



HIGHLIGHTS

LIBERIA UPDATE

May - June 2016

17,881

Ivorian refugees repatriated since 18 December 2015

2,463

Ivorian refugees repatriated in the reporting period

2

Stakeholder workshops held to review Liberian Alien & Nationality Law

World Refugee Day 2016 celebrated in Liberia

Population of concern

A total of **20,561** Persons of Concern

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Côte-d'Ivoire refugees	20,090
Sierra Leonean refugees	378
Various nationality refugees	69
Asylum seekers	24
Total	20,561
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

- 93 national staff
- 23 international staff



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
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WORKING WITH PARTNERS

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

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- In May, the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), Mr Farid Zarif, met with the leaders of all twenty-three political parties in Liberia to address concerns or grievances which might ignite conflicts among parties or between parties and national institutions ahead of the 2017 elections. The objective is to ensure a peaceful transfer of power after the 2017 elections. Political parties recognized their crucial role in ensuring stability before, during, and after the 2017 elections while calling for UNMIL to remain engaged beyond the elections next year. The full participation of all registered political parties is a positive indication of their willingness to engage with UNMIL on ways to foster continued peace and stability.
- June 30 marked the day the security of Liberia was formally handed over to the government of Liberia by UNMIL.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- **Voluntary repatriation remains an operational priority.** Since the resumption of the voluntary repatriation process in December 2015, a total of 17,881 Ivorian refugees (13,840 from the camps and 4,041 from the communities) have been assisted to return home. Of these, 16,767 have returned since January 2016. Voluntary repatriation will remain at the core of the solutions strategy with the objective of assisting 25,000 Ivorian refugees to return in 2016 and a further 8,000 returns in 2017.
- **Ivorian Minister of Solidarity, Social Cohesion & Compensation paid a come-and-tell visit** to all three refugee camps in Liberia. The Minister came along with a high profile multidisciplinary delegation from various sectors of the Government. The purpose of the visit was to share with the refugees' extensive information regarding reintegration programs and in addition, to address all concerns raised by refugees and help them make an informed decision to return home.
- **Advocacy continues for the prevention and reduction of Statelessness in Liberia.** UNHCR has been advocating with the Government of Liberia to amend some key legal provisions which are discriminatory against Liberian women, or biased against certain categories of persons entering Liberia. Two stakeholder review workshops were held with consultants who were engaged to review the 1973 Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia, with intent to amend some of its provisions. A first draft of the Alien & Nationality Law focusing mainly on "Nationality, Work & Employment" is currently being reviewed. UNHCR and other agencies participating include the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Ministry of Gender, LRRRC, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ministry of Labour, and the National Investment Commission.
- **UNHCR begins preparations towards Integration of Services.** The Education and Health sector activities have been earmarked as the initial services to be handed over to the Government of Liberia's respective line ministries and departments. Education is to be handed over at the beginning of the next academic year in September 2016, through a transition from the Ivorian to the Liberian curriculum. Meetings with county education staff at the local level have taken place to discuss the modalities of the transition.

SGBV

- **SGBV Joint Program MOU endorsed by UNHCR.** UNHCR has committed to a 5-year SGBV Joint Program for Liberia as part of the UN Country Team. The goal is to change perceptions and attitudes and strengthen systems to address the problems of rape, early marriage, domestic violence, harmful traditional practices and their inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive rights and HIV/AIDS in all 15 Counties of Liberia by 2020. UNHCR is anticipating donor support for the joint program to allow the effective integration of gender issues coverage in the counties where the bulk of the refugees reside.
- **PSEA Training conducted for Partner Staff.** As part of UNHCR's obligation to ensure zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse of refugees and other persons of concern, the protection section facilitated a Code of Conduct and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training for senior managers of African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), a partner, UN staff and affiliated personnel who engage in SEA with refugees may be punished by summary dismissal if found guilty. The Field Managers of AIRD and the Monrovia staff were taken through the tenets of the code of conduct including the types of misconduct.

Others

- **World Refugee Day 2016 Celebration.** World Refugee Day 2016 was celebrated in Liberia under the theme "We Stand Together #With Refugees". This year the official ceremony was held in Little Wlebo refugee camp, Maryland County. Other field locations with UNHCR presence (Bahn camp, PTP camp and Monrovia) also held individual celebrations this year. The day was marked with general parades, sporting activities, drama performances, traditional dances, and speeches. During the programs, guests were invited to sign the "Stand together #WithRefugees" Petition letter to send a clear message to governments around the world to support the cause of refugees.
- **Celebration of the Day of the African Child.** On 16 June, UNHCR, partners and the refugee population celebrated the day of the African Child and raised awareness under the theme: "Protecting Children from Conflicts and Crisis in Liberia by Providing Safe Spaces for Children". The celebrations which were carried out in Monrovia, Bahn, Little Wlebo and PTP refugee camps, were marked by parades and songs, games and dramas.



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