



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Update n° 2.1 on the situation in Togo and neighbouring countries (29 April 2005 – 17.00)

1. REFUGEE MOVEMENTS

- As of Friday 29th April, the total number of individuals crossing into neighbouring Ghana and Benin stands at 6,891 individuals, including 6,832 Togolese citizens and 59 Ghanaian nationals who decided to return to their home country.
- Togo opened again its borders on Thursday 28th April with both Ghana (10.55 hrs) and Benin (13.30hrs).

2. TOGO

- A few security incidents were reported last night in Lome, where the situation is still volatile (the German cultural centre was set on fire and the residence of one political opponent surrounded by the army).
- Togo is still under UN Security Phase Three. Security Management Team has not yet recommended to go for a higher security phase.

3. BENIN

- The flow of persons seeking protection continued with a total of 6,263 individuals registered with the local authorities by Friday 29th April early afternoon.
- The number of refugees currently assisted by UNHCR is more than 1,300 : approximately 600 are at Hilakondji border (residing at the church grounds) and a further 700 are at Come site. The other refugees are assumed to be residing with host families.
- While the number of refugees has increased dramatically in the past 24 hours, these figures remain manageable within planned response programmes. Preparations of the second site at Lokossa are expected to be finalized by Friday evening.
- A first Emergency Response Team (3 persons, in protection, community services and programme) will be deployed over the week end in Benin.

4. GHANA

- As of Friday 29th April in the morning, the total number of refugees from Togo stands at 628. This includes 335 individuals in Kejebi area (in Tsortome and Adekokpe), and 292 in Oboase.

5. REGIONAL LEVEL

- A ten truck convoy is expected to leave Accra on Saturday 30th April to reach Benin via Burkina Faso with NFIs for 5,000 refugees, including 1,020 tents. With this convoy from Accra and the existing stocks in Bénin (2500), RR Cotonou should have the capacity to meet the needs of 7,500 refugees in camps.
- The UNHCR Representative in Nigeria had a meeting on Friday 29th April in the morning with senior ECOWAS staff, who informed that an ECOWAS team led by the President of Niger (as ECOWAS Chairman) would travel to Togo on

Saturday 30th April to encourage the formation of a Government of National Unity and the effective implementation of the Constitution.

- With regard to AU initiatives, President Obasanjo sent a team to Togo to meet all concerned parties to discuss the formation of a Government of National Unity.

5. HEADQUARTERS

- A Task Force was established on Thursday 28th April and had its first meeting on that day. The second meeting was held this afternoon.

West Africa Desk, 29th April 2005