



HIGHLIGHTS

935

Liberian passports were issued to Liberian refugees locally integrated

70

refugees were assisted with various agricultural inputs

1781

NFIs distributed since January

45

Shelters distributed since January

Population of concern

A total of **2429** people of concern

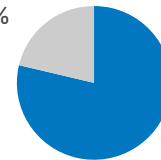
By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Liberia	2362
Ivory Coast	36
Sudan	14
Other	17
Total	2429

Funding

USD 1,713,792 million requested

Gap
21%



Funded
79%

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

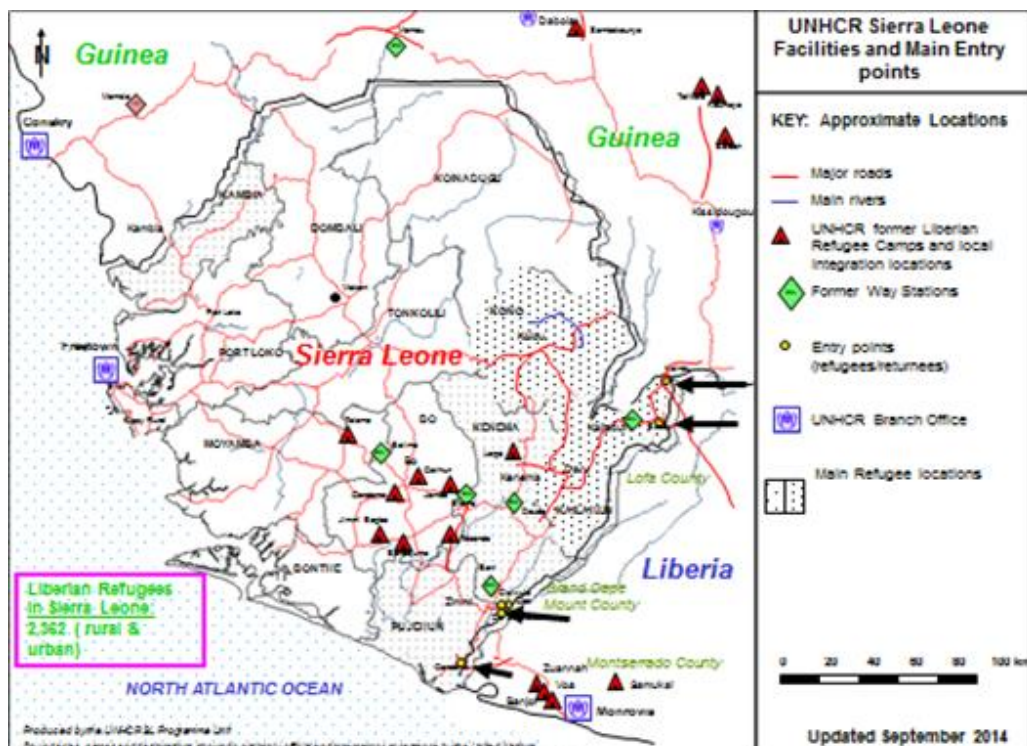
09 national staff

01 international staff

Offices:

01 office located in:

Freetown



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates humanitarian, repatriation and reintegration assistance with two implementing partners: the National Commission for Social Action (NACSA) and Movement Opposed to Violence and Exclusion-Sierra Leone (MOVE-SL).

UNHCR is a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and regularly attends the UNCT weekly meeting where UN activities are discussed.

Cooperative partnerships to improve the protection environment are established with relevant actors including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, District Councils and Local authorities. Also, coordination mechanisms are being strengthened through weekly and monthly meetings, joint assessments, planning and evaluation exercises. Information sharing mechanisms and systems are strengthened and supported. The capacity of the Government is still weak to respond adequately to refugee protection issues. Capacity of relevant stakeholders and Civil Society and Partners is being built and strengthened.

UNHCR is providing support to the government, its partners and the World Health Organization (WHO) in response to the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Exemption at second instance (Appeal) was concluded in March 2014. Of 279 appeal applications filed and reviewed by the Refugee Status Appeal Committee, only 01 was exempted from cessation. 179 decisions were issued while 100 are pending. In March 2014, UNHCR in collaboration with its key Government partner – The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) organized a seminar for border authorities in the township of Kailahun in Kailahun district for border officials including line ministries, police, military, Office of National Security, traditional leaders, and civil society groups to raise awareness on the 2007 Refugees' Protection Act and other related refugee protection instruments.

Health

- Through its implementing partners, UNHCR provided secondary medical support to 3 refugee emergency cases. This improved the health of affected refugees. In addition due to the current Ebola Viral Disease outbreak in Sierra Leone, UNHCR is currently providing support through World Health Organization and other implementing Partners to enhance Government's efforts in response to the Ebola epidemic.

Water and Sanitation

- Through its implementing partners, UNHCR constructed 2 water points (hand-dug well fitted with pumps) in the Benduma settlement. It further trained pump attendants for the maintenance and repair of the water points including the hygiene components. This significantly reduced the distance previously covered to fetch water which consequently reduced some common SGBV incidents.

Shelter and NFIs

- Shelter construction for 45 residual LI applicants was completed in the first quarter of 2014. In addition, refugee families Non-Food Items were distributed to Refugee families who had not benefitted from this support. The distribution included: 459 Jerry cans, 704 Soap Bars, 84 blankets, 72 buckets, 462 lanterns. The impact is that refugees' physical protection is enhanced.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- During the period under review, 70 refugees were assisted with various agricultural inputs such as rice seeds, cassava cuttings, fertilizers and potato vines, 10 women were supported with skills training and additional support was provided to 7 agro-based industries. 2 trainings were conducted in Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs) for exempted Liberian refugees and other nationalities. 60 refugees including Ivorians, exempted Liberians from other nationalities were supported with small business assistance.

- This livelihoods project contributed to the effective integration of refugees into their respective host communities by increasing their income generation capacities. It further created an environment for increased social cohesion with the host communities and a general feeling of self-fulfillment for both refugees and members of the host communities.
- All 10 training centres constructed by the implementing partner under the livelihoods support were commissioned in March 2014 with UNHCR participation.

Durable Solutions

- Drafting of appeal decision is on-going with a total of 46 decisions issued to the appellants.
- Following completion of the Liberian biometric passport vetting mission in August 2013, a total of 935 Liberian passports have so far been received from BO Monrovia for locally integrating refugees in Sierra Leone. All 935 were issued residence permits by the Department of Immigration for locally integrated Liberian refugees. The remaining 123 passports are yet to be received from Liberia.

Logistics

- In 2014, seven vehicles were provided on loan to the implementing partners during the period under review. This has enhanced the implementation of our programme. Moreover, financial support was provided to cover the running and maintenance costs of the vehicles on loan to the implementing partners.
- It is important to highlight that the current Ebola virus disease outbreak in Sierra Leone has resulted to a halt/slow implementation of our programme activities. In addition, it also has immense negative impact on the socio-economic levels attained over the years in the local integration of refugees in the country. Thus, a serious challenge to ensuring refugees' self-reliance.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked funding to UNHCR worldwide as well as donors who have contributed directly to UNHCR's programmes in West Africa in 2014:

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