

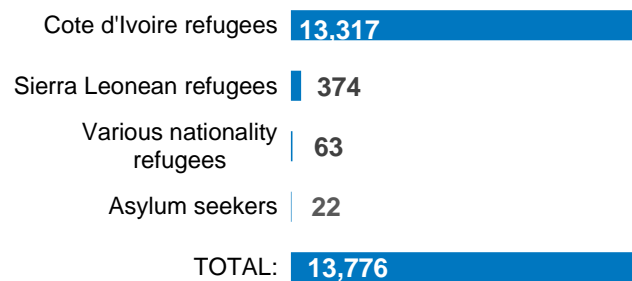
Liberia

June 2017



POPULATION OF CONCERN: 13,776

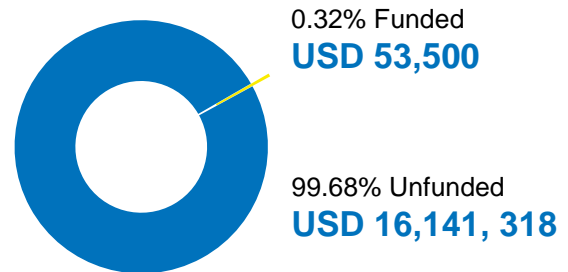
By country of origin



FUNDING (AS OF JUNE 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

- 70 National Staff
- 16 International Staff

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- From 25 May-4 June 2017, Liberia hosted the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) mid-year statutory meetings. During the Summit, which was opened by the President of Liberia Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 20 of the 22 political parties that are registered in Liberia signed the Farmington River Declaration, committing to violence free elections in October and a peaceful transition to a new government in January 2018. Twelve Heads of State attended the Summit: Cape Verde, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Ghana, Togo, Mali, The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau and Liberia. Other attendees included the Israeli Prime Minister; High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission; Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG) of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWAS); SRSG UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Voluntary Repatriation

- Voluntary repatriation of refugees from Grand Gedeh, Nimba, River Gee, and Maryland counties remains a key operation priority. However, due to the rainy season, affecting safety on the roads, some convoys have been cancelled or delayed. UNHCR and partners have repaired bridges and roads to ensure a safe and dignified return of refugees.



Some of the roads affected by heavy rains.

- During June 2017, 1,522 refugees returned to Cote d'Ivoire, including 5 Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) who were reunified with their family with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). As of 30 June 2017, 24,969 refugees have been repatriated since the resumption of the repatriation programme on 18 December 2015. This number includes 40 UAMs who returned home in collaboration with ICRC.

Come and Tell Mission and Tripartite Technical Meeting

- To enable refugees to make informed decisions on repatriation to Cote d'Ivoire, UNHCR Liberia and UNHCR Cote d'Ivoire organised a three-day 'Come and Tell' mission from 26-29 June 2017. The delegation included representatives of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, prefects of Toulepleu and Blolequin, SAARA (Service d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides) and representatives from the ministries of Defence, Education, Employment and Gender. The mission highlighted the favourable security situation in Cote d'Ivoire and the reintegration activities taking place in Cote d'Ivoire, where funds will be available for those who will opt to repatriate in 2017.
- Representatives of the governments of Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia and UNHCR held a 1 day meeting in Zwedru to take stock of the achievements and challenges in the repatriation exercise and deliberate on ways to boost repatriation. The Ivorian government expressed a wish to have all Ivoirians returning home. The participants recommended regular information sharing on reintegration activities.

Resettlement Mission from UNHCR Regional Representation for West Africa (RRWA)

- During the reporting period, a mission from UNHCR's Regional Resettlement Unit (RRU) in Dakar met refugees living in the three camps as well as in Monrovia. The RRU informed participants of the unavailable resettlement opportunities for Ivorian and other refugees in the West African sub region, due to cuts in the quota. The interviews for those refugees already in the pipeline could be delayed for up to five years.

Local Integration

- UNHCR continues leading the effective handover of the education and health structures to the government of Liberia. As part of this integration process, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) is leading SGBV and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) training for refugees and local residents with support from UNHCR and SEARCH.
- The MOGCSP, which will take over some activities previously managed by SEARCH, continues to get familiarised with the operation and the refugees whose cases might need follow up.

Education transition

- Teachers from the three schools in the camps (Bahn High School Extension, Little Wlebo Extension Elementary School, and PTP schools) are benefitting of refreshment trainings by the Ministry of Education. Meanwhile, teachers are compiling all students' grades ahead of the official closure of the schools after completing the academic year 2016/2017.
- Awareness sessions and activities on the importance of education and the benefits of bilingualism and the Liberian curriculum continue in all locations. Primary schools in Bahn and Little Wlebo Camp have submitted their applications to join the Educational Management Information System (EMIS).

World Refugee Day

- World Refugee Day (WRD) was celebrated in Bahn camp (Nimba County), Little Wlebo Camp (Maryland County) and in Paynesville City (Montserrado County). Framed under UNHCR global campaign and petition #WithRefugees, the main celebration took place in Bahn Camp, where UNHCR Representative, Madame Ndeye Ndour, joined the parade that marched through the main streets of the city.
- In her speech, Madame Ndour celebrated the courage of more than 65 million Persons of Concern, out of which 14,600 are currently living in Liberia, and highlighted the hospitality shown by the Government of Liberia and the communities in hosting the refugees. A refugee currently working in Liberia as a university lecturer encouraged other refugees to make the most of their skills to enhance their integration in the country.
- UNHCR partners LRRRC, SEARCH, AHA and AIRD contributed to the celebrations, which included the message from the High Commissioner and activities such as parades, dance, drama performances and friendly football matches between the local communities and refugees.



World Refugee day celebrations took place in Harper, Bahn and Paynesville.
 (Find [here](#) more images. Find [here](#) UNHCR Liberia Representative speech).

CONTACT

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