

# Liberia

June 2019

## World Refugee Day

Celebrated linked to the Take A Step With Refugees campaign and the African Union theme for year 2019.

**232 Ivorian refugees** voluntary repatriate to Cote d'Ivoire

**8,746**  
Total number of Persons of Concern in Liberia

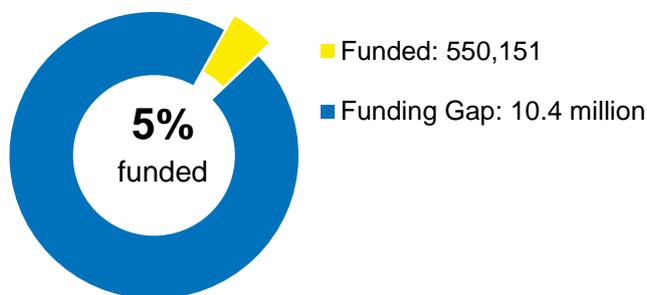
## POPULATION OF CONCERN: 8,746

By country of origin

Cote d'Ivoire refugees	<b>8,623</b>
Various nationality refugees	77
Asylum seekers	46
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>8,746</b>

## FUNDING (AS OF JUNE 2019)

\$11 million requested for the Liberia Operation



## UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS USD

### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MAJOR DONORS OF UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Sweden 90.4 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | Private donors Spain 33 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 17.3 million | Switzerland 15.1 million

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Indonesia | Kuwait | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | 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

### Save the State' protest on 7 June 2019 takes place peacefully.

- On 7 June 2019, the 'Save the State' protest, organized by the Council of Patriots (CoP), took place without any incidents.
  - It can be recalled that the CoP, the group organizing the 'Save the State' protest on 7 June 2019, cited lack of accountability, corruption, mismanagement of state resources and insufficient access to basic services as some of the reasons behind the protest.
  - During the day of the protest, social media services including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and WhatsApp were disrupted throughout Liberia.
- Liberia's Minister of Information, Eugene Nagbe, confirmed that social media platforms were shutdown temporarily because of "security concerns."
- On 11 June 2019, the President of Liberia addressed the nation and called for national dialogue to address the challenges faced by the country.
  - President Weah invited leaders of political parties, civil society organizations, traditional chiefs, business community and the CoP, among others, to a round-table forum to brainstorm on measures aimed at addressing the current economic challenges in Liberia.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### World Refugee Day celebration in Liberia

#### All locations

- On 20 June 2019, World Refugee Day (WRD) was celebrated in all locations linked to the Take A Step With Refugees campaign.



UNHCR colleagues took a step with refugees for more than 5 km in Monrovia and Zwedru. © UNHCR.

- Celebrations were also linked with the African Union (AU) theme for year 2019: “Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.”
- Following the trend in the four last years, the President of Liberia H.E. George M. Weah, issued a Proclamation declaring 20 June as WRD to be observed as a Working Holiday.

### WRD in Monrovia (Montserrado)

- The Special Guest Speaker was AU Special Representative to Liberia, H. E. Ambassador Ibrahim M. Kamara, and other attendees included representatives of the Ivorian and Swedish Embassy, UN Agencies such as UN Women, UNDP and UNICEF, as well as Ecobank, who joined others as sponsors of the event.
- The Guest of Honour, UN Resident Coordinator, H. E. Yacoub El Hillo, reflected on the peaceful transition in Liberia following the civil war as well as on the role of the Government of Liberia and UN throughout the peacekeeping process.
- Returnees performed a drama on their experience as returnees; a cultural troop performed traditional dance and participants enjoyed local food and a football match.



(L) High level participants, including the UN Resident Coordinator (centre), during the WRD celebration in Monrovia. (R) Liberian returnees displayed their products during the celebration. © UNHCR.

### WRD in Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- Refugees led the parade and indoor programme, which included culture performances and a drama representing the issue of land acquisition.
- The Keynote speaker, Mr. Alaska Bah, Special Assistant, deputized for Grand Gedeh County Superintendent, encouraged refugees to voluntarily repatriate to Cote d'Ivoire.



(L) Ivorian refugees in PTP Camp during the parade. (R) Refugees and members of the host communities after the soccer match. © UNHCR.

### WRD in Harper (Maryland)

- After the parade, the indoor programme included a drama on WRD and the AU 2019 theme. Refugee students read a poem in English and a dance troupe performed traditional dances.



(L) Ivorian refugees led the parade on WRD. (R) Refugee students reading their poems. © UNHCR.

### WRD in Bahn (Nimba)

- Following a parade in the camp, the indoor programme included partners and government authorities, as well as activities such as traditional dance and a football match.



(L) Ivorian refugees in Bahn Camp celebrated WRD through a parade and (R) an indoor programme, including the participation of students and host community members. © UNHCR.

## Protection

### Monrovia (Montserratado)

- On 25 June 2019, the seven Ivorian refugees who have been in detention since 2012 were released from the Monrovia Central Prison into the custody of LRRRC.
  - It can be recalled that the seven refugees, who have been in detention in Liberia since 2012, were awaiting a final ruling on the government of Cote d'Ivoire's petition for extradition.
  - Throughout the process, UNHCR has been visiting the refugees regularly, providing them with drugs, clothes, food and specialized medical treatment when necessary.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with LRRRC, organized the first meeting of the Statelessness Taskforce with the participation of the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS).
  - This Taskforce is responsible for advocating the amendment to the 1973 Alien and Nationality Laws (ANL) to remove the gender bias, which restricts Liberian women passing their nationality to their children. This restriction is in conflict with Article 28 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia.

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- On 20 June 2019, a male Ivorian refugee who was incarcerated at the National Palace of Correction on 10 January 2019 was released from detention in accordance with the law.
- UNHCR provided \$25.00 to each of the five refugee inmates at the National Palace of Correction in Zwedru for the procurement of toiletries and other essential materials.
- From January to June 2019, 117 (67 M, 50 F) birth certificates were printed and 84 (41 M, 43 F) of them distributed. Registration of new births is ongoing at the clinic in PTP Camp.
- LRRRC completed the distribution of renewed refugee ID cards in PTP Camp. Out of the 3,285 renewed cards, 3,049 were distributed to refugees (236 refugees did not show up).
- On 16 June 2019 in PTP Camp, Tchien Public School commemorated the Day of the African Child with a parade, an indoor program and soccer matches.

 **VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION**

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- On June 2019, two voluntary repatriation convoys departed Liberia with 232 Ivorian refugees.
  - On 13 June 2019, 153 Ivorian refugees (37 families) left from host communities in River Gee (Maryland) to Cote d'Ivoire. On 19 June 2019, 79 Ivorian refugees (34 families) reached Cote d'Ivoire from PTP Camp (75 refugees) and host communities (4 refugees).
  - In 2019 until now, a total of 715 Ivorian refugees (232 from the camps and 483 from the host communities) have returned home from Liberia.
- On 3 and 4 July 2019 a joint team (UNHCR, LRRRC, AIRD and the Ministry of Public Works –MPW-) conducted a road assessment. Results are being reviewed.
- **“Come and tell”** mission from 24 to 26 June 2019 visited PTP Camp and met with the refugee population in the camp and in Janzon Axis.
  - The mission’s message centred around the favourable conditions to return.
  - The mission was comprised of six returnees, the Prefect of Toulepleu Department, the Deputy Prefect of Bolequin Department, UNHCR Head of Sub Office Guiglo, Associate Durable Solutions Officer of UNHCR Guiglo, and the Head of DAARA (Direction d’Aide et d’Assistance aux Refugies et aux Apatrides) Office in Guiglo.



## Local integration - Livelihoods

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- Enhancing the sustainability of livelihoods activities, UNHCR provided guidance for the formation of a Management Committee for the Julia Taft Poultry Project. The committee aims to spearhead the daily affairs of the poultry, as part of its sustainability plan.
  - On 2 July 2019, the committee reported the creation of a bank account at the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI). The plan consists in depositing 70 per cent of the income generated from the sale of eggs and use the fund to maintain the poultry and contingency use.

### Nimba County

- On 26 June 2019, AIRD had a meeting with the Superintendent's office in Nimba to obtain more information on the technical and vocational training offer in the county.
  - AIRD mapped the existing centres in Nimba that provide training and are linked to the Pro Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity (PAPD) of the Government of Liberia.



## Local integration - Shelter

### Zwedru (Grand Gedeh)

- The distribution of roofing kits in PTP Camp has started. As of 14 June 2019, five families received the kits and the majority of refugee families in the camp are securing local construction materials, which is a requirement ahead of receiving the roofing kits.
- UNHCR and Ministry of Public Works organized a 5-days training for 16 members (refugees and host community members) of PTP WASH committee, addressing the maintenance and repair of hand pumps.

## Programme

### Monrovia (Montserrado)

- From 17 to 18 June 2019, a programme management workshop took place in Monrovia with staff from UNHCR, LRRRC, AIRD and CARITAS.
  - Issues covered included Result Based Management, monitoring, reporting, partnership management, risk management, compliance, closure and disengagement of partners.
  - There were 32 participants in attendance coming from multi-functional units comprising Management, Programme, Protection, Livelihoods, Durable Solutions, Admin & Finance and Field Coordination.
- On 19 June 2019, the 2019 mid-year desk review was conducted to review implementation of 2019 activities, lessons learnt, challenges, opportunities and ways forward for the second half of 2019.



Participants of the programme management training in Monrovia. © UNHCR.