

# Liberia



## Operational highlights

- More than 40,000 refugees returned to Liberia in 2007, some 26,000 with UNHCR's assistance. By the end of the voluntary repatriation operation in 2007, more than 158,000 Liberians had returned home, some 112,000 with UNHCR's assistance.
- UNHCR provided vocational training and information on their rights to more than 6,600 Liberian returnees, mainly women and young people, to facilitate their reintegration.

## Working environment

Liberia moved slowly but surely on the road to economic recovery, the alleviation of poverty and greater security, despite enormous challenges and funding shortages. In 2007, the Government focused on consolidating peace and reconciliation, reducing poverty, strengthening national institutions, and creating good governance and the rule of law. The mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was extended until 2011 to enable it to support the Government and coordinate

### Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Côte d'Ivoire	6,900	1,500	49	23
	Sierra Leone	3,600	3,600	45	47
	Various	40	30	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Various	100	-	-	-
Returnees (refugees)	From Sierra Leone	17,300	13,400	-	-
	From Ghana	14,600	2,400	-	-
	From Guinea	6,100	6,100	-	-
	From Côte d'Ivoire	5,800	4,600	-	-
	Various	500	490	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>54,940</b>	<b>32,120</b>		

humanitarian and development activities of the international community. The UN established a Peacebuilding Fund of USD 15 million for Liberia, and promising opportunities for local integration opened up for long-staying Sierra Leonean refugees.

## Achievements and impact

### Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Liberia were to promote the voluntary return of refugees and IDPs while providing them with reintegration assistance; build the Government's capacity to assume primary responsibility for the protection of refugees, returnees and IDPs; and protect and assist Ivorian refugees. UNHCR also aimed for the sustainable reintegration of former refugees and IDPs and the local integration or resettlement of refugees for whom repatriation was not an option.

### Protection and solutions

Liberia has acceded to most of the international legal instruments on refugees and human rights, and the Government has a welcoming policy towards refugees. UNHCR is currently reviewing the Refugee Act with the Government to expand its application. Through the Protection Core Group, the Office focused on building the capacity of the Ministry of Justice. Standard operating procedures were developed to prevent and respond effectively to sexual and gender-based violence. The Government is also helping with the local integration of those Sierra Leonean refugees who have opted to remain in Liberia.

### Activities and assistance

**Community services:** Community empowerment programmes protected and assisted women, children, the elderly and other groups with specific needs. More than 6,600 Liberians, mainly women and young people, received vocational training and information on their rights. Seven shelters were constructed for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Refugee women made up half the members of camp management committees.

**Crop production:** UNHCR worked with FAO on some 190 agricultural and income generation projects, providing training, seeds and tools to enable returnees and refugees to become self-reliant.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Returnees received a standard package of non-food items at UNHCR transit centres.

**Education:** In returnee areas, UNHCR constructed 15 quarters for teachers, supplied solar energy systems for schools, some 45 of which were either constructed or rehabilitated. UNHCR also rehabilitated a teacher training institute and trained some 150 rural teachers. These interventions attracted teachers to rural Liberian schools, which were able to increase enrolment. In Saclepea refugee camp, a total of 450 students (50 per cent of them girls) were enrolled in primary school.

**Food:** In collaboration with WFP, returnees were provided with hot meals at transit centres. Women, children and other vulnerable persons received a four-month food ration. Ivorian refugees in Saclepea refugee camp received monthly food rations.

**Forestry and environment:** Former IDP camps were dismantled and measures taken to repair damage to their environment.

**Health:** To provide primary health care to refugees and returnees, UNHCR supported more than 50 health clinics and stocked them with medicines. As part of its exit strategy for the health sector, UNHCR handed over six clinics in Nimba to the Government. Committees and task forces were established to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS. More than a million condoms were distributed.

**Income generation:** More than 500 returnees, mostly women, were trained in tailoring, dyeing, soap making, rock quarrying and weaving. Some 90 families received grants to launch small businesses in Monrovia. Some 40 heads of households in Saclepea refugee camp received micro-credits.

**Legal assistance:** In 2007, the focus of the Protection Core Group shifted to monitoring in returnee areas and the gradual handover of responsibilities to the relevant national institutions. UNHCR helped to build the capacity of the judicial, law enforcement and government bodies involved with refugees by offering training in refugee law.

**Livestock:** Fishery projects in Gbarnga County and the distribution of goats in Nimba County helped improve the nutrition of returnees and refugees.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR provided implementing partners with the financial and technical support to protect and assist persons of concern.

**Sanitation:** Some 1,000 sanitation facilities were constructed and rehabilitated in returnee communities. More than 50 sanitation structures were either constructed or rehabilitated with community participation in Saclepea refugee camp.





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Liberian returnees trained in various skills are given grants and start-up kits to set up their own businesses.

**Shelter and other infrastructure:** UNHCR provided returnees with temporary shelter, and improved access to returnee areas by rehabilitating more than 200 km of road and building some 30 log bridges.

**Transport and logistics:** A 140-vehicle fleet and eight large warehouses helped UNHCR deliver timely material assistance and dignified transportation to returning refugees.

**Water:** The Office constructed or rehabilitated 180 hand pumps, and trained water-management committees.

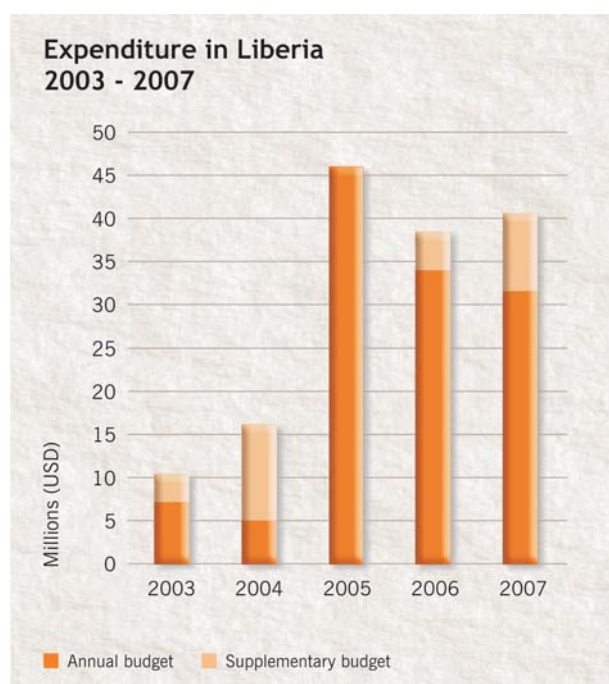
## Constraints

Poor roads, the limited resources of government institutions and weak civil-society structures were major constraints for UNHCR's operations in Liberia.

## Financial information

Operational demands have determined the pattern of UNHCR's funding in Liberia from 2003 to 2007.

Financial needs – as well as donations – surged after peace was restored and UNHCR launched assistance programmes for IDPs and refugees repatriating from neighbouring countries.



## Organization and implementation

### Management

UNHCR closed returnee reception centres and IDP camps and began phase-out measures to align staffing needs with the reduced size of the Liberia programme. UNHCR operations were supervised by the Representation office in Monrovia and implemented from sub-offices in Voinjama and Saclepea as well as field offices in Harper, Zwedru, Gbarnga and Tubmanburg. In 2007, UNHCR had 186 staff members, including 29 international staff, 140 national staff, 14 UNVs and 3 secondees.

### Working with others

UNHCR linked up with more international and national NGO partners in 2007 to respond to greater programme needs and strengthen the capacity of Liberian civil society organizations. It sought partnerships to complement its expertise and plan for the eventual handover of its functions to national and other counterparts. Such collaboration helped UNHCR achieve many of its objectives in 2007.

## Overall assessment

UNHCR found lasting solutions for many returnees and refugees in Liberia. It successfully concluded the organized repatriation of Liberian refugees from five neighboring countries. Reintegration initiatives saw returnees and former IDPs make tangible progress in creating new lives in their new communities.

Furthermore, projects to facilitate the local integration of the majority of Sierra Leonean refugees in the country produced encouraging results. Finally, UNHCR was able to review the legal elements of the asylum framework and intensify the training of local officials.

### Partners

#### Implementing partners

**Government agencies:** Liberia Refugee, Repatriation & Resettlement Commission

**NGOs:** African Concern International, African Development Network, African Humanitarian Action, American Refugee Committee, Caritas Cape Palmas, Christian Children's Fund, Cooperative Development Agency, Danish Refugee Council, Environmental Foundation for Africa, International Alert, International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee, Liberia National Red Cross Society, Liberia Opportunities Industrialization Center, Medical Emergency Relief Cooperative International, Norwegian Refugee Council, Peace Winds Japan, Special Emergency Activity to Restore Children's Hope, ZOA Refugee Care, Right to Play

**Others:** *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, UNOPS, WHO

#### Operational partners

**Others:** FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP

## Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	32,315,182	20,050,135	11,650,126	31,700,261	31,548,541
IDP SB	11,023,119	1,515,198	8,018,397	9,533,594	9,077,064
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,338,301</b>	<b>21,565,333</b>	<b>19,668,523</b>	<b>41,233,856</b>	<b>40,625,605</b>

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

## Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Previous years' projects
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	9,150,056	1,024,010	10,174,065	0
Community services	1,067,264	154,487	1,221,751	305,965
Crop production	272,667	746,060	1,018,727	10,719
Domestic needs and household support	241	0	241	0
Education	705,048	442,510	1,147,557	272,649
Forestry	0	641,977	641,977	28,716
Health and nutrition	1,109,812	174,691	1,284,503	382,230
Income generation	93,475	16,698	110,173	42,299
Legal assistance	1,489,178	1,282,760	2,771,939	689,783
Livestock	0	2,100	2,100	0
Operational support (to agencies)	3,663,509	1,085,092	4,748,601	762,427
Sanitation	184,267	161,329	345,596	106,517
Shelter and infrastructure	888,502	997,266	1,885,768	487,978
Transport and logistics	5,677,528	483,826	6,161,353	888,938
Water	257,645	146,234	403,879	95,317
Instalments with implementing partners	2,477,111	1,718,027	4,195,138	(4,073,538)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>27,036,303</b>	<b>9,077,064</b>	<b>36,113,367</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	4,512,238	0	4,512,238	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>31,548,541</b>	<b>9,077,064</b>	<b>40,625,605</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on previous years' expenditure</b>				<b>(352,268)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Payments made	11,929,710	5,689,760	17,619,470	
Reporting received	(9,452,598)	(3,971,734)	(13,424,332)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>2,477,111</b>	<b>1,718,027</b>	<b>4,195,138</b>	
<b>Previous years' report</b>				
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Outstanding 1st January				5,433,937
Reporting received				(4,073,538)
Refunded to UNHCR				(563,894)
Adjustments				0
<b>Balance</b>				<b>796,505</b>