

# Liberia August 2018

**Durable Shelter Prototype**  
 Is on its final stages in preparation of its official launch

**310** Acres of land for the local integration of Ivorian refugees in Bahn (Nimba)

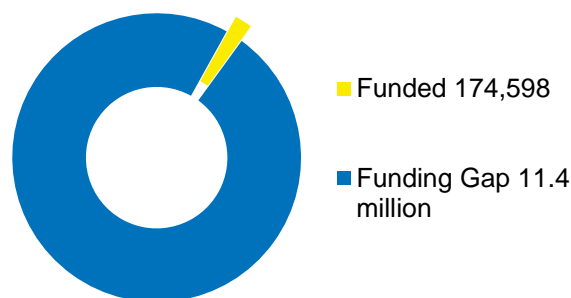
**9,264**  
 Total number of refugees remaining in Liberia

## POPULATION OF CONCERN: 9,671

By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	<b>9,201</b>
Various nationality refugees	<b>63</b>
Asylum seekers	<b>33</b>
Others of Concern (protracted Sierra Leonean refugees)	<b>374</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>9,671</b>

## FUNDING (AS OF AUGUST 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

## 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 | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

## CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Ivorian Ambassador in Liberia encourages Ivorian refugees in Liberia to return home**
  - On 23 August 2018, Ambassador Mr Feni Kouakou made the call at programme marking the 58th Independence of Cote d'Ivoire celebrated in Monrovia. His Excellency noted the significant progress made by his country since the ascension of current President Allasan Ouatarra, declared President on 2 December 2010 preceded by strong electoral violence which at that time forced approximately 220,000 Ivorians to take refuge into Liberia.
  - During the event, Mr Kouakou highlighted the good economic performance of Cote d'Ivoire; the increase in the income of farmers, civil servants and wages of private sector employees; and the better access to basic social services such as water, electricity, health and education.
  - The Ambassador further noted the recent presidential pardon granted by President Ouattara to about 800 prisoners as an encouragement for thousands of Ivorian refugees to return home and take part in the national reconstruction.
- On a related development, UNHCR Liberia Representative, Mme Fatima Mohammed-Cole, briefed Ivorian embassy Officials on the refugee situation in Liberia on 3 August 2018. Since the Ambassador was away on official assignment, the Representative met with the H.E. Toh Tetiali Roland, First Counsellor at the Ivorian Embassy and discussed collaborative efforts with the government of Cote d'Ivoire. Some 99% of the total refugee population in Liberia are Ivorians.

## 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.

- During his mission to Grand Gedeh, LRRRC Executive Director, Rev. Festus Logan, followed up on the latest developments and met with key stakeholders, the County Superintendent, partners, UNHCR and refugees. The ED emphasized the commitment of the government to support refugees who opt for local integration and noted that those refugees who missed the verification exercise and did not show up during the month grace period will be deactivated.
- During a joint mission comprising of Bahn City Council, LRRRC and UNHCR, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on access to land. The document, signed with UNHCR as a witness, establishes the access for refugees in Nimba County to 310 acres of land in Bahn in line with the local integration programme.



Signing ceremony of the MoU on land access for local integration

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- The construction of the durable shelter prototype, led by AIRD, is in its final stages. Durable shelters will replace the current temporary shelters.

## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Closure of Little Wlebo Camp (Maryland)

- Little Wlebo Camp (LWC) will close by December 2018, when the camp and its infrastructure will be handed over to the government. UNHCR and partners informed the refugee population and local authorities of Grand Gedeh, Maryland and River Gee counties of this decision.
- Refugees can voluntary repatriate to Cote d'Ivoire, move to PTP Camp (Zwedru) or integrate in selected host communities: Fish; Rock; Middle Town; Little Wlebo Town; Cavalla; Dakay; Pedebo; Pleebo and Harper City. LRRRC and UNHCR are recording the refugees' intention.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES



### Protection

#### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- On 13 August 2018, 283 Ivorian refugees voluntary repatriated to Cote d'Ivoire from Grand Gedeh: 277 left from PTP Camp, while 6 departed from host communities in the county.
- Since the voluntary return process resumed post-Ebola in December 2015, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary return of 28,241 Ivorian refugees as of 31 August 2018. Throughout 2018, 760 repatriations were facilitated. The total number of 28,241 refugees repatriated includes 41 Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children who were reunified with their families in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).



### Community Services

#### Monrovia (Montserrado)

#### UNHCR donates Non Food Items (NFIs) to flood victims in Liberia

- On 28-31 August 2018, UNHCR in collaboration with LRRRC, AIRD and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), distributed Non Food Items (NFIs) to victims of recent floods in Unification Town Community (Margibi County).
- Items donated are worth USD76, 500 and include 500 buckets, 400 blankets, 200 bales of used clothes and 1,000 cartoons of soap. 5,055 flood victims in Margibi County were targeted for the distribution.
- UNHCR and partners reached 14 communities, benefitting 441 family heads; 618 children, 920 men and 884 women.



(L) NFIs in preparation for the distribution; (R) Some of the beneficiaries © UNHCR

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- On 15-16 August 2018, the women of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) community structures and those of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) community structures carried out the distribution of sanitary pads, bars of soap and panties for women and girls of reproductive age (13-49 years). A total of 741 out of the targeted 1,033 women showed up.
  - UNHCR Community Services, LRRRC GBV focal person and the Ministry of Gender (MoG) monitored the exercise.

### Saclepea (Nimba)

- UNHCR in collaboration with LRRRC and MoG SGBV Focal Person carried out several general distributions in Bahn Camp:
  - Soap for two months to 1,216 refugees (233 families); and sanitary napkins and underwear to 363 female refugees aged 13-49.
  - NFIs, including bucket, blankets, mats and jerry canes, were distributed to 191 out of the 197 targeted highly and extreme vulnerable (EVIs) refugees.
  - Members of WASH committee also received assorted WASH materials to carry out the cleaning of WASH facilities in the camp.

## Education

### All locations

- Grade 7 classes have been confirmed at Tchien Public School in PTP Camp (Grand Gedeh) and Little Wlebo Extension Elementary School in Little Wlebo Camp (Maryland). Bahn High Extension School already offered grade 7 classes.
  - Liberian education grades are as follows: Primary education: grade 1-6; Junior education / Junior High Level: grade 7, 8, 9; Secondary education: grade 10, 11, 12.
- Through August 2018, a summer school took place in all locations.
- **Challenges:** Slow inclusion of teachers of Thien Public School (PTP Camp, Zwedru) into the national payroll. Similar challenges are faced in the placement of Kanneh Community Clinic (PTP Camp) health staff on the government payroll. UNHCR continues to advocate for the placement of concerned education and health staff in on the Government payroll.

## Local integration - Livelihoods

### Saclepea (Nimba)

- Information on beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of the pilot is compiled through the Local Integration Survey (LIS), taking into consideration nutrition, health, access and permanence in the scholar system, child labour, Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and saving.
- Throughout August 2018, UNHCR, LRRRC and AIRD carried out activities in support of beneficiaries of the pilot project, which involves 36 refugee households and 8 families from host communities. All of them received cash support in July 2018.
- AIRD and LRRRC continue to list Persons of Concern (both beneficiaries of the pilot and not beneficiaries) in Bahn (Nimba) in skill and vocational training as part of the package of the livelihoods support.
- AIRD started weekly mentoring to beneficiaries, including associations. The associations established cover mechanics, tailoring and poultry.

- UNHCR and AIRD carried out a joint visit to 10 refugees and 4 locals, part of the pilot project. Most of the beneficiaries are running their businesses according to plan.
- UNHCR conducted a training on livelihood tools for partners and UNHCR, as well as on the Capital Assessment tool for profiling the economic potential of each family. All beneficiaries' families have been profiled economically.

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- With the support from SEARCH, the structures needed for the Piggery and Poultry production have been constructed and will benefit 11 families (62 individuals) in piggery project; and 12 families (46 individuals) in poultry.

## Local integration - Shelter

### Bahn (Nimba)

- The prototype durable shelter for all refugees opting for local integration was completed in Bahn Camp. The house contains two rooms, 1 bathroom, back porch, front porch and a living room.



Shelter prototype.

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