

## Liberia October 2018

**UNHCR High Commissioner** meets the Liberian Delegation in Geneva during 69<sup>th</sup> ExCom

**133,650** pieces of used clothes donated by UNIQLO

**9,251** Total number of refugees remaining in Liberia

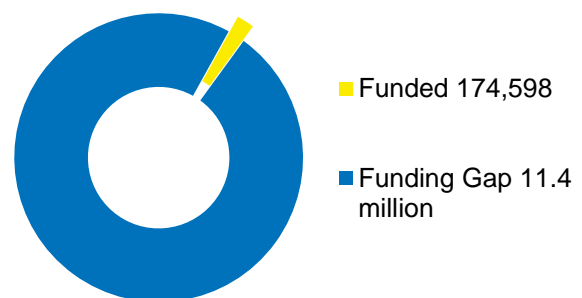
### POPULATION OF CONCERN: 9,652

By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	<b>9,180</b>
Various nationality refugees	71
Asylum seekers	27
Others of Concern (protracted Sierra Leonean refugees)	<b>374</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>9,652</b>

### FUNDING (AS OF OCTOBER 2018)

requested for the Liberia Operation



### UNHCR PRESENCE



#### Offices

1 Branch Office in Monrovia  
 1 Sub Office in Zwedru  
 1 Field Office in Harper

#### Staff

53 National Staff  
 8 International Staff

### 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

### CONTACTS

**Fatima Mohammed-Cole**, UNHCR Liberia Representative, mohammef@unhcr.org

**Ana Biurrun Ruiz**, UNHCR Liberia Associate External Relations & Reporting Officer, biurrun@unhcr.org

## 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; education; infrastructure/ shelter, WASH; and livelihood activities.

- With support from UNHCR, LRRRC Executive Director (ED), Hon. Rev. Festus Logan and the Minister of Internal Affairs (MIA), Honourable Varney A. Sirleaf comprised the Liberian Delegation at the 69th UNHCR Executive Committee in Geneva (Switzerland).

## CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- **President George M. Weah launches the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.**
  - On 27 October 2018, the President of Liberia, George M. Weah, launched the five-year Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). "This Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development presents a roadmap to the attainment of national goals and objectives," said President Weah. The PAPD was launched with the participation of key development partners including the UN System, EU, USAID, AU, AFDB, ECOWAS, among others.
    - Weah pledged to act purposefully in achieving the goals of the PAPD, which aligns to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The plan aims to lift about a million people out of poverty to prosperity.
  - The local integration process in UNHCR Liberia is in full alignment with the PAPD.

## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Minister of Internal Affairs delivers statement at the 69<sup>th</sup> UNHCR ExCom**
  - With support from UNHCR, the Liberian Delegation attended the 69<sup>th</sup> UNHCR Executive Committee in Geneva (Switzerland) from 1-5 October 2018. The delegation was led by the Minister of Internal Affairs (MIA), Hon. Varney A. Sirleaf, along with LRRRC ED, Hon. Rev. Festus Logan.
  - The Minister, who chairs LRRRC Board, delivered a statement on issues related to the situation of refugees in the country and stated that the Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development of the Government of Liberia is fully aligned with the refugee programme.
  - Hon. Sirleaf highlighted that, from January-September 2018, the government granted refugee status to 5 of the 33 asylum applicants. The MIA also stressed the full support towards the local integration of refugees in Liberia, including their integration into the national framework in Health, Education and Social Protection services in the same conditions as Liberians. In his statement, Sirleaf emphasised the issuance of Certificates of Naturalization to 375 former Sierra Leonean refugees, which were handed on 23 July 2018 by the President of Liberia, George M. Weah.
  - Hon. Sirleaf underscored the commitment from the government to improve the existing domestic legal norms, such as the ongoing revision of the 1973 Alien and Nationality Laws, which restricts Liberian women passing their nationality to their children who then are at risk of becoming stateless.



The High Commissioner met with the Liberian delegation, who provided him with a summary of [UNHCR Liberia 2018 key achievements with the direct support of the Government of Liberia](#). ©Ministry of Internal Affairs of Liberia

- **Zwedru (Grand Gedeh): Challenging road conditions continue to affect the operation**
  - Heavy rains continue to deteriorate the roads, forcing in-country missions between Zwedru and Monrovia to transit through Cote d'Ivoire and resulting in an increase of travel time.
    - The high cost and lack of fuel affects the availability of vehicles used to support refugees. As a result, movements of partners and monitoring activities are reduced. The major hospital, Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital, reported problems in the delivery of services due to lack of fuel to operate the generators.
    - The prices of goods and commodities have risen considerably, having an impact in what refugees can afford. Refugees face challenges when affording food, as items that costed 100 (0.64USD) Liberian Dollars have risen up to 300 Liberian Dollars (1.90USD).

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Protection

#### Monrovia (Montserrado)

- The Asylum Committee granted refugee status to one Sudanese and two Syrians asylum seekers. As of 31 October 2018, a total of 8 asylum seekers were granted refugee status: 5 in August 2018 and 3 in October 2018. There are currently 27 asylum seekers in Liberia.
- On 29-31 October 2018, UNHCR Liberia attended in Senegal a 3-day workshop on mixed migration to discuss protection opportunities and challenges in the context of Mixed Movements in West Africa.

#### Saclepea (Nimba)

- UNHCR donated a motorbike to the Mayor of Bahn City in support of his activities.



The ceremony was attended by, LRRRC, UNHCR, AIRD and other stakeholders. ©UNHCR


**VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION**

### Saclepea (Nimba)

- On 11 October 2018, 27 Ivorian refugees returned voluntarily to Cote D'Ivoire from Bahn Refugee Camp (Nimba). Throughout 2018, 816 refugees have returned.
  - Since the voluntary return process resumed post-Ebola in December 2015, 28,297 Ivorian refugees have returned home with support from UNCHR, including 41 Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children who were reunified with their families in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross.


**Health**

### Harper (Maryland)

- Little Wlebo Clinic is not yet included in the national Health Management Information System and the 7 staff assigned there, currently compensated by UNHCR, remain outside the government payroll.

### Saclepea (Nimba)

- **Gaps and Challenges:** Nimba County, including Bahn Health Center (BHC), lacks essential drugs and nutritional products for Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs). As a result, refugees are purchasing their own medications. It can be recalled that BHC is used both by Liberians and Ivorian refugees.


**Community services**

### Saclepea (Nimba)

On 12-16 October 2018, team comprised of UNHCR, refugees and partners distributed used clothes donated by Japanese private retailer UNIQLO.

- Bahn and Saclepea camps were allocated 100 bales/10,000 of used clothes.



In Bahn Refugee Camp (Nimba County), 1,309 individuals in 367 families benefitted from the donation. Refugees actively participated the sorting out and distribution of the clothes. ©UNHCR

- Refugees received a total of 2,945 bags, each of which contained 12-20 pieces of assorted clothes, depending on the age of the individual receiving the bag.
- The Japanese private retailer donated to UNHCR Liberia 133,650 pieces of used clothes to distribute in all the refugee camps in the country. The distribution of clothes in the remaining locations is expected to take place in the coming months.

## Education

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- The mainstreaming of refugees into the national structures continues at Tchien Primary Public School in PTP Camp.
  - The Government of Liberia assigned three teachers, all of which are on government payroll. UNHCR's advocacy efforts to achieve full inclusion of education and health staff in all locations continues at field and Monrovia level.

### Harper (Maryland)

- **Challenges and gaps:** The majority of parents prevent their children from attending school due to the closing down of the camp in December 2018. Advocacy on the importance of education continues.

### Saclepea (Nimba)

- The World Food Programme School Feeding Program has started in Bahn High Extension School, which has budget from WFP for food from local farmers in Nimba.



## Local integration - Livelihoods

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- In PTP Camp, record keeping and tracking tools have been introduced with the families that received crop seeds in the first semester of 2018 and are generating profits.
  - Monitoring visits to the projects implemented by SEARCH show improvements, mainly in the piggery project in which 11 families (representing 61 members) are involved.
- UNHCR strengthens coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and shows the MoA County Team the livelihoods projects which are being implemented in the area.
- In PTP Camp, UNHCR, MoA and LRRRC visited the site in which UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) will support NGO Africa Rice to farm swamp rice. UNHCR is advocating to include Persons of Concern in this project.
- In PTP Camp, UNHCR and NGO LARO (Liberia Agriculture and Relief Organization) met with refugees opting to integrate in Liberia.
  - During the meeting, information was shared on the Poultry Project funded by the US Embassy through the Julia Taft Refugee Grant. LARO was awarded the funds to carry out the project, which targets 30 women and 10 men.
  - To avoid duplication, beneficiaries already involved in similar projects implemented by SEARCH will not be included on the Julia Taft project.

### Harper (Maryland)

- UNHCR and LRRRC are working in coordination with Caritas to include refugees into the cash support for training developed by Caritas. There are currently 70 women involved in this process, who will benefit from the cash support in two separate batches.

### Saclepea (Nimba)

#### ○ **Pilot project**

After the end of the period assigned to the implementation of the livelihoods pilot project, follow up activities continue with the 44 families (36 comprised of refugees; 8 comprised of host community members) participating in the pilot.

- It can be recalled that the pilot, carried out in Bahn, Saclepea, Sanniquillie and Ganta, officially finalised on 30 September 2018, giving way to the gathering of data through two focus groups and in-depth interviews with several participants.
- The incomes and savings of these families are being tracked. Preliminary findings show that most participants are improving in the management of their business. Results are currently being analysed.
- The second part of a Training of Trainers on small business management took place. The sessions included analysis of business ideas and customer care.

#### ○ **Scale up of livelihoods activities**

- UNHCR and AIRD are working on defining numbers and criteria for the next group of participants who will start with the livelihoods and economic inclusion process.
- The main areas of intervention include training, mentoring, skill and vocational training and cash support.

### All locations

#### ○ **Gaps and Challenges:**

- There are general limitations in training offer on business management. Training in agriculture sector, mostly provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, requires payment. UNHCR and partners are mapping potential training entities aligned with the interests and needs of refugees.



## **LOCAL INTEGRATION - SHELTER**

### ■ **Saclepea (Nimba)**

- The area where durable shelters in Bahn Camp will be built is identified. Two communities have been laid out in preparation of the building of durable shelters.
- AIRD, UNHCR, LRRRC, the acting City Mayor of Bahn and a cross-section of refugees signed the final sketch diagram of the approved durable shelter. Members from Bahn host community and refugees attended the ceremony.