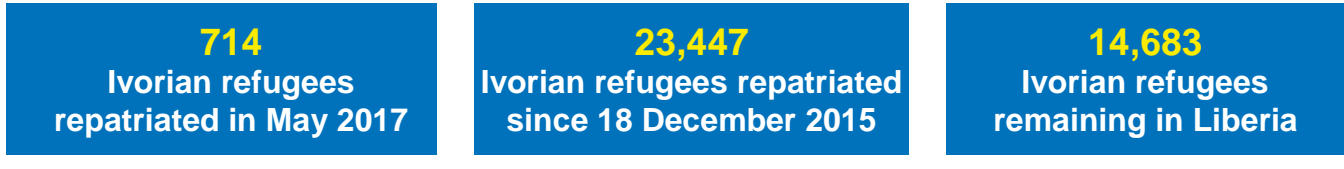


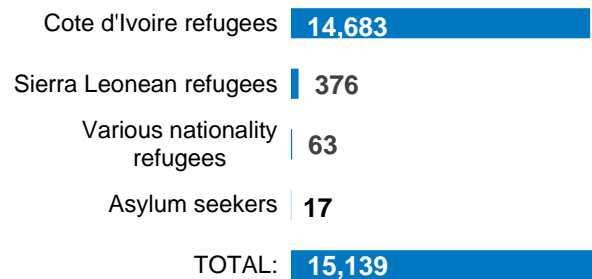
Liberia

May 2017



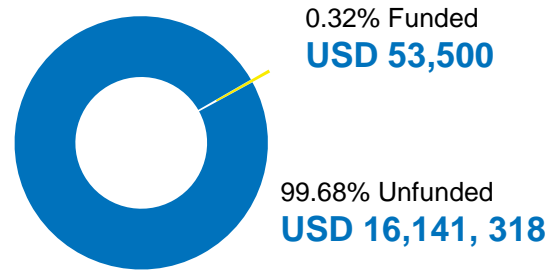
POPULATION OF CONCERN: 15,139

By country of origin



FUNDING (AS OF MAY 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

- 69 National Staff
- 16 International Staff

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- On 25 April-04 May 2017, 31 persons were infected, 13 of whom died, in relation to a *Neisseria meningitidis*/C meningitis outbreak. The cluster of health cases was preceded by accounts of funeral events that commenced on 21 April 2017 in Sinoe County. The outbreak was successfully contained and the World Health Organization (WHO) states the overall risk of spread is low.
- UNHCR joined key Government and humanitarian partners in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) approach workshop that took place on 9-11 May 2017 in Monrovia. The Representative attended the workshop and a segment on the Preparedness Package for Refugee Emergencies (PPRE) was facilitated by UNHCR. The main risks identified for the next 12 months include floods/storms, socio-political instability, and epidemics.
- Speaking at the official launch of the Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) for Political Affairs and Rule of Law, said that human rights violations persist in the Liberian human rights protection system. According to the DSRSG, many of the recommendations of the former Truth and Reconciliation Commission remain unimplemented. He also noted that “shortfalls within the Liberian human rights situation continue to be characterized by rape, sexual and gender-based violence, accusations of witchcraft and determent of the freedom of speech”.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Voluntary Repatriation

- Voluntary repatriation of refugees from Grand Gedeh, Nimba, River Gee, and Maryland counties remains a key operation priority and will be carried out until 30 June 2017. However, the rainy season has started to affect road conditions in the countryside, including some roads between Zwedru and Fish Town; and Zai Town and Guen Town. In collaboration with LRRRC, 714 refugees returned home in May 2017, including two Separated Children (SC) who were reunified with their family with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). To date, 23,447 refugees have been repatriated since the resumption of the repatriation programme on 18 December 2015. This number includes 35 UAMs (Unaccompanied Minors) who returned home in collaboration with ICRC.



After crossing the Cavalla River, refugees from Little Wlebo Camp (LWC) are welcomed by UNHCR and partners.



The Zwedru-Monrovia highway (left) and the road between Zwedru and Fish Tow (right) were affected by heavy rains.

- On 02-04 May 2017, a high-level delegation visited Harper and Zwedru to meet with refugees, local authorities and partners. The delegation was comprised of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG) and Resident Coordinator of UN in Liberia; UNHCR Liberia Representative; UNMIL Chief of Civil Affairs; WFP Cote d'Ivoire (CDI) Representative; FAO Representative; and UNDP Representative. Refugees were presented with several examples of reintegration projects in Cote d'Ivoire and Ivorians that have successfully reintegrated, as well as the return package provided by WFP to returnees.

Local Integration

- UNHCR continues engaging with partners and relevant line ministries to ensure the effective handover of the education and health structures, as well as the construction of durable shelters using a community-based approach.
- In line with the **education** transition to the Liberian curriculum in all primary schools in the camps, 52 teachers plus 3 Principals joined refresher trainings to ensure full understanding and implementation of the Liberian curriculum. In Zwedru, the Ministry of Education (MoE) sent all necessary paperwork to include the PTP schools in the Educational Management Information System (EMIS), which would enable the recognition of the three primary schools located in PTP camp as part of the Liberian education system. Meanwhile, students are taking the fifth marking period test. Bahn High School Extension results show that, out of 167 refugees and 74 nationals that took the exam, 85% of them passed. Meanwhile, teachers are participating in the Civil Service



Students in all three camps also take part in regular awareness sessions on hygiene and SGBV issues.

Test and Biometric Exercises, a standard procedure for all government employees or volunteers under the MoE.

- The increase of staff of Bahn Health Center has brought improvements, including an overall better delivery of **health** services for the population; availability of ambulance for referrals; AHA's support to transport drugs and vaccines from Sanniquellie; and the continued availability of the County Health Team in the center.
- **Self-reliance and livelihood** activities will be implemented for the benefit of refugees and host communities in the frame of local integration of refugees that want to stay in Liberia, The New Africa Research Development Agency (NARDA) is conducting a market survey to compile information on the socio-economic situation of refugees and select the most suitable interventions. NARDA has met with county authorities and conducted training in data collection for staff in Nimba, Maryland and Zwedru.

Protection

- Capacity building processes by UNHCR for partners continue. A one-day training took place for LRRRC Protection staff to strengthen their knowledge in the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and activities of Persons of Concern (PoC). The session also had a segment on statelessness. In preparation for an urban verification exercise, LRRRC and SEARCH benefitted of another session that enabled them to collect accurate and updated information of all PoC.



LRRRC staff, including the Executive Director, joined the protection training on 30 May 2017.

Nutrition

- **Targeted Food Distribution** (TFD) took place in the three camps (PTP camp, Little Wlebo Camp, Bahn Camp). A total of 4,571 highly and extremely vulnerable refugees benefitted from items such as fish, oil, pulses and rice.

CONTACT

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UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of the donors who have provided non-earmarked funding to UNHCR.

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