

# Liberia

## September 2018

**Durable Shelter Prototype**  
 Inaugurated in Bahn Refugee Camp

**2018/19 Academic Year** starts, including 7<sup>th</sup> Grade in all locations

**9,270**  
 Total number of refugees remaining in Liberia

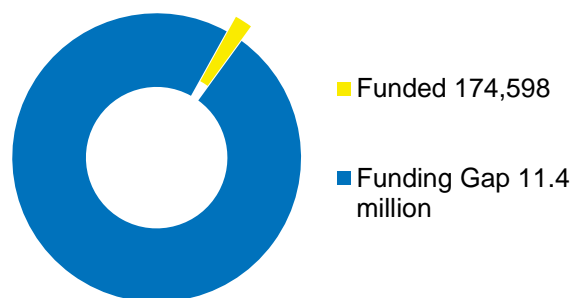
### POPULATION OF CONCERN: 9,672

By country of origin

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Cote d'Ivoire refugees                                 | <b>9,202</b> |
| Various nationality refugees                           | <b>68</b>    |
| Asylum seekers   | <b>28</b>    |
| Others of Concern (protracted Sierra Leonean refugees) | <b>374</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>9,672</b> |

### FUNDING (AS OF SEPTEMBER 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
- 11 International Staff

### CONTACTS

**Fatima Mohammed-Cole**, UNHCR Liberia

Representative, mohammef@unhcr.org

**Ana Biurrun Ruiz**, UNHCR Liberia Associate External

Relations & Reporting Officer, biurrun@unhcr.org

### 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

## 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.

- LRRRC, including Executive Director Rev. Festus Logan, as well as AIRD and SEARCH joined UNHCR Regional Representative for West Africa, Mme Liz Ahua on her latest mission to Liberia.

## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ **Regional Representative for West Africa, Mme Liz Ahua, comes on mission to Liberia**

On 15-17 September 2018, the Regional Representative for West Africa, Mme Liz Ahua, visited Liberia and met with several government officials; UN Agencies and the Resident Coordinator; Partners; and refugees in Bahn Refugee Camp (Nimba). Mme Ahua was joined by Denis Kuindje, Assistant Regional Representative in charge of Protection, LRRRC, AIRD and SEARCH.

- During her address to Ivorian refugees, Mme Ahua highlighted voluntary repatriation as the preferred Durable Solution and reminded those integrating in Liberia to be law abiding.
- The Regional Representative for West Africa (RRWA) inaugurated the two-bedroom shelter prototype aimed for those Ivorian refugees integrating in Liberia.
  - In line with the Pro-Poor National Agenda for Prosperity and Development, in addition to providing durable low cost housing to 80% of the refugees opting to locally integrate, UNHCR will also provide 20% of the housing project for the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) of the communities hosting refugees near the refugee camps.
- The delegation unveiled the signboard of the pictorial view of the settlement into which Bahn Refugee Camp (Nimba) will be developed. In these settlements, Ivorian refugees and host communities will live together under the authority of a Town Chief, appointed by the Government.
- Mme Ahua officially turned over the poultry, tailor shop and garage structures to participants in those livelihoods projects. A symbolic check of USD 4,100.00 was given to 3 different associations involved in the livelihoods pilot project, in order to kick-off their business.
- During Mme Ahua's curtesy call on Bahn City Mayor Mr. Africanus Kwahmie, the official stated that "the city is looking forward to continue collaborating with UNHCR in implementing local integration and we are excited for the development this will bring also to the Liberians living in the host communities".
  - In August 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Bahn City Council and LRRRC, through which the Bahn City Council is providing 310 acres of land needed for the local integration programme in Nimba County.
- The Second Counsellor of the Ivorian Embassy in Liberia also joined the mission to Bahn Refugee Camp, and encouraged refugees to make the most of the safe environment in Cote d'Ivoire and return to their home country.
- On 17 September 2018, the mission met in Monrovia with Hon. Lawrence Morris, a former Liberian refugee and now Member of the Parliament and Chairman of Repatriation, to seek support from the various Committees towards the passage of the laws concerning the protection of Persons of Concern.



The prototype shelter was inaugurated by RRWA, local and county authorities, refugees and host community. ©UNHCR



(L) RRWA and LRRRC ED, Rev. Festus Logan, give the symbolic check to members of the poultry association. (R) Pictorial of Bahn settlement. ©UNHCR



(L) The Second Counsellor of the Ivorian Embassy in Liberia joined the mission and encouraged refugees to make the most of the safe environment in Cote d'Ivoire and return to their home country. (R) RRWA hosts dinner with UN Agencies, RC, CDI Embassy, government officials and Partners. © UNHCR

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Protection

#### Monrovia (Montserrado)

- **Statelessness:** UNHCR and the UNICEF signed a joint strategy to address childhood statelessness in Liberia.
  - The strategy looks at capacity building for the Bureau of Vita Statistics at the Ministry of Health; promoting the implementation of a national birth registration policy; and providing birth certificates to children of former Sierra Leonean refugees born in Liberia. UNHCR and UNICEF will also join efforts towards the removal of the gender discrimination clause of the 1973 Alien and Nationality Laws (ANL), which restricts Liberian women passing their nationality to their children.

- UNHCR and LRRRC facilitated the issuance of 59 birth certificates to children of former Sierra Leonean refugees who are integrated in Liberia. On 20 September 2018, 39 birth certificates were distributed in Tienii and Sinje (Grand Cape County).
- On 6 September 2018, 28 refugees were returned voluntarily to Cote D'Ivoire from Bahn Refugee Camp (Nimba). On 25 September 2018, one Ivorian refugee returned home from PTP Camp (Zwedru). Throughout 2018, 789 refugees have returned. Since the voluntary return process resumed post-Ebola in December 2015, 28,270 Ivorian refugees have voluntarily returned with support from UNCHR as of 30 September 2018, including 41 Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children who were reunified with their families in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- UNHCR provided fifty four (54) refugees and twenty six (26) Liberians living with HIV/Aids and Tuberculosis patients with assorted food items for three months.

## Community services

### Monrovia (Montserrado)

- From 28 August to 11 September 2018, UNHCR in collaboration with LRRRC, AIRD and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), distributed Non Food Items (buckets, blankets, bales of used clothes, soap) to victims of recent floods in 20 communities in Margibi County. Beneficiaries include 688 households and 3,915 persons (1,113 children; 1,469 women; 1,333 men).

### Saclepea (Nimba)

- 11 awareness sessions on SGBV were conducted in the eight blocks of Bahn Camp, reaching 256 participants.
- On 3 September 2018, UNHCR carried out a training on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) for 25 partners and service providers working with refugees, including UNHCR, MOGCSP (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection), LRRRC, Bahn Health Center and AIRD (African Initiatives for Relief and Development).
- On 5 September 2018, Bahn Extension High School carried out a 2-days refresher workshop for teachers, with UNHCR support. The 18 participants were trained on classroom management, evaluation, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), etc.

## Education

September 2018 enrolment for the new academic year 2018/2019 in the three public schools in the refugee camps: Bahn High Extension School (Bahn Camp), Little Wlebo Extension School (Little Wlebo Camp), Tchien Public School (PTP Camp).

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| TOTAL students enroled | 1,903 |
| Ivorian refugees       | 1,029 |
| Liberians              | 874   |

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- UNHCR in collaboration with the Principal, teachers and PTA distributed uniforms and learning material to 378 Primary and Junior High Section students.
  - **Challenges:** There are currently only 7 teachers for 10 classrooms and an average of 600 students. Slow inclusion of teachers on the government payroll.



Junior High students. ©UNHCR



7<sup>th</sup> Grade students received assorted tree samples from UNHCR for planting around the school facilities to develop farming activities on the school's plot. ©UNHCR



## Local integration - Livelihoods

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- Through UNHCR livelihoods partner SEARCH, 80 chickens and 22 piglets were brought to PTP Camp in support of the livelihoods programme. Refugees and members of the host community who have registered their interest in animal farming monitor the animals with guidance from SEARCH. SEARCH and the Ministry of Agriculture also provided these piggery and poultry farmers a four-days training on farming. UNHCR, LRRRC, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP), SEARCH, Refugee Leadership and the beneficiaries attended SEA/SGBV presentations carried out by UNHCR.
- The group of women working on the production of attieke were provided by SEARCH with 10 bags of cassava and other materials.



Progress continues; SEARCH reports improvements in the business management of the production of attieke by the participants. ©SEARCH

### Harper (Maryland)

- Caritas Cape Palmas is providing livelihoods support to refugees in Little Wlebo Camp and members of the host community. Through a livelihoods training, mainly for women, 70 participants (50 refugees; 20 Liberians), learnt about record keeping, savings and micro finance. Ivorian and Liberian women participants formed a savings group.
- Caritas will give each beneficiary US150 as seed loan and food rations to prevent the use of the loan to buy food. Other support includes food and little capital to some EVIs (refugees) and peace-building for co-existence trainings for refugees and locals.

### Saclepea (Nimba)

- Follow up continues to assess the progress of the livelihoods pilot project in which participants are comprised of Ivorian refugees (36 families with 172 individuals) and members of the host community (8 families with 68 individuals). Sectors targeted in the pilot project include small business, tailoring, soap making, mechanic and poultry.
- AIRD and UNHCR visited 16 beneficiaries (12 refugees; 4 from host community) of the livelihoods pilot project. Monitoring and evaluation of their progress continues.



**Bahn Host Community member** Annie Delapoe (L) shared her progress with AIRD Livelihoods Facilitator.

Mme Annie is from Bahn Town and is setting up a small business of dried goods. She sells on Mondays in Bahn Market and Tuesdays in Saclepea Market.

She states having already seen improvements in her business, and is planning on extending her business to continue supporting her family. © AIRD

**Ivorian refugee** Amy Douan (L) has maintained her business as originally planned.

Mme Amy reports making progress in her business.

She goes to Saclepea Market every Tuesday to sell Lappa, chains, slippers and human hair, and other items. © AIRD



**Ivorian refugee** Sekou Camara has invested the cash support received into his already existing business of computer printing. He now also sells stationary items and, following a rigorous vetting process with other applicants from the local community, he won an ID card printing contract for students from over 26 schools. © UNHCR

- On 24 September 2018, UNHCR organised a six-day Training of the Trainers workshop on small businesses management. The 20 participants included AIRD (UNHCR livelihoods partner), LRRRC, and UNHCR.
  - A practical session within the training was joined by 44 families participating in the livelihoods pilot project. It can be recalled that participants in the pilot project are 36 refugee families (172 individuals) and 8 host community families (68 individuals).