Men and Women Community Mobilizers attended informative sessions on the reporting and referral mechanisms.
- Another group discussion sessions were held with the SGBV men and women mobilizers at the women center in PTP. The purpose of the discussions is to brainstorm on how to improve the reporting and referral systems on incidents of SGBV taking into consideration the breach of confidentiality. Participants included 20 men and 46 women.
- Outreach sessions on SGBV also took place at block level, reaching 152 refugees.

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

Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Chile | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Morocco | New Zealand | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Zambia | Private Donors

CONTACTS

Fatima Mohammed, UNHCR Liberia Representative, mohammef@unhcr.org

Ana Biurrun Ruiz, UNHCR Liberia Associate External Relations & Reporting Officer, biurrun@unhcr.org, Tel: +231 886 524 530, Cell +231 880 823 283

LINKS

[Operational Portal - Facebook](#)