

Update No. 36

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

24 October 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- Facilitation of voluntary repatriation from Liberia to Côte d'Ivoire commences with first convoy of 118 refugees departing on 21 October.
- Ivorian Minister of Employment and Social Affairs visits European countries to mobilize additional resources needed for humanitarian action in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Liberian borders re-opened after 11 October elections pass peacefully.
- Updated registration in Accra shows drop in number of asylum seekers in Ghana.



Preparation of the first facilitated repatriation convoy from Liberia (UNHCR/Adil//2011)

Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/ Asylum seekers	2,480	120	972	15,810	4,761	742	96	130	58	78	94	62
Liberia	The total number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 156,724 .											

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 29 September 2011	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
African Development Bank	630,000
African Union	125,000
Australia	4,167,435
Belgium	1,430,615
Canada	2,335,363
CERF	5,068,375
Denmark	3,828,572
EC/ ECHO	5,365,624
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	1,081,188
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 (*)	66,514,342

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



Repatriation convoy to Côte d'Ivoire (UNHCR/Adil/ 2011)

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Volrep: On 21 October, UNHCR facilitated the first voluntary repatriation convoy for 118 refugees from Liberia to Côte d'Ivoire. The returnees were hosted at the transit center in Toulepleu and then transported to their homes in Zouan-Houien, Danane, Bin-Houye, Toulepleu and Abidjan. All returnees received food and return kits. The convoy marked the commencement of the facilitated voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees, within the framework of the Tripartite Agreement among Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and UNHCR.

Funding: Only 31% (USD 91 million out of USD 292 million) of the UN Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan for Côte d'Ivoire has been funded to date. In October, the Ivorian Minister of Employment and Social Affairs visited several European countries to mobilize additional resources for the financing of the action plan.

ICC Investigations: On 15 and 16 October, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Luis Moreno-Ocampo, visited Côte d'Ivoire and met with Government officials. A team of ICC investigators will conduct investigations into crimes against humanity committed following the presidential elections of 28 November 2010.

Security: The security situation in Abidjan remains stable, although there are frequent reports of abuse, harassment and violence against civilians, especially in the neighbourhoods of Abobo, Yopougon, Anyama and Agboville. In the western region of Man, the situation remains precarious with recurrent violent incidents in the localities of Issia, Guiglo and Bangolo.

• Protection

IDP Protection: The majority of IDPs in Abidjan, Aboisso and Agboville are now staying with host families. Over 75% of IDPs have left the established sites. IDPs are increasingly obliged to return to their places of origin or relocate to other IDP sites.

After the latest verification exercises, the total number of IDPs in the 36 sites is estimated at 18,455 persons. The Camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) cluster is currently assessing the IDPs' intentions of return and potential obstacles to sustainable return.

Returns: Between 16 and 19 October, UNHCR registered 185 Ivorian returnees from Liberia at the border at Pekan Barrage/Toulepleu. Out of these, 79 had family or ration cards from Liberia, and 109 came without any documentation. The main areas of return in Côte d'Ivoire are Toulepleu, Bolequin, Guiglo and the surrounding villages.

In the week before the elections in Liberia, on 11 October, the number of spontaneous returns from Liberia at the three official entry points significantly increased. Between 5 and 9 October, UNHCR had registered 1833 returnees. Most registered returnees arrived at Toulepleu. However, many unregistered returns are taking place at unofficial entry points and can only be retraced in the villages of return.

In the region of Tabou, a UNHCR mission assessed spontaneous repatriation movements to the villages of Soublaké and Boubele. Most of the returnees had not been registered as refugees in Liberia. Many cases of spontaneous returns still go unreported. Some returnees would regularly return to Liberia to benefit from food distributions.

Displacements: On 13 October, in Koffikro, on the Issia – Duekoue axis, a violent incident between farmers and security forces resulted in the displacement of 450 persons to Issia. The affected population is in need of assistance and asked for a humanitarian convoy for their return.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian Assistance: WFP plans to commence food distribution to 180,000 beneficiaries per month until the end of 2011, targeting all refugee returnees, returned IDPs and host communities. In addition, starting on 20 October, the international NGO Première Urgence plans to assist 8,000 households in the zones of Bolequin and Guiglo

with non food items and plastic sheeting. OXFAM is currently distributing kitchen and hygiene sets to 5,000 households.

The international NGO, Clowns Without Borders – Spain, continued its recreational and social cohesion performances at the Nahibly site in Duékoué, on 10 October. More than 1850 children and adults participated in the activities.

LIBERIA

Security: The security situation remains calm in the aftermath of the 11 October 2011 presidential and legislative elections which were peacefully conducted throughout the country. Activities in the field were scaled down as UNHCR and partners limited their movements during the election period due to anxieties over potential security problems. Borders in Nimba and other counties were closed by the Government on 10 October and re-opened after the Election Day.

• Protection

Returns: Spontaneous returns of Ivorian refugees from camps and host communities in Liberia to Côte d'Ivoire continue. At the same time, new arrivals were registered in Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties. Between 15 September and 15 October, Ziah Camp received 237 new individuals, mostly from the Tai region. The new arrivals cited security concerns as the reason for their flight to Liberia. The registration of new arrivals is also ongoing in Solo Camp.

Relocation: In Zwedru, UNHCR relocated 19 refugees to the PTP camp. The planned relocation from Bawaydee had to be cancelled due to bad road conditions.

Unconfirmed reports have also indicated that some refugees on the Buutuo Axis who had returned to Côte d'Ivoire are now moving back to Liberia to harvest their rice farms. UNHCR is monitoring the situation.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Food: Food distribution in Maryland and River Gee counties was suspended due to the ongoing verification exercise in Maryland. Distribution in the remaining communities will resume after the verification exercise.

Awareness Campaigns: UNHCR and its partners continued to conduct awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS, health and hygiene. The campaign targeted refugees in the seven camps in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties, as well as several refugee hosting communities.

Shelter: In Nimba County, UNHCR started a shelter verification exercise in 16 relocation communities.

Child Protection: In Bahn Camp, Save the Children – UK conducted a three-day capacity building workshop for primary school teachers. In PTP Camp, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) recruited teachers for educational activities. There are close to 1,000 primary school pupils in the camp. Classes are based on the Ivorian curriculum.

GHANA

New Arrivals: During the reporting period, 41 persons crossed from Côte D'Ivoire to Ghana via the Elubo border crossing point. Most new arrivals reported having family members in Ghana, and some were initially displaced in villages along the border and decided to cross to Ghana to seek assistance.

• Protection

Registration: The Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) and UNHCR completed the update of the registration of asylum seekers in Accra. During the exercise, some 1,110 Ivorian asylum seekers were registered, a significant decrease as compared to more than 2,950 asylum seekers initially registered. The registration will continue through established coordination mechanisms between GRB and UNHCR.

Recent UNHCR assessments in the Western and Central Region indicate a further decrease in the number of asylum seekers. Reasons for the reduction include spontaneous returns to Côte D'Ivoire, secondary movements within the territory of Ghana, as well as movements outside Ghana, including towards Togo. There are also reports on asylum seekers who move back and forth to assess the situation in Côte D'Ivoire.

The total number of registered asylum seekers now stands at 15,810. In November, the GRB and UNHCR will update the registration for refugees in Egeykrom camp and among the host communities in the Western and Central Regions.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Education: Primary school enrolment of children below eleven years stands at 64% (206 children) in Fetentaa Camp, and at 100% (304) in Egeykrom Camp. In contrast, enrolment in the Western Region is comparatively low, with only 43% (828) at Ampain Camp. Registration is ongoing and efforts are being made to sensitize parents to the importance of basic education. The local NGO Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) organized trainings for teachers in Ampain and Egeykrom camps.

Community Management: In Egeykrom camp, in a meeting between the camp management, UNHCR and asylum seekers, it was decided that a council of elders be formed to liaise between the camp

management and the community. The council will also address community and family-related matters.

Livelihoods: UNHCR's partner National Catholic Services (NCS) received funds for an agriculture project for the refugee community in Fetantaa camp. Refugee leaders will be consulted to identify additional land for the farming project. NCS also continued with the distribution of non food items (NFIs) in Eagle Star reception center and to new arrivals in Ampain and Egeykrom camps.

On 13 October, the local NGO Assemblies of God Relief and Development Services (AGREDS) visited Egeykrom Camp for an assessment mission regarding livelihoods activities.

Food: On 19 October and 24 October, food distribution took place in Ampain and Egeykrom Camps respectively. Food distribution at the Fetentaa Camp is scheduled for the first week of November.

Health: Diarrhea, malnourishment and skin infections continue to rank among the most prevalent health concerns in Ampain Camp.

TOGO

Security: The situation at the Avépozo refugee site remains calm. The overall number of Ivorian refugees stands unchanged at 4,761.

On 14 October, UNHCR, the national refugee agency Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), and security forces in Avépozo site held a meeting to decide on new security measures for the site, particularly with regard to refugees who have settled on the site without authorization. Twenty new tents were erected to provide shelter for relocating families.

• Protection

Capacity Building: UNHCR continues its support for the CNAR with regard to refugee status determination.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Food: In Avépozo site, the last portion of the September food ration was distributed during the reporting period. WFP has so far provided 57 tons of food commodities for the next food distribution, including beans, corn soya blend (CSB) and oil.

Education: Since the opening of schools on the site on 10 October, 480 children were enrolled in primary school, and 80 in kindergarten. On 14 October, UNICEF distributed school material to school children and teachers. Sixty adult women registered for alphabetization classes. The local Rotary Club donated school material, additional

food, and clothes to vulnerables and children on the site.

Health: Between 10 and 24 October, 819 patients received treatment at the clinic in Avépozo. The psychological service received 51 patients.

Water: To improve the water quality on the site, filters were placed on the boreholes of the site. The local NGO Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) conducted sensitization trainings on hygiene and waste disposal.

GUINEA

The total number of registered Ivorian refugees in Guinea stands unchanged at 2,480.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners, the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD) and the Guinean Red Cross (CRG), started the distribution of school kits to Ivorian refugee children at the high school in Sérédou and at primary and secondary schools and kindergarten at Kouankan 2 camp. UNICEF provided 300 kits.

BENIN

Between 10 and 24 October, the Commission Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR) registered 20 new Ivorian asylum seekers, bringing the total number to 742 individuals. A new UNHCR registration exercise is under preparation.

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