

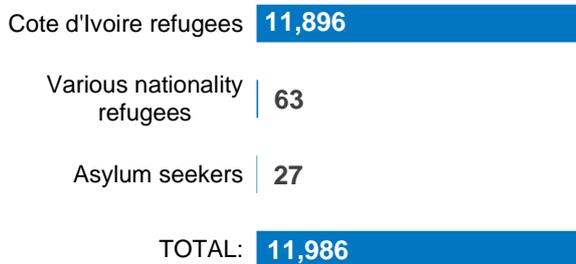
Liberia

August 2017



POPULATION OF CONCERN: 11,896

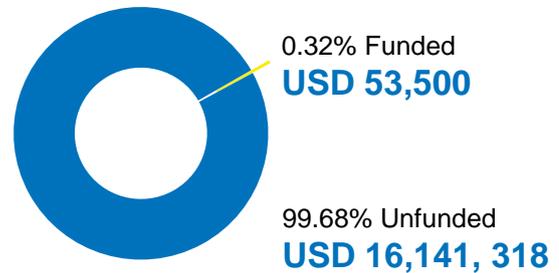
By country of origin



FUNDING (AS OF AUGUST 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

- 59 National Staff
- 12 International Staff

CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

- **2017 Presidential and Legislative Elections**
 - The first presidential debate ahead of the upcoming presidential and legislative elections took place on 17 August 2017. The debate brought together four of the six major presidential candidates: Benoni Urey (All Liberian Party); Alexander Cummings (Alternative National Congress); Charles Brumskine (Liberty Party); and Joseph N. Boakai (Unity Party), current Vice President of Liberia. The two absentees were George Weah (Coalition for Democratic Change) and the former governor of the Central Bank of Liberia Dr. J. Mills Jones (Movement for Economic Empowerment). The three-hour debate went on without incidents at Paynesville City Hall, and was followed over radio broadcasts and online channels.
 - The presidential elections on 10 October 2017 will be the first to be handled by the Liberian security forces since UNMIL's transfer of security responsibilities to Liberian authorities on 30 June 2016. The outcome of the elections will include 1 President, out of 20 candidates; 1 Vice President, out of 20 candidates; and 73 individuals, out of 986, will fill the vacancies created in the House of Representatives. The campaign period runs from 31 July 2017 until 8 October 2017.
 - The Government of Liberia disburses USD8.5M for the 2017 presidential and legislative elections: USD2 million is set for the presidential candidates; USD1 million for vice presidential candidates, and USD400,000 for representative candidates.
 - The multi-donor basket fund supported by UNDP, EU, Ireland, Sweden and Canada, in collaboration with the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the National Elections Commission (NEC), is training the security forces in preparation to provide security during the October elections. UNDP election basket fund supports the NEC and other agencies strengthen the electoral system in Liberia with US16 million.
 - On 13 August 2017, experts from political affairs, gender, media, civil society, and development sectors began a training in Accra (Ghana) to deepen their knowledge on ECOWAS Long-Term Election Observation Guidelines and Methodology. The training also aims to strengthen the capacity of staff of the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions during poll observation missions.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Voluntary Repatriation

- Voluntary repatriation of refugees from Grand Gedeh, Nimba, River Gee, and Maryland remains a key operation priority. However, funding constraints and challenging weather conditions due to the rainy season have hindered repatriation exercises.
- During August 2017, 452 refugees returned to Cote d'Ivoire. Protection screenings and registrations continue in all locations.
- As of 31 August 2017, 26,456 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

- The integration process of those refugees that wish to remain in Liberia is also a priority for the second half of 2017.
- In the frame of local integration, the implementation of self-reliance and livelihood activities will benefit refugees and host communities. To select the most appropriate beneficiaries, UNHCR is identifying those refugees who were already trained and received assistance in Income Generating Activities (IGA) and agriculture from UNHCR previous implementing partners, such as ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency International), SEARCH and UNIDO (UN Industrial Development Organization). This process will help capitalise past and current investments as well as orient future activities and target beneficiaries. Activities will be focused on the livelihood and market survey carried out by NARDA (New Africa Research Development Agency).
- Local integration coordinating committees liaise with related stakeholders and ministries including Health, Agriculture, Education, and Gender, as well as with UN Agencies, such as FAO and WFP, as well as international organisations.

Education transition

- Throughout August 2017, the Summer School Programme was launched in PTP and Bahn Camps. This programme targeted all Ivorian refugee children, as well as Liberians from host communities, free of charge, and offered Math and English lessons as well as recreational activities. The initiative was mainly put in place to support the integration of Ivorian refugee children into the Liberia school curriculum (taught in English), which replaced the Ivorian curriculum (taught in French) in February 2017, as part of the local integration process.
- In preparation for the official opening of the new academic year, teachers from all primary schools in the camps are joining refresher trainings that the Ministry of Education (MoE) organises in schools across Liberia.
- The official registration for the 2017/2018 academic year started on 14 August 2017 and is ongoing. Regular classes in all primary schools in the camp start on 4 September 2017. As a result of the implementation of the Liberian curriculum, the new academic year will be fully taught in English.
- To promote sport activities as well as encourage school enrolment, a sport tournament was organised in the three primary schools in PTP Camp. The tournament, which started on 28 August 2017, will take place weekly until 28 September 2017.
- The refugee school in Little Wlebo Camp has changed to Little Wlebo Extension Elementary School (LWEES), and the process continues to include this school as well as the schools in PTP in the Educational Management Information System (EMIS). Bahn High Extension School is already under this system, which makes the school a candidate to benefit from WFP's School Feeding Programme.



■ Health transition

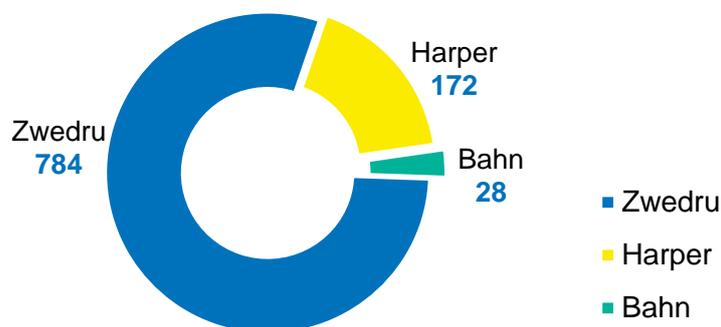
- In line with the integration of refugee's health services into the national services delivery system, UNHCR continues discussions with the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- In Bahn, since the closure of the clinic at the refugee camp in March 2017, all refugees integrated in the health national structure and access Bahn Health Centre, constituting an average of 15-20% of the total patients who visit the centre weekly. The clinics in PTP Camp and LWC serve an average of 10-20% Liberians and 90-80% refugees.
- PTP Camp and LWC clinics are expected to transition their services in September (LWC) and December (PTP) 2017. The County Health Team (CHT) has requested the MoH to incorporate LWC clinic in the Health Management Information Systems (HMIS).
- On 16 August 2017, UNHCR donated to Bahn Health Center (BHC) all drugs remaining at Bahn Camp clinic to reinforce the capacity of BHC. The donation took place in the presence of LRRRC, SEARCH, AHA, the Refugee Leadership, Bahn City authorities and representatives of BHC. The city authorities and the health supervisor appreciated the donation and thanked UNHCR for the support provided (pictures below).



Child Protection

- Birth certificates issued in 2017: 784 in Zwedru; 172 in Harper; and 28 in Saclepea.

Birth certificates issued in 2017



CONTACT

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