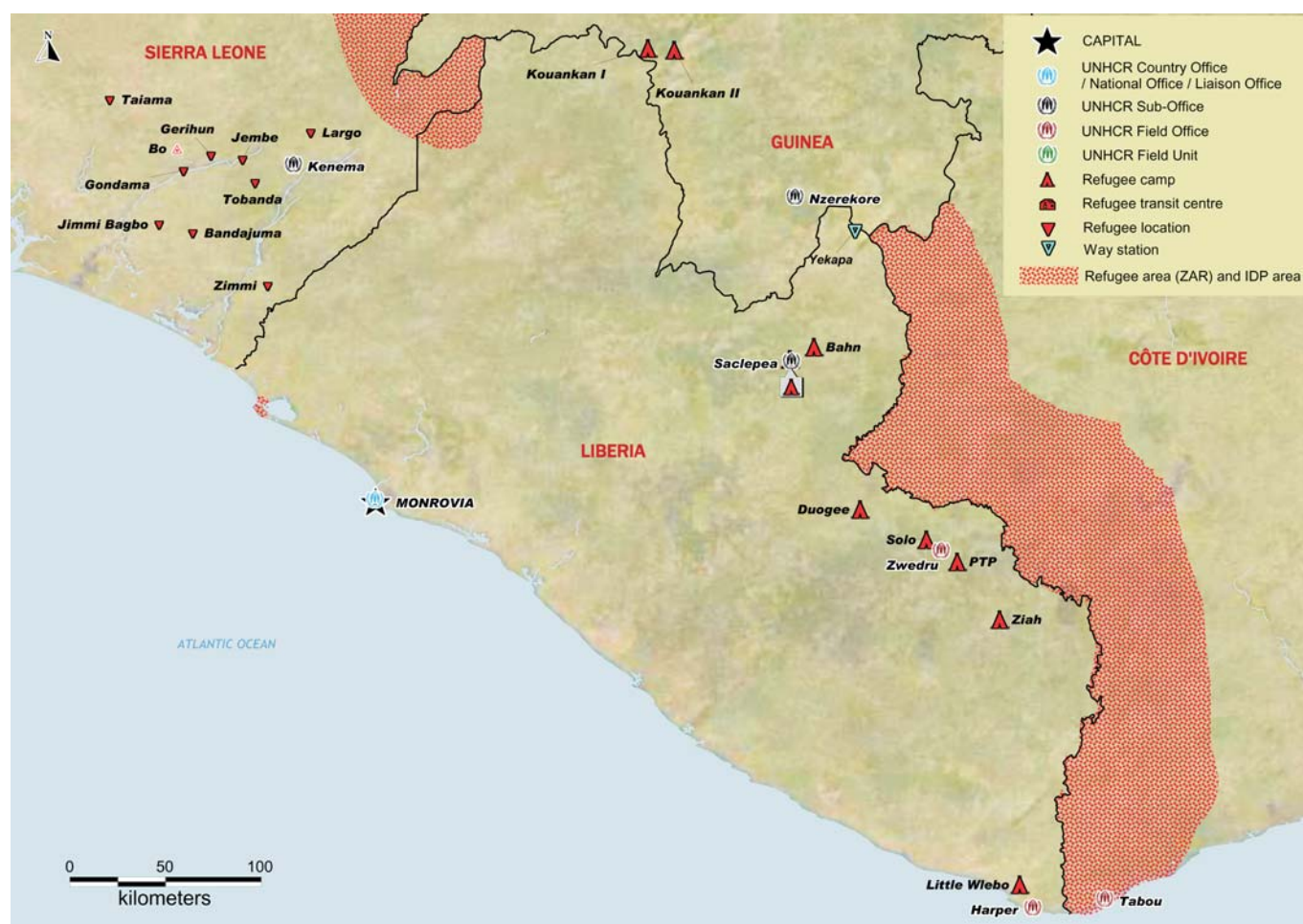


# LIBERIA



## Working environment

### The context

While security has improved in Liberia, slowly recovering from years of civil war, the country still suffers from widespread poverty and underdevelopment, with growing fears that the volatile situation in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire could spill over the border.

After several years of gradually downsizing its operations in Liberia, UNHCR has had to step up its presence significantly in 2011, in order to provide emergency

protection and assistance to more than 180,000 refugees from Côte d'Ivoire who crossed the border to escape renewed conflict in their country. The majority of these new refugees have been granted *prima facie* status by the Liberian Government, and are hosted in camps and relocation villages along the border. In line with its mandate, UNHCR leads the humanitarian intervention in coordination with the Government, other UN agencies and NGOs. The Office also seeks durable solutions for these refugees and, in this respect, a tripartite agreement was signed in August 2011 with the Governments of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire on the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees.

## Planning figures for Liberia

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2012		DEC 2012 - JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Côte d'Ivoire	120,000	120,000	69,950	69,950	19,950	19,950
	Guinea	3,300	3,300	1,700	1,700	-	-
	Sierra Leone	170	170	170	170	-	-
	Various	30	30	40	40	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Guinea	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	2,000	2,000
Returns (refugees)	Liberia	2,000	2,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000
Others of Concern	Sierra Leone	1,800	1,800	300	300	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>132,300</b>	<b>132,300</b>	<b>92,160</b>	<b>92,160</b>	<b>31,950</b>	<b>31,950</b>

UNHCR is also committed to supporting the former Sierra Leonean refugees who chose to remain in Liberia, following the invocation of the cessation clauses with respect to this group. Likewise, the application by mid-2012 of the cessation clauses to Liberian refugees, will require special attention to the needs of those who will return from neighbouring countries, as the lack of livelihood opportunities in their areas of origin could hinder their reintegration.

### ● *The needs*

Refugees in Liberia require assistance to meet all their basic needs, including food, water, health, shelter and education. Community-based programmes and access to durable solutions will also constitute priorities for 2012, as will livelihood support to aid the reintegration of returning Liberians. Ivorian refugees looking for durable solutions in Liberia will also need help towards their local integration through livelihood training. Others will need assistance towards their voluntary repatriation.

## | Strategy and activities |

UNHCR will continue to provide assistance to Ivorian refugees who arrived in Liberia following the violence that erupted in Côte d'Ivoire in late 2010. Camp-based refugees will receive all basic services, adequate shelter and assistance, along with longer-term shelter material and maintenance toolkits. UNHCR will also strive to maintain road networks in order to ensure proper access to refugee populations throughout the year. Ensuring optimal access to primary and secondary education will be a priority, requiring the construction of additional educational facilities.

Switching from emergency relief to longer-term assistance with a focus on durable solutions will be at the heart of UNHCR's strategy in Liberia. These solutions will mainly focus on local integration through education, vocational training and livelihood opportunities for Ivorian refugees staying in Liberia. Further to the tripartite agreement signed in August 2011 with the Governments of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire on the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees, UNHCR will assist the return of those Ivorian refugees willing to do so. In particular, cross-border coordination mechanisms will be established and refugees will be briefed regularly on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire in order to allow them to make an informed decision on their repatriation.

UNHCR will also give priority to urban refugees, with the objective to increase access to basic services such as health, education and livelihoods. Efforts will continue in particular to complete the local integration programme for former Sierra Leonean refugees.

In light of the planned invocation of the cessation clause for Liberian refugees in mid-2012, UNHCR will continue to assist the return of Liberians wishing to repatriate with transportation grants and livelihood programmes. UNHCR will also continue to work with the Government of Liberia and other governments in the region to find appropriate solutions for those Liberian refugees who wish to remain in their host countries, including with the provision of civil documentation.

UNHCR will continue to play an active role within the UN Country Team and the humanitarian community, fulfilling its mandate in leading the refugee response and ensuring wider awareness of the plight of refugees. UNHCR will also support targeted inter-agency and civil processes, including



Food distribution for Ivorian refugees in Dougee camp, Grand Gedeh County.

peacebuilding and the transition to development activities, in order to promote the integration and well-being of all populations of concern.

### ● *Constraints*

Persisting pockets of insecurity in Côte d'Ivoire will continue to risk affecting Liberia, particularly the prospects of voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees. Logistical challenges in Liberia also hinder access to people of concern. The border region, where the majority of refugees are staying, is underdeveloped

## Main objectives and targets for 2012

### Fair protection processes and documentation

- The quality of registration is improved or maintained.
  - ☞ All people of concern are registered on an individual basis.

### Basic needs and services

- Shelter and infrastructure are established, improved and maintained.
  - ☞ All households live in adequate dwellings.
- Optimal access to education is guaranteed.
  - ☞ All refugees between six and 11 years of age are enrolled in primary education.

### Community participation and self-management

- Self-Reliance and livelihood support are improved.
  - ☞ Some 12,500 Liberian returnees are provided with vocational training.
  - ☞ Approximately 5,000 Liberian returnees receive conditional grants to start businesses.

### Durable solutions

- The potential for voluntary return is realized.
  - ☞ Some 90 per cent of refugees who will repatriate are able to make an informed choice about return.
  - ☞ Approximately 15,000 Liberian returnees are provided with safe transport.

## UNHCR's presence in 2012

□ Number of offices	4
□ Total staff	128
International	20
National	98
UNVs	10

and has very poor infrastructure. In addition, the heavy rains from May to October hamper transportation. The lack of economic opportunities is another major obstacle to the reintegration of Liberian returnees, as well as to the local integration of refugees.

## Organization and implementation

### ○ Coordination

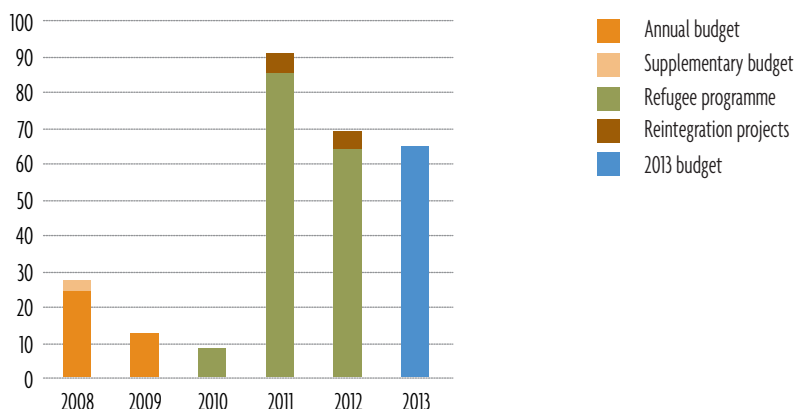
UNHCR coordinates its humanitarian interventions with the Liberian Government, and in particular the Liberian Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission. In 2012, UNHCR will continue to coordinate and provide leadership and guidance for the multi-sector response to the Ivorian refugee emergency, which has brought together UN agencies as well as international and national NGOs.

## Financial information

UNHCR's financial requirements in Liberia for 2012 will amount to some USD 69 million, taking account of the shift from emergency response to longer-term solutions for Ivorian refugees, as well as an increase in the number of returning Liberians ahead of the forthcoming invocation of the cessation clause. The figure is below the 2011 budget of over USD 90 million that included USD 79 million for the emergency. Before the situation in Côte d'Ivoire resulted in a subregional emergency requiring supplementary budgets, UNHCR's financial needs had been decreasing since 2007, in line with the planned exit strategy after the peak of the Liberian repatriation in 2006.

## UNHCR's budget in Liberia 2008 – 2013

Millions (USD)



## 2012 UNHCR Budget in Liberia (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	REINTEGRATION PROJECTS PILLAR 3	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
Access to legal assistance	108,758	284,450	393,208
Subtotal	<b>108,758</b>	<b>284,450</b>	<b>393,208</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Reception conditions	0	384,450	384,450
Registration and profiling	4,137,245	0	4,137,245
Refugee status determination	401,301	0	401,301
Civil registration and civil status documentation	161,497	0	161,497
Family re-unification	161,497	0	161,497
Subtotal	<b>4,861,541</b>	<b>384,450</b>	<b>5,245,991</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Prevention of and response to SGBV	1,127,245	825,851	1,953,096
Protection of children	1,080,742	368,900	1,449,643
Subtotal	<b>2,207,988</b>	<b>1,194,751</b>	<b>3,402,739</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Health	3,514,567	0	3,514,567
Reproductive health and HIV services	858,265	0	858,265
Nutrition	677,994	0	677,994
Water	1,817,245	0	1,817,245
Sanitation and hygiene	1,537,239	0	1,537,239
Shelter and infrastructure	8,847,259	0	8,847,259
Basic domestic and hygiene items	3,415,078	0	3,415,078
Services for people with specific needs	1,888,428	0	1,888,428
Education	4,061,879	0	4,061,879
Subtotal	<b>26,617,954</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,617,954</b>
<b>Community empowerment and self-reliance</b>			
Community mobilization	484,491	0	484,491
Co-existence with local communities	161,497	0	161,497
Natural resources and shared environment	880,255	0	880,255
Self-reliance and livelihoods	11,711,437	2,368,900	14,080,338
Subtotal	<b>13,237,680</b>	<b>2,368,900</b>	<b>15,606,581</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Voluntary return	3,058,161	0	3,058,161
Integration	1,189,275	0	1,189,275
Resettlement	1,336,491	0	1,336,491
Subtotal	<b>5,583,927</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,583,927</b>
<b>Leadership, coordination and partnerships</b>			
Coordination and partnerships	80,748	812,801	893,549
Subtotal	<b>80,748</b>	<b>812,801</b>	<b>893,549</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Logistics and supply	7,310,237	0	7,310,237
Operations management, coordination and support	4,295,494	0	4,295,494
Subtotal	<b>11,605,731</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,605,731</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,304,327</b>	<b>5,045,353</b>	<b>69,349,680</b>
<b>2011 Revised budget</b>	<b>85,661,997</b>	<b>5,283,256</b>	<b>90,945,253</b>

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies

Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission

#### NGOs

*Action Contre La Faïm*  
Catholic Relief Services  
CARITAS  
Community Health Education and Social Services  
Childfund International  
Concern Worldwide  
Danish Refugee Council  
Environmental Foundation for Africa  
EQUIP - Liberia  
International Emergency and Development Aid  
International Rescue Committee  
Liberia Islamic Union for Reconstruction and Development  
Logistics and Services - Liberia  
Medical Emergency Relief Cooperative International  
Medical Emergency Relief International  
Norwegian Refugee Council  
Oxfam  
Special Emergency Activity to Restore Children's Hope  
Shelter for Life  
*Tiyatian Health*

#### Others

IOM

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies

Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization  
Liberia National Police

#### NGOs

*Médecins Sans frontières* - Belgium  
*Médecins Sans frontières* - Holland