

Liberia

June 2018

World Refugee Day
 Declared a Working Holiday
 by the Government of Liberia

500 Birth certificates
 shared with refugee parents
 from January-June 2018

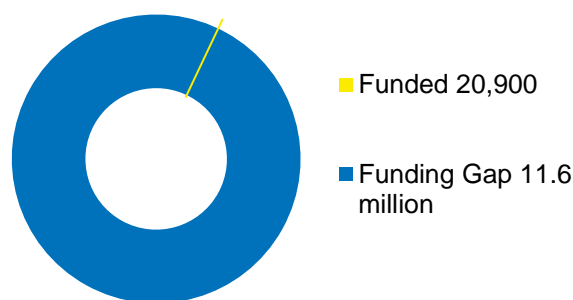
9,529
 Total number of
 refugees remaining
 in Liberia

POPULATION OF CONCERN: 9,936

By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	9,466
Various nationality refugees	63
Asylum seekers	33
Others of Concern (protracted Sierra Leonean refugees)	374
TOTAL:	9,936

FUNDING (AS OF JUNE 2018) requested for the Liberia Operation



UNHCR PRESENCE



Offices

1 Branch Office in Monrovia
 1 Sub Office in Zwedru

Staff

51 National Staff
 13 International Staff

CONTACTS

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BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS USD

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MAJOR DONORS OF BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

United States of America 56.2 million | Private donors
 Australia 6.2 million | Canada 3.3 million | Norway |
 Sweden | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS USD

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MAJOR DONORS OF UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Sweden 98.2 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands
 39.1 million | Private donors Spain 37.8 million | United
 Kingdom 31.7 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private
 donors Republic of Korea 19 million | Switzerland 15.2
 million | France 14 million | Italy 11.2 million | Private
 donors Italy 10.2 million

Algeria | Argentina | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
 Canada | China | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Germany
 | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Kuwait | Liechtenstein |
 Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New
 Zealand | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian
 Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia |
 Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates |
 Uruguay | Private donors

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- **IMF is pessimistic about Liberia's economy and emphasizes transparency over debts**
 - The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has emphasized that future Liberia debt obligations should be undertaken transparently, limiting new debt to concessional terms, with effective implementation of infrastructure projects.
 - The June 2018 International Money Fund's Article IV Consultation says "Liberia remains fragile with poor living conditions for the majority of the population".
 - In its June 2018 report, the IMF seems deeply concerned that prospects for economic growth are characterized by "[...] an increase in commodity prices and output, while downside risks include difficulties in mobilizing resources to fill the financing gap and in pursuing structural and institutional reforms". IMF also states that "All the elements of the government's medium-term development agenda have not been fully outlined."
 - IMF noted that Liberia's economy appears poised for recovery, but that significant fragilities remain. Assuming sound policies, Directors agreed that the medium term outlook is favorable, albeit with risks. Directors welcomed the authorities' pro poor agenda and noted that macroeconomic stability is essential for advancing this agenda.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR works with the Government of Liberia through the **Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC)** and provides funding to **African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)** and **Special Emergency to Restore Children's Hope (SEARCH)**.

These two NGOs provide protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, including gender and child protection; education; infrastructure/ shelter, WASH; and livelihood activities.

- UNHCR, LRRRC, AIRD and SEARCH worked together throughout May and June 2018 ensuring a successful World Refugee Day in all locations.
- In Zwedru (Grand Gedeh), UNHCR and LRRRC, organised a workshop on the local integration task force. There were 31 participants from the County Office, the Ministry of Education, LRRRC, AIRD and SEARCH.
 - Following the joint verification/profiling exercise in May 2018, there has been a growing interest in local integration amongst some refugees. As a result a help desk in the Sub Office has been set up.
- In Harper (Maryland), UNHCR, AIRD and LRRRC met with the central leadership, health and education officials, and police staff members on sanitation issues. As a result, the central leadership will carry out two cleaning campaigns every month and the clinic will convene a community meeting and liaise with the County Health Team (CHT) accordingly.
 - UNHCR and LRRRC also met with the new Maryland County Superintendent, Honourable George A. Proud, and briefed the official on the local integration process. UNHCR-LRRRC jointly advocated for the inclusion of education and health staff on the government payroll, as well as the incorporation of Little Wlebo Clinic on the Health Management Information System (HMIS).

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

World Refugee Day

- **The President of Liberia proclaims World Refugee Day as a Working Holiday and government officials participate in celebrations organised by UNHCR and partners**
 - For the fourth time, the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, declared World Refugee Day, 20 June, as a working holiday in Liberia.
 - In this proclamation, the President of Liberia, George M. Weah, stated that “This year celebration of World Refugee Day will serve as a platform to promote solidarity with refugees through social media and radio programs and enable UNHCR to disseminate information on durable solutions, notably voluntary repatriation and local integration”.
 - Celebrations took place in Paynesville (Monrovia) and in the three remaining refugee camps: Bahn Camp (Nimba); PTP Camp (Grand Gedeh); Little Wlebo Camp (Maryland).
 - Participants included the Country Representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and that of the Liberian National Red Cross; representatives of UNDP, WHO and WFP, as well as the LRRRC Executive Director, Rev.; local authorities; land owners and members of the hosting communities.
 - UNHCR Special Guest of Honor for the day was Honorable Lawrence Morris, a former Liberian refugee and a current member of the Legislature and Chairman of Repatriation. Hon. Morris shared his story in French and English and encouraged refugees to integrate and make the most of the support provided by UNHCR and the GoL.
 - UNHCR Liberia Representative, Madam Fatima Mohammed, stated on a UNHCR-LRRRC press release that “Refugees in Liberia enjoy one of the most privileged protection environments in Africa, as the Government of Liberia’s goodwill is overwhelming. I urge refugees to take this opportunity to locally integrate while the corridor is open and resources are available”.



WRD in Bahn Refugee Camp. **Top left:** Parade led by refugees. **Top right:** LRRRC ED Rev. Festus R. B. Logan (L) and Member of the Parliament Hon. Lawrence Morris (R), joined the parade. **Bottom left:** Several deserving refugees and members of the host communities received items showing UNHCR’s appreciation for their support. **Bottom right:** refugee children perform a traditional dance during the indoor programme. ©UNHCR

LOCAL INTEGRATION



HEALTH TRANSITION

■ All locations

- UNHCR donated drugs to the CHT in Grand Gedeh, Nimba and Maryland counties. The donation is part of the agreement reached with Ministry of Health to support the CHT in taking over the clinics in the refugee camps. The drugs, sent with confirmation by the County Pharmacist in each of the three counties, will benefit Bahn Health Center (Nimba), Kanneh Community Clinic (Grand Gedeh) and Little Wlebo Clinic (Maryland).
- UNHCR also donated ambulances to the CHT in Grand Gedeh and similar donations will take place in Nimba and Maryland as soon as the corresponding names of the CHT officers are provided.
- **Challenges:** Refugees in need of specialized medicine continue to face difficulties in accessing the drugs at the public facility Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital due to transport costs. The withdraw of the transport by Partners In Health (PIH), the implementing partner on chronic care management for Grand Gedeh County Health Team in Zwedru, could negatively impact these refugees. UNHCR continues to liaise with the County Health Officer on this.



Handing over of the ambulance to CHT for use at Kanneh Community Clinic. Present were Kanneh Community, Grand Gedeh CHT, LRRRC and UNHCR. ©UNHCR



Drugs given to Kanneh Community Clinic by UNHCR. Present were Kanneh Community, Grand Gedeh CHT, LRRRC and UNHCR. ©UNHCR

MAIN ACTIVITIES



Protection

Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- As part of the local integration capacity building process for partners, on June 25-26 2018, UNHCR carried out a two-days training took place for all Social Workers from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP).
- The 29 participants included staff from LRRRC, refugees, SGBV Mobilizers and Children Welfare Committees members from Maryland, Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties.
- Items discussed included social protection issues on BIA (Best Interest Assessment) and BID (Best Interest Determination) for separated and unaccompanied children, the referral pathway and UNHCR Protection Mandate for refugees.

 **Community Services****Zwedru (Grand Gedeh) and Harper (Maryland)**

- UNHCR donated assorted materials to the prison in Zwedru and Harper, including soap, sanitary wear for women blankets, buckets and jerry cans. There are 6 inmates in Zwedru, one of which is due to be released soon.
- In Harper (Maryland) several items were also distributed to refugees, including soap, mats, jerry cans, buckets and women sanitary kits.
 - A total of 194 households out of 231 showed up to the general distribution and 149 women benefitted from the sanitary kits. There is a reservation of stock to distribute in July 2018 for the remaining refugees.
 - To support refugee activities as well as reinforce cooperation with the host community distributions were made to Little Wlebo Elementary Extension School, the National Palace of Correction in Harper, Little Wlebo Clinic and the refugee community for communal use.
 - The refugee central leadership received kitchen utensils for catering and entrepreneurship purposes in the camp.

Refugees received tools for the tools bank, including 70 machetes, 10 pick axes, 22 shovels, 140 hoes, 13 files sharpeners, 45 rakes and 30 watering cans. The tools serve for cleaning



Donation at Maryland prison. ©UNHCR



Presentation of materials to community leaders and host community. ©UNHCR