

Update No. 28

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

11 August 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- Widespread rumours of a looming *coup d'état* led to displacements of people in Côte d'Ivoire ahead of the country's Independence Day.
- Four months after the post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, the country celebrated its 51st Independence Day on 7 August. In a message to the nation on the eve of Independence Day, President Alassane Ouattara indicated that his Government is "reaching out" to Laurent Gbagbo's allies. He lauded the return of exiled military officers to Côte d'Ivoire from Ghana and encouraged more returns.
- The number of IDPs in the 48 sites in Côte d'Ivoire is decreasing due to spontaneous returns or integration in host families. However, the number of IDPs in Abidjan and its environs is increasing. This increase is due to difficult living conditions among host families and evictions (by house owners) from buildings occupied by IDPs after the post-electoral crisis.
- On 5 August, 52 Ivorians died in a bus accident in Abidjan in the Ebrie Lagoon. According to reports, the bus smashed into two cars on a bridge stretching over the lagoon and sank into the river. Reportedly, nine victims were admitted to hospital and one was discharged. A three-day national mourning was announced beginning on 6 August.



A displaced family at the Duékoué Catholic Mission, 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	2,515	118	969	17,159	4,295	569	96	130	58	65	94	62
Liberia	The total estimated number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 171,362.											

Financial Information

UNHCR's financial requirements for West Africa	
Executive Committee approved budget (with adjustments)	\$ 100,313,854
Regional supplementary budget	\$ 125,993,829
TOTAL revised requirements	\$ 226,307,683

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa at 08 August 2011

Donor	Contribution (USD)
African Union	125,000
Australia	4,167,435
Belgium	1,430,615
Canada	2,335,363
CERF	3,970,007
Denmark	3,828,572
EC/ ECHO	3,939,090
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
Norway	1,431,127
OPEC fund for Intl. Dev.	339,234
Private donors	1004345
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 (*)	62,410,097

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



Children at the Duékoué Catholic Mission, Cote d'Ivoire. (UNHCR/Dewoelmont /2011)

Country Operations CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Rumours of a looming *coup d'état* led to displacements of people in Côte d'Ivoire. Hence, new arrivals were registered in IDPs sites in Jacqueline Department in the Lagunes region.

As a result of having to pay higher electricity and water bills due to presence of IDPs on some properties in Abidjan, several house owners have served eviction notices to IDPs. Hence, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster is actively working on the relocation of some 720 IDPs under eviction threat.

• Protection

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), UNICEF, CARE and UNHCR undertook a joint mission to Tai Town in the western region. The mission's objective was to assess conditions of IDPs.

In western Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR, DRC, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), OXFAM, and the *Service d'Aide et Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides* (SAARA) undertook a joint mission to some neighbourhoods in Duékoué in the Moyen Cavally region to assess return conditions and 700 houses were destroyed in Carrefour, of which 300 have to be rehabilitated.

According to *Médecins Sans Frontières* Holland (MSF-Holland), about 1,000 people are displaced in Tai Town and need humanitarian assistance.

• Humanitarian Assistance

UNHCR and WFP is carrying out distribution of food and non-food items to 30,000 returnees in Toulepleu. Also, UNHCR and WFP distributed 3,500 tarpaulins in 30 villages on the Guiglo-Toulepleu axis.

The CCCM cluster coordinators received information material from UNAIDS for awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS in IDPs sites. The leaflets and pamphlets were dispatched to camp managers.

LIBERIA

• Protection

In Maryland County, 45 new arrivals were registered during the reporting period. They received non food items (NFIs) and were relocated to the Little Wlebo refugee camp. New arrivals were also reported in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties. As at 11 August, the number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia was **171,362**.

In Nimba County, the Red Cross restored contacts between refugees and their family members in Côte d'Ivoire through 287 free phone calls and 131 Red Cross messages. Among a dozen children referred to the Red Cross by other organizations, seven unaccompanied minors (UAMs) were registered, for whom tracing has been initiated in Côte d'Ivoire. In July, five children accepted a family reunification request from their parents in Côte d'Ivoire.

In Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties, 133 phone calls were made to restore family contacts and 83 Red Cross messages were collected. Some 53 unaccompanied minors/separated children (UAMs/SC) were registered, out of more than 130 children referred by other organizations.

UNHCR provided NFIs to some 93 individuals (28 households) including new arrivals that were relocated to Little Wlebo refugee camp in Maryland County.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) identified 22 (2 male and 20 female) persons with specific needs during the week in Zogowee, Seykimpa, Larpea 1, Yehplay, Karnlay 2 and Karnpay. The breakdown of vulnerability categories identified and needs were shared with UNHCR for information and assistance.

During the week, Saclepea activated its case flow management system with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), which conducts protection monitoring. NRC reported 32 cases in July. These cases range from medical, domestic violence, separated children and tracing related cases for appropriate follow-ups.

• Humanitarian Assistance

On 3 August, UNHCR donated four motorbikes to the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Monrovia. The motorbikes are meant to boost the capacity of the ministry to provide assistance to refugees.

The IRC's staff working on Gender-Based Violence at the Zogowee transit centre conducted awareness-raising on the consequences of Sexual Exploitation Abuse among 44 (11 male and 33 female) refugees.

UNHCR and partners distributed a mixture of rice and bulgur wheat in Little Wlebo camp in Maryland County. During the period under review, the community awareness-raising and identification of vulnerable populations affected by high food prices was completed in Nimba County by NRC. UNHCR and partners have begun food distribution to targeted beneficiaries in Nimba County. So far, 1,000 persons have received about 17 metric tons of assorted food commodities.

Food distribution to refugees and targeted vulnerable population has been temporarily suspended in River Gee. The allocated food stocks based on UNHCR's feeding log for August is not enough to cover the drastic increase in the refugee population (more than 6,000) resulting from a recent registration exercise that was undertaken in the County.

Two earth moving machines were deployed from Voinjama and Saclepea to Zwedru. The two machines will be used for ongoing clearing and general camp expansion.

Through its partners, UNHCR distributed NFIs including blankets, buckets, mosquito nets, lanterns, sleeping mats, jerry cans, soap and kitchen sets in Harper to 2,252 individuals (408 households). Also, in Nimba County, 222 individuals (163 households) received NFIs.

The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) task force has been established among refugees in Little Wlebo to monitor and report cases of SGBV and other forms of violence occurring in the camp. The task force attended a two-day training by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to build the capacity of the task force to identify and report cases of SGBV.

UNHCR financed renovation of Bahn Health Centre in Nimba County has been completed. The Bahn Health Centre is the referral centre for the health post at the Bahn refugee camp. Earlier on, UNHCR donated a generator to the health centre.

Awareness campaigns on Sexually Transmitted Infections and SGBV were conducted at the health post in Little Wlebo. Some 762 condoms were distributed to adult refugees.

In Maryland County, DRC has commenced construction of the way station on the Cavalla axis.

Two overnight shelters, latrines and bathrooms were equally constructed. DRC will increase the total number of shelters to four (two for women and two for men).

A private logging company offered to clear and flatten 44 hectares of forested land in the former Prime Timber Production (PTP) camp site. The company will use two heavy bulldozers and one grater to clear the site. Cut wood will remain in UNHCR's possession to be used as fuel wood by refugees.

UNICEF continued promoting a diarrhoea prevention campaign in Harper city and distributed over 700 bottles of WaterGuard, a water treatment product, to families in communities.

UNHCR's partners, including Merlin and the Grand Gedeh County Health Team, in collaboration with UNICEF, are conducting nutrition surveys in all refugee host areas across Grand Gedeh County. The objective is to get the nutritional status of refugees and host communities for the necessary intervention/programme design.

The National Leprosy and Tuberculosis Control Program was notified of the increase in number of new cases of leprosy in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties, including among refugees. There will be an assessment of the situation to upgrade the capacity of health workers to diagnose leprosy at camp clinics and provide treatment.

In Little Wlebo refugee camp, Maryland County, 801 students are attending classes in the primary school and in tented schools recently pitched by UNICEF and Vision in Action. Both schools have 19 teachers teaching in French language. Three schools have also been identified in Yookudi and Cavalla and registration is ongoing for school going children.

GHANA

In the Brong Ahafo region, arrangements are underway to acquire machinery (grader, compacter and pay loader) to prepare the new location for relocated Ivorian's from Accra. Officials of the Volta River Authority (VRA), from Sunyani, in charge of electricity visited the camp on 5 August for a final inspection. They authorised the Berekum VRA to connect the camp to the national grid. Also, the market is ready. The camp manager will establish a list of persons that want to have a selling space in the market.

• Protection

In the western region, 26 individuals with family ties to refugees in Ampain were transported in two convoys during the week to Ampain. On 2 August, 22 people were moved to Ampain camp, among which were four pregnant women and four unaccompanied minors (UAMs). The UAMs have been reunited with relatives in Ampain - two joined their mother and two joined their uncle who was their caretaker in CIV. On 3

August, four persons were moved to Ampain among these persons, two children were joined with their families.

The population at Eagle Star reception centre stands at 999 individuals as at 7 August. UNHCR is planning to transport the most vulnerable individuals to either Ampain or Egeyikrom refugee camps.

Some 60 persons will be re-united with their families at Ampain camp after a verification conducted on 3 August to identify relations of separated families at Eagle Star and Ampain camp.

In the central region, convoys from Eagle Star reception centre were put on hold as there is a need for more temporary shelters in Egeyikrom refugee camp. The population in Egeyikrom refugee camp was 583. New convoys will be organised as soon as new shelters are available.

In Brong Ahafo, there were 35 new arrivals, of which 24 had come from Accra and 11 had come from Yopougoun.

Four male and two female refugees in Fetentaa camp sought protection counselling. Most of them raised concerns about joining relatives and spouses in European countries, including Italy and France, and in the United States.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In Brong Ahafo, donated clothing from the Sunyani Catholic Diocese was successfully distributed. Two persons of concern who were sent to the Ankafo Mental Hospital are doing well. NFIs and charcoal were distributed to the 24 new arrivals. Recreational material received (volleyball, football, etc) was successfully mounted and is in use by the community. The camp currently has two football teams (one male and one female).

In the central region, classroom structures were roofed. Brick-laying and two classroom floors have been made.

At the Eagle Star reception centre in the western region, 566 sleeping mats, 566 blankets and 259 mosquito nets were distributed on 4 August.

In the central region, one patient remained in admission at the Metro Hospital in Cape Coast. Two children who had acute malnutrition were discharged. Eleven patients were referred to the Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS). On 3 August, five malaria patients referred to Kissi Hospital were treated and discharged. On 4 August, three malaria patients referred to Kissi Hospital were treated and discharged. Also, one tetanus case was treated at CHPS, while two other patients diagnosed with fever were treated at the camp clinic by nurses from CHPS. On 5 August, two children and one adult were sent to CHPS.

Asylum-seekers still do not have a refuse dump in Egeikrom refugee camp. Supplied dust bins are full and there is no site to empty them. CCG was informed and requested to urgently make available a dump site.

GUINEA

No new Ivorian refugees were registered during the reporting period. The total number of Ivorian refugees in Guinea was **2,515** as at 8 August.

During the reporting period, in Nzérékoré, the Protection Unit held a meeting to on an upcoming verification/registration exercise and the updating of data on new Ivorian refugees. A team was tasked to review the distribution list and unregistered persons that have ration cards. As a result, 1,488 persons were updated in the ProGres database.

UNHCR Protection Unit and the *Bureau Régional pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés* (BRISR) undertook a mission to Kouankan 2 camp on 3 August to address certain cases of Ivorians that had not yet been processed. After regularising these cases, they were entered into the database.

On 5 August, 80 new Ivorian refugees were transferred from the Kouankan transit centre to a camp in Kouankan 2. Some 100 persons are still waiting in

the Kouankan transit centre for accommodation to be made available for their relocation to Kouankan 2.

UNHCR monitored general food distribution to Ivorians in Kouankan 2 on 5 August. Food was distributed to 4,722 persons including 1,470 new Ivorians.

SIERRA LEONE

There were **54** Ivorian refugees and **8** asylum-seekers in Sierra-Leone as at 01 August.

Twenty-six (26) shelters under the direct implementation project have been roofed; nine plastered and 27 slabs for VIP latrines were cast. The remaining shelters are at various stages of construction in both Hangha and Gbenderu.

Following reports by the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) indicating the completion of the backlog of shelters, the final verification of the shelters was jointly undertaken by NaCSA and UNHCR.

For a map of operations in the West Africa region with updated statistics, please visit:
<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4d831f586.html>

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