

Update No. 07

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

31 March 2011



Highlights

- Intensifying military combat between the *Forces Républicaines* (FR) loyal to Alassane Ouattara and the *Forces de Défense et de Sécurité* (FDS) of Laurent Gbagbo is disrupting protection monitoring and the provision of essential assistance to persons displaced within Côte d'Ivoire, especially in Abidjan.
- On 29 March, Gbagbo called for an immediate ceasefire and the opening of talks under the mediation of the African Union (AU) High Representative. This came after the FR moved into and captured Daloa, Mama, Duékoué, Lahoudiba, Bondoukou, Abengourou, Sinfra, and San Pedro. The FR reportedly took control over the capital, Yamoussoukro, on 30 March and is surrounding Abidjan. The Côte d'Ivoire Army Chief of Staff sought refuge at the home of the South African Ambassador in Abidjan. It was also reported that the blockade on the Hotel du Golfe was lifted. Heavy fighting in Abidjan is taking place around the Presidential Palace and Gbagbo's residence.
- The humanitarian situation throughout Côte d'Ivoire is worsening. The majority of IDP sites in Abidjan are either inaccessible or difficult to access due to the presence of barricades manned by armed groups.
- Humanitarian actors reported that more than 130,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are accounted for in host families (92,840) and at IDP sites in Abidjan (19,397). UNHCR also confirmed the presence of 18,300 people displaced in the interior cities of Bouaké – 8,000 (UNFPA), Yamoussoukro (10,000 – UNFPA), and Akoupé – 300 (Caritas) as of 28 March. Duékoué, where an estimated 40,000 IDPs have sought safety in the Catholic mission, is one of several areas of concern in the western region. Humanitarian actors estimate that there are 750,000 IDPs throughout Côte d'Ivoire.
- Over 120,000 Ivorian refugees are in Liberia. The number of people leaving Abidjan is on the rise, along with an increase in the number of refugees fleeing to Ghana and other neighbouring countries. An estimated total of over 128,000 Ivorians have fled the country as of 31 March.
- UNHCR is concerned about the spontaneous arrival of third country nationals from Côte d'Ivoire, mostly migrant workers, in need of assistance to return to their own countries.
- The Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) Revision for Liberia was submitted, and the EHAP for Côte d'Ivoire + 10 neighbouring countries is being finalized.



Refugees fleeing insecurity caused by post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire cross the Cestost River into Butuo, Liberia.

UNHCR / G. Gordon
2011

60
YEARS



Population Movement

| | Guinea | Burkina Faso | Mali | Ghana | Togo | Benin | Niger | Nigeria | Senegal | Guinea Bissau | Gambia |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------------|--------|
| Refugees/ Asylum seekers | 1,141 | 37 | 252 | 3,240 | 1,065 | 45 | 38* | 74 | 28** | 5 | 7 |
| Liberia | 43,708 Ivorian refugees individually registered and 79,250 through the rapid emergency registration. | | | | | | | | | | |

*As of 23 March 2011; ** as of 21 March 2011.

Financial Information

| Donor | Contribution (USD) |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Australia | 2,028,398 |
| Canada | 1,519,868 |
| CERF | 3,155,737 |
| EC/ ECHO | 686,813 |
| Denmark | 1,843,658 |
| ECOWAS | 500,000 |
| Finland | 1,690,913 |
| France | 549,451 |
| Germany | 1,027,413 |
| Ireland | 544,959 |
| Private donors Canada | 2,935 |
| Rep. of Korea | 300,000 |
| Switzerland | 637,767 |
| UN Population Fund | 119,840 |
| USA | 10,300,000 |
| TOTAL(*) | 24,907,752 |

(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 towards UNHCR's initial response in Côte d'Ivoire in December 2010.

Operational Needs

| Budget | Liberia | Côte d'Ivoire +4 and other regional activities |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Executive Committee Approved Budget | \$ 10,665,886 | \$ 88,568,800 |
| Supplementary Budget | \$ 79,775,369 | \$ 17,717,692 |
| TOTAL | \$ 90,441,255 | \$ 106,286,492 |

COTE D'IVOIRE

The majority of IDP sites in Abidjan are either inaccessible or difficult to access due to the presence of barricades manned by armed groups.

Villages in the North continue to be overwhelmed by the increase in population movement out of Abidjan to seek safety within host families.

Yopougon – ASAPSU reported that there are **60,000** displaced individuals living with host families in the Mairie de Yopougon area who have not received any assistance. There are **1,554** IDPs at the Evangelical Church in Gesco and **1,504** individuals at the Micao Church at Zone Industrielle who are difficult to access and are in need of food and NFIs. Save the Children reports **1,182** IDPs hosted by families in Yopougon Selmer who have not received any assistance (28 March).

Cocody – **2,067** IDPs at the St. Amboise Parish site need tents, blankets, foodstuffs, water, medicine, and sanitation facilities. **3,150** IDPs were reported at College Lemania Angre as of 30 March, where the site management committee is rejecting any assistance. The site is accessible, by passing through barricades. **350** IDPs in Riviera 2 who are being hosted by families under the Attoban and Latrille mosques refused to accept basic needs items for fear of attack. The items will be instead sent to other IDPs in need (28 March).

Anyama – **4,431** IDPs are located in the Grand Mosque and have received food from the Catholic Church. Outstanding needs include more food, blankets and medicine (28 March).

Bingerville – Caritas reports **3,007** individuals displaced into host families in Gbagba 2 who have not yet received any assistance (28 March).

LIBERIA

Individual registration resumed in Nimba County. **43,708** Ivorian refugees have been individually registered, while **79,250** were accounted for by means of rapid emergency registration as of 31 March. Emergency registration figures may include multiple registrations as a result of back-and-forth population movements between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

On 27 March, an AU delegation (Democratic Republic of Congo Ambassador to AU; Head of Refugee and Internal Displacement Section; and Senior Political and Humanitarian Affairs Officer) visited Saclepea, and Bahn Refugee Camp, met with the community, and indicated that the AU would donate funds.

At Janzon Clinic, two (2) refugees wounded by bullets in Côte d'Ivoire were identified and referred to Zwedru Hospital.

• Protection

Enhanced individual registration underway at transit centres and way stations puts the registration figure at **43,708** (as of 30 March). This enables the identification of vulnerable people for better follow-up.

Memoranda of Understanding are being finalized for new refugee sites located at the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Public Works (both located on the Zwedru and Janzon axis), as well as the new Dowyee site (Toe Town and Zhele Town axis).

• Humanitarian assistance

Tempo Axis - An influx of 2,000 individuals at noon on 30 March was reported by officials at the Tempo Axis. A waypoint at Boa and a transit centre in Droglor will be established in anticipation of another heavy influx.

Zorgowee - The Zorgowee Transit Centre was activated on 28 March. 70 tents housing **350** individuals have been erected and development of the site is ongoing.

Bahn Camp - The two Bahn transit centres have been activated. 508 new shelters were constructed (of which 62 are reserved for vulnerables). **2,563** individuals are so far being accommodated in the Bahn Refugee Camp. Stockpiling of shelter kits and construction material is ongoing.

Grand Gedeh - On 26 March alone, **1,666** new arrivals (584 households) were registered in Grand Gedeh County. Plans to staff five teams consisting of 20 registration clerks and five (5) supervisors will improve the registration capacity to **15,000** individuals per day by Caritas in case of a massive influx.

Handicap International is currently undertaking an assessment in Grand Gedeh to look into the individual registration of vulnerable refugees; identification of needs, both basic and specific; development of a database; and structuring of a referral mechanism.

GHANA

UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Operations went on a mission to Ghana with the West Africa Regional Representative, the UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, the UNHCR Representative in Ghana, and the IOM Representative.

The UN delegation met with high-level government officials in the Ministry of the Interior as well as local government authorities, (including the Minister for the Western Region) to discuss the current Ivorian refugee situation and the need for strengthened coordination in emergency response.

Traffic flow from Côte d'Ivoire to Ghana (including transit through Ghana) has been continuous and significant. Recent fighting in eastern Côte d'Ivoire is likely to further increase the flow of refugees to Ghana.

• Protection

3,240 individuals fleeing from Côte d'Ivoire have sought asylum in Ghana (up from **2,339** last week). While the majority of refugees continue to cross from the border at Elubo, a joint mission of UNHCR and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office to the Brong Ahafo Region received information that **257** Ivorian refugees are being accommodated by different communities in the region.

• Humanitarian assistance

The population at Eagle Star Reception Center in Elubo stands at **480** persons who are being accommodated in 23 tents as well as in the unfinished school building inside the center. A constant medical presence was established on 25 March.

Ampain Refugee Camp opened on 19 March and already has a population of **1,184** persons. As per established procedures, the camp is being populated through the transfer of persons from Eagle Star Reception Center, which is currently experiencing increasing congestion.

Electricity Company of Ghana provided access to electric power for the Ampain Refugee Camp (nine poles were mounted, while an additional 20 poles will be mounted in the weeks to come).

A survey is being conducted to collect information on the number and age of children; adolescents; women; men; older persons; persons with disabilities; chronic medical issues; other specific needs; and profession. This survey will be used to group children into school classes, follow up persons with specific needs and identify the skills of the population.

Education - UNICEF will send teaching materials for a new school once the number of children is known and teachers have been identified via the above-mentioned survey.

Site Planning/Shelter/NFIs - Ampain Refugee Camp, (28 acres) will be developed as an optimal scenario for the layout of the tents and other structures. 283 tents, in total, have so far been erected, out of which 260 are occupied. The clearing of additional land and the construction of the reception center, distribution center and storage facility are ongoing. A large portion of the land at Ampain Camp was found to be vulnerable to floods. As a result, 58 additional acres in central Ghana have been identified for potential use.

Security/Nutrition - UNHCR procured a supply of food for **2,000** people for four (4) months, while ensuring that a stockpile to satisfy a threshold of 1,000 people is being maintained until the World Food Programme activates food distribution assistance.

Health - IOM set up a health clinic at the Eagle Star Reception Center, which attends to urgent needs. Two Red Cross volunteers are present.

A mobile clinic (ambulance) deployed by the District Health Services (DHS) is present at the Ampain Camp. Basic drugs are available and 155 UNFPA hygiene kits were distributed to women.

Water/Sanitation - Eagle Star and Ampain depend on water storage in polytanks (two in Eagle Star - total 5,000 Liters, and seven in Ampain - total 15,625 Liters) trucked by water tankers. Sachet water is purchased on daily basis and distributed to the beneficiaries. Additional latrines and washing facilities are needed as a matter of urgency.

GUINEA

The total number of Ivorian refugees registered is **1,141** individuals/427 households with **994** individuals (359 HH) located in the N'Zerekore Forest Region; and **147** persons (68 HH) registered by CNISR in Conakry.

In N'Zerekore, the number of new arrivals increased this week by **89** persons. The majority originated from the Abobo, Yopougon and Adjame districts of Abidjan, and came directly to N'Zerekore centre. They are currently staying with host families or are lodged at a hotel awaiting the availability of community tents in Kouankan II Refugee Camp.

• Protection

454 persons are now hosted in Kouankan II Camp and **451** persons unwilling to be transferred to Kouankan II Camp are instead being hosted in villages.

• Humanitarian assistance

Site Planning/NFIs/Shelter – The rehabilitation of Kouankan I Camp started with the construction of five (5) community tents, two (2) kitchens and ten (10) blocks of latrines and showers.

The capacity of Kouankan II Camp has been increased by 29 temporary community tents. 10 community kitchens were completed with one (1) more underway, and 58 sanitary blocks have been finalized with six (6) more under construction. Additional tents, kitchens, latrines are also being set up.

An age gender and diversity mainstreaming information session was held on 24 March with concerned partners and refugees to sensitize and motivate participation and contribution to the construction of individual shelters by laying bricks.

ACORD distributes NFIs (blankets, mats, nets, soap, kitchen sets, petrol lamps, jerry cans, plastic buckets) to all new arrivals at Kouankan II Camp.

Food Security/Nutrition - General food distribution organized by ACORD, WFP and UNHCR took place from 22 to 25 March. A corn mill was procured and an MOU between ACORD and the Refugee Committee for running and managing the project has been drafted.

Education - UNHCR made a budget provision under ODIC and ACORD for the construction of three (3) classrooms, manufacture of school desks, hiring of teachers, and procurement of school supplies and uniforms.

Health - The UNHCR Medical Coordinator is systematically pre-screening refugees at entry points prior to their transfer to Kouankan II Camp. Once settled in the camp, the medical staff of CRG, UNHCR's implementing partner in charge of health, monitors their health on a daily basis.

Water and Sanitation - Standards in water supply to beneficiaries are respected, with each person receiving 40 liters per day.

BURKINA FASO

37 Ivorian asylum seekers have been registered by the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CONAREF) thus far, while **21** are still in the process of being formally registered.

Following UNHCR, CONAREF and the Ministry of Habitat and Urbanism's joint field mission, discussions are ongoing concerning the clearing and basic preparation (latrines and water supply) of at least one (1) hectare of land in the three main entry regions: Po, Gaoua and Toussiana.

On 24 March, a meeting was held between UNHCR and the Consulate of the United States regarding the situation of Ivorian refugees in Burkina Faso, their numbers, locations, the level of preparedness, and other issues related to the Ivorian crisis.

BENIN

Nine (9) new arrivals of Ivorian refugees were registered, received and counseled by Caritas, bringing the total to **45** individuals.

TOGO

UNHCR's Regional Representative was on mission in Togo from 27 March and met with the Togolese authorities, (including the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection and the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity). He also held a separate meeting with the UNHCR Representative of Togo and the Chief of the European Union delegation based in Lomé.

There are now a total of **1,065** Ivorian refugees in Togo, (an increase of **443** over the past week). Of these, one (1) separated child, age four, was identified.

Refugees have been informed of their rights under Togolese law. NFIs donated by a local organization based in Lomé and consisting of soap, toilet paper, t-shirts, and sandals were distributed. Rice and cooking oil were distributed on 24 March by UNHCR. ATBER, UNHCR's implementing partner, is in charge of health and medical issues.

Site identification discussions were held between UNHCR and the Togolese Ministry of Security and Protection to erect a refugee camp to receive the Ivorians. Of three (3) proposed sites, UNHCR is retaining two sites (Kélékouga in Kégué and Tropicana).

NIGERIA

Three (3) asylum seekers from Adjamé, Ayama and Yopougon in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) were registered in Nigeria this week, bringing the total number of Ivorian refugees to **74**. All three transited through Ghana, Togo and Benin.

The refugees reported that they have crossed borders without passports or any other identification documents and therefore did not pass through immigration controls.

MALI

252 Ivorian refugees have been registered by the CNCR thus far, and an additional **200** await registration.

A joint field mission by UNHCR, OIM, PAM and UNICEF to Sikasso, Zégoua and Faragouaran from 23 to 26 March monitored the level of emergency infrastructure preparation, notably development of the Zégoua Transit Center, work on the Faragouaran Camp, and the extension of the Faragouaran site. Work is moving along according to schedule. The transit site will be functional by next week with a 200-person capacity.

Mali developed an emergency action plan to repatriate **20,000** Malians in Abidjan as well as **60,000** more migrants in Côte d'Ivoire who registered with the Malian Embassy in hopes of returning. The action plan has three objectives: 1) identify those who desire to return to Mali; 2) establish a reception center to reorient those being repatriated; and 3) to establish a psychological follow-up on those repatriated. The first ten (10) buses assisted by IOM should arrive with approximately 700 people on board.

West Africa - Côte d'Ivoire Operation (CIV+8)

Number of refugees

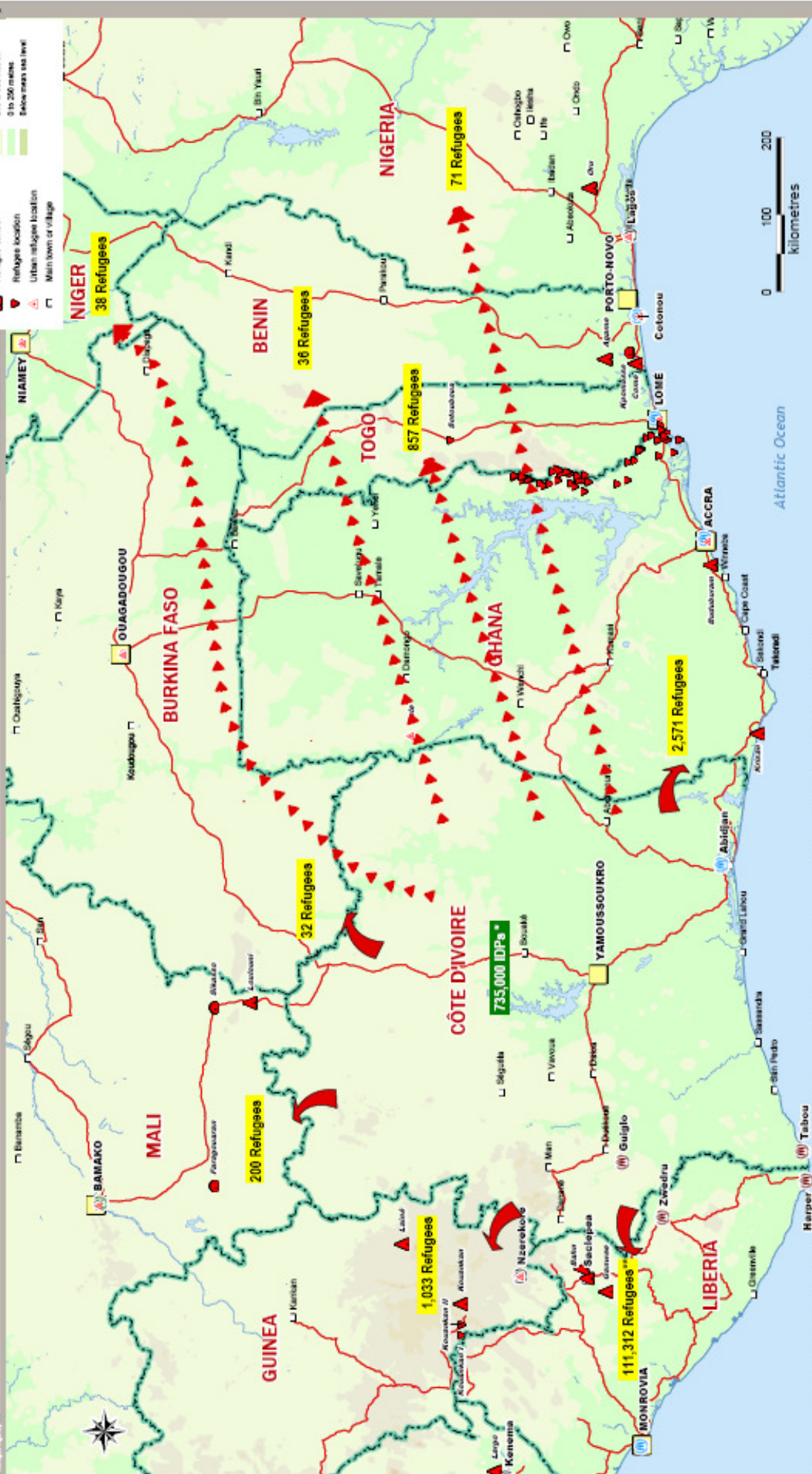
As of 27th March 2011



FUGRO
Field information and
Coordination support tools

Source:
UNHCR, Global Field Approximate
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The boundaries and names shown
on this map do not imply an endorsement
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* There are an estimated 700,000 IDPs in and around Abidjan and some 85,000 IDPs in the West. These remain estimations as security and access constraints prevent UNHCR from conducting normal operations
 ** Out of this figure, 65,000 refugees have been registered through emergency registration

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