

Update No. 39

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

26 December 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- Legislative elections in Côte d'Ivoire held peacefully on 11 December 2011
- Tripartite agreement on voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees signed between UNHCR and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea
- Large convoy repatriates 546 Ivorian refugees from Liberia to Cote d'Ivoire, on 7 December
- First voluntary repatriation convoy with 48 refugees facilitated from Togo, on 30 November



Repatriation convoy from Liberia transporting 546 returnees (UNHCR/2011)

Population Movement

	Liberia	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees / Asylum seekers	135,208	2,766	120	972	15,920	5,203	370	96	114	58	78	94	62
TOTAL	The total number of Ivorian refugees in neighbouring countries stands at 161,061 .												

Financial Information

UNHCR's financial requirements for West Africa	
Executive Committee approved budget (with adjustments)	\$ 101,116,351
Regional supplementary budget	\$ 125,993,835
TOTAL revised requirements	\$ 227,110,186

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa at 29 December 2011	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
African Development Bank	630,000
African Union	225,000
Australia	4,167,435
Belgium	1,430,615
Canada	2,335,363
CERF	5,080,281
Denmark	3,828,572
EC/ ECHO	6,044,852
ECOWAS	500,000
Finland	1,808,808
France	549,452
Germany	1,027,413
Ireland	544,959
Japan	1,231,072
Liechtenstein	108,460
Netherlands	2,500,000
New Zealand	872,500
Norway	1,431,127
OPEC Fund for Intl. Dev.	339,234
Private donors	1,457,770
Rep. of Korea	300,000
Switzerland	637,767
UN Population Fund	119,840
United Kingdom	7,211,538
United States of America	23,300,000
TOTAL (*)	67,682,058

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



Repatriating Ivorian family on the bus for vulnerables (UNHCR/2011)

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Elections: Côte d'Ivoire's legislative elections were held on 11 December 2011. Election day passed peacefully without major incidents. Around 25,000 members of the Ivorian army and 7,000 United Nations peacekeeping forces were deployed throughout the country to ensure security.

Between 7 and 13 December, the United Nations Independent Expert on the Situation of Human

Rights in Côte d'Ivoire, Doudou Diène, visited Côte d'Ivoire to observe the elections. Likewise, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) deployed 60 observers.

Tripartite Agreement: On 1 December 2011, UNHCR and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea signed a Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire. Guinea is the fourth country to sign such an agreement with Côte d'Ivoire, following Liberia (on 19 August), Ghana (on 6 October), and Togo (on 15 November).

Voluntary repatriation: During the reporting period, the Ivorian authorities, UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire and its implementing partners received return convoys with Ivorian refugees from Ghana, Togo, and Liberia, and facilitated the transportation to their places of origin.

Spontaneous returns: During the reporting period, spontaneous returns from Liberia continued through official and non-official entry points in the departments of Toulepleu and Zouan Hounien.

Security: On 17 and 18 December, six people were killed by armed men in a security incident in Vavoua, located in western Côte d'Ivoire around 50 km from Daloa. The United Nations mission to Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) has urged the Ivorian authorities to quickly investigate the killings.

The situation in Abidjan remains generally calm, while residents continue to report security incidents including robberies in residential areas. In the Tabou region, FRCI and UNOCI continue to regularly patrol the area.

• Internally Displaced People

Registration at Nahibly: At the IDP site in Nahibly, UNHCR's implementing partner Association Secours Afrique (ASA) registered 301 new arrivals. The IDPs arrived from the Catholic Mission in Duékoué, Niambli, Toa-Zeo, Bloody, Yrozon, Kardé, Guinglo, and Zia. In the meantime, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has started the construction of 100 latrines and 100 showers at the IDP site in Nahibly. The water and sanitation project is funded by UNICEF. The lack of sanitary infrastructure had been one of the reasons for the suspension of the relocation of IDPs to Nahibly.

IDP returns: The results of a 5-day mission of protection monitors to return zones in Bolequin, Guiglo and Toulepleu indicate that on average 73% of the displaced population have returned to the respective zones.

In the meantime, 260 individuals returned on 20 December from IDP sites in Guiglo town to their areas of origin in the region. Earlier return movements during the reporting period include:

- On 1 December, 108 people were transported from the Site 1, SATD Danané, to locations in the prefecture of Zouan Hounien. These were the last IDPs remaining at the site which will be converted into a transit centre for returnees from Liberia.
- On 2 December, 261 people were transported from the IDP site of the Church of UEESO, in Duékoué, to seven districts and five villages in the prefecture of Duékoué.

LIBERIA

VolRep: Between 7 to 8 December, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 546 Ivorian refugees from Liberia. It was the largest single repatriation convoy since the signing of the Tripartite Agreement in August. UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire dispatched 23 buses from Abidjan to transport the returnees, and trucks from Liberia were used for their belongings. Passing the night in the Toe Town transit centre on the Liberian side of the border, the returnees were received and provided with return kits at the transit centre in Toulepleu before continuing to their home villages.

Statistics: The total number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia, as of 23 December, stands at 135,208 persons. This figure includes 6,519 refugees who arrived before the post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

• Protection

New arrivals: On 28 December, UNHCR and the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) conducted an assessment mission to verify reports of new arrivals from the Tai region. It was confirmed that between 23 and 24 December, 75 individuals crossed the border and passed on to Ziah camp and nearby towns. The majority were women and children, carrying personal belongings.

Relocation: A total of 848 Ivorian refugees relocated to PTP camp over the reporting period, bringing the camp population to 6,404 refugees.

Verification: Between 7 and 15 December, UNHCR conducted a verification exercise in River Gee to check the number of refugees still present in the county. Figures are being consolidated.

In the light of the high number of spontaneous returns to Côte d'Ivoire, verification exercises are scheduled in all counties to ensure updated refugee statistics. The next exercise is planned in Grand Gedeh in January.

SGBV: UNHCR and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) have opened the Refugee Women Center in the PTP Refugee Camp. The Center provides a protective space for women to meet and discuss issues affecting them. In the meantime, the construction of women and youth centers and the community hall in Solo and Dougee refugee camps is ongoing.

Child Protection: IRC identified and documented eight cases of separated children (SC) and unaccompanied minors (UAM) in PTP and Ziah refugee camps during the reporting period. On 22 December 2011, ICRC in collaboration with UNHCR reunified six separated children with their parents.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Education: In Dougee Camp, Save the Children-UK has started the construction work on the primary school. Eighty-seven desks and ten chairs were delivered to the school in Little Wlebo Camp. The construction of more furniture is in progress.

Health: In the month of December, a total of 6,500 patients attended health services in all camps. During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted a mission to Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties to monitor and support Health, Nutrition, WASH, and HIV/AIDS activities, and discuss key issues regarding the 2012 health plans and activities.

GHANA

Tripartite Commission: The first Tripartite Commission Meeting was held on 13 December to finalise the practical modalities and activities carried out by the commission.

• Protection

New arrivals: The general situation in the country remained calm with 59 new arrivals between 28 November and 11 December. Some of the new arrivals cited on-going political tensions ahead of the legislative elections as reasons for their flight. There was no report of new arrivals after 11 December.

Relocation: During the reporting period, 27 individuals relocated from Eagle Star Reception Centre to Ampain Camp.

Voluntary Repatriation: As of 18 December, 44 individuals have registered for voluntary repatriation.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Community Services: With the exception of Neighborhood Watch Teams, teachers and select health teams, volunteer groups in all Ivorian camps were advised of the cessation of monthly allowance payments in 2012. From 15 to 16 December, the local NGO Life Relief Foundation organized a two-day training for designated child-friendly space volunteers.

Livelihoods: UNHCR is looking into a targeted self-reliance program in 2012 to increase the socio-economic empowerment of the population. The camp population continues to ask for the introduction of livelihood activities.

Education: UNICEF informed asylum-seekers of plans to commence support of secondary education in camps through the provision of allowances for teachers. UNHCR is looking into ways to respond to appeals by asylum-seekers for material assistance in the form of textbooks, uniforms and other educational materials.

Site Planning/Shelter: Periodic tent checks have revealed 15 empty tents in Fetentaa Camp and 12 vacant tents in Ampain. Additionally, both Ampain and Egeyikrom have a combined capacity for 65 shelters for new arrivals.

Food distribution: During the reporting period, food distributions were carried out in all camps.

Health: Between 15 and 16 December, UNHCR assessed the health and water and sanitation infrastructure in Ampain and Egeyikrom camps, resulting in recommendations regarding, inter alia, the organization of health services and HIV education.

TOGO

Voluntary Repatriation: On 30 November, UNHCR organized the first voluntary repatriation convoy from Togo transporting 48 refugees to Côte d'Ivoire. Thirty-one of the returnees came from the Avépozo site, and 17 were urban refugees in Lomé.

• Protection

New Arrivals: During the reporting period, 164 new refugees from Western Côte d'Ivoire were received by the national refugee agency, the Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), and UNHCR. The new arrivals cited attacks and lootings in their home villages as reason for their flight. They were installed at the Avépozo refugee site.

Refugee figures: The total number of Ivorian refugees in Togo now stands at 5,203, out of which 2,882 are staying in Avépozo while 2,321 are in Lomé. This figure does not include the new arrivals in the month of December. The registration of refugees and asylum seekers is ongoing.

Government Capacity Building: From 6 to 9 December, UNHCR organized a training on refugee status determination for newly recruited staff of the CNAR.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Income generating activities: Following a micro project management training, UNHCR's implementing partner, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), has started the funding of 59 refugee micro projects in Avépozo. Several agents will follow up on the development of the projects.

Education: UNICEF has provided manuals and didactical materials for schools in Avépozo. The CNAR provided civil documentation for refugee students to enable them to register for the upcoming exams.

Food distribution: During the reporting period, food was distributed to all refugees in Avépozo and in Lomé, including the new arrivals. The rations were composed of rice, beans, corn soya blend and vegetable oil.

Health: In the four weeks covered by this report, 1,511 patients received treatment at the clinic in Avépozo. The psychological service received 59 patients.

HIV/AIDS awareness: On 22 December, UNHCR and refugee peer educators organized HIV sensitization activities in Avépozo, focusing on prevention methods.

Water/Sanitation: UNHCR conducted a sanitary inspection of the Avépozo site and organized behaviour change communication sessions with households and on the food market. The sessions focused on waste management, hygiene standards, and disease prevention.

GUINEA

Elections: On 18 December, the legislative elections initially set for 29 December were indefinitely postponed to meet opposition demands for a role in planning the polls. The Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) suspended

its activity for two weeks, as demanded by the opposition.

Tripartite Agreement: On 1 December 2011, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea and UNHCR signed a Tripartite Agreement in Conakry, relating to the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire in Guinea.

• Protection

Assessment mission: Between 21 November and 3 December, UNHCR and the Guinean refugee agency, the Bureau Régional pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés (BRISR), conducted a joint mission to refugee hosting communities in the prefecture of Beyla. The mission aimed to verify the figure of Ivorian refugees who had been pre-registered during the influx in March and April 2011.

The mission found that many refugees have already returned spontaneously. The mission registered a total of 237 remaining refugees in five localities, the majority expressing their intention to repatriate to Côte d'Ivoire.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Food distribution: Between 6 and 9 December, the general food distribution for the month of December took place in Kouankan 2 camp.

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