

Liberia

March 2019

Second convoy
of 2019 leaves from PTP
Camp to Cote d'Ivoire

Little Wiebo Camp Clinic
(Maryland County) placed on the
Ministry of Health Management
Information Server

9,087
Total number of
Persons of Concern
in Liberia

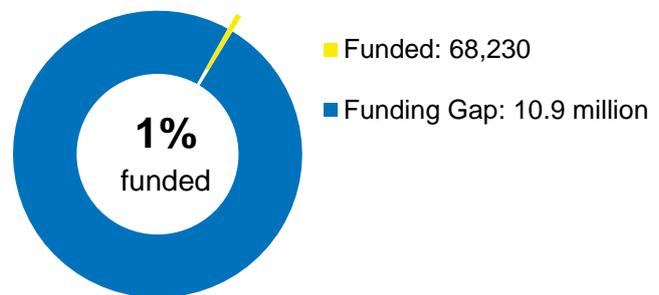
POPULATION OF CONCERN: 9,087

By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	8,977
Various nationality refugees	77
Asylum seekers	33
TOTAL:	9,087

FUNDING (AS OF MARCH 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

- 46 National Staff
- 8 International Staff

CONTACTS

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WORKING WITH PARTNERS

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 issues, 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

President Weah requests audit on US\$ 25million mop-up exercise. Those arrested in connection to the report are released.

- On 7 March 2019, the President of Liberia, George Manneh Weah, ordered an implementation of the findings of the Kroll Associates' report and that of the Presidential Investigation Team.
 - Kroll Associates' report was released by the US Embassy on 28 February 2019 and looks into the alleged disappearance of more than US\$100 million worth of newly printed Liberian banknotes in 2018.
 - The report concluded that there was unauthorised printing of Liberian notes that amounted to 15.5 billion Liberian Dollars (US\$100m).
 - In a related development, the Presidential Investigation Team (PIT) report tackles the infusion of US\$ 25 million, announced by President Weah in July 2018 as an infusion into the Liberian economy.
 - The objective was to “mop-up” the excess of Liberian dollar/LRD banknotes in an attempt to address the excess liquidity of the Liberian Dollar.
 - PIT's report calls for a 'forensic investigation' of the entire mop-up exercise carried out by the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL).
 - While both Kroll's and the PIT report point to discrepancies on how the mop-up exercise was carried out, CBL says that the US\$25 million that President Weah mandated the Economic Management Team to infuse in the economy is accounted for.
- In March 2019, the Criminal Court 'C' released the five CBL former and current employees who were arrested in connection to the findings of the PIT report and that of Kroll Associates.

MAIN ACTIVITIES



Protection

Monrovia (Montserrado)

- The printing and distribution of renewed refugee ID cards is completed for refugees in Bahn Camp and Monrovia. The process in PTP Camp is ongoing; in Little Wlebo Camp (LWC), a total of 442 cards, out of the 491 printed, have been distributed.
 - All refugees above age 7 are entitled to ID cards, which strengthens refugees' freedom of movement and access to services.
- During the Eligibility Committee's first sitting in 2019 to deliberate on five (5) cases, two were granted refugees status, two asylum seekers requested further clarification and one was rejected and given the option to appeal.

- The Health Sector Pool Fund Mechanism, established in March 2008 by the Ministry of Health, held its final close-up meeting on 12 March 2019. During the meeting UNHCR received a Certificate of Appreciation as a contributing donor to the Health Sector Pool Fund and oversight and participation as a member of the Health Sector Pool Fund Steering Committee from 2008-2019.

Saclepea (Nimba)

- On 12-16 March 2019, a verification exercise was conducted in four refugee hosting locations targeting 186 individuals: 132 in host communities (Gboplay, Loguatuo and Buutuo Axis) and 54 in the former Saclepea refugee camp.
 - The last verification exercise in host communities was done in 2014. In host communities, major reasons for families opting for local integration respond to intermarriages and good relationship with host communities.
 - Review of results on the three-day verification exercise is ongoing.

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- On 20 March 2019, 57 Ivorian refugees (24 families) from PTP Camp and host communities returned home to Cote d'Ivoire.
 - In 2019, a total of 123 Ivorian refugees have returned home from Liberia. In 2018, UNHCR supported 953 Ivorian refugees to return home.
- Registration of candidates for repatriation is ongoing in all locations.

Health

Harper (Maryland)

- Little Wlebo Camp Clinic has been placed on the Ministry of Health (MoH) Management Information Server (MIS).
 - As a result, the clinic would be incorporated into government planning and receive government support including payment of staff salaries when the MIS process is completed.
- Healthcare NGO Partners In Health (PIH) donated a new delivery bed to the Little Wlebo Clinic worth 200USD.



UNHCR receives the maternity bed on behalf of Little Wlebo Clinic donated by Partners In Health (PIH). © UNHCR



Community services

All locations: celebration of International Women’s Day under the theme: **Think equal, build smart, innovate for change** and the national theme **“Gender Equality for Innovative Change”**.

UNHCR, LRRRC, partners, refugees and host communities members led and joined several activities to celebrate International Women’s Day, which was observed on 8 March 2019.

Activities included group discussions and awareness sessions on SGBV prevention and reporting mechanisms. Participants in PTP Camp (Grand Gedeh), Harper (Maryland), and Bahn Camp (Nimba), took part in parades where they were joined by the Ministry of Gender, school authorities and the Liberian National Police, amongst others.



Refugees and host communities celebrate International Women’s Day in PTP Camp (Grand Gedeh). © UNHCR



Refugees and host communities celebrate International Women’s Day in Little Wlebo Camp (Maryland). © UNHCR



Refugees and host communities celebrate International Women’s Day in Bahn Camp (Nimba). © UNHCR



Local integration - Livelihoods

Nimba County

- AIRD is supporting the gradual inclusion of agriculture activities among refugees as IGA and/or for own consumption. In Bahn Camp, a group of refugees started preparing land for farming. The land is part of the 310 acres of land provided by the Bahn City Council in August 2018 for local integration activities in Nimba County.
- In Saclepea, a group of 20 refugees has started preparing 20 acres of low land for farming purposes. This group of refugees have started working together with members of SAMUCFA (Saclepea Mah United Commercial Farmers Association) and are jointly preparing the planting phase.
 - An MoU on the joint collaboration between refugees and SAMUCFA is being finalised. The Saclepea City Mayor, LRRRC, AIRD and UNHCR are supporting the process.
- At the end of the month, 37 cases received the second batch of the cash support for Income Generating Activities (IGA), following their improvements and continuous commitment in the process. The decision is based on AIRD mentors' feedback and inputs from LRRRC-UNHCR monitoring activities.
- In line with results of previous months, savings of refugees involved in livelihood activities continue. The culture of using Village Savings & Loans Associations (VSLA) is well established and participants continue to save on a weekly basis.



Local Integration - Shelter

Nimba County

- Twelve durable shelters were completed during the month of March, making a total of 13 completed and fully occupied durable shelters in Bahn. The 13 families allocated to the durable shelters have started the construction of their outdoor traditional kitchens with support from UNHCR and AIRD.
 - UNHCR along with LRRRC and AIRD, distributed pieces of zinc to 10 households whose kitchens are at advanced level of construction.



Ongoing construction of the outdoor kitchen. © UNHCR

- The construction of two classrooms at the extension of Bahn High Extension School continues.