

Update No. 11

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

29 April 2011



Highlights

- President Alassane Ouattara is moving ahead with the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission as the first step toward reconciliation and peace. Members of the new government will be nominated throughout the month of May. Mr. Ouattara underlined that security will be fully restored within two months.
- The new regime in Côte d'Ivoire is faced with the critical challenge of revitalizing the economy, which greatly suffered from the post-electoral crisis.
- The Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO) officially reopened on 26 April and a new Director, Mr. Jean Baptiste Aman, has been appointed.
- The Chairman of the Professional Association of Banques (APBEF-CI), Mr. Jacob Amematekpo, requested bank personnel in Cote d'Ivoire to return to work on 26 April following the Easter holiday.
- The new President Alassane Ouattara and Prime Minister Guillaume Soro are addressing the issue of reconciliation and have doubled efforts to provide security in the country. The Ouattara administration has stated that perpetrators of violence will be punished.
- TCI (Television Côte d'Ivoire) announced that preliminary investigations have been re-opened against former President Laurent Gbagbo and those close to him.



Transit center, Maryland, Liberia (UNHCR/Staff/2011)

Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/Asylum seekers	2,713	100	838	12,005	3,418	208	38	104	41	38	38	10
Liberia	45, 178 Ivorian refugees individually registered and 112,800 through the rapid emergency registration											



Financial Information

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
Australia	2,028,398
Canada	2,335,362
CERF	3,155,737
Denmark	1,843,658
EC/ECHO	2,747,253
ECOWAS	500,000
Finland	1,702,141
France	549,451
Germany	1,027,413
Ireland	544,959
Norway	1,431,127
Private donors	210,046
Republic of Korea	300,000
Switzerland	637,767
UN Population Fund	119,840
United Kingdom	7,211,538
USA	10,300,000
TOTAL(*)	36,644,690

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

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The FRCI have left Abobo district in Abidjan and returned to their barracks. The majority of road blocks have been removed. Government radio programmes to promote peace and reconciliation are ongoing. President Alassane Ouattara addressed the nation on 24 April to promote peace and security and to initiate the recovery process. Socio-economic activity has started, but many of the banks are still closed and the cost of basic commodities has doubled. A peace march took place in Duékoué on 28 April.

A UNHCR road assessment of travel through military checkpoints between Abidjan and Man ended without incident and was therefore successful. A recommendation to reduce the number of checkpoints has been made.

• Protection

The UN Country Team met in Abidjan on 22 April to discuss a strategic approach for an effective response to the Ivorian humanitarian crisis. A meeting was held between UNHCR and the Government counterpart, the Department of Aid and Assistance to Refugees and Stateless Persons (SAARA), to develop an action plan for the immediate voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees, particularly those in the UNHCR Abidjan compound.

UNHCR and WFP offices in Man conducted rapid joint assessments in the prefectures of Moyen Cavally, Dix-Huit Montagnes, Bafing, Denguélé, Worodougou and Haut Sassandra. Some IDPs want to return home as soon as possible, while others want assurances of



Road to the PTP camp, Grand Gedeh, Liberia (UNHCR/Staff/2011)

security and rebuilding in their home villages. In Abidjan, many IDPs are waiting for the violence to come to an end in Yopougon. Finally, some people are unwilling to return due to fear and/or destruction of their homes.

The Protection Cluster will conduct a rapid needs assessment of 30 return and displacement sites in Abidjan between 29-30 April. UNHCR drafted the questionnaires and will be conducting the assessment with other members of the cluster, organized in six teams with four members each.

United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) completed seven inter-agency rapid assessments visits in the Moyen Cavally and Dix-Huit Montagnes prefectures this week, targeting the sub-prefectures of Danané, Guiglo, Duékoué, Bloléquin, Toulépleu, Goulaleu. On the Bloléquin – Toulépleu - Goulaleu axis, UNDAC noted that the majority of villages were partially damaged. While some residents are visible during the day, very few remain at night due to fear of insecurity.

UNHCR is planning to develop a 45-hectare site at Nihably to decongest the IDPs in the Catholic Mission in Duékoué.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Sub-project agreements are being revised with "Afrique Secours et Assistance" (ASA) for activities in Danané, and, Guiglo, and Caritas for activities in Duékoué. A sub-project agreement with "Vivre Informer Fraterniser" (VIF), a national NGO based in western Cote d'Ivoire, is being discussed for activities in Haut Sassandra and Worodougou prefectures (e.g. Daloa, Issia Gadouan, Vavoua, Kani, Mankono and Séguéla).

Non-food items for some 45,000 household arrived overland from Liberia to Man and an additional 20,000 will shortly be sent from Accra upon completion of a security assessment.

LIBERIA

Consultations with refugee populations in Nimba County have revealed cross-border movements of Ivorian refugees between Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. Some are commuting back and forth to gauge the situation in country whereas others have permanently returned.

• Protection

The results of the verification exercise launched in mid-April are expected by mid-May and will provide clarity on the number of refugees that have spontaneously returned from Nimba County since the arrest of Laurent Gbagbo on 11 April. IRC and Save the Children are following up on the unaccompanied minors and separated children in Liberia. UNHCR trained IRC social workers on best interest determination for children on 25 April. UNHCR organized trainings on border monitoring and registration on 23 April. Level two registration is underway in Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties. UNICEF has opened an office in Grand Gedeh County with a child protection and education officer. Care International will shortly be conducting SGBV awareness raising campaigns in Grand Gedeh. UNHCR, UNMIL and local authorities are following up on the provision on an internment camp for the 89 refugees deemed to have entered with armed elements.

• Humanitarian Assistance

NRC is repairing 42 damaged tents at New Yorpea way station and is erecting tents at the new Dougee transit center, which currently hosts 66 people. EQUIP renovated latrines and the hand pump in Buutuo clinic. EQUIP also rehabilitated wells in the number of relocation communities. Red Cross Movement is planning to rehabilitate/construct hand pumps and family latrines in the number of relocation communities. Samaritans Purse conducted an assessment mission with LRRRC for construction of wells and hygiene promotion. MSF reported that malaria and respiratory tract infections are the main ailments. IRC conducted refresher training on malaria, cholera, measles and yellow fever in the area. In Bahn camp UNFPA provided sanitary materials and NRC distributed.

GHANA

The total number of Ivorians registered in Ghana is now at **12,005**. Eagle Star Reception Center has population of about **600-700** individuals. The population of Ampain Refugee Camp has reached **3,672**. The camp will be at its full capacity of 5,500 persons by mid-May. The average number of transfers from the RC to Ampain Camp is now 100-

150 persons per day. In Brong Ahafo, the population in Berekum Camp is at **773**, with an additional **389** in Oseikodjukrom. The remaining population is scattered among host communities.

130-170 persons/day are crossing the Ghana border since the arrest of Gbagbo on 11 April. New arrivals claim to be fleeing gunmen seeking out Gbagbo supporters.



School in Bahn camp, Nimba county, Liberia (UNHCR/E.Baghdadi/2011)

• Protection

The presence of Young Patriots crossing and entering Eagle Star Reception Centre has now been confirmed and preliminary assessments and interviews have been conducted. Asylum seekers suspected of affiliation with the Young Patriots will be retained in the RC until further notice. Families, women and children are prioritized for transfer to Ampain Camp. Additional police are present in Ampain Camp and Eagle Star RC and will be closely monitoring the presence of armed elements. The number of separated children is increasing at Ampain Camp. A total of 161 children have been registered in kindergarten, 435 in primary school and 210 in secondary school. With the new arrivals, the number of children has increased, particularly the number of primary school students.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Two hundred (200) additional tents are being transported to Ampain. Land continues to be cleared at Ampain B by CCG. It is estimated that total land available will increase the camp capacity to some 5,500 persons. Fifteen (15) blocks of sixteen (16) shelters are completed in Ampain B. Additional shelter is being erected at Eagle Star RC. In Berekum Camp, six tents were built to accommodate new spontaneous arrivals. The new Fetentaa camp site has been surveyed and a draft layout of the site has been completed for 1200 persons. The first dry ration distribution was undertaken on 21 April.

The total number of medical consultations from 19 March to 24 April was 2,069, with increasing cases of

psycho-social distress caused by trauma. Similarly, some children in the primary school have been identified by teachers as in need of psychosocial support. A Rapid Environmental Assessment will be conducted by the government counterpart NADMO for the Fetentaa Camp Site if more than 2,000 asylum seekers are to be lodged on the new site.

TOGO

The total number of Ivorian refugees is at **3,418**. The current number of refugees in Tropicana camp is **813**.

• Protection

UNHCR is engaging in sensitization campaigns, associating the “Association de Femmes Réfugiés Ivoiriennes au Togo” in the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in refugee settings. Monitoring of vulnerable persons is provided on site by UNHCR and ATBEF. Two cases of sexual abuse in the country of origin have been reported. After an interview with the protection section, the victims have been referred to Tokoin’s hospital for medical and psychological support. No gender-based violence incident has been reported at the Tropicana camp. Two unaccompanied minors aged 15 and 16 have been placed in host families. Two families have requested family reunification and steps have been taken to allow reunification to occur as soon as possible. Handicap International met with the Protection Section and offered to take care of the nine handicapped people registered so far. The NGO has also announced an evaluation mission of refugee needs in order to provide appropriate assistance. 101 primary and secondary school students have been identified in Tropicana camp. They will be following classes in nearby schools as soon as 2 May.

• Humanitarian Assistance

The on-site health centre is now operational. During the reporting period, cases of intestinal parasitosis, ulcers, rhinitis and dental problems have been treated. Two cases have been referred to Tokoin’s hospital. Female Ivorian refugees, organized in groups, asked UNHCR for financial support in order to conduct economic activities.

GUINEA

The total number of Ivorian refugees registered in Guinea now stands at **2,713**. The increase in arrivals is recorded at 10 individuals per day in N’Zérékoré, the majority of whom are still coming from the Abobo, Yopougon and Adjamé districts in Abidjan.

Five new community tents were finalized by DRC in Kounakan I to host the refugees previously sheltered in the primary school. Two trucks transporting 2,000 plastic sheets departed from Monrovia to Guinea to allow UNHCR’s partner (DRC) to continue the construction works at Kouankan I. On 26 April, UNICEF donated 467 school kits to the new Ivorian students from Kouankan I and II, going to school in Kouankan II. The list of UAMs has been updated and follow-up has been organized.

BURKINA FASO

100 Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered to date by the ‘Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés’ (CONAREF). During the reporting period an additional six (6) asylum seekers arrived onto the territory. 96 individuals are in the capital Ouagadougou, and four (4) others are located in neighbouring towns of Koudougou, Zabre and Tenkodogo and Bobo-Dioulasso. An increasing number of Ivorian asylum seekers are seeking assistance from UNHCR and CREDO for livelihood, housing, health and education.

MALI

There are **838** registered Ivorian asylum seekers in Mali as of 26 April. The reporting period saw an increase of **134** new asylum seekers. During the reporting period, 203 Ivorians entered Mali through the Zégoua entry point. When asked for the motive of their journey, all identified themselves as traders who faced food shortages in Côte d’Ivoire and came to buy supplies in Mali. WFP bought 9,000 metric tons of rice of a value of 3 billion CFA francs in Mali for Côte d’Ivoire. An airlift has been established to provide essential assistance to both the IDPs in Côte d’Ivoire and the Ivorian refugees in Liberia.



Livelihood activities in Bahn camp, Nimba county, Liberia (UNHCR/E.Baghdadi/2011)

NIGERIA

There are **104** registered Ivorian asylum-seekers in Nigeria, with two additional arrivals during the reporting period. 33 of the 73 cases of Ivorian asylum seekers have been interviewed/pre-screened. Efforts are being made to ensure that the interviews are completed before the next Eligibility Committee scheduled for July.

The major request made by Ivorian asylum-seekers during the reporting period concerned food. Other requests were about shelter and NFIs. Seven (7) Ivorian families of 14 individuals were assisted with mats, blankets, mosquito nets, cooking sets and cooking stoves. One (1) of the assisted persons was referred to NCFR for a monthly subsistence allowance for three months to enable him to get shelter.

BENIN

There are **208** Ivorian asylum-seekers in Benin, an increase of 55 new cases registered by the CNAR in the reporting week. During the course of the week no arrivals of third country nationals have been reported. In order to settle the question of the status of Ivorian asylum seekers, the Eligibility Committee will examine, in a simplified and accelerated procedure, the files of the Ivorian asylum seekers.

SIERRA LEONE

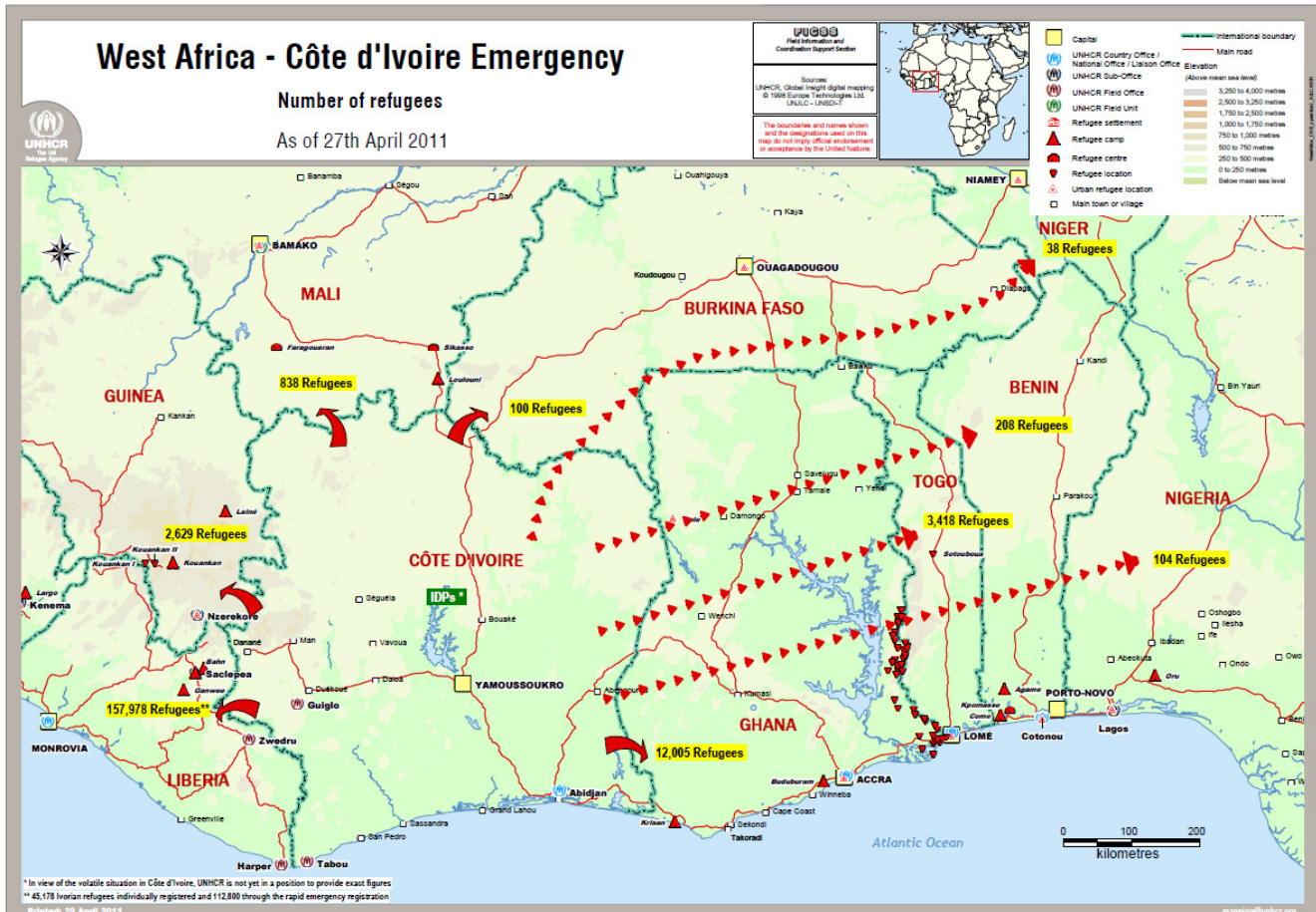
No new arrivals were reported this week. The number of Ivorian asylum seekers remains at **10** individuals.

GUINEA BISSAU

With 3 new arrivals this week, there are in total **38** Ivorian asylum seekers in Guinea Bissau. Thus far nine have been recognised as refugees with 29 pending adjudication.

THE GAMBIA

A total of **38** Ivorian asylum seekers reported in the Gambia. The Gambia Red Cross continues to issue refugee ID cards to Ivorian asylum seekers who were in the Gambia since 2009. The process also includes issuance of the cards to new Ivorian asylum seekers who came to the Gambia following the November 2010 Presidential elections.



For further information, please contact:

UNHCR Headquarters
94, Rue de Montbrillant
Geneva, 1202

Valentin Tapsoba
Regional Representative
UNHCR RRWA, Dakar
Phone: +221 33 867 62 07
Email: tapsoba@unhcr.org

Myriam Houtart
Assistant Regional Representative (Programme)
UNHCR RRWA, Dakar
Phone: +221 33 867 62 07
Email: houtart@unhcr.org

Mehreen Afzal
Associate Protection Officer / Reporting Officer (a.i)
UNHCR RRWA, Dakar
Phone: + 221 33 867 62 07 (ext. 2410)
Email: afzalm@unhcr.org

