

# Liberia

## November 2018

**Local Integration Retreat** with the government, UN Agencies, refugees and host communities

**Age Gender Diversity Participatory Assessments** in all locations

**9,220**  
Total number of refugees remaining in Liberia

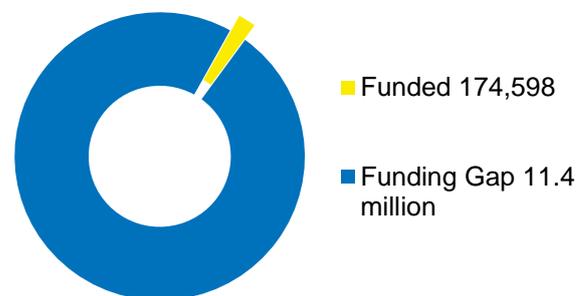
### POPULATION OF CONCERN: 9,622

By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	<b>9,149</b>
Various nationality refugees	71
Asylum seekers	31
Others of Concern (protracted Sierra Leonean refugees)	<b>371</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>9,622</b>

### FUNDING (AS OF NOVEMBER 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
- 9 International Staff

### 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

### CONTACTS

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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 **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.

## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ High-level mission to Harper (Maryland)

The closure of the Little Wlebo Camp (LWC) in Harper and the relocation of refugees to surrounding communities as part of the joint UNHCR-LRRRC local integration (LI) strategy, led to some misunderstandings by the local authorities on the process overall. UNHCR and the Government of Liberia (GoL), through LRRRC has had several discussions with the local authorities to clarify the process and next steps, including a high-level mission.

- On 8 November 2018, the Minister of Internal Affairs (MIA) led a delegation to Harper, after which issues were clarified following meetings with the County Superintendent, host communities and the refugee population.
- The delegation was comprised of the Minister of Internal Affairs (MIA), Hon. Varney Sirleaf; Deputy MIA for Research and Planning, Hon. Olayee Collins; LRRRC Executive Director (ED), Rev. Festus R.B. Logan; LRRRC Deputy Director Alphonso Wallace; and UNHCR Officer in Charge, Terna Abbo; UNHCR Head of Sub-Office Zwedru, Fortunata Ngonyani; as well as UNHCR staff from Zwedru and Harper.
- As a result of the successful mission, Maryland County authorities agreed to work together with UNHCR and LRRRC; and members of the host community stated having a clear understanding of the process. Some requests made by local authorities and members of the host communities will be taken into consideration when implementing the local integration strategy.
- It can be recalled that after LWC closes, UNHCR will continue to support Ivorian refugees who wish to voluntarily repatriate to Cote d'Ivoire, as well as those who will be integrating in nine selected host communities in Maryland County or relocating to PTP Camp (Grand Gedeh County).



High-level mission to Maryland led by the MIA. ©UNHCR

## ■ Local Integration Retreat

- On 20-22 November 2018, the Government of Liberia, through LRRRC and with the support of UNHCR, held a retreat on local integration of Ivorian refugees in Liberia. The objective was to prepare a joint national strategy of the local integration of Ivorian refugees in the country.
- Group discussions took place throughout the retreat taking into consideration the three dimensions of the local integration process: economic, social and legal aspect.
- Participants included Ivorian refugees; host communities; the African Union Special Representative to Liberia; the Liberian Immigration Service (LIS); UNICEF; FAO; WFP; UNDP; IOM; partners; as well as technical focal points of the ministries of Internal Affairs, Finance, Justice, Gender, Education and Health.
- On 22 November 2018, the morning session was attended by the Minister of Internal Affairs (MIA) Hon. Varney Sirleaf; Resident Representative of the ECOWAS Commission President in Liberia, Amb. Tunde Ajisomo; the Deputy Minister of Justice, Cllr. Nyenanti Tuan; Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former UNHCR Africa Bureau Director, Marjon Kamara; Acting Commissioner of the Liberia Immigration Service, Commissioner Moses Yebleh; and the Second Counsellor of the Ivorian Embassy in Liberia, Mr Bruce-Jacob Gbadji.



**Top L:** Participants of the LI Retreat, including Ivorian refugees and members of the host communities from all locations.

**Top R:** UNHCR OIC, Algassimou Bah; Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Varney Sirleaf; Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Mme Marjon Kamara; and Deputy Minister of Justice, Cllr. Nyenanti Tuan.

**Bottom L:** Group discussions during day one of the retreat.

**Bottom R:** Participant representing the African Union; UNHCR Admin/Programme Officer Terna Abbo; UNHCR OIC Algassimou Bah; Resident Representative of the ECOWAS Commission President in Liberia, Amb. Tunde Ajisomo and Mrs; LRRRC ED Rv. Festus Logan. ©UNHCR

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Protection

#### Monrovia (Montserrado)

- On 27-29 November 2018, UNHCR attended a regional meeting in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire) on durable solutions for Ivorian refugees in the sub region. The population of Ivorian refugees in West Africa is more than 23,000. The aim was to develop a roadmap for asylum countries to achieve a durable solution to the situation of Ivorian refugees. Recommendations include strengthening the promotion of voluntary repatriation, developing national strategies on local integration and holding tripartite meetings with each asylum country.



**Top L-top bottom:** Participants during the meeting.  
**Top R:** UNHCR Protection Officer, Algassimou Bah speaking at the event. ©UNHCR

- On 22-24 November 2018, UNHCR and the Government of Liberia (GoL) attended a 3-day regional meeting in Saly (Senegal) on statelessness. Participants included stateless focal points from ECOWAS countries, LRRRC ED and UNHCR Protection Officers in West Africa. The aim of the sessions was to update on progress and constraints relating to statelessness in the region and preparing for the High Level Event (HLE) on statelessness set to take place on 7 October 2019. The HLE marks the midpoint of the #IBelong campaign to end statelessness, launched by UNHCR in 2014 aimed at eradicating statelessness by 2024. The event will include participants such as the UN Secretary General and UNHCR High Commissioner.

#### All locations

On 13-16 November 2018, Age Gender Diversity Participatory Assessments (AGD PA) were conducted with focus groups in all locations. The exercise was carried out in partnership with SEARCH, LRRRC, AIRD, line ministries and community NGO LARO (Liberia Agriculture & Relief Organization).

- In total, 411 refugees (191 F, 220 M) participated in the discussions: 100 (50M, 50F) refugees in Bahn Camp; 120 (60M, 60F) in LWC; 140 (70M, 70F) in PTP Camp; 51 (40M, 11F) in Monrovia.

- Key findings of the AGD PA include delay in providing livelihood grants; insufficient drugs at health facilities; increase in teenage pregnancy; and limited access to documentation at national institutions.

 **VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION****Harper (Maryland)**

- On 2 November 2018, 33 Ivorian refugees returned voluntarily to Cote D'Ivoire from LWC. Throughout 2018, 849 refugees have returned.
  - Since the voluntary return process resumed post-Ebola in December 2015, 28,330 Ivorian refugees have returned home with support from UNCHR, including 41 Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children who were reunified with their families in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

**Health****Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)**

- UNHCR provided food support to the County Health Team (CHT) at Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital (MTMH) for 54 chronically ill refugee patients (26 refugees, 28 Liberians).
- However, the refugee patients remain unable to get their food due to high cost of transportation (LD600.00). MTMH is providing 100LD for each person and UNHCR will top the refugees for the next 3 months.

**Community services****All locations: 16 Days of Activism (25 November – 10 December)**

- In Zwedru (Grand Gedeh), the campaign was launched in PTP Camp in coordination with the Ministry of Gender. It started with a parade followed by an indoor programme.
- In Monrovia (Montserrado), urban refugees attended the national launching programme, attended by H. E. President George Weah and government officials.
- In Harper (Maryland), the Maryland County Gender Office for Children and Women Social Protection, in collaboration with other stakeholders such as UNHCR and LRRRC, held a final planning meeting to launch the campaign, scheduled for 3 December 2018. A parade, indoor programme and radio talk shows will take place in the county, LWC and surrounding host communities.
- In Saclepea (Nimba), refugees and community members launched the campaign with a parade through Bahn Camp and an indoor programme with keynote speakers and related debates.

**Education****Saclepea (Nimba)**

- In line with the start of the World Food Programme (WFP) School Feeding Program (SFP) in Bahn High Extension School, WFP provided 81 bags of clean rice on 5 November 2018.



## Local integration - Livelihoods

### Monrovia (Montserrado)

- **Urban cases:** On 26-28 November 2018, UNHCR, LRRRC and AIRD distributed the cash support to former Sierra Leonean refugees in order to foster their local integration in Liberia. The support is as a one-time assistance to former refugees who were all rejected by the asylum committee for claims to continual international protection.
  - There are currently 105 Sierra Leonean families living in Liberia. Out of this number, 89 families have been involved in the creation of a business plan, after which they can receive the cash support. During the distribution, 84 families (294 individuals) turned up. The remaining cases will have a grace period to turn up until 15 December 2018.

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- UNHCR visited several Income Generating Activities (IGAs) being developed in PTP Camp.
  - A group of 30 women involved in cassava farming have harvested 18 bags of cassava. 30% of the yield has been allocated for food consumption and the remaining 70% has been used for reinvestment and individual profit.
  - UNHCR conducted a participatory monitoring to the activities implemented in the camp by the IP SEARCH. The activity involved refugees working in poultry and piggery. The results, shared and discussed in a plenary with all actors involved, will be reviewed internally in the coming weeks.
- **Gaps and challenges:** The cost of food remains very high in comparison to the income generated by participants, who also face full dependence on market conditions and limited employment opportunities.

### Saclepea (Nimba)

- **Scale up of livelihoods activities:** UNHCR, partners and the GoL have been working on scaling up the implementation of livelihoods activities, as well as ensuring the alignment of the process with the government's five-year Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).
  - UNHCR, AIRD and LRRRC identified the new cases (Ivoriens and Liberians) to be included in this phase of the livelihoods strategy. The process will start in December 2018, when 100 individuals (80 refugees, 20 from the host community) will begin several activities, including training in small business management, creating a business plan, and cash support for starting or improving IGAs.
- **Pilot project:** In November 2018, UNHCR has been consolidating the data collected on participants of the livelihoods pilot, which officially ended on 30 September 2018.
  - While the data shows improvements for participants, especially regarding net incomes, the capacity for each family to save remains insufficient to guarantee sustainability. UNHCR, AIRD and LRRRC are finalising the report.
  - AIRD continued following up activities through weekly visits to the 44 families that have been part of the pilot project. Mentoring to them will gradually decrease as they improve their self-reliance. The active associations (poultry and tailoring) have been supported to improve their selling activities and are working in combining collective reinvestment and individual incomes to meet familiar basic needs.