



HIGHLIGHTS

902

Refugees repatriated during April 2017

449

Students have been repatriated from the three camps throughout 2017

15,460

Ivorian Refugees living in Liberia as of 30 April 2017

22,734

Ivorian refugees repatriated since 18 December 2015

Population of concern

A total of **15,916** Persons of Concern

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Côte-d'Ivoire refugees	15,460
Sierra Leonean refugees	376
Various nationality refugees	63
Asylum seekers	17
Total	15,916
Others of concern	1,479

Funding

USD 16,194,818 requested

0% funded

UNHCR Presence

Offices

- 1 Country Office in Monrovia
- 1 Sub-Office in Zwedru
- 1 Field Office in Harper

Staff

- 70 national staff
- 17 international staff

Liberia

Reference map
as of 06 Apr 2017



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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: Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), and Special Emergency Activity to Restore Children's Hope (SEARCH), to implement assistance in favour of refugees. Finnish Refugee Council, an operational partner supports adult literacy in PTP and Bahn camps.

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- On 23 April 2017, a cluster of health cases originated from Sinoe County, causing 13 deaths (10 deaths in Sinoe, 2 deaths in Montserrado, 1 death in Grand Bassa) and 31 cases as of 07 May 2017. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that all cases have tested negative for the Ebola Virus Disease, Yellow Fever, and Lassa Fever. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tested samples from four of the deceased people and found in them a bacteria (*Neisseria Meningitis*) which can cause meningitis, a dangerous brain infection, as well as blood infections. Further tests continue. These events were preceded by accounts of events relating to a funeral. It commenced on 21 April 2017. Symptoms of the illness include headaches, diarrhoea, vomiting and confusion.
- The Government of Liberia held a technical stakeholders' forum with the aim of defining the budgets for its commitments and priorities in the Peacebuilding Plan for Liberia. More than 30 representatives of various Government institutions participated in the meeting, where a gap of approximately USD 37 million was identified.
- The President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the UN Undersecretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Coordinator of UN Operations in Liberia met in Abuja (Nigeria) and, among others, discussed measures to ensure peace, stability, and security in Liberia after the withdrawal of UNMIL in March 2018, especially in light of the presidential election on 10 October 2017.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Voluntary repatriation remains a key operational priority.** Voluntary repatriation of refugees from Grand Gedeh, Nimba, River Gee, and Maryland counties continues despite the heavy rains, which have already affected roads leading to Cote d'Ivoire. In collaboration with LRRRC, 902 refugees returned home throughout April 2017. To date, 22,734 refugees have been repatriated since the resumption of the repatriation programme on 18 December 2015. This number includes 36 UAMs (Unaccompanied Minors) who returned home in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- Go and See visits to Cote d'Ivoire.** With the support of UNHCR Cote d'Ivoire, along with LRRRC and SAARA (Service d'Aide et Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides), three groups of six refugees each from the three camps participated in a "Go and See" visit from 09-15 April 2017. The visit was aimed at enabling refugees to make informed decisions on their repatriation to Cote d'Ivoire based on first-hand information gathered during the visit. In their visits to the most common areas of return and the reintegration projects, refugees met with local authorities, returnees and community leaders to discuss issues such as access to land, education etc. The refugees highly valued the immediate access to primary education, as well as the cash grants and reintegration activities such as the 'Food for Work' programme and the support for livelihood activities. After the visit refugees appreciated the general peaceful security situation in Cote d'Ivoire, the freedom of movement, and the efficient running of public institutions. Refugees also noted the shelters support provided to physically challenged and vulnerable returnees, in addition to the willingness of local leaders to solve general community issues.



Meeting with the Town Chief, the City Mayor and the returnee population in Kambly.



2016 Returnee women from PTP Camp selling in the market in Bloléquin.



Participants to the Go & See visits share their experience with refugees in LWC.

- Education Transition.** As part of the transfer of camp primary school management responsibility to the Liberian government, some of the newly assigned teachers from the Little Wlebo Camp (LWC) Primary School participated in a one-week in-service training. In LWC Primary School, 54% of the students passed the first test that was held in the Liberian curriculum. In PTP, school attendance has increased to an average of 1,000 at the end of April 2017 compared to 350 at the end of March 2017. Those students at the post primary level who want to continue with their education in English are also actively participating in the Study Club every week. In Bahn High School Extension, an average of 345 refugees and 148 Liberians attended school since the resumption of classes on 18 April 2017. Awareness raising on importance of education continues in the three camps by UNHCR and partners LRRRC, SEARCH and AIRD. Between March and April 2017, SEARCH has distributed stationary materials in the three camps, benefitting 38 teachers and more than 1,100 students.
- Targeted Food Distribution (TFD).** 683 Vulnerable refugees benefited this month from the TFD, which is scheduled to end in June 2017 after commencing in January 2017. Targeted beneficiaries include, inter alia, refugees who are chronically ill, and pregnant and lactating women. During the distribution, 446 individuals benefitted in PTP camp, 101 in LWC and 136 in Bahn. The number of beneficiaries has reduced more than 70% since the previous TFD in March 2017, when 2,527 refugees benefitted from the distribution.

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