



LIBERIA UPDATE

March - April 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

15,418

Ivorian refugees repatriated since 18 December 2015

2,646

Bales of clothing donated by UNIQLO to refugees in Liberia

1,763

Refugee children benefit from national polio immunization campaign

1973 Alien and Nationality Law

is being revised to prevent statelessness

Population of concern

A total of **22,745** Persons of Concern

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Côte-d'Ivoire refugees	22,272
Sierra Leonean refugees	380
Various nationality refugees	69
Asylum seekers	24
Total	22,745
Others of concern	1,479

Funding

USD 23,860,907 requested

7% funded

UNHCR Presence

Offices

- 1 Country Office in Monrovia
- 1 Sub-Office in Zwedru
- 2 Field Offices in Harper and Saclepea

Staff

- 94 national staff
- 23 international staff

Liberia: Operational map

UNHCR - HQ 02 Feb 2015



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_26-03-2015

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR works with the Government of Liberia through the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and coordinates humanitarian assistance with: Finnish Refugee Council (FRC), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), and Special Emergency Activity to Restore Children's Hope (SEARCH).

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

As the United Nations Mission in Liberia pursues the scheduled drawdown of its security forces by June 2016, Liberians are concerned about security. This especially whether Liberian security forces are adequately prepared and equipped to assume full the security of the State after the departure of UN peacekeepers. The issue has resulted in peaceful demonstrations requesting UNMIL to suspend its drawdown until after the elections take place in October 2017.

The 2015 Liberia Country Report on Human Rights Practices was released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, of the U.S. Department of State, in which Liberia was criticized over various governance and human rights abuses including corruption, deficiencies in governance, violence against women, police abuse, harassment and intimidation of detainees; arbitrary arrest and detention; sexual abuse and domestic violence, human trafficking; racial and ethnic discrimination; discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons; mob violence; and child labor.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- **Voluntary repatriation remains an operational priority.** UNHCR and the government of Liberia facilitate the voluntary repatriation of the Ivorian refugees. As at 30 April, 15,418 refugees have been assisted to return to Cote d'Ivoire from Liberia since the return process resumed on 18 December 2015. In addition, UNHCR has supported the repair of the Bahn – Louguato road to facilitate convoy movements from Nimba towards the border.
- **BPRM and USAID/FFP coordinators from Dakar visited** refugee camps in Liberia, during which the delegation urged the refugees to take advantage of the current on-going facilitation of voluntary repatriation to return home in safety and dignity, as there is inadequate funding for the refugee programme in Liberia and resettlement opportunities are not available.
- **UNHCR continues to advocate for the prevention and reduction of statelessness in Liberia.** Financial support has been provided to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN) in the review of the 1973 Alien and Nationality Law to remove the gender bias which does not allow Liberian women to pass on their nationality to their children. In its current format, the law risks making children stateless. Once reviewed, it will bring the Law in harmony with the Constitution which enables either parent to confer their Liberian nationality to their children.
- **The transition from Ivorian to the Liberian curriculum is being facilitated.** UNHCR's draft on the Education Strategy regarding the curriculum transition from the Ivorian to the Liberian system has been shared with education partners and the government. Meetings with the government at the local and national levels have taken place to discuss the modalities of the transition during which the government stressed on issues such as limited funds to hire teachers, the lack of quality teachers and the limited school materials. The strategy awaits final comments by the government to allow UNHCR Liberia and LRRRC set the path for implementation during the 2016-2017 school year with the aim to handover school facilities for refugees to the government.

Livelihoods

- **Livelihood continues to be promoted.** Assorted materials donated by Finn Church Aid (FCA) to former graduates of the FCA skills training in Bahn Camp have been handed over to the refugees. Donated materials include sewing machines, threads, cloths, wheel barrows, tools for carpentry, and spray cans, among others, to be used as start-up kits. The refugees have organized themselves into a cooperative of 44 members who have completed the construction of a training centre in the camp.

Health and Food Security

- **Refugee children benefit from national immunization campaigns.** A Polio and Vitamin A vaccination and deworming campaigns took place in Grand Gedeh which included PTP camp. Thus, 1,763 refugee children have benefited.
- **Ebola prevention is resumed.** On 17 March, hours after Sierra Leone declared the end of its recent Ebola flare-up, Guinea announced two new confirmed cases. To date four persons have died from the resurface of the disease in Guinea. As a means of prevention, Liberia closed its borders with Guinea. However, three new cases (one woman and her two sons) were confirmed in Monrovia on 1 April 2016, of whom one has died; the remaining two are under surveillance. UNHCR and partners have since intensified the dissemination of information on Ebola for everyone to observe preventive protocols. The triage at the health posts are being maintained, infection control measures and EVD prevention and awareness enforced. Additionally, the routine hand washing, temperature monitoring of staff at entrance and exit to camp clinics have also resumed.

Others

- **UNIQLO donates 2,646 bales of clothing to refugees of all ages in Liberia.** UNHCR and partners began the distribution of used clothing donated by UNIQLO, Japan to some 741 urban refugees and 15 asylum seekers residing in Monrovia and its environs. The distribution will benefit camp-based refugees as well.
- **Refugees, UNHCR and partners celebrate International Women's Day.** Refugee women joined the Liberian government, the SRSG, Mr Farid Zarif, and other UN Agencies in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, to celebrate International Women's Day. Women and men committed to making parity real by 2030. Additionally, other activities took place in the refugee hosting counties, including parades, football games, cultural activities and debates related to how refugees can contribute to closing the gender gap as well as to promoting gender equality in decision making.



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