

Update No. 16

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

13 May 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- On 29 March, already, the Government had filed a money laundering complaint against Laurent and Simone Gbagbo and other members of the former regime in Switzerland.
- On 5 May the Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire gained control over the Locodjro Naval Base in Yopougon, the last strategic points held by the pro-Gbagbo militias.
- On 6 May Alassane Dramane Ouattara was sworn in as President of Côte d'Ivoire.
- On 7 May, Laurent Gbagbo was heard for the first time by the courts, in the absence of his French lawyers who were reportedly turned back at Abidjan airport for lack of appropriate visas. The prosecutor of Abidjan, Koffi Kouadio Simplicite, questioned Simone Gbagbo who is under house arrest.
- On 8 May Côte d'Ivoire resumed cocoa exports.
- UNOCI is working with the gendarmes to locate and destroy unexploded ordinances (UXOs) found in schools, homes, the central business district and the Presidential Palace, among other sites reported.
- The country received Euro 44 million in financial support from the European Union to revive its agriculture and modernize its justice system.



Internally displaced persons at the Mission Catholic Site in Duékoué (western Côte d'Ivoire).
(UNHCR/deWOELMONT/2011)

60
YEARS



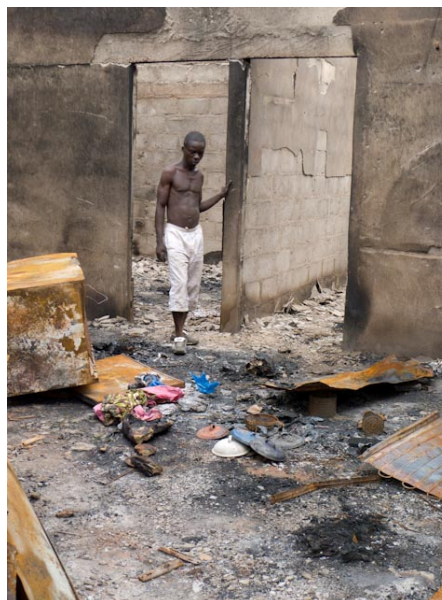
Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/Asylum seekers	2,699	108	892	13,565	4,231	260	38	105	41	38	47	10
Liberia	45,729 Ivorian refugees individually registered and 130,128 through the rapid emergency registration.											

In view of the volatile situation in Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR is not yet in a position to provide exact figures. Some explanations are provided below.

Financial Information

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa at 11 May 2011	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
African Union	125,000
Australia	2,028,398
Canada	2,335,362
CERF	3,155,737
Denmark	3,828,573
EC/ ECHO	2,799,489
ECOWAS	500,000
Finland	1,702,141
France	549,451
Germany	1,027,413
Liechtenstein	108,460
Ireland	544,959
Norway	1,431,127
Private donors	212,406
Rep. of Korea	300,000
Switzerland	637,767
UN Population Fund	119,840
United Kingdom	7,211,538
United States of America	10,300,000
TOTAL (*)	38,917,661
(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 towards UNHCR's initial response in Côte d'Ivoire in December 2010.	



Carrefour neighbourhood of Duékoué (western Côte d'Ivoire). (UNHCR/deWOELMONT/2011)

Country Operations

COTE D'IVOIRE

On 3 May, UNHCR conducted a security assessment of Tabou to determine the feasibility of re-opening a Field Office. The town is devastated, however, recommendations were made to re-open the office. The refugees occupying the compound in Tabou left the office on 9 May, after meeting with the "Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire" (FRCI) Zone Commander who re-assured them that their security would be a priority and that they were free to return to their respective homes.

In many places of Côte d'Ivoire the security environment is not conducive for returns. For those who have spontaneously returned, basic assistance is provided and UNHCR and its partners continue to promote activities to ensure that the standards for return are met (e.g. collaboration with government authorities and UNOCI to improve security in areas of return).

In Abidjan, UNHCR and implementing partners are providing for and monitoring the needs of some 52,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs): 15,621 of them

residing in 34 spontaneous sites and 36,194 in host families in and around Abidjan. Based on information from the IDPs who indicated that family members and neighbours continued to seek refuge in remote locations between communes, in their respective villages or in other parts of the country, UNHCR assumes that the 51,815 individuals accounted throughout Abidjan are only a small portion of the people displaced in and outside of Abidjan. The population at spontaneous sites fluctuates, with IDPs conducting "go and see" visits to assess the security situation in their respective neighbourhoods. The preliminary findings of the rapid needs assessment conducted in 19 of the 34 known sites indicated that 76% of IDPs intended to return, while 18% planned to re-settle to other areas in the country and 6% were interested in reintegration.

• Protection

In **Abidjan**, certain communities have been badly affected by violence, sexual violations, pillaging and destruction of property. They require significant psycho-social support and reconciliation assistance to restore social cohesion.

In the **western region**, the profiling and monitoring of spontaneous and FRCI-assisted returns are forthcoming. The Protection Cluster is planning to conduct a joint assessment with the local authorities and IDPs, to determine whether return in safety and with dignity is feasible. UNHCR is requesting support from UNOCI's Benin Battalion to secure the Nazareth site in Guiglo accommodating 5,200 individuals. One case of sexual violence was reported to UNHCR as well as three deaths and six births at the site since 27 March. There are 20 orphans present. At the site "l'Eglise Réveil", 547 IDPs are residing in a 23 x 15 m2 site. In Bangolo, a comprehensive monitoring visit on 5 May will determine the actual numbers of IDPs at each site. In Haut-Sassandra and Worodougou, the local NGO "Vivre Informer et Fraterniser" (VIF) registered 18,000 individuals displaced in Mankono (Haut Sassandra), 7,500 individuals in Kani (Haut Sassandra) and 2,700 individuals in Vavoua (Worodougou).

• Humanitarian Assistance

In **Abidjan**, on 6 May, UNHCR began distributing kitchen sets, jerry cans, mats, blankets, hygiene kits for women and girls, soap and bleach to IDPs at sites in and around Abidjan to cover the needs of 4,491 individuals. These sites were selected on the basis of the findings of last week's rapid needs assessment. Household kits were also distributed by "Afrique Secours et Assistance (ASA)" to 160 IDPs at Patoisse St. Joseph in Aboisso. With only three latrines, the sanitation situation at the site was found to be inadequate. 193 IDPs were recently relocated from the Ecole Primaire Publique Anono in Cocody Riviera to the Centre Catholique at Grand Bassam. The Grand Bassam site has 19 dorm rooms and two large halls. The facility has 7 showers, 10 toilets and several large sinks, all with running water as well as a communal kitchen and a football field.

In the **western region**, particularly at the Catholic Mission in Duékoué, 60 tents were erected around the football field next to the mission to provide accommodation for vulnerable IDPs. UNICEF has been working on improving the water and sanitation situation. In Carrefour, teams have been established to carry-out community sensitization campaigns to improve security, re-establish electricity and clean-up the area in general. "Action Contre la Faim" (ACF) released a report on 29 April on a needs assessment conducted in the western Ivorian village of Guehieby (Moyen Cavally) and found that out of 341 children, 20 were suffering from acute severe malnutrition and 10 were experiencing moderate acute malnutrition. ACF recommends a nutrition programme for those affected as well as actions to prevent and treat malaria in the village.

LIBERIA

Following reports of an influx of Guineans in Bong County on 6 May, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and UNHCR visited six communities along the border on 7 May.

About 600 individuals from Guinea were identified and are being registered. These individuals allegedly fled Guinea because of conflicts between the Kpele and the Muslim Konianke communities. LRRRC and UNHCR distributed basic NFIs while further steps forward are being defined.

• Protection

In **Nimba County**, several child protection actors are expanding recreational and psychosocial well-being activities for children, particularly through child friendly spaces. Both relocation communities and other hosting communities in border areas are targeted. As done for Bahn camp, partners working in the transit sites and in border communities are developing Gender Based Violence (GBV) Referral Pathways. UNFPA sensitised the health staff in Karnplay, Lorguatu, Duoplay and Gorguato on clinical management of rape survivors. Training for humanitarian workers on prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is planned for the near future in Saclepea.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UNHCR are currently revising border monitoring in order to better integrate the issue of potential returns. On the Luguatuo axis, a steady influx of approximately 12-15 persons a day is observed, the reason for their flight out of Côte d'Ivoire being their political affiliation/proximity with the Gbagbo regime and fear of retaliation. According to the NRC monitors, no returns to Côte d'Ivoire were witnessed.

Child protection actors in Bahn camp undertook initial consultations with children and adolescents to investigate the possible phenomenon of exploitative labour. Based on preliminary findings from informal group discussions conducted amongst adolescents in the camp, there is reason to believe that there may be instances of survival sex amongst this age group. The agreed remedial actions include: intensified awareness on the risks, advocacy for more support to vocational training, secondary education and small income generating activities in the camp specifically targeted to the adolescent population and increase of income generating activities targeted to women.

In **Grand Gedeh**, the registered population is 64,992 individuals. However the working figure for May 2011 has been set at 60,000 due to the possibility of double registration. The rate of new arrivals has reduced overall except in Janzon, where 300 to 400 persons continue to arrive daily. Relocations are ongoing from various axis points to the transit centers and level 2 registrations are also taking place. Child protection partners are sharing their data bases in order to enable data consolidation and improve follow-up on cases. In Zwedru town, four children who came for registration as unaccompanied minors were found to reside with their parents in one community in Zwedru. It is expected that many more of such cases will start to appear. On Janzon Axis, several instances of single male youths grouping themselves into "families" for relocation have been identified. They will not be relocated until their profile can be determined.

In **Maryland**, level 2 registrations continue in the communities and at Bishop Ferguson transit center. So far, 23 communities have been verified out of the 33 (some communities have been merged to reflect 33 that is being reported).

• Humanitarian Assistance

In **Nimba County**, UNHCR Saclepea received a new shipment of NFIs (plastic sheets, mosquito nets, buckets, kitchen sets, blankets, mats, soap). NFIs were also dispatched to Zwedru for assistance in Grand Gedeh County. SOS Children Village donated 224 small mattresses, 597 (25 kg) bags of rice, 600 cartoons of beef and 1,900 mosquito nets. The food distribution to pre-24 February refugees was completed on 5 May in the border communities. The verification exercise is continuing in the Buutuo axis and in parallel has commenced on the Gborplay axis on 2 May. To date, verification has been undertaken in 17 communities. In New Yorpea, MSF reported a continuous increase of malaria especially with children under 5. In Zorgowee, refugees raised the question of income generating activities and requested training on GBV to prevent its occurrence. Following concerns of provision of health services over the weekends, the International Rescue Committee decided to ensure continuous presence as of 9 May. The extension of the third sector of Bahn camp, as planned from the onset, has been confirmed. This sector together with a fourth one will provide the necessary space to accommodate up to 15,000 individuals. 780 shelters are completed in Bahn Camp, of which 691 are occupied. UNHCR partners are currently finalizing the operational plan for movement to the relocation communities. Relocation in Kealay, as initiated last week, should continue on 12 May.

In **Grand Gedeh**, UNHCR has finalized the relocation and food distribution plan for May and UNHCR and WFP were approached by the Association of Evangelists of Liberia wishing to distribute food to 27,500 people for 3 months. WFP and UNHCR revised their distribution plans accordingly to avoid duplication. On Tempo axis, CONCERN plans to distribute seeds and tools but fears that seeds will be eaten by the farmers if no food is distributed in parallel. Rice has therefore been foreseen. LRRRC was requested by the US embassy to document communities that are hosting refugees for further assistance. This exercise is expected to take up to one month. The current population in Ziah transit centre is 784 people and the registration for the caseload is expected to be completed within 10 days. Lack of lighting in the transit sites was raised. UNHCR is planning an immediate distribution of lamps to each family and is in the process of procuring solar lamps for individuals in addition to generators for the camps communal areas.

In **Maryland**, the total registered population is 13,419 in Bishop Ferguson transit center and host communities and 158 at Little Wlebo refugee camp. Upon arrival at the camp, refugees were served hot meals and given non food items. They also received WFP food rations. UNHCR and LRRRC continue to hold sensitization meetings in host communities at

border locations. During the meetings, refugees are informed that Little Wlebo refugee camp is ready and that all refugees are encouraged to relocate to the camp where UNHCR and partners will continue to provide adequate assistance to the refugees. At the Bishop Ferguson transit center WFP commenced the second trend of food distribution to refugees on 4 May. Two weeks rations are being provided to the beneficiaries. CARITAS continues to provide hot meals to 58 refugees who are still awaiting their WFP food ration at Bishop Ferguson transit center. OXFAM-GB commenced installation of pipes to be able to pump safe drinking water to Bishop Ferguson transit center from 2 boreholes dug 1km away from the transit center and also completed the drilling of 2 boreholes at Little Wlebo refugee camp. Currently, the 2 hand pumps in Little Wlebo will provide sufficient water for up to one thousand beneficiaries. "Solidarities International" plans to distribute NFIs to some 3,000 refugees in the host communities. UNHCR will collaborate with the distribution in order to minimize duplications. A sample nutrition survey for children under 5 was conducted at the Bishop Ferguson transit center during the reporting period. Out of 435 children screened 28 were mild, 8 moderate and 01 severely malnourished. The severely malnourished were referred to the J.J. Dossen feeding center. Merlin received food supplies for refugees' in-patients feeding at the J.J. Dossen Hospital.

GHANA

The total number of Ivorians registered in Ghana stands at **13,565**. The number of new arrivals has slightly decreased to an average of **86** people per day since the beginning of May. In the western region, the transfer of single males from Eagle Star reception center to the refugee camp has been put on hold pending an enhanced screening process for persons suspected to be ex-combatants and members of the Young Patriots. The Ghanaian police have been advised to be on the alert in case of any disturbance at the reception center. The mapping of host communities in the Western, Central and Brong Ahafo regions is ongoing and will be completed shortly.

• Protection

A joint mission comprised of UNHCR and government counterparts visited the western region following the reports on the suspected ex-combatants in the area. The mission visited the Elubo border, Eagle Star reception center and Ampain camp, met with the authorities and other actors on the ground. The Ghana Refugee Board indicated that the government is looking for a site to transfer the suspected ex-combatants from the reception center.

During the period under review, the protection needs assessment team started work in the Central region. The team worked in both inland and coastal communities, where a total of 496 asylum seekers were registered. The main concern of these asylum seekers is access to health facilities, food, income-generating activities and education. Concerns over the language barrier in the host communities were also

expressed. It appears some of the refugees have left for Togo due to the language issue and the possibility for their children to attend school in French in Lomé. Six individuals have been identified as being at the risk of statelessness although verification is ongoing. The information gathered thus far finds they are long term residents from Côte d'Ivoire, originally from Biafra, Nigeria. The follow-up of unaccompanied minors has started in collaboration with ICRC and individual interviews are being conducted.

The assessment of the host communities in the Oseikodjokorum area has begun. A joint UNHCR and NADMO team visited Yawmatwa, Kwamebikrom and Asoupri villages where 57 asylum seekers were interviewed and registered. This is less than the 10% expected and is explained by the gradual return of people to Côte d'Ivoire. The return of regular border security in Akaatso in Côte d'Ivoire a fortnight ago seem to have encouraged spontaneous returns in larger numbers. An ICRC delegation visited Berekum camp to meet with unaccompanied minors and separated children. The three cases (under which two are from the same family) present in the camp were interviewed. Further to the ICRC interviews, a neighbour of the family of the two boys was contacted but had no information on the location of their brothers who were allegedly arrested. ICRC will continue to follow up in Côte d'Ivoire in order to get more information, with the intention of a possible prison visit. The father of the other unaccompanied minor was located and the boy was able to speak to him. ICRC will follow up as the father is in Abidjan and was advised to go to ICRC to discuss re-unification.

• Humanitarian Assistance

The women at Ampain camp have organized themselves to regularly conduct cleaning campaigns of the camp. The most active groups at the moment are the women's groups and the support group for persons with disabilities. Education activities are ongoing and the number of school children is increasing daily. Land has been cleared for the school construction. Many spontaneous shops/services run by asylum seekers have become available inside the camp. UNHCR Dakar authorized the release of non-food items for 10,000 individuals for the Ghana operation including 6,000 plastic sheets meant for the construction of 1,400 new shelters and refurbishment of 550 completed ones in the western region. Site clearing at Ampain is completed. The camp's capacity is now about 5,500 to 5,800 people. If the current arrival trend continues, the camp will be at full capacity around 20 May. Site clearing in the central region (Komenda municipality) commenced on 7 May. The decision on the method of selection and transfer of refugees from Ampain Camp and reception centre to the new site is of critical importance and of top priority with the government. In Brong Ahafo, the community workers continue to brush the Fetentaa site.

The second dry food distribution planned for this week is expected to include rice and corn-soy blend, according to WFP, which will address the earlier expressed concerns of the population about the type

and quality of food that they received during the first distribution.

29 people with dysentery have been treated (22 at the reception centre, 7 in Ampain camp). The situation is under control. Two UNHCR public health doctors visited Ampain and Eagle Star to make recommendations for the health strategy and helped clarify the way forward. A "Child Welfare" promotion week will be organized by the Ghana Health Service from May 12 to 14 and will include de-worming, vaccination and birth registration. National Catholic Secretariat is undertaking HIV/AIDS sensitization commencing next week. Refugee leaders agreed to assist with encouraging people to come forward.

In the Brong Ahafo region, the quantity and quality of water delivery to the camps continues to be satisfactory. The monitoring of water quality and improvement on the drainage around the water points is ongoing. The compilation of WASH materials provided to the refugees is ongoing with a view to assess the gaps for improving the sanitation in the camp. MSF Spain, on mission to Brong Ahafo, provided the transit camps with hygiene kits for distribution. The distribution was organized in Berekum camp and over a two day period, benefiting 618 people. The same distribution took place in Oseikodjokorum.

GUINEA

No new arrivals of Ivorians have been reported this week. The number of Ivorian refugees remains at **2,699** individuals.

During the week, conflict broke out in the village of Galakpaye (Bignamou, Yomou prefecture) between two different communities. Machetes and firearms were used and 26 are reported dead.

• Protection

From 2 to 4 May, a joint UNHCR, WFP, BRISR, UNFPA and IOM mission visited Karala (Beyla sub-prefecture) to identify, record and assess the living conditions of Ivorians that arrived since April 2011 and are living in host families. 134 individuals (37 HH) were registered. Among them, 20 families (06 HH) expressed an urgent need to be transferred to Kouankan II camp. As for the remaining 114 individuals (31 HH) in Karala, they opted to remain in the host families and mentioned the wish to return to their countries of origin as soon as the security situation rendered it possible. In collaboration with the Guinean Red Cross, a UAMs monitoring mission visited Kouankan II to assess their needs in terms of protection. The team also distributed some clothing to this group of children.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In partnership with WFP, a general food distribution took place at Kouankan II from 04 to 07 May. A total of 4,357 Ivorian refugees (both pre and post 2010-2011 Ivorian crisis) have benefited from this distribution. On

03 May, pending the provision of rice seeds to be delivered on various refugee sites by the Centre for Agronomic Research of Sérédou, The Organisation pour le Développement Intégré Communautaire (ODIC) and the focal point for local integration in Kouankan distributed 4,010 tons of yam seeds to 101 heads of households in Kouankan II. UNHCR has handed over pharmaceuticals and medical supplies (corresponding to 03 months needs) to the Red Cross for medical care of refugee patients at the health center in Kouankan II.

BURKINA FASO

108 Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered to date by the CONAREF. 104 individuals are in Ouagadougou, and four others are located in neighbouring towns of Koudougou, Zabre and Tenkodogo and Bobo-Dioulasso.

Since the arrest of Laurent Gbagbo on April 11, numerous Ivorian asylum-seekers have turned to the UNHCR for help to return to their country of origin. However, due to the relatively precarious security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR is not in a position to facilitate returns for the time being.

TOGO

370 new arrivals have been reported in the course of the week. The total number of Ivorian refugees is at **4,231**. Overall, **13** asylum requests by Ivorians have been identified as sensitive. They have been separated from the group and their cases will be examined individually for determination of refugee status and the possibility of exclusion. Officials of the CNAR conducted a sample review of new arrivals over three days last week. Of the 713 new arrivals recorded last week approximately one third was found to be registered as asylum seekers in Ghana. Bilateral discussions between Togo and Ghana to identify double registrations are forthcoming. During the reporting period UNHCR was informed by the CNAR of the arrival in Togo of a number of supporters of the late Ibrahima Coulibaly's "invisible commandos".

More than 1,500 recognition certificates of refugee status have been issued to Ivorian refugees. The CNAR is not yet issuing identity cards to Ivorian refugees. 12 additional requests of repatriation of Ivorian refugees have been recoded during the course of the week.

• Protection

Two additional cases of SGBV in Côte d'Ivoire were recorded this week, including a 4 month pregnant women. They were given support in a specialized structure. A family member of a 4 year old child who had been separated from his mother during the journey has been found. Steps have been taken towards family reunification. Six pregnant women, and

three lactating mothers arrived this week in Togo. Support has been provided and the Community Services Assistant continues to follow up the cases.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Work to extend the capacity of Tropicana refugee camp is ongoing. Non food items (mainly cooking utensils) were distributed on 4 May to every household on site. The distribution of three meals a day is suspended at Tropicana camp site after food distribution took place. Each household is now cooking for themselves. 24 patients were treated during the week at ATBEF. The digging of a well is completed at the Tropicana camp site. The Women's Committee has submitted a project consisting of several income generating activities enabling self management of Ivorian refugee women. UNHCR's Programme section is studying the project for effective implementation.

MALI

There are **892** registered Ivorian asylum-seekers in Mali as of 9 May. The reporting period saw an increase of 12 new asylum seekers.

The popularity of returns to Côte d'Ivoire is increasing since the announcement of the resumption of classes. Ivorian asylum-seekers have been requesting documents that would enable them to justify their stay in Mali vis-à-vis their employer upon return to their country of origin. Works carried out under the emergency, including the Zégoua Transit Center and the two boreholes will be officially handed over to local authorities.

NIGERIA

With one new Ivorian asylum-seeker registered in the reporting period, a total of **105** Ivorian asylum-seekers have now been registered in Nigeria.

BENIN

There are **260** Ivorian asylum-seekers in Benin thereby indicating an increase of 21 new cases registered by the CNAR in the reporting week.

SIERRA LEONE

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

THE GAMBIA

No new arrivals were reported this week. The number of Ivorian asylum seekers remains at **47** individuals.

GUINEA BISSAU

No new arrivals were reported this week. The number of Ivorian asylum seekers remains at **38** individuals.

For a map of operations with updated statistics, please visit:

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4d831f586.html>

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