

Update No. 17 d'Ivoire Situation

19 May 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- The security situation in parts of Abidjan and in western Côte d'Ivoire continues to be volatile. At this point in time, UNHCR is not in a position to promote the voluntary repatriation of refugees into Côte d'Ivoire.
- It was reported that civilians were executed in the villages of Okrouyo and Mabehiri last week in western Côte d'Ivoire following efforts by the Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire to track down the armed militants fleeing Yopougon. The victims were accused allegedly of aiding and abetting militia.
- On 10 May, 68 bodies were found in three communal graves in a football field within the Yopougon commune of Abidjan.
- President Alassane Dramane Ouattara called for three days of mourning from 12 to 14 May for the lives lost during the five month conflict.
- An estimated 12,000 convicts escaped prisons in Abidjan, Abengourou and Daloa during the course of these five months.
- UNOCI is following up on allegations of human rights violations in Yopougon, in the Lagoons area, in Dabou, Irobo and Grand Lahou, and also in Sinfra and Issia (in the region of Haut Sassandra).



Nutrition screening at Ampain refugee camp, Ghana.
(UNHCR/2011)

60
YEARS



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/ Asylum seekers	2,770	108	929	14,178	4,800	296	74	105	41	38	52	4
Liberia	47,443 Ivorian refugees individually registered and 135,138 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 19 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	16,800,000
TOTAL (*)	45,417,661

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



Internally displaced persons at the Mission Catholique in Duékoué. (UNHCR/deWOELMONT /2011)

Country Operations

COTE D'IVOIRE

Absence of medical personnel and equipment and urgent need for food and security in displaced and return sites are the some of the key findings of the Rapid Needs Assessment conducted in and around Abidjan. The assessment recommends engaging the government on the reactivation of the police posts and gendarme brigades, disarmament of all non-professional forces, end human rights abuses, man hunts and reprisals observed in certain quarters and communes, prohibition of racketeering at barricades, removal of the barricades and advocate for UNOCI to secure the zones from which the majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) originate as well as other areas of return.

• Protection

In **Abidjan**, UNHCR is providing protection monitoring and assistance to **58,000** (IDPs) in 39 spontaneous

sites (19,000) and in host families (39,000). Monitoring activities at each IDP site in the city are now the responsibility of one protection partner (i.e. Afrique Secours et Assistance (ASA), Association de Soutien à l'Auto-Promotion Sanitaire et Urbaine (ASAPSU), CARITAS and Mouvement pour l'Education, la Santé et le Développement (MESAD)). Save the Children will handle child protection issues on all sites. In addition, UNHCR has secured a site to transfer the Liberian refugees residing in the Branch Office Abidjan compound.

On 14 May, UNHCR and MESAD relocated 495 IDPs from Paroisse St. Bernard in Yopougon to the Centre Catholique in Grand Bassam. There are three additional sites that require relocation assistance: The Centre CIAPOL in Attecoubé where the presence of toxic waste may affect the potable water supply for some 1,600 IDPs on site; the Ecole Primaire Publique Gbougbo in Dabou where the government is

requesting the 176 IDPs to leave so that they can re-open the school; and the Chamber of Commerce in the Plateau commune where 100 IDPs require relocation to a better facility. UNHCR presented the findings and recommendations of the Abidjan rapid needs assessment to the national level Inter-Cluster Coordination Committee. In addition, UNHCR's data collection strategy was presented by the information management team.

In the **western region**, UNHCR is providing protection monitoring and assistance to **137,000** internally displaced persons in 18 spontaneous sites (44,500) and in host families (92,500) in Moyen Cavally, Dix-Huit Montagnes, Haut Sassandra, Worodougou, Dinguele and Bafing. UNHCR assumes that the 137,000 IDPs accounted for in western Côte d'Ivoire are only a small portion of the actual number of people displaced. New figures are being reported as the security situation permits.

In Dix-Huits Montagnes, UNHCR conducted field monitoring visits to Zouan-Hounien, Guiglo and Bangolo. The field monitors visited the Croix Rouge site in Zouan-Hounien where there are 312 IDPs. UNHCR will also respond to the needs of 800 IDPs at the Catholic Church in Zouan-Hounien. On both sites, many indicated willingness to return. Approximately 300 displaced individuals were identified in the Quartier Extension of Bangolo. These IDPs continue to fear return due to continuing inter-ethnic tensions. IDPs in Gouedji sub-quartier also do not want to return, concerned that the FRCI would mistake them for militia. On 13 May, UNHCR's site planner and the Shelter Cluster Lead visited a new site in Zouan-Hounien. UNHCR plans to commence site drainage activities next week. In Moyen-Cavally, and while UNOCI has secured the Carrefour Quartier in Duékoué where at least 65 homes have been destroyed, IDPs continue to be fearful thereby spending nights at the Catholic Mission. The Moroccan Battalion commander plans to establish a UNOCI presence on the new 20 hectare IDP site at Nahibly Village before IDPs relocate from the Catholic Mission. Five guard posts are being constructed. The site is being cleared and prepared to receive 6,650 persons. UNHCR visited the village of Prolo (about 30km west of Tabou) and reported 224 registered returns of Ivorian refugees from Liberia between 4 and 12 May. The village chief estimates 80% of the village population is still in Liberia.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In the **western region**, UNHCR and IOM are now co-leading the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster in Man, which covers site management and coordination activities at IDP sites in Moyen Cavally and Dix-Huit Montagnes. The cluster is coordinating the management of 18 active sites and the coordination effort includes the development of two new sites. ASA is managing both temporary sites (SATD1 and SATD2) in Danané one of which may be closed soon as 80% of the population has left without any assistance. The Protection Cluster undertook a "go and see" mission on 17 May; details of their

findings are forthcoming. The Catholic Mission site in Duékoué (Moyen Cavally), which is hosting 27,500 IDPs has been de-congested through an extension on the football field next to the site relocating 120 vulnerable families. The site will be further decongested with the IDP site developed by UNHCR in Nahibly Village. A drainage system is being planned for the site given that the start of the rainy season could pose health risks if the water run-off is not directed away from the site inhabitants. 7,210 people in the Catholic Mission expressed willingness to relocate to the new site, while 3,510 indicated that they would like to go home. IDPs are expected to begin relocating once the water and sanitation facilities are established.

LIBERIA

The overall situation in Liberia remained relatively calm and stable during the reporting period. Increased pressure was observed, from various entities (individuals, government and private organization formally employing the refugees), on Ivorian refugees to return home.

• Protection

In **Nimba County**, the verification exercise in the border communities is continuing and has reached all three axes. To date, verification has been undertaken in 23 communities. Verification on Buutuo axis should be completed on 14 May and will proceed to the Luguato axis. 249 individuals were transported over the reporting period, either from the border to a transit site or to the camp and within a relocation community. On 11 May, a refugee child died at Bahn refugee camp, according to MSF the child suffered from severe malnutrition and was undergoing treatment and therapeutic feeding.

In **Grand Gedeh**, spontaneous arrivals at the Solo and Dougee transit centres are now received in communal transit shelters within the transit centres pending transfer into available tents. It was also agreed that all spontaneous arrivals with the intention to remain in the transit/camp facility would be screened and registered by CARITAS. A GBV working group was created on 11 May. The members include UNHCR, Action Aid Liberia, Project New Outlook/CARE, Medical Mondiale, UNICEF, Merlin and Save the Children.

Individuals in Zleh town were reported to carry out propaganda enticing the refugees to return to Côte d'Ivoire. UNPOL and Liberia National Police reported that in Zleh town two Ivorian refugees were attacked on 10 May, after crossing into Côte d'Ivoire at an illegal crossing point (in Sequee village), leading to the region of Toulepleu. This attack resulted into one death and severe injuries. The Emergency Response Unit patrol will investigate the issue further. In the interim, UNHCR is advising refugees against using illegal crossing points into Côte d'Ivoire. Following a meeting with the refugee leadership on 9 May in Zwedru, refugees were informed that UNHCR does not at present facilitate return. The refugees were also

informed that there are plans to provide farming land around the transit centres and camps.

On the Tempo Axis, on 9 May, Tarloken, Clotetee, Yeoh, Garleo, Balibo and Sayou towns were visited by the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Committee and CARITAS for sensitization of refugees regarding relocation to Ziah transit centre and camp. 118 persons were registered at Balibo, a town which is for the time being not accessible by vehicle.

According to CARITAS, there are 960 people in Ziah Transit Center although confirmation is pending. CARITAS also reported that leader of Toulepleu (western Côte d'Ivoire) arrived unannounced at Toe Town transit centre on 10 May urging refugees to go back home now that the conflict is over. Refugees were unhappy with the visit and the situation became tense. In Dougee transit centre, population figures and information on refugees is being revised in light of the recent trend of spontaneous walk-ins on the site.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In **Nimba County**, the HIV training of trainers in emergency setting was completed on 10 May in Saniqueele. A yellow fever campaign (mostly targeting refugees) took place from 13 to 16 May. The hospital reported that as a result of the polio campaign, 77 % of the refugees were vaccinated while 100% of the host population was covered. During the Education Sector Meeting, the following attendance statistics were released: 682 children in Bahn Camp, 556 in the Southern Axis, 1,280 in the Northern Axis and 193 in the Central Axis. SOS Children Village Liberia is planning a new donation of food and non-food items to refugees. The food distribution to pre-24 February refugees in border communities was completed on 5 May and served over 85% of the target population. The Zorgowee Bridge is passable again however partners are advised to limit the load and gross weight of vehicles. In Bahn refugee camp, the monthly general food distribution started on 9 May and was completed on 11 May. The food basket included rice and Bulghur. The NGO Mentor Initiative undertook training on malaria prevention for 25 refugees from May 9 to 10. The spraying of the camp started on 10 May. On 11 May, the second relocation of refugees to a designated relocation community took place in Kealay. In the course of this exercise, 49 individuals were assigned their new shelters in the community.

In **Grand Gedeh**, the County Health Team has finalized plans to immunize all non-immunized refugees meeting vaccination criteria against yellow fever and provide them with the necessary certificates. Oxfam will support host population in Grand Gedeh: a total of 1,500 hosting population will benefit from 300 bags of rice (75 metric tons of rice) and 1,500 packs of seed and tools. Save the Children plans to carry out an education awareness campaign especially in Toe town. Distribution of scholastic materials is being done for both host community and refugee students. RESPECT has started focus group discussions for teenage girls in schools to talk about early pregnancy and engagement in sexual activities. On the Tempo

Axis, CARITAS staff informed about three seriously sick refugee women at Garleo town in need of urgent medical attention. Tiaytien Health will provide the necessary follow-up. In Ziah Transit Centre, land surveyors worked on demarcation and land allocation of 40 acres in addition to 25 acres of land previously demarcated. 7 trucks with food supplies for approximately 2,000 people were off-loaded at the Ziah transit centre warehouse. In addition, one truck containing non-food items (kitchen sets and soap) was also off-loaded at the warehouse.

GHANA

As of 16 May, the total number of Ivorian asylum seekers registered in Ghana stands at **14,000**. 1,200 are hosted at Eagle Star reception centre, 5,200 at Ampain camp, 496 at Berekum and 389 at Oseikodjokorum. While the situation in the Brong Ahafo region remains calm, border crossing in the western region saw an increase on 14 May (211 new arrivals) and 15 May (115 new arrivals). Purportedly the sudden influx is caused by unknown gunmen renewing house searches and allegedly killing supporters of the former-President.

• Protection

In the **Brong Ahafo region**, a trickle of people is still arriving from Abidjan. They prefer to cross through Oseikodjokorum entry point rather than through Elubo because of family ties in the area. UNHCR is still in the process of completion of the mapping exercise and protection needs assessment in the host communities with registration and protection monitoring continuing in the Bia District. Many more asylum-seekers than expected have reportedly returned to Côte d'Ivoire. Clear figures are still pending. Those remaining had witnessed and continue to fear reprisals and property vandalism upon return. In several households at least one member has returned to Côte d'Ivoire on a 'go and see' visit or to resume work in response to a government ultimatum. Departures and new arrivals were also recorded in the transit centre of Oseikodjokorum. In the last week alone 154 individuals departed the transit centre mainly for N'Diabli and Abengourou. Some male household members have reportedly been returning to N'Diabli during day hours in search of work and returned to Oseikodjokorum at night. Some of these men have reported that there is a plan by Ivorian authorities in N'Diabli to meet with asylum-seekers in Oseikodjokorum soon to encourage them to return. However, a certain number of male youths and Gbagbo loyalists feel especially threatened and unwilling to return in the near future and some have expressed desire to relocate to Fetenta refugee camp when completed.

UNHCR revisited persons of concern based in Nsuta and Beposa in the Ashanti Region and confirmed that all those requiring healthcare had been treated and refugee children were included in the local vaccination campaign. The mission also identified 37 additional new arrivals seeking refuge in Wiaomose, some of which were Ghanaian returnees. One separated child

was identified and basic details were collected. UNHCR will request the assistance of the Ghana Red Cross to follow-up on some of the cases to begin tracing.

In the **western region**, over 1,000 people are now registered at the Eagle Star reception centre though its capacity is only 400 persons. However, most of those who register at the reception centre find accommodation elsewhere. Based on current statistics and arrivals it is anticipated that Ampain refugee camp will reach full capacity in 5-6 days. The new site at Egyeikrom will not be ready for another week after that. Therefore, immediate discussions must take place with the government to find alternative plans/locations to accommodate the overflow. A Births-and-Deaths Registry official from the Esiamia Health Centre came to the camp to register the children born after 19 March. To date, 11 children were provided with birth certificates. A UNHCR mission for headquarters put forth appropriate screening arrangements for separation of combatants and for identification of exclusion cases.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In the **Brong Ahafo region**, the clearing of the Fetenta site continues with the use of heavy machinery: in total, 1.1 hectares of ground has been cleared although daily heavy rains are hampering the efficiency of the machineries. A meeting was held with refugee leaders on 13 May. They highlighted their concern about the lack of information being received from Côte d'Ivoire, the policy that food is only provided at the camp (as many would like to move to host communities), the new camp not being prepared fully for them prior to arrival, the need for electricity, the distance of the new camp from the local village and the absence of a daily market. Other issues raised concerned voluntary repatriation and whether UNHCR would be in the position to assist those willing to return to Côte d'Ivoire or provide documentation.

The new arrivals to Berekum were provided with food on 14 May. A few cases who indicated they had missed the last food distribution were served as well. The ongoing Ghana Health Service (GHS) vaccination campaign visited the camp on both 14 and 15 May to ensure that all children were included in the vaccinations. In spite of continuing rains that recently affected the water quality, the hand dug well in Oseikodjokorum improved water availability: the transit center population have resumed using the water but limit it to other washing and hygiene purposes. For drinking water, they use a nearby pump. UNHCR and the National Catholic Secretariat continue to monitor the water quality and quantity.

In the **western region**, the total number of shelters erected in Ampain is 1,144 (552 in Ampain A and 592 in Ampain B). Ampain A mainly consists of tents, while Ampain B is based on the development of shelters with plastic sheeting. Due to the heavy rain, plastic sheeting will be distributed to cover the top of the leaking tents. The central common area of the camp was flooded after the rains at the end of last week. A

trench was built to take some of the water away, but more intervention is needed. The Christian Council of Ghana will provide estimates of truckloads of gravel to fill the area. Construction of a school structure has commenced behind the UNHCR container offices. Last week was national immunization week, organized jointly by the GHS and the WHO. Volunteer asylum seekers at Ampain camp were trained to deliver services to children (0 – 59 months). The services include tent-to-tent de-worming, administration of Vitamin A and Polio vaccine. In Egyeikrom (Central Region), the clearing of the site has resumed, starting with the establishment of basic infrastructures for 1,000 persons.

GUINEA

As of 16 May, **2,770** Ivorian refugees had been registered in Guinea. Effective registration of refugees in the ProGres database is ongoing both in N'Zérékoré and in Conakry. UNHCR's Protection Section is taking advantage of this registration procedure to further investigate the refugees' specific protection needs. So far, no refugee in Conakry has manifested the desire to be relocated to Kouankan camps. 5 Ivorian refugees have introduced a request for voluntary repatriation.

• Protection

A report was sent to ICRC to facilitate the search for the family of an Ivorian unaccompanied child who has, more than once, attempted to leave Guinea claiming he had to go to Liberia to find his mother. The child has been placed under surveillance until ICRC finds his relatives.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In collaboration with UNFPA and the Ivorian Women Committee, UNHCR Community Services organized a sensitization campaign for Ivorian women at Kouankan I and II in prospect of the distribution of "dignity kits". With the help of the Crédit Rural de Guinée, petroleum was distributed to all newly arrived Ivorian refugees both at Kouankan II camp and at the transit centre of Kouankan I. The mission of specialized doctors in N'Zérékoré came to an end on 13 May. 75 refugees (both Ivorian and Liberian) have been treated for gynaecological and cardiovascular related diseases. Due to the popularity of UNHCR's agricultural assistance to both Liberian and Ivorian refugees, UNHCR is seeking additional supplies of hillside and lowland seeds. UNHCR requested FAO for support to cover the needs of approximately 350 households.

BURKINA FASO

No new arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire reported in the course of the week. The number of Ivorian asylum-seekers remains at **108**. On 16 May, IOM and UNHCR held a meeting on the issue of repatriation of Ivorian asylum-seekers to their country of origin. 10 Ivorian asylum-seekers manifested the desire to be repatriated and asked the support of IOM and UNHCR.

TOGO

569 arrivals have been reported in the course of the week, bringing the total number of Ivorian refugees in Togo to **4,800**.

• Protection

On 12 May, approximately 60 refugees entered the Canadian consulate claiming lack of security in Togo. This followed rumours of the Canadian government willing to resettle 1,000 Ivorian refugees from Togo. No agreement was reached and dissuasive measures were taken to force the refugees to spend the night in a community hosting centre in order to reintegrate the Tropicana site the next day. 1,317 refugees are hosted at the Tropicana camp. 2,253 *prima facie* recognition certificates of refugee status have been delivered to Ivorian refugees. The formalities to issue refugee identity cards have started for the Ivorian refugees who arrived during the months of November-December 2010. A session of the National Eligibility Committee (CNE) was held on 10 May. During the session, the Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR) informed the CNE members about 12 new sensible cases of asylum-seekers, bringing their total number to 25. UNHCR recalled the procedures and principles to be followed while examining each of these cases individually. Another 13 requests for voluntary repatriation were received.

One case of sexual abuse in the country of origin was reported. Three pregnant women and one lactating woman arrived in Togo in the course of the week. They were given support and followed-up by the Community Services associate.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Eight class rooms are being constructed on the Tropicana site with the support of UNICEF. Extension works of the site are ongoing to increase its hosting capacity. Following the distribution of food and non-food items as well as kitchen kits to all refugees on site, each family is now cooking for its own. 136 diseases have been treated by ATBEF during the reporting period. 288 medical prescriptions to Ivorian refugees have been met. On the Tropicana site, 225

diseases have been treated: 117 on site and 8 were evacuated to specialized structures.

MALI

There were **928** registered Ivorian asylum-seekers in Mali as of 16 May. The reporting period saw an increase of 36 new asylum seekers.

NIGERIA

No new arrivals were reported this week. The number of Ivorian asylum seekers remains at **105** individuals.

BENIN

There are **296** Ivorian asylum-seekers in Benin thereby indicating an increase of 36 new cases registered by the Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR) in the reporting week. The eligibility committee held 3 sessions during which the cases of 160 persons (112 households) of Ivorian nationality were examined. 149 positive opinions were issued and additional information was asked to the remaining 11 persons.

SIERRA LEONE

No new arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire reported in the course of the week. The number of Ivorian asylum-seekers in Sierra Leone fell to **4** as 6 Ivorians in Freetown have spontaneously returned to Côte d'Ivoire.

NIGER

74 Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered in Niger so far.

THE GAMBIA

An additional five arrivals were recorded this week bringing the total number of Ivorian refugees to **52**. UNHCR is in discussion with the refugees about their assistance needs.

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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