

LIBERIA



Operational highlights

- Some 224,000 Ivorian refugees who sought asylum in Liberia following the post-election violence in their country were granted *prima facie* refugee status.
- A large-scale emergency response was triggered in four border counties—Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland—to meet the needs of arriving Ivorian refugees. Six new refugee camps were set up, and 16 relocation communities were designated. Basic infrastructure was installed in all of them.
- A tripartite agreement was signed between UNHCR and the Governments of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire on the

voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees. Once the situation in Côte d'Ivoire had stabilized, some 96,000 Ivorian refugees returned from Liberia, the vast majority spontaneously. At the end of 2011, some 128,000 Ivorian refugees still remained in Liberia.

- Close to 1,800 Liberian refugees returned home from neighbouring countries ahead of the planned application of the “ceased circumstances” cessation clauses to Liberian refugees.
- Initiatives to protect the environment helped mitigate the impact of the mass influx of refugees into rural border areas.
- Effective coordination mechanisms were put in place both in Monrovia and in field locations to ensure the participation of all stakeholders.

Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Côte d'Ivoire	128,100	128,100	52	61
	Various	220	220	48	49
People in a refugee-like situation	Various	10	10	13	25
Asylum-seekers	Guinea	600	600	60	73
	Various	10	10	-	-
Others of concern	Refugees from Sierra Leone who are assisted for local integration	1,900	1,900	-	-
Returnees (refugees)¹	Côte d'Ivoire	1,200	1,200	48	47
	Various	600	600	48	47
Total		132,640	132,640		

¹ The demographic breakdown of returnees refers to the total 1,800 Liberia returning refugees.

| Working environment |

UNHCR continued to benefit from a stable socio-political environment in Liberia, as well as from a strong working relationship with the Liberia Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, the government body in charge of refugee matters. The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) provided logistical and security support to the humanitarian operation. In cooperation with the UN Mission in Côte d'Ivoire, UNMIL was able to focus its work on security in the border areas. The overall security situation remained stable throughout 2011, including during the presidential elections at the end of the year.

| Achievements and impact |

• Main objectives and targets

UNHCR's initial objectives were affected by the large influx of Ivorian refugees fleeing the post-elections violence in their country. The Office primarily aimed at ensuring their access to the Liberian territory and asylum procedures, as well as to provide for their basic needs.

Favourable protection environment

- Refugees in Liberia benefited from a largely favourable protection environment. More than 224,000 newly-arrived Ivorians were granted *prima facie* refugee status. The international protection regime in the country was in line with Liberia's obligations under international refugee law. During the intergovernmental meeting in Geneva in December 2011, the Liberian Government pledged to amend its current asylum legislation; to revise its nationality law; and to ratify the 2009 African Union

Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

Fair protection processes

- All Ivorian refugees who had fled because of the crisis in their country had unhindered access to Liberia, and were individually registered. Individual refugee status determination (RSD) was undertaken for 565 Guinean asylum-seekers who had fled inter-ethnic clashes in Yomou Prefecture in Guinea in May 2011. UNHCR also continued to strengthen the capacity of Liberia's National Asylum Committee.

Security from violence and exploitation

- A task force on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), established under the coordination of the Ministry of Gender and Development, adopted standard operating procedures with the support of UNHCR. A special police unit was created by the Government and given sole responsibility for issues related to SGBV. UNHCR provided training on refugee law and protection issues to border security guards in Maryland, Grand Gedeh and Nimba. It also conducted 19 awareness campaigns, a five-day training session for the task force on gender-based violence, and one training session for refugee neighbourhood-watch teams active in the field of prevention and response to SGBV.

Basic needs and services

- Six new refugee camps were built with basic infrastructure for all essential services to host newly arriving Ivorian refugees. In total, some 6,400 emergency



Refugees from Côte d'Ivoire receive welcome supplies of non-food items at Bahn camp in Liberia.

and 1,500 semi-permanent shelters were constructed in the camps and refugee relocation communities. More than 150,000 newly arrived refugees received essential non-food items (NFIs), including blankets, sleeping mats, soap and jerry cans.

- Health assistance was provided in all six refugee camps, as well as in three transit centres and more than 100 refugee communities. The 61,000 refugee patients who were treated in these facilities accounted for 43 per cent of total consultations; the remaining 57 per cent benefited members of host communities.
- Close to 30,000 long-lasting insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets were distributed, helping to reduce morbidity from malaria by 50 per cent in the camps and host communities between March and November 2011. More than 83 per cent of refugee children were vaccinated against measles. Some 130 people began treatment for HIV and AIDS, and awareness campaigns reached some 39,000 individuals.
- At least 22,470 refugee children were enrolled in primary schools in camps and host communities, and provided with educational materials. The enrolment rate for girls was approximately 46 per cent.
- The average quantity of potable water available per person per day across the six refugee camps was 15.6 litres. Nineteen water systems were constructed, expanded or upgraded and 400 bath houses and more than 74 wells and water systems rehabilitated. More than 35,000 persons took part in hygiene promotion campaigns that paid particular attention to the needs of women and those living with disabilities. Some 4,400 refugee women in camps received sanitary napkins, soap and wash basins.

Community participation and self- management

- UNHCR continued to involve refugees and partners as participants in needs assessment and planning processes. In all camps, women held 50 per cent of community leadership positions and refugee committees, and participated in decisions affecting the community. Livelihood initiatives included training in vocational skills, gardening and swampland cultivation. More than 500 refugee households received training in small-business management. In addition, UNHCR provided agricultural kits, seeds, seedlings and chemicals to facilitate crop production.

Durable solutions

- A tripartite agreement for the return of Ivorian refugees was signed in August 2011, paving the way for the voluntary repatriation of some 96,000 Ivorian refugees many of whom were living in host communities. The return was mostly spontaneous from the northern part due to relative stability and safety in certain regions of Côte d'Ivoire bordering Grand Gedeh and Nimba counties but also included some 970 with UNHCR's support. Voluntary repatriation convoys run by

UNHCR began in late November 2011. In addition, nearly 1,800 Liberian refugees scattered in the West African subregion returned to Liberia with UNHCR's assistance, and some 400 received vocational training upon their return.

External relations

- UNHCR led the inter-agency multi-sectoral refugee response, providing strategic direction and guidance to partners and other stakeholders, including UN agencies and international and national NGOs. Eight sectors were in operation, with UNHCR leading the protection and shelter/NFI sectors as well as the multi-sectoral refugee response. UNHCR Liberia participated in several joint fund-raising appeals.

Logistics and operations support

- Sixty kilometres of road, 38 culverts and four bridges were constructed to facilitate access to refugees in remote border areas. UNHCR provided logistical support to 28 implementing partners, using 95 light vehicles, 50 trucks, 154 motorcycles and 46 power generators. Some 800,000 litres of fuel and assorted spare parts were also provided as logistical support. In addition, four mechanical workshops were established.

| Constraints |

Socio-economic indicators in Liberia remained at a very low level, especially in the border counties. State and local authorities did not have the capacity or resources to deliver basic services or meet needs in terms of justice, border monitoring and law enforcement.

In addition, the number of counties affected by the refugee influx increased from one to four during the year, calling for a rapid shift of resources and staff from Nimba to Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties.

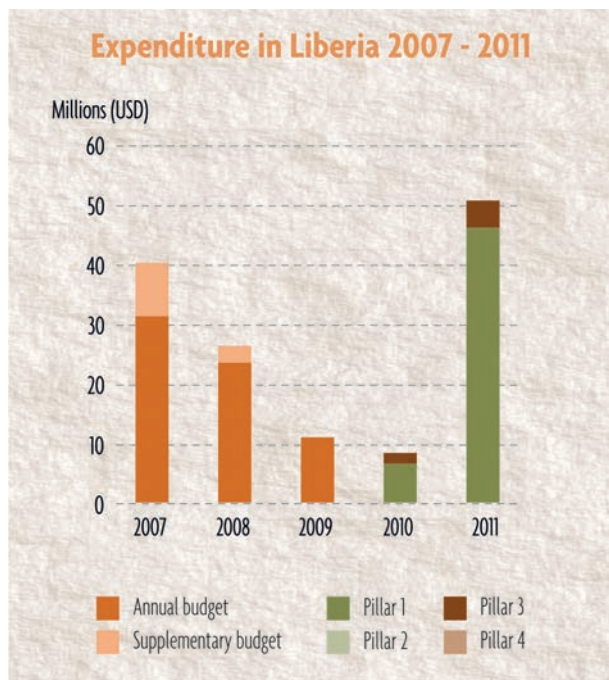
Limited logistical capacity as well as poor infrastructure and a long rainy season affected the ability of UNHCR and partners to access some refugees. The difficult terrain in Grand Gedeh County, as well as lack of heavy machinery, caused major difficulties in clearing sites for the refugee camps.

| Financial information |

UNHCR's financial requirements in Liberia rose from USD 10.7 million to USD 90.2 million due to the emergency triggered by the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. Contributions earmarked for the operation in Liberia reached USD 39.6 million, covering only 44 per cent of the overall needs in Liberia in 2011.

| Organization and implementation |

UNHCR managed its operation in Liberia with a country office in Monrovia, a sub-office in Saclepea, two field offices in Zwedru and Harper, and 172 staff members.



Assistance Framework. UNHCR also maintained close links with UNMIL by convening regular coordination meetings,

Overall assessment

The emergency response managed by UNHCR and its partners succeeded in providing protection and essential life-saving assistance to more than 200,000 refugees arriving from Côte d'Ivoire, who had unrestricted access to Liberian territory, were granted refugee status on a *prima facie* basis, and lived in an environment that was largely free of violence. The refugees had access to essential services, including health care, potable water, shelter and primary education. UNHCR worked in close collaboration with UN agencies in Liberia to strengthen collaboration and coordination through its leadership of the multi-sectoral refugee response.

Unmet needs

- The provision of basic assistance to 70,000 Ivorian refugees did not meet standards in primary health care, shelter, education, as well as water and sanitation.

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	4
□ Total staff	172
International	22
National	122
UNVs	11
Others	17

Working with others

With its 28 implementing partners, UNHCR led the multi-sectoral refugee response and sought to strengthen inter-agency participation through various forums, such as the UN Delivering as One initiative and the UN Development

Partners	
Implementing partners	
Governmental agencies: Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission	
NGOs: <i>Action Contre la Faim</i> , Adventist Development and Relief Agency, American Refugee Committee, CARITAS, Catholic Relief Services, Child Fund International, Community Health Education and Social Services, Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council, Environmental Foundation for Africa, EQUIP Liberia, Handicap International Federation, German Agro Action, International Emergency and Development Aid, International Rescue Committee, Liberia Islamic Union for Reconstruction and Development, Logistics and Services - Liberia, Medical Emergency and Relief Cooperative International, Medical Emergency Relief International, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, Save the Children - United Kingdom, Shelter for Life, Special Emergency Activity to Restore Children's Hope, Tiyatien Health, Visions in Action	
Operational partners	
NGOs: <i>Médecins Sans Frontières</i> - Belgium, <i>Médecins Sans Frontières</i> - Holland, The MENTOR Initiative	
Others: IOM	

Budget, income and expenditure in Liberia | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	Total
FINAL BUDGET	84,939,469	5,283,256	90,222,725
Income from contributions	39,558,934	0	39,558,934
Other funds available	7,005,618	4,551,845	11,557,463
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	46,564,552	4,551,845	51,116,397

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN			
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>			
Access to territory	110,802	0	110,802
Environmental protection	934,360	0	934,360
Subtotal	1,045,162	0	1,045,162
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>			
Reception conditions	481,406	0	481,406
Registration and profiling	1,199,193	275	1,199,468
Access to asylum procedures	320,948	0	320,948
Family reunification	44,321	0	44,321
Individual documentation	44,321	0	44,321
Civil status documentation	0	608,603	608,603
Subtotal	2,090,189	608,878	2,699,067

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	Total
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>			
Impact on host communities	203,721	0	203,721
Community security management	130,453	0	130,453
Gender-based violence	626,400	126,629	753,029
Protection of children	207,035	0	207,035
Access to legal remedies	0	125,817	125,817
Subtotal	1,167,609	252,446	1,420,055
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>			
Food security	28,656	0	28,656
Nutrition	261,526	0	261,526
Water	1,768,100	0	1,768,100
Shelter and other infrastructure	2,751,986	750	2,752,736
Basic domestic and hygiene items	109,855	0	109,855
Primary health care	1,316,519	86,013	1,402,532
HIV and AIDS	149,769	94,800	244,569
Education	545,035	83,878	628,913
Sanitation services	1,540,477	0	1,540,477
Services for groups with specific needs	369,179	0	369,179
Subtotal	8,841,102	265,441	9,106,543
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>			
Participatory assessment	214,251	0	214,251
Community self-management	0	251,674	251,674
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,598,955	356,234	1,955,189
Subtotal	1,813,206	607,908	2,421,114
<i>Durable solutions</i>			
Voluntary return	598,984	226,841	825,825
Rehabilitation and reintegration	0	218,323	218,323
Resettlement	422,072	0	422,072
Local integration	314,181	0	314,181
Subtotal	1,335,237	445,164	1,780,401
<i>External relations</i>			
Public information	409,415	0	409,415
Subtotal	409,415	0	409,415
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>			
Supply chain and logistics	20,872,506	1,634,155	22,506,661
Programme management and coordination	1,533,973	633,335	2,167,308
Subtotal	22,406,479	2,267,490	24,673,969
Other objectives	9,821	0	9,821
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	7,446,332	104,516	7,550,848
Total	46,564,552	4,551,843	51,116,395