

# Côte d'Ivoire Situation update CIV+5

United Nations  
High Commissioner  
for Refugees

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## In Brief... • Continuous exodus- up to one million people estimated displaced in and around Abidjan

- Access to IDPs in Côte d'Ivoire remains a major concern;
- Northern part of Côte d'Ivoire overwhelmed by IDPs and humanitarian aid needs
- UNHCR Office in Guiglo (Côte d'Ivoire) looted, but staff unhurt
- High Commissioner Guterres in Liberia: UNHCR committed to protect and assist the displaced
- Some 100,000 refugees registered in Nimba County, Liberia
- 2,571 Ivorian refugees thus far in western Ghana

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS ON COTE D'IVOIRE

According to reliable sources, heavy fighting in Bolequin on 21<sup>st</sup> March caused the population to flee in the direction of Guiglo.

Since 18<sup>th</sup> March, UNHCR monitors reported thousands of people in the main bus stations of Adjame and Yopougon, trying to flee the city to their home villages. Many sleep on the spot to be sure to get transportation. NGOs reported that the price of bus fares has tripled.

The recent appeal from Blé Goudé addressed to young Ivorians to join the army is perceived by part of the population as a call to war.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March, IRIN reported that many Ivorians feel frustrated because the international forces in the country are not doing more to stop the carnage. "Civilians continue to be killed – every day civilians are killed" said A.B. Kamaté from the Ivorian Human Right league.

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS ON LIBERIA

High Commissioner António Guterres and Assistant High Commissioner for Operations Ms. Janet Lim visited Nimba County on 22<sup>nd</sup> March together with other senior UNHCR staff. The delegation also included Mr. Harrison Karnwea, Minister of the Internal Affairs, Mrs. Margrethe Loej, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General, and Ms. Wheatonie Barnes, Director of the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Committee (LRRRC). They met with Nimba Superintendent, visited Buutuo and the Bahn refugee camp, where refugees told them their experiences.

The High Commissioner also met with partners and stressed UNHCR's total commitment to helping the refugees and the host communities as well as to making sure that the international community does not loose sight of the Côte d'Ivoire crisis.

**62,099** Ivorian refugees have been registered through rapid emergency registration system since 24<sup>th</sup> February and **39,784** had been individually registered refugees before that date. On 24<sup>th</sup> February fierce fighting in western Côte d'Ivoire resulted in a significantly greater influx into Liberia. Consequently, UNHCR immediately shifted to rapid emergency registration. At this point, emergency registration figures may include multiple registrations as a result of back-and-forth population movements between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. Enhanced individual registration is currently taking place at the transit centres and way stations, allowing vulnerable people to be identified for better follow up.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March some 6,000 individuals were reported in Grand Gedeh and on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the total estimated number of new arrivals was approximately 7,300 individuals.

As a result of the new influx the assistance strategy has been revised in terms of food and NFIs distribution, relocation to the camp and villages, clearing of second camp site and transit centres and the increased road rehabilitation activities.

Additional staffing resources have been deployed to Zwedru to strengthen the response on the ground.

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Liberia	<b>39,784</b> refugees individually registered before 24 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>62,099</b> refugees registered since 24 <sup>th</sup> February under rapid registration mechanism.
CIV / IDPs	Exact figures unknown due to security situation and massive movement of population Estimation of up to one million persons displaced in and around Abidjan	

## LIBERIA

### **Border Communities**

A new mass information campaign on relocation should commence on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March. The campaign will be undertaken in the 76 border villages with the support of 125 NRC staff, recently recruited as border and protection monitors. Messages will be broadcasted in local radios.

Refugees from the Bahn camp will share their experiences with refugees in the border areas. LRRRC will include messages targeting the host community in order to counter the reluctance of host communities to let refugees relocate due to fear of not receiving assistance after the departure of refugees.

### **Buutuo Axis**

Movements continued in the Buutuo axis, as refugees were relocated from various border communities to New Yourpea and from there to Bahn. As of 22<sup>nd</sup> March, some 250 individuals had signed up for transfer to Bahn.

### **Gborplay axis**

During border monitoring near Gborplay, refugees voiced their desire to move to relocation villages, Gbeivonwea in particular. Therefore CRS started family shelter construction on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

### **Zorgowee**

Cleaning and brushing of the site is ongoing. 500 tents arrived for pitching by ADRA, 47 are ready to shelter refugees to be transferred on 24<sup>th</sup> March. Constructions of latrines, shower blocks and the bladder platform (water) by DRC have been completed. Site clearance continues.

### **Bahn Camp**

A total of 406 constructed shelters have so far been allocated to refugee families and 83 additional will be attributed shortly to the refugees continuously transferred to the camp. In addition, The Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA) and NRC have registered 90 farmers to benefit from swamp rice and vegetable production in the camp. Moreover 256 children are registered both for early childhood development and primary education and classes are held at the transit centre.

### **Garwee Camp**

EFA is cleaning and leveling the area for the reception centre and the first two tent blocks (for 400 people). A power-saw is cutting the dried timber logs to be used at a later stage as firewood.

### **Grand Gedeh**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, some 7,300 individuals crossed the border. Majority of the refugees are reported to be of Krahn ethnicity as it seems a direct consequence of the town of Bloequin which fell in the FN hands, two days before. In anticipation to this influx, border monitoring were prioritized at identified entry points and preparatory work in terms of site identification was accelerated. In light of these entry points, it was assessed that the majority of refugees would move closer to Zwedru and immediate vicinity, where LRRRC together with UNHCR, are looking into setting-up additional transit centres

One transit centre in Toe Town is sheltering 1,343 individuals. 16 tents have been erected by CARITAS. All tents erected and communal block are occupied. Space for an additional 20 tents has been identified and erection should be completed on 24<sup>th</sup> March. NFIs for 2,000 individuals were dispatched to



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## **Distribution of food and Non-food items (NFIs)**

Following the sudden influx in Grand Gedeh immediate assistance was provided to Zwedru. Six truckloads of tents and NFIs for 3,000 refugees were dispatched together with fuel and spare generator as well as High Protein Biscuits.

The second cycle of food distribution started on 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the Gborplay axis and is foreseen to be completed by 25<sup>th</sup> March. A total of 14,793 individuals received food in the Buutuo axis which corresponds to 93% of the population. 100% of the beneficiaries received food in Dinplay and Nyordiplay. Distribution completion rate is as follows for other locations: Buutuo (83%), GBarlay (89%), New Yorpea (91%), and Dubuzon (99%).

NFIs for 350 households were sent to Zwedru. Recently arrivals in the Bahn refugee camp will also receive basic relief items.. Moreover, UNHCR office Saclepea received 1,000 metal buckets and the 2,125 airlifted tents will be trucked directly to Saclepea (1,000), Karnplay (500) and Zwedru (500) upon arrival in Monrovia.

## **Health**

In Scalepea, UNHCR organized a training on the Health Information System on 17th March such a system allows better early warning and monitoring. On

22nd March, Health partners met to discuss HIV, nutrition programmes and incentives to health staff in the clinics frequented by refugees. Standard operating procedures for health services are currently being devised.

## **Site Planning / Shelter/ Water Sanitation**

CRS has constructed 59 shelters in Beatuo and erected an additional 28 shelter in metallic frames and 8 wood frames. Work has also started in Gbeivonwee.

A proper scheme for a fair allocation (based on vulnerability criteria) is being developed.

The weekly shelter coordination meeting took place on March 17th in UNHCR and was attended by NRC, ARC, CRS, DRC, CHF and UNHCR. Issues discussed included: Bahn camp shelters and relocation communities shelters.

## **Logistics/Infrastructure**

Of the fleet of 48 UNHCR trucks, 12 are unserviceable due to spares/breakdowns. 19 trucks were dispatched from Saclepea to various locations, either loaded with NFIs, food or fuel. Out of the 19, 10 trucks were despatched to New Yourpea to continue relocation and four to Zwedru. 17 other trucks remained in the field to assist in relocations. UNHCR has 4 trucks in Zwedru and UNMIL agreed to provide UNHCR with up-to 1,500 gallons of fuel.

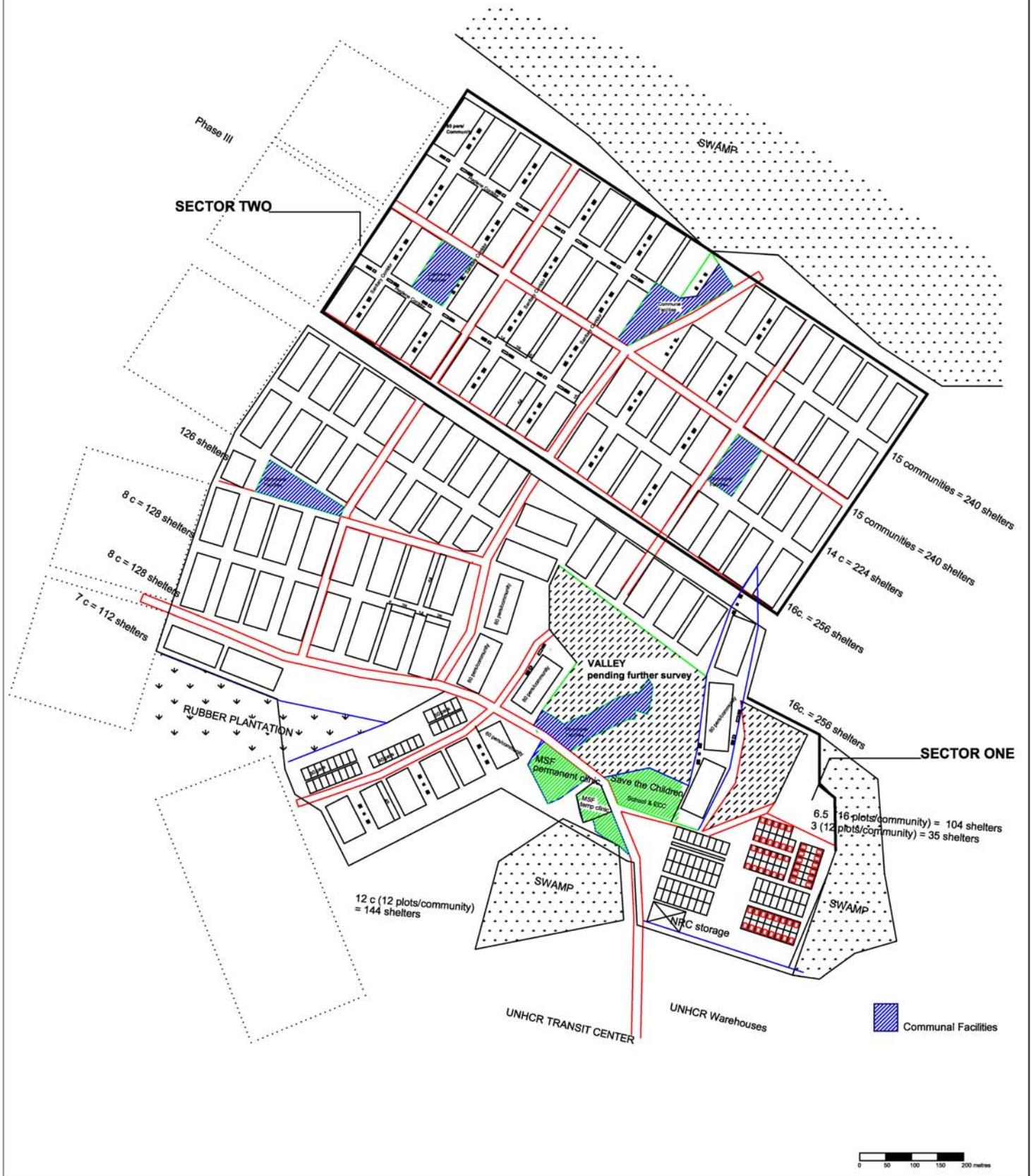


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GLENNA GORDON

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## Bahn Refugee Camp

Site Plan

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## COTE D'IVOIRE

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, UNHCR's office in Guiglo was attacked and looted. All staff members are safe. A local partner is assisting in efforts to recover some of the assets.

On 22nd March, mass population movement was reported with an estimate of one million internally displaced persons in and around Abidjan, bus stations reported endless queues of people trying to go back to villages of origin. While 88,903 IDPs are registered in and around Abidjan, some 5,000 according to the NGO VIF are still registered in Daloa located in the west part of the country. At this stage of the crisis, the figures mentioned above are the latest information received keeping in mind that a higher number of people is still there and unfortunately inaccessible for the time being.

In Danane in the western region, the rehabilitation of a camp site for IDPs has been completed and some 800 persons have been relocated. Two other sites are being rehabilitated in Danane to accommodate some 5,000 IDPs.

Villages in the north start to be overwhelmed by the increasing arrival of people, putting the host families in precarious situation. Most humanitarian organizations work in Abidjan and in the west, leaving the northern zone desperate for assistance.

The political instability is also affecting the 24,000 Liberian refugees residing in Côte d'Ivoire. 171 out of the 300 refugees stranded in UNHCR Office in Abidjan have been repatriated by air to Liberia on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Efforts are underway to find a solution for the remaining part of the group.



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## Movement of population in affected countries – overall picture

	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Gambia	Guinea Bissau
Refugees	1,033	32	200	2,571	857	36	38	71	28	7	15

## GHANA

As of 24 March, 2,571 Ivorian refugees registered in Ghana. The rate of arrivals reached a peak on 21<sup>st</sup> March with 408 new arrivals, while more than 200 daily arrivals were registered prior to that date. The majority of people are crossing the border at Elubo, and a few dozen have crossed at New Town and Half Assini entry points. Some new arrivals moved to host communities; other went to cities including Accra, Takoradi and Cape Coast.

Additional staff has been deployed to support the Ghana office with the influx of refugees and as a preparedness measure for mass movement into Ghana. An Emergency coordinator and Site planner/water sanitation expert are planned to arrive on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Eagle Star Reception Center hosted up to 550 refugees. Even though the centre is congested, basic services including health screening, accommodation and communal cooking have been provided since the opening of the centre. The opening of Ampain camp has allowed to decongest the Eagle Star RC slightly.

Ampain Refugee Camp opened on March 19<sup>th</sup> 2011 and 187 persons from Elubo were transferred that same day. On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 236 persons were transferred bringing the total population in the camp at 102 HHs/ 423 persons.

## Protection

Immigration authorities of Ghana have shown so far exceptional dedication in ensuring that people have access to asylum and transferring them to the Eagle Star Reception Center. Additional measures have been taken by the Immigration Authorities to ensure the respect of asylum principles and the prevention of refoulement. In addition, assistance to third country nationals is being organized by IOM.

Refugee committees have been put in place at the reception level for key sectors including health, water sanitation and food. Food is currently provided to refugees at the reception centre.

## ***Site Planning/NFIs/Supply***

104 tents have been erected in Ampain camp site. Clearing of land and pitching up additional tents are ongoing. Construction of additional sanitary facilities will take place in the coming days. Electricity is now connected to the camp. A newly appointed camp manager would need basic funds to support the functioning of administrative structures in the camp.

## ***Food Security/Nutrition***

UNHCR has purchased food for up to 4,000 people, available in the warehouse located in the western region. A temporary structure of a communal kitchen is under completion. This will allow the food preparation until the creation of family cooking within the camp.

## ***Health***

The Health Department of the district authorities is deploying a mobile clinic to address the needs of the refugees. A UNFPA team was in the region and provided some tailored assistance to pregnant women and young mothers. They have left the supplies with UNHCR and the distribution of the material has started.

## ***Water/Sanitation***

Six Latrines and six bathing sheds are now constructed and in use, pending the construction of additional toilets and bath houses, six mobile toilets have been installed. Water is trucked to the camp site as a measure to meet the immediate water requirements while plans are ongoing for the construction of boreholes.

# Humanitarian Challenges and Response

## GUINEA

A total of 1,033 Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered thus far (905 persons in N'Zerekore and 128 in Conakry). 50 new arrivals reported in N'Zerekore during the reporting period. 454 refugees are hosted in Kouankan II camp and 451 people were unwilling to be transferred and are residing in villages of Lola and Beyla Prefecture.

Hygiene kits for three months have been distributed to the Ivorian women and girls. Under coordination of UNHCR Medical Coordinators, refugees are systematically pre-screened at entry points. Vaccination is carried out before the transfer to the camp. One case of SGBV was reported in the camp and the necessary health measures were taken.

The Office made a budget provision under ODIC and ACORD for the construction of three classrooms, manufacture of school desks, hire of teachers and procurement of school supplies and uniforms.

### ***Site Planning/NFIs/Supply/Logistics***

The capacity in Kouankan II has been increased with 26 temporary community tents, 9 community kitchens and 52 sanitary blocks. Although some work is still ongoing, the camp will soon reach its limit in terms of reception capacity. The Office and its partners will therefore initiate the rehabilitation of Kouankan I to receive the new arrivals.

ACORD distributes basic relief items to all newly arrived refugees and the entire Ivorian population benefited from petrol distribution.

Fleet of trucks and light vehicles is too old and needs to be replaced in order to manage needs created by refugee influx. In addition, fuel supply remains a concern in Guinea.

### ***Food Security/Nutrition***

A general food distribution was organized by ACORD, WFP and UNHCR on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the mean time, new arrivals are given 3 hot meals a day.

## BURKINA FASO

A total of 32 asylum seekers have been registered thus far.

UNHCR, CONAREF and the Ministry of Habitat and Urbanism have already identified five potential camp sites as preparatory measure in case of massive exodus within the country: 2 in Pô, 1 in Tonkar/Gaoua and 2 in Toussiana Prefecture. At this stage however, UNHCR will be only in a position to start preparation of one site and possibly a second one. The need A meeting of UN agencies focal points took place on March 21<sup>st</sup> regarding the revision of the UN contingency plan. The more realistic case scenario suggested was 40,000 returnees and 1,000 Ivorian refugees. However, according to RC only the worse case scenario will appear in the Contingency Planning (i.e. 235,000 returnees and 10,000 refugees).

## BENIN

The total of Ivorian refugees registered in Benin now stands at 36.

The support activities (reception & visits to the refugees, financial assistance) organized by UNHCR's partner Caritas to both urban refugees and refugees on site are ongoing.

## TOGO

A total of 857 Ivorian refugees have been registered thus far with an increase of 101 new arrivals during the last 3 days. 467 Ivorian refugees were recognized Prima Facie and decision is now extended to all potential new arrivals.

## NIGERIA

A total of 71 asylum seekers have been registered thus far.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March, UNHCR and IOM met The Deputy Controller of Immigration assured full cooperation of the Immigration Services to ensure smooth passage to Nigeria.

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## Funding

Donor	Liberia	Côte d'Ivoire + 4	Total (USD)
Australia	2,028,398		2,028,398
Canada	500,501		500,501
CERF	2,255,737	900,000	3,155,737
EC/ ECHO	686,813		686,813
ECOWAS	500,000		500,000
Germany	340,599		340,599
Ireland	544,959		544,959
Private donors Canada		2,935	2,935
Rep. of Korea	200,000	100,000	300,000
Switzerland	637,767		637,767
USA	7,800,000	2,500,000	10,300,000
<b>TOTAL(*)</b>	<b>15,494,774</b>	<b>3,502,935</b>	<b>18,997,709</b>

(\*) Additionally, in December 2010 Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 to UNHCR's initial response to the emergency in Côte d'Ivoire



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