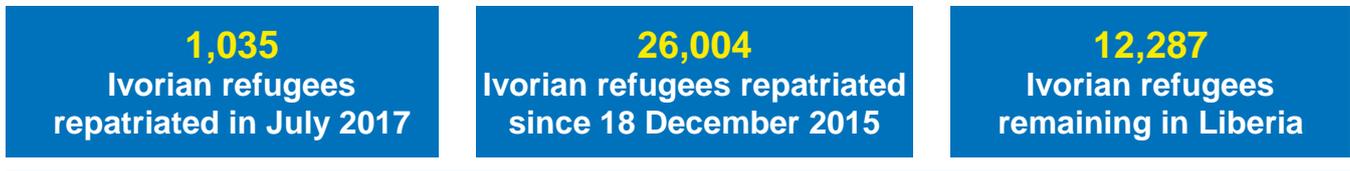


Liberia

July 2017



POPULATION OF CONCERN: 12,377

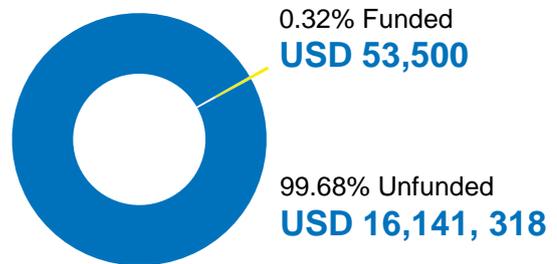
By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	12,287
Various nationality refugees	63
Asylum seekers	27
TOTAL:	12,377

FUNDING (AS OF JULY 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

- 62 National Staff
- 12 International Staff

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- **2017 Presidential and Legislative Elections**
 - The campaign period for the upcoming presidential and legislative elections in Liberia will run from 31 July 2017 until 8 October 2017. The final figure of the voter roll, published by the National Elections Commission (NEC), shows that 2,183,683 persons have registered to vote out of the estimated population of 4.4 million. One President, one vice President, and 73 Representatives will be elected on what will be the first democratic transfer of power in the country. Elections will take place on 10 October 2017.
 - According to NEC Chairman, Liberians will choose one individual, out of 20, to be their next President; one person, out of 20, to be their next Vice President; and 73 individuals, out of 986, to fill the vacancies created in the House of Representatives.
 - These elections are considered crucial and historical because it will be the first time a sitting president will turn over power to an elected leader since President Edwin Barclay handed over power to President William Tubman in 1944.
 - The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and partners have launched the 'Emergency Response Support for Preventive Diplomacy' to ensure peaceful, free and fair elections in Liberia. The project will provide emergency assistance to prevent election-related violence and conflict, as well as supporting a smooth transition, including the recruit of over 1,000 youths to serve as non-violence youth ambassadors.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Voluntary Repatriation

- Voluntary repatriation of refugees from Grand Gedeh, Nimba, River Gee, and Maryland remains a key operation priority. During July 2017, 1,035 refugees returned to Cote d'Ivoire despite challenging weather conditions and funding constraints, causing the cancellation or delay of several convoys.
- The rainy season as directly affected regions involved in the repatriation process both in Liberia (Bhai and Duokudi borders; Loyee-Kpatuo, and Tappita-Saclepea roads) and Cote d'Ivoire (San Pedro area). This has resulted in deplorable road conditions, severely damaged bridges and the rising of the water level of the Cavalla River (Harper), which is used to cross to Cote d'Ivoire.



Bridge in San Pedro area, south west of Cote d'Ivoire, affected by the heavy rains.



Cavalla River, used to cross from Duokodi (Liberia) to Prolo (Cote d'Ivoire).

- As of 31 July 2017, 26,004 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

■ Education transition

- 2016/2017 academic year has finalised in all primary schools in the camps, where the Liberian curriculum (taught in English) has been fully introduced since the second semester, replacing the Ivorian curriculum (taught in French).
- In preparation for the official opening of the new academic year in September 2017, the Ministry of Education (MoE) is organising refresher trainings for all teachers across the country. Teachers from all primary schools in the camps are expected to also benefit from these sessions.
- Until the beginning of classes in September 2017, students in PTP and Bahn will have access to a vacation school between July and September 2017, free of charge. Through this initiative, students (mainly Ivorian refugees) are given the chance to improve their education, get familiar with the Liberian curriculum and continue developing their English skills.



*Left: Students received their report cards at the closing ceremony of the 2016/2017 academic year.
 Right: The Summer School Programme in Bahn High Extension School opened on 17 July 2017.*

■ Health transition

- In line with the process of local integration, the outpatient nutrition services and outreach services in PTP Camp are being gradually handed over to Martha Tubman Hospital, a national health centre.
- The clinic in Little Wlebo Camp is offering their services to both Ivorian refugees and Liberians from the host communities.
- In Bahn, since the closure of the clinic in the camp in March 2017, all refugees are integrated in the health national structure and have access to Bahn Health Centre.

CONTACT

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