

Liberia July 2018

300 Certificates of Citizenship

Presented by the President of Liberia to former Sierra Leonean refugees

The Roll out of Cash Based Interventions (CBIs) in Liberia and Shelter prototype for Local Integration Program

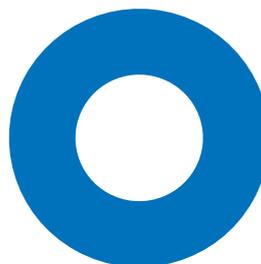
9,517
Total number of refugees remaining in Liberia

POPULATION OF CONCERN: 9,924

By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	9,454
Various nationality refugees	63
Asylum seekers	33
Others of Concern (protracted Sierra Leonean refugees)	374
TOTAL:	9,924

FUNDING (AS OF JULY 2018) requested for the Liberia Operation



■ Funded 20,900
■ Funding Gap 11.6 million

UNHCR PRESENCE



Offices

1 Branch Office in Monrovia

Staff

51 National Staff
09 International

CONTACTS

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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 |

CONTEXT AND OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The President of Liberia presents Certificates of Citizenship to former Sierra Leonean refugees

- On 23 July 2018, the President of Liberia, George M. Weah, led the official handing of naturalisation certificates to former Sierra Leonean refugees, which took place at Benton City, Monrovia (Montserrado).
- H.E. George M. Weah presented Certificates of Citizenship to 50 former Sierra Leonean refugees as part of the celebration of Independence Day (26 July 2018) activities. These 50 certificates are part of the total of 300 Certificates of Citizenship symbolically presented in 2013 to former Sierra Leonean refugees fully integrated in Liberia since 2008. The remaining 250 certificates are being handed over by the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC). With these documents the former refugees now have more opportunities to empower their self-sufficiency and integration in Liberia.
- UNHCR Liberia Representative, Madame Fatima Mohammed-Cole, commended the opportunity offered by the Government to these 300 former Sierra Leonean refugees to naturalise and become Liberians. “UNHCR can attest that Liberia is a commendable example of a country with overwhelming potential and generosity in terms of providing a favourable protection environment to refugees and other persons of concern”, stated Mohammed-Cole.
- In addition to the President of Liberia and UNHCR Liberia Representative, participants to the ceremony included H.E. Jewel Howard Taylor, Vice President; LRRRC Executive Director, Rev. Festus R. B. Logan; the Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Varney Sirleaf; H.E. Ambassador Tunde Ajisomo, Special Representative of the President of ECOWAS Commission in Liberia, represented by his Special Assistant; Dr. Roseline I. Turay, Sierra Leone Ambassador to Liberia.



Top from L-R: Audience during the ceremony; President Weah presents a former Sierra Leonean with her Certificate of Citizenship; UNHCR Liberia Representative delivers her Special Remarks. **Bottom from L-R:** LRRRC ED delivers his Special Remarks; H.E George M. Weah with UNHCR and LRRRC staff, Honorable Florence F. Brandy, Superintendent Montserrado County, and the Minister of Internal Affairs; Jenneh Mabay shows her certificate. ©UNHCR

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 gender and child protection; education; infrastructure/ shelter, WASH; and livelihood activities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES



EDUCATION TRANSITION

- **Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)**
 - The academic year 2017/2018 finalised at Tchien Public School with a total of 174 primary school students passing their test; 61 passed under condition; and 96 failed. The number of students that dropped out is 243.
- **Harper (Maryland)**
 - Registration for academic year 2018/2019 started; school will resume on 3 September 2018.
 - Out of the 373 students who enrolled at the beginning of 2018, 294 remained. 126 students got promoted, while 168 were retained.
- **Saclepea (Nimba)**
 - Total number of students, from Early Childhood Development (CD) to Junior High School, who have finished this academic year stands at 807 (257 refugees, 550 Liberians).
 - 72 students (12 refugees, 60 Liberians) from CD were promoted to grade 1.
 - With schools closed, UNHCR is supporting summer school in Bahn camp. This is part of a continuous learning program to ensure child development.



LIVELIHOODS

- **Livelihood Activities**
 - In support of the local integration process of Ivorian refugees in Liberia, refugees along with some host community members started to benefit cash grants through Cash Based Interventions (CBIs). The programme started as a pilot project benefiting some 34 refugee families and 8 host community families. The beneficiaries are residents of Bahn Camp/community and Monrovia respectively where they chose to be locally integrated.
 - **CBIs supporting POCs Livelihood Programme:** The Cash Based Interventions is gearing to support refugees' livelihood activities in Liberia was launched with refugee and host community families in different sectors and categories of livelihood activities including business, soap making, agriculture, tailoring and mechanics.

With the introduction of Cash Based Interventions (CBIs) through cash distribution to



Ivorian refugees and host community members receive cash for supporting livelihood programme at Bahn camp, Nimba County

empower local integration of refugees and some host community members, beneficiaries were optimistic of becoming self-reliant.



SHELTER AND INFRASTRUCTURES

- **Harper (Maryland)**

- Renovation works on the roof on the clinic annexes and the replacement of the damaged zinc and ceiling at the delivery room are completed.
- The group of refugees called “Little Wlebo Refugees Committee Self Help Association” continues the construction works of the school kitchen under the supervision of AIRD.

- **Saclepea (Nimba)**

- UNHCR carried out a mission focusing on the implementation of the shelter programme and the preferences and regulations of the government and partners.
- The first workshop on Participatory Planning and Design Profess took place with the refugee leadership, AIRD and LRRRC. Discussions included designs that can address risks and safety issues, along with cultural, environmental, cost and regulation considerations.
- The mission conducted a site selection for the most suitable location, orientation and position for a demo prototype shelter. All aspects of the construction process are being done by refugees using local materials and resources. The prototype demo is at 98% completion stage.
 - The shelter assessment that indicated that all 238 shelters in Bahn Refugee Camp need to be renovated with direct support from the refugees. A construction committee was established, comprising of 15 refugees as well as AIRD, LRRRC and UNHCR.



Progress on the construction of the shelter prototype.

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Protection

Monrovia (Montserrado)

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment workshop

- UNHCR participated in a three days' workshop held at the University of Liberia to develop strategies to improve higher education institutions as safe spaces for learning and teaching free from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.
- UN and partners facilitated in the UN Women-sponsored workshop, after which a draft document on prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) was completed with the inputs from students of the University of Liberia and other Liberian universities.
- Once finalized, the document will be used to address cases of SEA at various universities.
- Additionally, as part of the zero tolerance policy on SEA and Sexual Harassment, the operation in Liberia has complied with the two mandatory trainings on SEA. Training for partners including Government staff will also be accomplished in August 2018.
- On 23 July 2018, UNHCR and LRRRC actively participated in the *Official Traditional Honoring, Presentation of Certificate of Citizenship to former Sierra Leonean Refugees Living in Liberia* at Benton City, Monrovia (Montserrado).