

# LIBERIA



## Working environment

### The context

Preparations for the general and presidential elections to be held in Liberia in October 2011 are underway. The polls will be a major indicator of the level of peace and stability in the country.

However, some essential activities, including governance reform and the adoption of a bill demarcating electoral constituencies, have been stalled for several months.

Liberia recently met a major benchmark for heavily indebted poor countries by completing the audit of five key government ministries, as part of measures to eliminate corruption and ensure financial transparency and accountability. As a result, some of the

## Planning figures for Liberia

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Côte d'Ivoire	6,200	6,200	3,200	3,200
	Sierra Leone	500	500	480	480
	Sudan	10	10	10	10
	Various	10	10	10	10
Asylum-seekers	Côte d'Ivoire	10	10	0	0
	Sierra Leone	150	150	0	0
	Togo	10	10	0	0
Returnees (refugees)	Liberia	10,100	10,100	7,300	7,300
Others of concern	Sierra Leone	1,900	1,900	1,300	1,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>18,890</b>	<b>18,890</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>12,300</b>



A returnee seeks medical care at a health clinic in Voinjama, Liberia.

country's creditors have cancelled up to USD 4 billion of its debt. Liberia has now qualified to borrow money from the World Bank for the reconstruction of major infrastructure, including roads, power stations and water supplies.

The Government of Liberia continues to be hospitable to refugees seeking sanctuary in the country. It hosts some 6,400 Ivorian refugees, 170 Sierra Leonean refugees who were exempted from the cessation clause, and some 1,900 former Sierra Leonean refugees awaiting local integration. The latter live in former refugee camps in Monrovia, along with 50 urban

refugees of various nationalities. It is anticipated that some 17,000 Liberian refugees now living in other West African countries will return to Liberia at the end of 2011, when the cessation clause will come into effect.

#### • The needs

Providing protection and assistance to refugees to reduce their vulnerability and improve their dignity remains a priority. People of concern to UNHCR need to be supported with

## Main objectives and targets

### Favourable protection environment

- Capacity-building activities support peacebuilding efforts.
  - ☞ Peaceful coexistence projects are implemented.

### Security from violence and exploitation

- Prevent gender-based violence.
  - ☞ Information on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is disseminated to Liberian returnees and to refugees, mainly Ivorians.
  - ☞ Training response to sexual and gender-based violence is delivered to authorities and other stakeholders within the framework of the joint UN-Government of Liberia programme on SGBV.

### Basic needs and services

- Prevent the spread and reduce the risks of HIV and AIDS.
  - ☞ HIV and AIDS prevention, training and awareness campaigns as well as home-based care programmes are implemented, especially in the rural areas hosting returnees and refugees.

- The local integration of some 450 former Sierra Leonean refugee families is facilitated.
  - ☞ 450 shelters are constructed to facilitate the local integration of former Sierra Leonean refugees.

### Durable Solutions

- The repatriation and reintegration of more than 17,000 Liberian refugees from countries in West Africa is supported.
  - ☞ Country of origin information is disseminated to all Liberian refugees in countries of asylum.
  - ☞ Cash grants are provided to all returnees, including adults and children.
- The voluntary repatriation of some 3,000 Ivorian refugees opting to return to their country of origin is promoted.
- The provision of legal residency documentation to former Sierra Leonean refugees who opted for local integration is facilitated.
  - ☞ Support is provided for issuing long-term residence permit to former Sierra Leonean refugees.

## UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	2
□ Total staff	57
International	4
National	35
UNVs	8
Others	10

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

Liberia Refugees Repatriation and Resettlement Commission  
Ministry of Justice  
Peace Building Office

#### NGOs:

CARITAS  
Catholic Justice and Peace Commission  
Childfund  
Liberia Islamic Union for Reconstruction and Development  
Medical Emergency Relief Cooperative International  
Special Emergency Activities to Restore Children's Hope  
The Carter Center  
Tiyatien Health

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Gender and Development  
Ministry of Internal Affairs

#### NGOs:

Danish Refugee Council  
Equip Liberia

#### Others:

JAICA

income-generating programmes to enhance their self-reliance. Adequate funding will be needed to implement reintegration activities for returning Liberian refugees, affected by the application of the cessation clause. Ivorian refugees who will opt for local integration will require assistance in the areas of health, education, durable shelter, water, sanitation, agriculture and economic self-reliance, through enhanced support to local services and livelihoods activities.

### Strategy and activities in 2011

UNHCR will pursue a multi-faceted approach in Liberia. Close collaboration with governmental and development actors will be fostered to ensure the sustainability of protection and assistance programmes. The Office will endeavour to align these programmes with the development agendas of the Government and of the UN, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

UNHCR will promote the voluntary repatriation for Ivorian refugees when conditions improve in their country of origin. Those not willing to return will benefit from local integration and livelihood programmes, to improve their living conditions.

Local integration initiatives will benefit former Sierra Leonean refugees. Those who wish to integrate locally will be assisted in obtaining legal residency documents, including passports and residence and work permits. UNHCR will also continue to provide permanent durable shelters to facilitate local integration, while former refugee families and other vulnerable persons will be provided with livelihoods support.

Some 17,000 Liberian refugees in other West African countries are expected to return

by the end of 2011. UNHCR will provide them with domestic transport grants to facilitate their return. Reintegration activities will focus on the delivery of documentation and the enjoyment of other legal rights, as well as access to livelihood opportunities and services. The Office will continue to build capacity in areas related to peacebuilding efforts, HIV and AIDS prevention, and the response to sexual and gender-based violence. It will also work with the relevant authorities to obtain passports for those Liberian refugees who wish to opt for local integration in their various countries of asylum.

#### ○ Constraints

Poor road conditions and an ageing fleet of light vehicles and trucks hamper effective delivery of services to persons of concern. They could also undermine UNHCR's ability to respond to a large influx of returnees. Monitoring protection and assistance projects in remote locations, from which UNHCR has withdrawn, remains a challenge.

### Organization and implementation

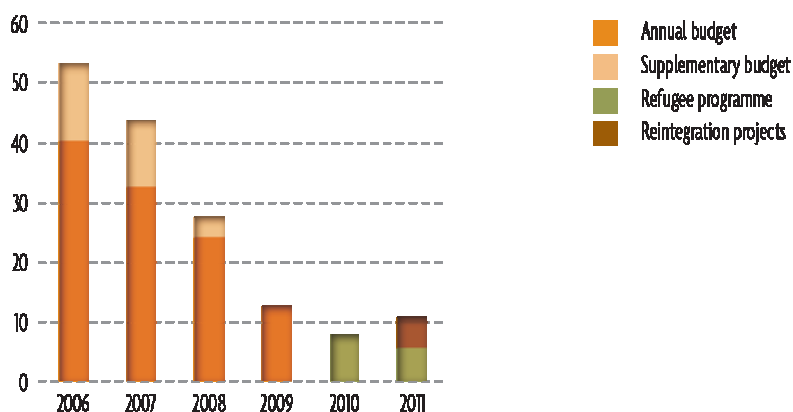
#### ○ Coordination

UNHCR will continue to work closely with its main partner, the Liberian Government, as well as UN agencies and other humanitarian and development actors. It will cooperate with implementing partners to ensure full coverage of refugee-hosting areas.

It will also continue to play an active role within the UN Country Team, and seek to engage its members in the coordination of humanitarian and long-term development activities within the UN Delivering as One framework, including initiatives related to making the UNDAF and the County Support Teams

## UNHCR's budget in Liberia 2006 – 2011

Millions (USD)



operational in Liberia. UNHCR will consolidate and enhance peacebuilding interventions with relevant partners, including the Government. It will also lead and support efforts by the Government and other humanitarian actors to develop contingency plans, while monitoring the situation in neighbouring countries.

## Financial information

UNHCR is seeking more than USD 10.6 million to respond to the needs of its population of concern, most particularly in

relation to its refugee programme and reintegration projects. The trend over the past five years shows a gradual but significant reduction in operations associated with the end of large-scale voluntary repatriation with a peak in the number of Liberian returns in 2006, coupled with a progressive phase-out strategy. With the forthcoming invocation of the cessation clause for Liberian refugees, the budget increase in 2011 is to facilitate the reintegration of those who will opt to return to Liberia and the delivery of passports to some 27,000 Liberians who would opt to remain in countries of asylum.

## 2011 UNHCR Budget for Liberia (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME PILLAR 3	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
Environmental protection	0	212,740	212,740
Subtotal	0	212,740	212,740
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Registration and profiling	55,132	0	55,132
Access to asylum procedures	51,192	0	51,192
Fair and efficient status determination	101,192	0	101,192
Civil status documentation	71,192	1,589,532	1,660,725
Subtotal	278,710	1,589,532	1,868,242
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Impact on host communities	48,377	0	48,377
Community security management system	18,377	0	18,377
Gender-based violence	176,096	0	176,091
Access to legal remedies	108,214	0	108,214
Subtotal	351,065	0	351,065
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Water	10,017	19,968	29,985
Shelter and other infrastructure	55,017	104,468	159,485
Basic domestic and hygiene items	30,017	34,468	64,485
Primary health care	522,459	24,468	546,927
HIV and AIDS	257,159	14,468	271,627
Education	337,159	24,468	361,627
Sanitation services	38,767	0	38,767
Services for groups with specific needs	55,017	29,468	84,485
Subtotal	1,305,610	251,778	1,557,388
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	25,066	0	25,066
Community self-management and equal representation	1,086,427	0	1,086,427
Self-reliance and livelihoods	173,066	713,358	886,424
Subtotal	1,284,560	713,358	1,997,918

## Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Some 3,000 Ivorian refugees who have opted for local integration and are in need of protection and assistance will not be adequately served.
- The construction of durable shelters to improve refugees' living conditions will not be possible.
- HIV and AIDS as well as SGBV prevention and response programmes will not be fully implemented.
- Livelihood and income-generation programmes to promote self-reliance and self-sufficiency will not be fully implemented.
- Effective implementation of repatriation and reintegration activities for Liberian returnees will be curtailed.
- Essential peacebuilding and other coexistence projects will not be implemented.

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME PILLAR 3	TOTAL
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Voluntary return	815,793	737,214	1,553,007
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	0	113,214	113,214
Resettlement	454,870	0	454,870
Local integration support	0	253,442	253,442
Subtotal	<b>1,270,664</b>	<b>1,103,870</b>	<b>2,374,533</b>
<b>External relations</b>			
Public information	70,132	0	70,132
Subtotal	<b>70,132</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70,132</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Supply chain and logistics	240,132	399,131	639,263
Programme management, coordination and support	581,761	1,012,844	1,594,605
Subtotal	<b>821,893</b>	<b>1,411,975</b>	<b>2,233,868</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,382,632</b>	<b>5,283,254</b>	<b>10,665,886</b>
<b>2010 Revised budget</b>	<b>7,652,592</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,652,592</b>