



RIJ

国際難民支援会

Building a
Future for
Refugees

Liberia



Courtesy: UNHCR

Reasons for Displacement:

Since Liberia's independence in 1847, it has suffered from two civil wars. The first

civil war (1989 to 1997) resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths and 500,000 people becoming either refugees or internally displaced. Whilst order was restored in 1997, stability was short-lived, with Liberia descending into its second civil war in 1999. The second civil war (1999 to 2003) resulted in thousands more deaths and displacement of over 200,000 people. In total, an estimated 250,000 people died and over 700,000 were displaced during the two conflicts.

Whilst Liberia has now enjoyed over 10 years of relative stability and peace, the 2010 presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire, which triggered widespread rioting and violence, forced thousands of

Ivorians to flee into Liberia.

Refugee and IDP Communities:

Since peace has returned to Cote d'Ivoire, over 100,000 Ivorian refugees have returned home with the support of UNHCR and both governments. Over 50,000 remain, mostly due to the closing of Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia border over the ebola outbreak in 2014 and out of fear of returning.

UNHCR, with the help of the Liberian government, has also helped over 150,000 former refugees to return home. The majority of those internally displaced have also returned to their original communities (23,000 remain). However, decades of conflict have left the country in economic ruin and insecurity. Unemployment, crime, corruption, poor public infrastructure, lack of basic services and development provide a bleak future for many Liberians.



Assistance:

- RIJ funded a project that empowered female heads of household through business training and secondary education
- UNHCR, in cooperation with the government and NGOs, creates opportunities for self-reliance and skills-training
- Other projects include adult education programs administered by the Finnish Refugee Council and environmental sustainability programs that introduced solar cookers

Number of refugees:
38,595 residing in Liberia
13,575 originating from Liberia
[source: UNHCR]

Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):
23,000
[source: IDMC]

History:

- 1847**—Liberia becomes independent
- 1958**—Racial discrimination outlawed
- 1980**—Military coup led by Samuel Doe; he suspends the constitution
- 1990**—Doe assassinated by National Patriotic Front of Liberia
- 1997**—Charles Taylor becomes president of Liberia
- 1993**—Second Liberian Civil War begins
- 2002**—50,000 Liberians and Sierra Leonean refugees flee from fighting; state of emergency declared
- 2003**—Second Liberian Civil War ends; US and Nigerian peacekeepers arrive; Taylor flees the country
- 2006**—Ellen Johnson Sirleaf becomes first female president of Liberia
- 2010**—Ivorian refugees enter Liberia
- 2012**—Taylor sentenced to 50 years in prison
- 2013**—The UN Refugee Agency has helped over 155,000 Liberian refugees to return
- 2015**—Liberia reopens schools and national borders closed due to Ebola outbreak