

LIBERIA



| Overview |

Operational highlights

- In 2013, UNHCR assisted almost 18,300 Ivorian refugees who had been residing in Liberia to return to their home country, in safety and dignity.
- UNHCR verified and updated registration data for all refugees in Liberia, and some 2,700 children were issued with birth certificates by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's Bureau of Vital Statistics. In addition, mechanisms were established to ensure that birth registrations would continue.
- More than 1,000 cases of physical and emotional abuse/violence were reported and treated, including rape, sexual assault, physical assault and denial of resources. Awareness campaigns about sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), conducted by UNHCR and partners throughout 2013, reached nearly 95 per cent of camp residents.
- The health of the refugee population in camps improved significantly, with under-five mortality rates dropping below one per 1,000 people per month from 1.2 in 2012, as the organization strengthened health facilities by providing medical supplies, training, staffing and logistical support. Refugees living in communities and camps were

UNHCR's presence | 2013

Number of offices	3
Total personnel	139
International staff	15
National staff	93
JPOs	2
UN Volunteers	19
Others	10

able to access Government-provided basic health-care services.

- The Government conferred Liberian citizenship on 300 former Sierra Leonean refugees who had lived for almost two decades in Liberia. It issued national passports to some 7,700 former Liberian refugees who opted to integrate in countries of asylum in the West Africa region.

People of concern

Most of UNHCR's people of concern in Liberia were Ivorian refugees who fled violence in their country during the 2010-2011 crisis. They are hosted in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties bordering Côte d'Ivoire.

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Côte d'Ivoire	52,800	52,800	53	54
	Various	460	460	46	35
People in a refugee-like situation	Various	10	10	25	-
Asylum-seekers	Various	50	50	6	-
Stateless	Various	-	-	-	-
Others of concern	Refugees from Sierra Leone who are assisted for local integration	1,500	1,500	-	-
Returnees (refugees)	Various	80	80	63	58
Total		54,900	54,900		

| Results in 2013 |

Achievements and impact

The following matrix contains examples of objectives and targets set for UNHCR's programme interventions in this operation in 2013. Short commentaries on the

end-year results and impact on people of concern are provided, including indications of why targets may not have been met.

2013 activities	People of concern (PoC)	2013 comprehensive target	2013 year-end result
FAVOURABLE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT			
Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved			
Results/impact: UNHCR provided capacity-building support to law enforcement bodies such as the Liberia National Police and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. Training was provided to 15 police officers on sensitization toward sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and about UNHCR's mandate. To enhance refugees' access to the legal system, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Office of the Public Defenders and the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, which oversees refugee affairs.			
Gap: Owing to delays in court, the treatment of several SGBV cases was delayed in 2013.			
Extent persons of concern have access to legal assistance	Refugees	75%	60%
FAIR PROTECTION PROCESSES AND DOCUMENTATION			
Quality of registration and profiling improved or maintained			
Result/impact: In 2013, UNHCR verified registration data for all people of concern. Some 600 individuals who missed previous registration activities in 2012 were verified and their information updated in UNHCR's database. Almost 200 individual refugee ID cards were issued to verified refugees living in the urban area.			
% of PoC registered on an individual basis	Refugees	100%	100%
Civil registration and civil status documentation strengthened			
Results/impact: Birth registration and certification processing methods were established and supported. More than 40 UNHCR and partner staff were trained, and a mechanism was established to regularly register new births at camp health centres and throughout communities hosting refugees. Birth certificates were issued to some 2,700 children and dispatched to the parents of children who had repatriated to Côte d'Ivoire, via UNHCR's Abidjan team.			
Gap: The nationality assessment framework needs strengthening. Liberia still faces challenges in the management of civil status documentation.			
% of children under 12 months who have been issued birth certificates by the authorities	Refugees	80%	96%

2013 activities	People of concern (PoC)	2013 comprehensive target	2013 year-end result
SECURITY FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION			
Protection of children strengthened			
<p>Result/impact: In 2013, there were some 600 unaccompanied minors or separated children registered in Liberia. UNHCR facilitated family reunifications in Côte d'Ivoire for some 90 unaccompanied children, with the help of the ICRC. In addition, five training sessions on best interest determination (BID) and child development workshops were organized for BID panel members and UNHCR staff in all locations.</p> <p>Gap: Insufficient support for adoptive families meant people fewer opportunities for unaccompanied minors to be adopted.</p>			
% of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children for whom a BID has been initiated or completed	Refugees	100%	89%
Risk of SGBV reduced and quality of response improved			
<p>Result/impact: During the year, some 1,000 SGBV incidents – including rape, sexual assault, physical assault, denial of resources and psychological and emotional violence – were reported. The increase in reporting was likely a result of increased awareness and sensitization activities for the community. Survivors were provided with counselling, as well as material, medical and legal assistance, and home visits.</p>			
Extent to which known SGBV survivors receive support	Refugees	100%	100%
BASIC NEEDS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES			
Health status of the population improved			
<p>Result/impact: The health status of the camps' refugee population improved. Crude mortality rates were at 0.3/1,000/month, the under-five mortality was at 0.8/1,000/month, infant mortality rate at 32.6/1000 live births/month, and neonatal mortality rates at 12.6/100,000 live births / month. Moreover, some 17,500 children under five years-old were vaccinated against various common childhood diseases.</p> <p>Gap: There is insufficient healthcare capacity in Liberia, for which UNHCR's support could not fully compensate. Refugees who required medical evacuation from Liberia for treatment could not be assisted due to funding constraints.</p>			
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1000 population/month)	Refugees	1.5	0.97
Measles vaccination coverage	Refugees	95%	63 %
Nutritional well-being improved			
<p>Result/impact: A standardized, expanded nutrition survey was conducted in November and December 2013. The findings showed that less than 1 per cent of refugees aged 6-59 months suffered from severe acute malnutrition.</p>			
Prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (6-59 months)	Refugees	2%	0.63%
DURABLE SOLUTIONS			
Potential for voluntary return realized			
<p>Result/impact: Some 18,300 Ivorian refugees were assisted to return home voluntarily – 14. per cent more than initially planned. The target number was exceeded due to stable conditions in areas of return and the introduction of complementary alternatives to road, such as water transportation using canoes.</p> <p>Gap: While UNHCR exceeded its assisted-returns target, some 36 per cent of refugees were still awaiting UNHCR's assistance in repatriation, due to limited funding and logistical challenges.</p>			
% of PoC with intention to return who had done so voluntarily	Refugees	100%	64%

Partners

Implementing partners

NGOs:

Africa Humanitarian Action, CARE International Liberia, CARITAS, Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, Logistics Services Liberia, Merlin, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children, Special Emergency Activity to Restore Children's Hope

Others:

UNOPS

Operational partners

Government agencies:

Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Gender and Development

NGOs:

IBIS Liberia, Finn Church Aid

Others:

FAO, ICRC, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), UNV, UN Women, WFP, WHO

Assessment of results

The socio-political situation and humanitarian environment remained stable and in line with UNHCR's planning assumptions. Given the security situation, relocating refugees from camps in the border area was essential for their safety. Camp consolidation and the relocation of refugees from local communities to camps proved successful; more than 7,000 refugees were relocated from communities along the border. Saclepea and Dougee refugee camps were closed and the depopulation of Solo camp began.

Voluntary repatriation targets were exceeded and in general the health and nutrition situation of refugees improved. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates in the four camps were within acceptable ranges and severe acute malnutrition rates were at zero in all camps.

Among the main challenges faced by UNHCR in 2013 was the general reduction in partners' contributions to the return programme compared to previous years. In addition, there was a reduction of technical and human resource capacity due to a high turnover of partner staff which resulted in a lack of continuity of many activities. Operational challenges, such as the bad access roads and the frequent breakdown of partner vehicles, also hampered the effective provision of assistance.

With the support of UNHCR, from September 2012 to December 2013, a Liberian delegation undertook 11 passport-vetting missions to nine countries (namely, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone), during which almost 7,700 applicants (around 90 per cent) were approved for Liberian nationality. At the end of 2013, almost 3,900 passports had been issued.

Working with others

UNHCR and partners provided assistance in a coordinated and cost-effective manner. This included the creation of a strategy to consolidate the protection and assistance programme with fewer NGO partners.

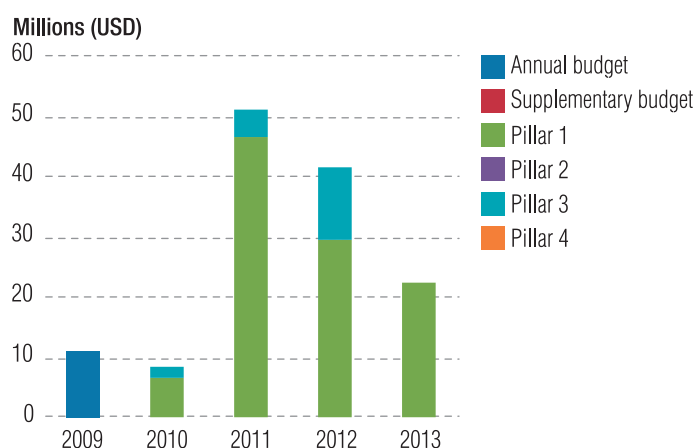
Finn Church Aid collaborated with UNHCR, providing informal secondary education to more than 350 refugee adolescents. In addition, the project targeted teenage parents – providing a day care facility for teenage mothers who attended classes.

Financial information

The revised comprehensive budget for UNHCR's operation in Liberia was set at USD 42.6 million, which was a decrease of 28 per cent from 2012. This was mainly due to the reduction in the number of people of concern following the repatriation of Ivoirians to Côte d'Ivoire.

The level of funding available allowed for overall expenditure of USD 22.3 million, corresponding to 52 per cent of overall requirements.

Expenditure in Liberia | 2009 to 2013



Budget, income and expenditure in Liberia | USD

Operation	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	Total
FINAL BUDGET	42,559,986	0	42,559,986
Income from contributions ¹	6,821,021	0	6,821,021
Other funds available / transfers	15,544,125	40,010	15,584,134
Total funds available	22,365,146	40,010	22,405,155

EXPENDITURE BY OBJECTIVE

Favourable Protection Environment

Law and policy	78,210	0	78,210
Access to legal assistance and remedies	488,646	0	488,646
Access to territory and <i>refoulement</i> risk reduced	300	0	300
Subtotal	567,156	0	567,156

Fair Protection Processes and Documentation

Reception conditions	875	0	875
Registration and profiling	430,882	0	430,882
Status determination procedures	78,739	0	78,739
Individual documentation	1,121	0	1,121
Civil registration and status documentation	156,319	0	156,319
Subtotal	667,937	0	667,937

Security from Violence and Exploitation

Prevention and response to SGBV	590,937	0	590,937
Protection of children	638,282	0	638,282
Subtotal	1,229,220	0	1,229,220

Operation	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	Total
<i>Basic Needs and Essential Services</i>			
Health	2,263,818	0	2,263,818
Reproductive health and HIV services	205,003	0	205,003
Nutrition	696,744	0	696,744
Food security	349,047	0	349,047
Water	1,050,458	0	1,050,458
Sanitation and hygiene	508,229	0	508,229
Shelter and infrastructure	887,778	0	887,778
Basic and domestic items	693,431	0	693,431
Services for people with specific needs	221,563	0	221,563
Education	1,058,397	0	1,058,397
Subtotal	7,934,467	0	7,934,467
<i>Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance</i>			
Community mobilization	731,254	0	731,254
Natural resources and shared environment	200,525	0	200,525
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	464,003	0	464,003
Subtotal	1,395,782	0	1,395,782
<i>Durable Solutions</i>			
Voluntary return	815,155	0	815,155
Integration	198,415	0	198,415
Resettlement	314,490	0	314,490
Subtotal	1,328,060	0	1,328,060
<i>Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships</i>			
Coordination and partnerships	480,525	0	480,525
Donor relations and resource mobilization	156,319	0	156,319
Subtotal	636,844	0	636,844
<i>Logistics and Operations Support</i>			
Logistics and supply	3,022,398	0	3,022,398
Operations management, coordination and support	3,149,320	0	3,149,320
Subtotal	6,171,718	0	6,171,718
<i>Headquarters and Regional Support</i>			
Policy development	140	0	140
Subtotal	140	0	140
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	2,433,822	0	2,433,822
Total	22,365,145	0	22,365,145

¹ Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.