

Liberia

February 2018

**2018-2019 Country Operations Plan
consultation meetings**

With the Government of Liberia, Partners,
UN Agencies, Embassies and Donors

11,087
Ivorian refugees
remaining in Liberia

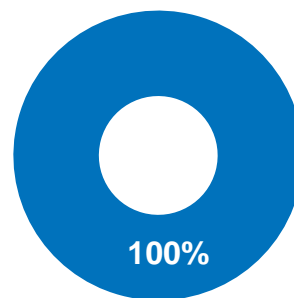
POPULATION OF CONCERN:

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 FEBRUARY 2018)
requested for the Liberia operation



Unfunded USD 11.6M

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)

Liberia Reference map

as of 08 Apr 2017



Offices

1 Branch Office in Monrovia
1 Sub Office in Zwedru

Staff

48 National Staff
13 International Staff

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- **President George Weah faces criticism over call for citizenship to be granted to non/Negro descendants:** Some Liberians have shown their opposition to Weah's call to amend Articles 22a and 27b of the Liberian Constitution, which would allow people of non-Negro descent to become citizens of Liberia. Weah, addressing the Legislature in his first Annual Message to the Nation, described the two articles as "racist" and called for a repeal of the clauses of the constitution limiting citizenship to only those of Negro descent and limiting land ownership to only citizens.
 - The Chair of the House Committee on Good Governance declared that "If you give Liberian's white counterparts the right to become citizens in Liberia and own properties, they have the money, and will buy all the land from our people".
 - Other groups opposing the amendment of the Constitution include the Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia and the All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship, which represents Liberians in the Diaspora.
- **Liberia secures more than USD55 million from World Bank and the French Government**
 - On 1 February 2018, during the visit of the World Bank Country Director for Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, the World Bank committed USD24.7 million, covering the Fourth Poverty Reduction Support Development Policy Operation.
 - On 21 February 2018, Weah met with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in his first official travel to Paris as head of state. Macron announced a 10 million euro (USD12.31 million) grant for immediate road maintenance. In addition, Macron committed 15 million euro (USD 18.5 million) to create a "platform for transformation through sport in Africa", headed by the French Development Agency and the African Development Bank.
 - Weah also met the vice president of the World Bank, Makhtar Diop, and an additional budget support of USD20 million was announced to the Liberian government in June 2018.
- **Liberian government calls for stronger action against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**
 - UNHCR attended the ceremony on the occasion of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM on 6 February 2018. The government, through the National Working Group Against FGM in collaboration with the UN, and civil society called for stronger actions to end FGM in Liberia, a practice currently been carried out in ten out of fifteen counties.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Country Operations Plan

Throughout February 2018, UNHCR Liberia has been working in the development and updating of the 2018-2019 Country Operations Plan in direct consultation with stakeholders during several meetings in Ganta (Nimba) and Monrovia (Montserrado).

- **On 15-16 February 2018**, UNHCR Liberia, the Government of Liberia (GoL), line ministries, refugees and partners met in **Ganta** to participate in the development of the 2018-2019 Country Operations Plan.
 - The outgoing Superintendent of Grand Gedeh took the opportunity to thank UNHCR for its support to the Liberian government and acknowledge the mediation efforts with authorities and refugees, as well as with Cote d'Ivoire.



COP 2018-2019 consultation meeting and group discussions in Ganta on 15-16 February 2018. ©UNHCR

- On 21 February 2018, UNHCR, the GoL and partners met in **Monrovia**, along with UN Agencies such as UNWOMEN, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNFPA and UNAIDS. Line ministries and partners present were the Ministry of Education; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Gender; Liberian National Police; and the Liberian Red Cross.
 - UNHCR Representative presented UNHCR Liberia Strategic Directions for 2018 and 2019, and advocated for joint actions including other UN Agencies and the new Executive.
 - Participants got an insight into UNHCR local integration strategy for those refugees who wish to remain in Liberia and, following sectorial work groups, recommendations on next steps were shared covering pillars such as education; health and nutrition; Alternatives to Camp, including durable shelters and WASH; social cohesion; livelihoods and self-reliance; legal aspect of LI; partnerships, coordination and advocacy.



Participants of the COP 2018-2019 consultation meeting in Monrovia on 21 February 2018 ©UNHCR



COP 2018-2019 consultation meeting participants' presentations in Monrovia on 21 February 2018 ©UNHCR

- A joint consultation meeting took place on **1 March 2018** in **Monrovia** with the participation of several embassies and donors, and chaired by the Minister of Internal Affairs (MIA).
 - Participants to this session included: the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and Resident Coordinator in Liberia (DSRSG); ECOWAS Special Representative in Liberia; Commissioner of the Liberian Immigration Service; Ambassadors of France and Sweden; First Secretary of the Embassy of Cote d'Ivoire; Political Officer from the US Embassy; Chairperson of the Council of Civil Societies in Liberia; Representatives from the Ministries of Finance & Development Planning, Justice, Gender, Education; representatives from African Development Bank and International Monetary Fund; and UN Agencies including UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, ILO, IOM and WFP.
 - UNHCR presented the LI strategy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the government priorities and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).
 - The DSRSG thanked the government and people of Liberia and declared that the country is ready to focus the peace consolidated viable through partnerships and the inclusion of Ivorians who might integrate and contribute to the national economy.
 - The MIA reaffirmed the government's commitment to work towards the integration of refugees in Liberia and pledged to work to ease the process of land acquisition and enable refugees to grow food in those areas. He also thanked UNHCR for advocating to amend the 1973 Alien and Nationality Law, of which the draft is being reviewed.



COP 2018-2019 high-level consultation meeting in Monrovia on 1 March 2018. ©UNHCR

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- Following advocacy by UNHCR and LRRRC to the Judiciary, the nine refugee inmates from the National Palace of Correction in Zwedru were released on 26 February 2018. They were detained since September 2017 on charges of aggravated assault and rioting. Following their release, they returned to PTP Camp.

Community Services

Monrovia (Montserrado)

- UNHCR participated in a two-day (13-14 February 2018) SGBV National Action Plan (NAP) Phase III validation workshop. The National Action Plan strengthens efforts to advance Gender Equality and the workshop was aimed at getting inputs from several stakeholders for compilation of the final GBV NAP Phase III document.

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](#)