

# Liberia

## January 2019

**200** Refugees living in urban areas receive **217** bags of used clothes for adults

**52** birth certificates printed since 2018 in all locations

**9,097** Total number of refugees remaining in Liberia

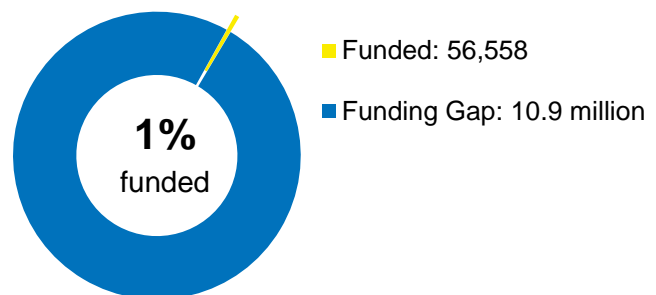
### POPULATION OF CONCERN: 9,206

By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	<b>9,097</b>
Various nationality refugees	71
Asylum seekers	38
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>9,206</b>

### FUNDING (AS OF JANUARY 2019)

\$11 million requested for the Liberia Operation



### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS USD

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MAJOR DONORS OF UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Sweden 90.4 million | Denmark 54.9 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 27.3 million | Switzerland 15.1 million

Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Estonia | Indonesia | Monaco | Montenegro | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

#### Offices

1 Branch Office in Monrovia  
1 Field Office in Zwedru  
1 Field Unit in Harper  
1 Field Unit in Bahn

#### Staff

43 National Staff  
7 International Staff

#### CONTACTS

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## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

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UNHCR works with the Government of Liberia through the **Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC)** in the provision of protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, including gender and child protection and education.

UNHCR provides funding to **African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)**. This INGO provides support in infrastructure; shelter; WASH; and livelihood activities.

## CONTEXT HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Laurent Gbagbo, Former President of Cote d'Ivoire, goes to Belgium on conditional release.**

- On 1 February 2019, the International Criminal Court (ICC) ordered the conditional release of former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo and his aide Charles Ble Goude, while awaiting their appeal trial from the ICC's detention centre. Gbagbo is the first former head of state to go on trial at the ICC.
  - The conditions of their release include their return to court if required for a possible prosecution appeal against the acquittal.
- The conditional release follows the acquittal announced on 15 January 2019 by the ICC, which ordered the immediate release of Gbagbo and Ble Goude's.
  - However, on 16 January 2019 prosecutors challenged the decision and judges ruled that Gbagbo should live in an ICC member state. Belgium, where Gbagbo's wife currently resides, has agreed to host him.
- Gbagbo has spent seven years in ICC detention centre in The Hague after his arrest by UN and French-backed forces supporting his rival, Alassane Ouattara. Charges include ordering murder and gang-rape during 2011 post-election violence in Cote d'Ivoire, which left more than 3,000 people dead and 500,000 displaced.
- Monitoring continues on the impact this news can have on voluntary repatriation, as 98% of refugees currently hosted by Liberia are of Ivorian origin. While several have expressed joy about the release of Gbagbo, others cite insecurity as the reason not to return home.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

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### **Protection**

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#### Harper (Maryland)

- LRRRC and UNHCR conducted a border monitoring mission at two major border entry points, including the Pedebo-Prolo and Dekay Town borders. The Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) reported no issues in cross-border activities.
- UNHCR and LRRRC held a meeting with the refugee population to share information on the local integration programme, LWC closure in 2019 and to highlight the continuation of voluntary repatriation.



## Community services

### Monrovia (Montserrado)

- UNHCR selected Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) focal points in all offices. Each camp will have complaint boxes as well as a hotline to talk directly to focal points. Informative brochures are also being developed in French and English.
- On 4 January 2019, UNHCR, LRRRC and the Ivorian leadership distributed 217 plastic bags of used clothes for adults living in urban communities.
- As part of the local integration process of refugees in Liberia, UNHCR donated 3,000 folders to LRRRC on 16 January 2019. The donation aims to improve the management of all files concerning refugees who wish to integrate in Liberia.

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- On 23-24 January 2019, soap distribution targeted 4,496 individuals (1452 families) in PTP Camp. 4,219 individuals (1308 families) showed up and were served each with 2 pieces of soap per month for a period of 6 months.

### Harper (Maryland)

- UNHCR donated 300 pieces of used zinc to the Maryland County National Police to rehabilitate Harper Police Barracks, as well as 12 cartoons of soap (600 pieces of soap) to the J.J. Dossen memorial referral hospital in Harper City.



(L) UNHCR presenting 300 pieces of used zinc from decommissioned shelters of LWC. (R) JJ Dossen Hospital Administrator receives the donation for and un-behalf of the hospital. © UNHCR

### Saclepea (Nimba)

- On January 2019, the birth registration and certification team in Sanniquellie printed 33 birth certificates for refugee children in Bahn Refugee Camp.
  - Since 2018, a total of 52 certificates have been printed for refugee children.
  - The team also printed 13 birth certificates for Liberian children and 1 Ghanaian child.
- The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) continued their regular SGBV awareness sessions under the guidance of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection social worker. The sessions took place in the market place, blocks and the school. Follow up and counselling was carried out for three survivors of SGBV.
- On 17 January 2019, soap distribution targeted 1,267 individuals (357 families) in Bahn Camp. 1,249 individuals (352 families) showed up and were served each with 2 pieces of soap per month for a period of 6 months.



## Local integration - Livelihoods

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- In PTP Camp, UNHCR continues the monitoring of the poultries and the piggeries, previously managed by SEARCH (Special Emergency Activity to Restore Children's Hope).
  - **Poultry:** UNHCR and LARO (Liberia Agriculture and Relief Organization), a local Community Based Organisation specialised in poultry management, is implementing this project with funds from the Julia Taft Fund (US Embassy).
  - **Piggery:** UNHCR is working together with the 11 families involved in the piggery project, focusing in the sustainability of the 5 piggeries ahead of producing profits.

### Nimba County

- In Saclepea, the 2-person association working in rice production has collected their first yield of paddy rice. The harvesting activity will continue and the association will diversify their production and introduce vegetables aimed to be harvested in 3 months.
- AIRD carried out its regular follow up and mentoring support visits with 128 families out of the overall 144 who are involved in the livelihoods process.
- The 50 participants that received the small business management training in mid-December 2018 are working in their business plan, which is a condition for collecting the cash support.
- To guarantee sustainability of the project, the saving component is key from the second half of the 12-month intervention onwards. AIRD is monitoring and tracking the saving habits of the 44 cases that have been already involved in the process for more than 5 months. The associations have developed collective and individual saving plans.



## LOCAL INTEGRATION - SHELTER

### Saclepea (Nimba)

- The construction of the 12 durable housing units in Bahn settlement is in its final stages. The painting (interior and exterior) and the construction of the septic tank are finalised. UNHCR coordinates periodic site monitoring jointly with AIRD, LRRRC, contractors and refugees.



The 12 durable shelters in Bahn settlement are almost finalised. © UNHCR