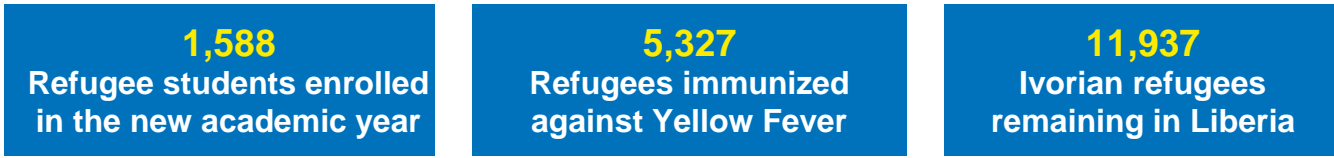


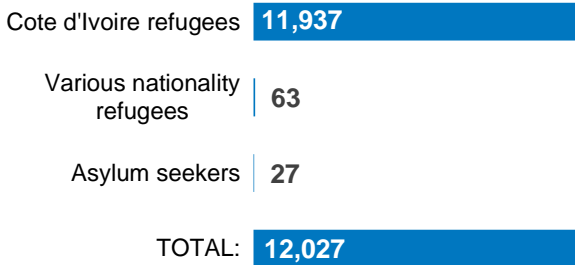
# Liberia

September 2017



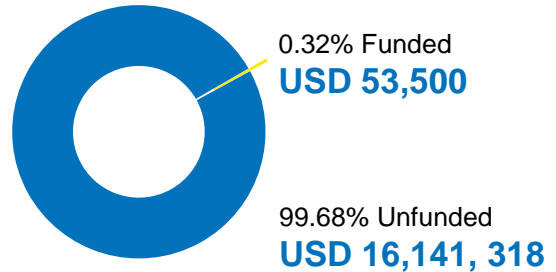
## POPULATION OF CONCERN: 11,937

By country of origin



## FUNDING (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2017) USD 16,194,818 M

requested for the Liberia situation



## 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

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## CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

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- **2017 Presidential and Legislative Elections**
  - Addressing the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for the last time as President, Mme Ellen Johnson Sirleaf stated that she leaves the country safe and secured after 10 years at the helm. On 20 September 2017, The President of Liberia praised the UN for their efforts geared towards rebuilding a country scarred by conflict, and stated that democracy was on the move back home.
  - The legislative and presidential elections on 10 October 2017 will mark the first democratic transfer of power in the country. More than two million (2,183,629) voters will select a new president -amongst 20 candidates- and 73 seats in the House of Representatives -amongst nearly 1,000 candidates from 26 parties-.
  - During September 2017, several organisations and international bodies deployed delegations throughout Liberia to observe the elections. The Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union (EU), Carter Center and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), are amongst those with observers deployed during Liberia's third combined presidential and legislative elections since the end of the 14-year armed conflict in 2003. No major incidents are anticipated beyond some of isolated nature and protests limited to political events.
  - The Japanese government and UNDP Liberia signed a USD1.14 million agreement aimed at strengthening the police deployment for the upcoming polls. The agreement is part of the long-standing partnership between Japan, Liberia, and the UNDP.
  - The second and final presidential debate took place on 26 September 2017, with the participation of only three of the seven candidates invited: Alexander Cummings (Alternative National Congress), MacDella Cooper (Liberia Restoration Party), and J. Mills Jones (Movement for Economic Empowerment). Joseph Boakai of the ruling Unity Party, Charles Brumskine (Liberty Party), George Weah (Coalition for Democratic Change), and Benoni Urey (All Liberian Party) were absent. Discussions revolved around the economy, youth empowerment and Land Rights.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

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### Voluntary Repatriation

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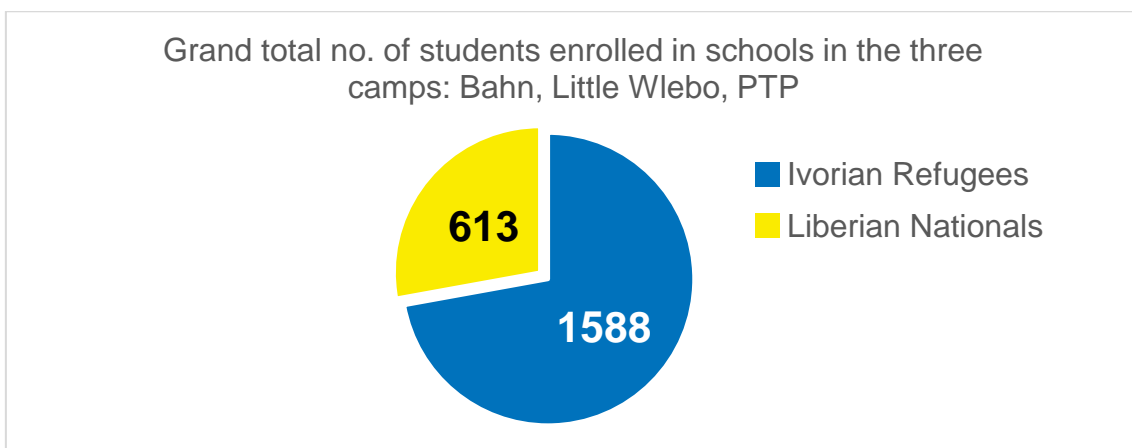
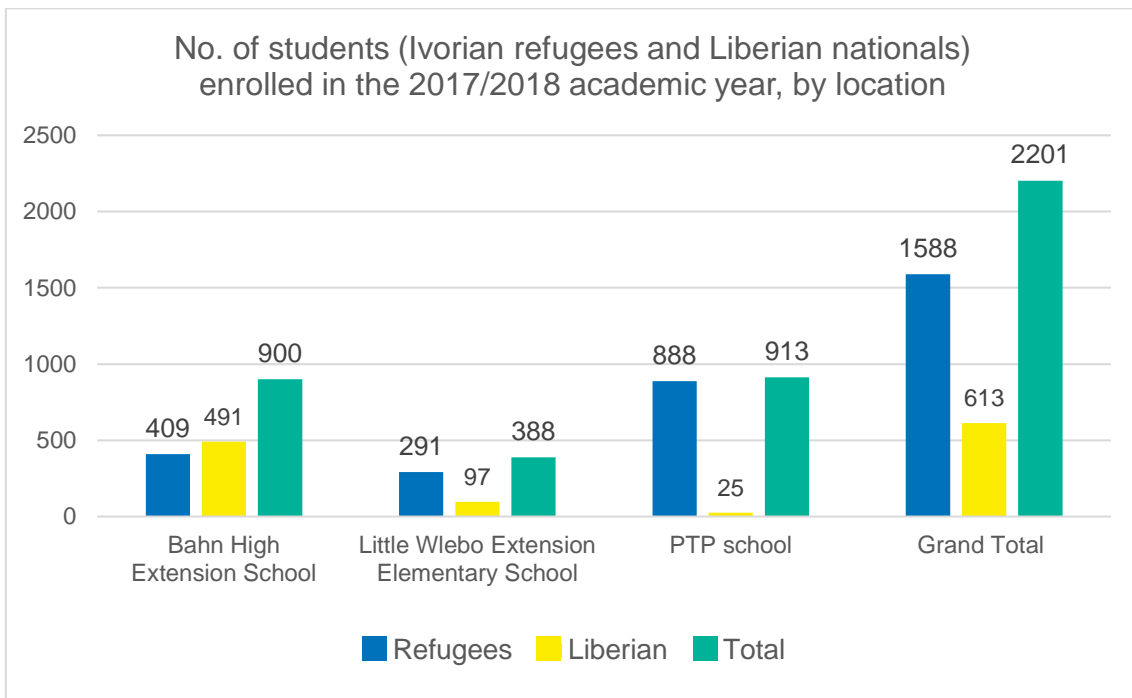
- During the reporting period, there were no convoys departing Liberia. While sensitization and registration of candidates continue in all locations, the latest intention surveys Ivorian refugees show their low intent to return to Cote d'Ivoire in favour of locally integrating in Liberia. In addition, the ferry used for the repatriation from Harper (Maryland) has been undergoing technical maintenance. Convoys will be scheduled as soon as a greater number of refugees register.
- As of 30 September 2017, 26,456 refugees have been repatriated since the resumption of the repatriation programme on 18 December 2015. This number includes 40 Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) who returned home in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

## Local Integration

The integration process of those refugees who wish to remain in Liberia remains a key operation priority for the second half of 2017. Progress continues in sectors including Education, Health, WASH and Shelter, as well as in Livelihoods.

### Education transition

- Regular classes in all primary schools in the camp started on 4 September 2017. As a result of the implementation of the Liberian curriculum, the new academic year will be fully taught in English. Average attendance figures, as of 30 September 2017, are shown below.



- In line with local integration, UNHCR and partners continue to work towards the integration of all schools in the refugee camps into the national structures. As a result, as well as Bahn High Extension School, the primary school in Little Wlebo Camp (LWC) is now registered in the Educational Management Information System (EMIS). The new name of the school is Little Wlebo Extension Elementary School and is full part of all primary schools registered in

Maryland, as well as one of the 27 schools selected for Maryland County as a recipient of the World Food Programme (WFP) School Feeding Programme (SFP).

- Until last academic year, Bahn High Extension School offered from grade 1 to grade 6. Since September 2017, the education offer has now extended to Junior High level, grade 7, 8, 9.

### Social Cohesion

- UNHCR and partners continue to identify the refugees not wishing to repatriate, in order to train them along with members of the host community to form Child Welfare Committees (CWC) and other support groups which comprise of members who carry out mobilisation and community sensitisation on child protection, SGBV, sexual health, etc. As part of the local integration process, all SGBV related cases and activities will be handed over to the Ministry of Gender.

#### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- 50 refugee children, members of PTP CWC, participated in a training aimed at supporting the refugee community on child protection and the dissemination of messages against SGBV and children's rights.
- 33 Community Mobilizers joined a SGVB training led by UNHCR and SEARCH. Participants included representatives of the refugee central leadership, teachers, youth, AHA, AIRD, LRRRC and the Liberian National Police.
- 11 members of the Men SGBV Committee participated in a SGBV refresher sessions at the Women Center in PTP. The training aimed at increasing the participants' understanding in handling cases such as Domestic Violence, while respecting the confidentiality of the survivor (*picture on the right*).



#### Harper (Maryland)

- Child Protection/SGBV Committees were established at LWC to support the monitoring of child abuse, SGBV incidents and the corresponding reporting. The recruitment of SGBV School Peer Educators from 4-6 Grade is ongoing.
- 25 participants from the Men Intervention Group, along with SGBV monitoring and reporting volunteers, joined a SGBV training to build the capacity of the refugee CWC, linking them to the Ministry of Gender structures and others in the surrounding villages (*pictures below*).



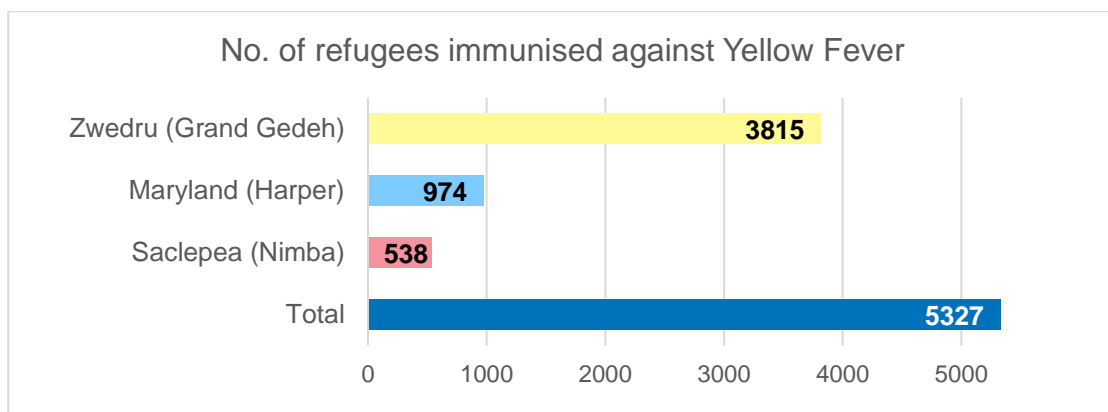
### Saclepea (Nimba)

- SEARCH led a training on Best Interest Assessment (BIA) and Best Interest Determination (BID) for 40 participants, which included CWC members; the MOGCSP (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection) Bahn Town representatives; PTA members and the refugee leadership (*pictures below*).



### Health transition

- In line with the local integration process, in addition to including education structures into the national system, advocacy continues with the aim to include health infrastructures into the Health Management Information System (HMIS).
- As a result, in Zwedru (Grand Gedeh), the Ministry of Health has authorised the inclusion of PTP Clinic in the HMIS and is considered as a Primary Health Care Clinic Level 2. It can be recalled that Bahn Camp clinic officially closed in March 2017 and services were transferred to Bahn Health Center, where Liberians and Ivorians are both received. Meanwhile, discussions continue in relation to the clinic in Little Wlebo Camp (Harper).
- Yellow fever vaccination was carried out in all locations.



### CONTACT

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