



IOM staff provide instructions about registration and transportation. © IOM 2012 (Photo: Nyani Quarmyne)

Voluntary Repatriation of Liberian Refugees

Since the first Liberian civil war (1989-1996), Ghana has hosted tens of thousands of Liberian refugees at Budumburam refugee camp, located 44 km west of Accra. Smaller numbers of Liberian refugees fled to Krisan refugee camp, located in south-western Ghana near the country's border with Côte d'Ivoire. The second civil war in 1999 brought more Liberian refugees to the camps and their numbers further increased following civil unrest in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire in 2002. At the height of the Liberian conflict in the 1990's, Budumburam was home to 38,000 Liberian refugees, the majority of whom have now been repatriated or resettled to a third country through programmes funded by the US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM). The UNHCR established and now oversees refugee camps in Ghana and has initiated various repatriation programmes since 2004.

Within the framework of the 2012 voluntary repatriation operation, IOM provided fitness-to-travel assessments, assistance with pre-departure arrangements such as weighing and loading of luggage, ground transportation from Budumburam refugee camp to Accra, airport assistance including immigration formalities and check-in and boarding procedures, the provision of food and beverages for the duration of the movement, air transportation from Ghana to Liberia, inflight assistance, arrival assistance in Monrovia, onward transportation to

final destinations across Liberia and overnight accommodation if necessary.

From April onwards, IOM in coordination with UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of 2,843 Liberian refugees. The majority of movements were organised utilising United Nations Mission to Liberia (UNMIL) operated aircraft which saved the project a considerable amount of money since these flights were offered free of charge by UNMIL. However, a few return movements were organised with commercial flights.

IOM Ghana's operation team coordinated all aspects of



Above: Liberian refugees prepare to leave Budumburam refugee camp. © IOM 2012 (Photo: Nyani Quarmyne)

refugee movements (camp preparation, transportation, flight and arrival) with local partners and authorities in Ghana and Liberia to ensure a smooth and safe return for refugees.

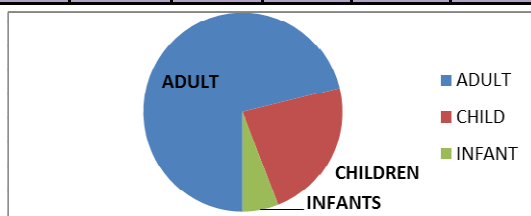
On 14 December 2012, IOM assisted the final group of former Liberian refugees to return to Liberia. It marked the end of a successful operation in which a total of 2,843 Liberian nationals returned home. IOM remains committed to assisting other Liberian refugees in Ghana who were unable to return due to medical or other personal reasons.



Above: Luggage is weighed and tagged prior to departure. © IOM 2012

Total IOM Voluntary Returns to Liberia 2012

	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
MALE	108	221	255	270	319	181	32	27	28	1441
FEMALE	103	224	292	269	288	142	21	27	36	1402
TOTAL	211	445	547	539	607	323	53	54	64	2843



*Note: Child refers to ages 2>,<12

IOM ACCRA OPS DEPARTURE	IOM MONROVIA OPS ARRIVAL	IOM MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS	UNHCR TOTAL RETURNS
2,843	2,522	3,236	4,642

Summary of MHD Activities for Liberian Refugee Return Operations

Within the framework of the Voluntary Repatriation of Liberian Refugees in Ghana project, IOM Ghana’s Migration Health Division (MHD) partnered with the St. Gregory Catholic Hospital at the Budumburam refugee camp to conduct “fit-to-travel” pre-departure medical screening (PDMS) and to administer the yellow fever vaccination to all refugees who requested return assistance to Liberia. The PDMS process ensures that migrants are medically fit to travel, identifies any illness requiring treatment or medical escort, and informs clients of any significant medical condition which requires follow up after arriving home.

IOM MHD trained the staff of the Hospital on standard PDMS procedures and provided technical support throughout the process, including several written guidelines and reference documents. Potential migrants were examined and vaccinated at the St. Gregory Catholic Hospital. Fit to travel

certificates were issued by IOM to those who were cleared by medical staff to travel.

Treatment and referrals were provided for one child with severe malnutrition and pneumonia – this was the only case of a return cancelled on medical grounds.

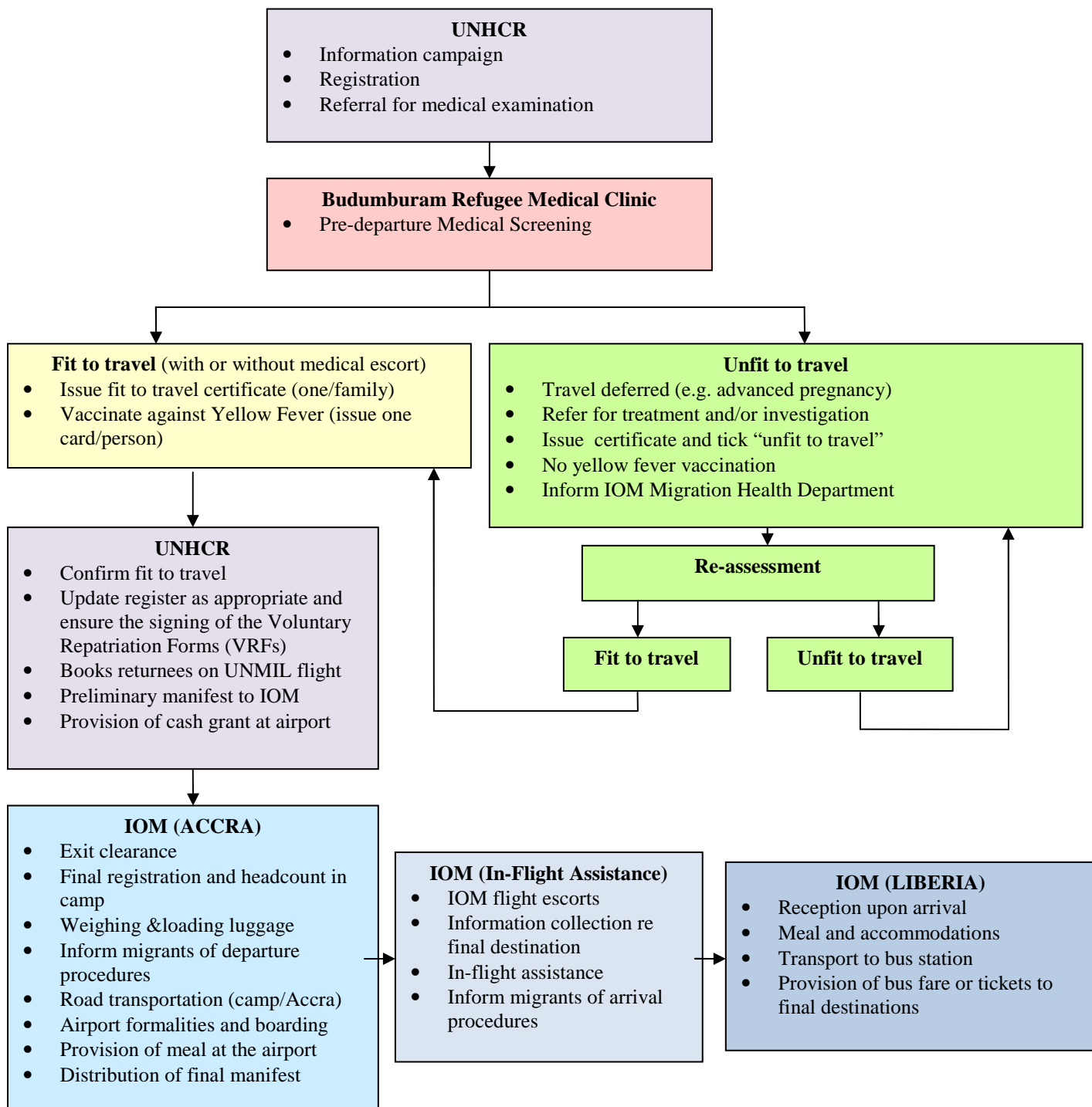
Between May and December 2012, a total of 3,236 refugees were examined at a total cost of GHC 52,694 . Details are provided in the table below.

MONTH	NO.OF PERSONS EXAMINED	COST PER PERSON (GHC)	TOTAL (GHC)	REMARKS
MAY	389	15.00	5835.00	Refund to UNHCR incl. yellow fever vaccination
JUN	770	15.00	11550.00	
JUL	469	17.00	7973.00	Including yellow fever vaccination
AUG	566	17.00	9622.00	
SEP	531	17.00	9027.00	
OCT	376	17.00	6392.00	
NOV	55	17.00	935.00	
DEC	80	17.00	1360.00	
TOTAL	3236		52694.00	



FLOW CHART

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF LIBERIAN REFUGEES FROM GHANA



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