

# Update No. 08

## Côte d'Ivoire Situation

07 April 2011



### Highlights

- While people continued to flee the violence in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Hamed Bakayoko, the Minister of the Interior from Mr. Ouattara's government, announced the closure of the Ivorian border on 31 March.
- The *Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire* (FRCI), loyal to president-elect Alassane Ouattara, obtained the surrender of the *Forces de Défense et de Sécurité* (FDS) loyal to former president Laurent Gbagbo, who remains unwilling to cede power. Nevertheless, fighting continues in Abidjan as the FRCI attempt to capture Gbagbo.
- Following the cease-fire, an inter-agency mission was sent to Duékoué to assess the humanitarian situation, recommend a way forward, and initiate an urgent response to the most pressing needs of the population.
- The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, visited Grand Gedeh County (Liberia) and Duékoué (Cote d'Ivoire). In Duékoué, she stressed the need for physical protection for the affected population as well as the need for food, water, shelter, and sanitation. She stated that "there can be no peace and security in West Africa if there is no peace and security in Côte d'Ivoire. The social, economic, and humanitarian consequences of the Ivorian crisis will be overwhelming unless we give the country the support it needs."
- Reports of looting and extra-judicial killings in Cote d'Ivoire demand an urgent need for security forces to cooperate to restore law and order immediately. As ethnic tensions are rising, UNHCR is advocating for the authorities to warn against actions that might fuel continued inter-ethnic violence.



Refugees from Côte d'Ivoire rest at a school in Janzon, Liberia.

UNHCR / G. Gordon  
March 2011

### Population Movement

	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia
Registered Refugees/Asylum seekers	1,662	70	404	7,218	2,300	78	38	90	28*	5	7**
Liberia	43, 726 Ivorian refugees individually registered and 81,540 through the rapid emergency registration										

\* As of 21 march; and \*\*as of 30 March.

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.



## Operational Needs

UNHCR's 2011 Financial Requirements for West Africa	
Executive Committee Approved Budget	\$ 99,234,686
Regional Suppl. Budget for Côte d'Ivoire Emergency	\$ 97,493,061
<b>TOTAL Revised Requirements</b>	<b>\$ 196,727,747</b>

## Financial Information

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
Australia	2,028,398
Canada	2,335,362
CERF	3,155,737
Denmark	1,843,658
EC/ECHO	686,813
ECOWAS	500,000
Finland	1,690,913
France	549,451
Germany	1,027,413
Ireland	544,959
Norway	1,431,127
Private donors Canada	2,935
Republic of Korea	300,000
Switzerland	637,767
UN Population Fund	119,840
USA	10,300,000
<b>TOTAL(*)</b>	<b>27,154,373</b>

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



An Ivorian family walks along a forest track toward Zwedru, south-eastern Liberia (UNHCR/G.Gordon).

## Country Operations

### COTE D'IVOIRE

On 1 April 2011, UNOCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, IOM, WHO, Organisation pour le Développement des Activités des Femmes (ODAFEM), and Caritas went on a joint mission to monitor and assess displaced populations at the Catholic mission and the Union des Eglises Evangéliques Services et Oeuvres de Côte d'Ivoire (UEESO) church in Duékoué.

The emergency mission was in response to reports that as many as **40,000** Ivorians fled to the two sites in successive waves, remaining without food and water as a result of their fear of leaving the sites. In addition, reports received from the Ivorian Red Cross and the Ministry of Health indicating that 817 bodies were dispersed throughout the city of Duékoué alarmed the humanitarian community.

A guarantee of humanitarian access from local and national authorities is essential to enable the provision of effective protection and assistance to the affected population.

There is a pressing need to reinstitute law and order, including increased security at IDP sites as well as throughout the country. Food security, site decongestion, safe water, and additional medical supplies are urgently needed to save lives. Families dispersed and isolated throughout the country require information and assistance.

Advocacy for human resource reinforcement, logistics equipment, and materials from all organizations are required to face the humanitarian catastrophe in Duékoué and other places of concern and to enable all organizations to support the cluster leads.

#### • Protection

Despite the presence of United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) forces in Duékoué, IDPs face high levels of insecurity. Traumatized displaced populations report having significant fear of ethnic-based violence due to threats from youth and other militias.

IDPs at the UEESO church site, where there is no fence or barrier around the compound, reported stray gunfire, which forced men to flee the site at night and hide in the bush. IDP sites need to be secured from potential ethnic violence. Members of the Catholic mission have affirmed that there are many people from Duékoué, primarily women and children, still hiding in the forest.

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

Most of the Catholic mission population is sleeping without any shelter or cover in an area of less than one square meter per person. UNHCR, via Afrique Secours et Assistance (ASA), sent a convoy of non-food items from Daloa to Duékoué, and rapid assistance is ongoing.

Short-term use of sites in Duékoué municipality, in the prefecture, the sub-prefecture, at the Governor's Residence, and at Hotel Monhesea will enable rapid decongestion of the Catholic mission. A site at Tanry will be improved to accommodate IDPs unable or unwilling to go home. Protection of the population will be provided by MorBat (the Moroccan Battalion of UNOCI).

There is currently inadequate access to water at the Catholic mission and insufficient water pressure for the effective functioning of the system that ICRC installed. The UEESO site is also facing inadequate access to safe water.

MorBat/UNOCI and the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster (ICRC lead) are coordinating improved safe water provision to the displaced population by trucking water, installing additional water tanks and generators, and water chlorination. The World Health Organization (WHO) has determined that the sanitary conditions at the mission may lead to an outbreak of disease. WASH teams will be activated at all IDP sites to promote hygiene and prevent epidemics.

54 bodies discovered around the Catholic mission have been removed. UNOCI, ICRC and Red Cross have organized the collection and removal of bodies reported around Duékoué in order to prevent outbreak of disease.

IDPs in both sites were found by the inter-agency mission to be extremely hungry, with an estimated **15,000** children at risk of moderate, severe, and acute malnutrition. UNICEF provided nutrition supplements during the mission and will coordinate malnutrition screenings once partners have been reactivated at the site level. Food distribution was initiated by Save the Children under World Food Programme on April 4, 2011.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) France has been providing general care on site at the Catholic mission. Health services require reinforcement, additional clinical space, delivery kits for pregnant women, site supervision, medical stocks for rapid distribution, and informational campaigns about hygiene in order to prevent epidemics. A rapid vaccination campaign against measles is urgently needed.

## LIBERIA

**43,726** refugees have so far been registered individually; while **81,540** arrivals during influxes were counted in rapid emergency registration. UNHCR continues to update the database and will soon be able to provide exact registration figures.

Valerie Amos visited refugee sites in Liberia from 1-3 April and met with the Special Representative of the Secretary General and the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs in Monrovia before going to Côte d'Ivoire.

### • Protection

New arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire reported that they spent two to three days in the bush to escape shooting.

Nimba County - Information campaigns are ongoing at the border with convoys transferring refugees to New Yorpea way station and Zorgowee transit site. **257** individuals were transferred from the New Yorpea and Karnplay transit sites to Bahn Refugee Camp on 31 March and 1 April, respectively.

On 31 March, the Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) Task Force meeting was held in Saniquellie, where then inclusion of new actors working in Bahn Camp was discussed. On 4 April, partners met to further discuss and strengthen the referral mechanism.

Training of new border monitors for deployment began on 5 April in Loguatu.

Grand Gedeh County - On 1 April, there were **1,336** individuals at the Toe Town Transit Centre. A protection team visited the Tempo border, to verify new arrival trends, assess protection issues and identify and transport the most vulnerable arrivals to Ziah Town. 24 Caritas mobile registration clerks were deployed in to enhance individual registration in the county.

### • Humanitarian Assistance

Land for the Ministry of Agriculture site and Ministry of Public Works site was officially allocated through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). MOUs are also being finalized for Ziah Transit Centre, Bao Waypoint, the Dowyee site and the PTP site. Signed MOUs for all sites except PTP have been given to the Liberian Refugee Repatriation and Re-settlement Commission (LRRRC) Executive Director for discussion in Monrovia.

Nimba County - The reception hall, health clinic, and kitchen hall have been constructed at Zorgowee Transit Centre, and over 130 tents have been pitched.

Plot demarcation is ongoing at Bahn Refugee Camp, where 100 shelter kits, along with tools, have been stockpiled for allocation to families who have been taught how to build their own shelters. Refugees submitted a list of households ready to construct their own shelter, and lists of skilled workers are available.

General food distribution started in Bahn on 2 April, with **2,768** individuals receiving a one-month food ration. The second cycle of food distribution on the Gborplay Axis remained suspended because of the broken bridge in Zorgowee. It will resume as soon as trucks can resume crossing the bridge.

Grand Gedeh County - Site clearing and emergency tent pitching is underway in Ziah Town Centre where an influx occurred last week. A warehouse for NFIs was set up in the women's centre, and a registration centre is being established near the town hall.

Following a joint visit by the Superintendent of Grand Gedeh County, the LRRRC and UNHCR to the Dowyee and Ministry of Agriculture sites, the Superintendent offered to make heavy machinery available for site-clearing.

Work started on the Bao Waypoint site (brushing, clearing and de-stumping). WFP will implement food for work and UNHCR will provide "toolkits" to workers

so as to increase the available workforce and accelerate the work.

German Agro Action contractors began repairing and digging wells along the Tempo Axis on April 2, 2011.

The Education Coordination Meeting was held on 31 March. The issue of refugees living in school buildings was one of the main topics discussed. The County Education Officer indicated that an assessment has shown that refugees have also occupied school buildings in Pohan, Dayan and Boe Town, and complaints have been received from town chiefs. The Janzon Town Chief offered a space near the community centre to pitch tents and free up the school, which is housing **131** individuals as of 1 April.

UNICEF's Deputy Executive Director visited Grand Gedeh County on 31 March.

## GHANA

There are **7,218** individual Ivorian refugee/asylum-seekers registered in Ghana. On 31 March, **225** persons arrived, reporting that they fled heavy fighting in Abidjan as well as Aboisso and other areas near the border.

Despite closure of the border on 1 April, **1,273** additional Ivorians were reported in the Western Region border town of Oseikodwokrom to the North of Elubo, and Ivorians continued to arrive at Elubo (**52** on 1 April; **35** on 2 April; and **48** on 3 April).

The population of Ampain Refugee Camp reached **2,101** persons with the transfer of **919** individuals from Eagle Star Reception Center this week.

A new campsite in the town of Berekum was activated in the Brong Ahafo Region to accommodate Ivorian refugees and asylum-seekers identified within ten communities in the region. A UNHCR team is working in the area to register and relocate those in need of assistance to the new Berekum facility. **433** persons, mainly from Sampa, a border town in the northern part of the region, were transferred to the Camp as of 4 April.

### • Protection

Officials from Gbagbo's camp, including local administrative and political leaders, civil servants, and members of Côte d'Ivoire security forces are reported to be among the asylum-seekers crossing into Ghana in the Brong Ahafo Region as a result of fighting in the Bondoukou and Abengorou areas. UNHCR is calling on authorities to separate and screen combatants and ex-combatants to ensure the civilian nature of refugee camps and sites.

A two-day training organized by UNHCR for Ghana Refugee Board members served to speed up the consolidation of the Ghanaian eligibility entity. The timing for the training was ideal, covering various topics including refugee status determination and *prima facie* status, as well as issues related to cessation of refugee status.

### • Humanitarian Assistance

UNHCR is exploring the possibility of constructing communal shelters on higher ground at Eagle Star

Reception Centre to ensure protection from high rainfall in the Western Region. The tents would eventually be dismantled and transferred to Ampain Refugee Camp.

Ampain Refugee Camp - Of a total of 470 tents erected, 468 were occupied as of 4 April. There is a pressing need for an additional space in which to accommodate new arrivals.

Camp management and refugee volunteers coordinate door-to-door distribution of drinking water. Five additional polytanks (10,000 litres each), delivered by UNICEF in addition to the seven original polytanks, have improved the water supply situation. Drilling of the boreholes in Ampain is ongoing. Additional latrines and bathrooms are under construction.

Since the opening of Ampain Refugee Camp, the mobile health clinic recorded 826 consultations (over 50 per day) as of 4 April. Pending the arrival of the ambulance purchased by UNHCR, alternative solutions have been found for transporting the sick and injured.

A church group donated rice, oil, and one truckload of used clothes, as well as Milo, milk, water, soap, toilet paper, and other items. A philanthropist couple donated one (1) truckload of sachet water.

Data on **448** children (**216** girls and **232** boys) was collected to initiate the education process in Ampain Refugee Camp. Educational materials for pre-school (**63** children), primary school (**232** children) and secondary school (**153** children) were ordered from UNICEF, while activities for pre-school children have already started.

Berekum Refugee Camp – All new arrivals at Berekum Refugee Camp were provided with shelter and NFIs. Additional NFIs for 1,000 people were dispatched. UNICEF is providing 1,500 mosquito nets for the Western Region and 1,000 for Brong Ahafo. Sachets of drinking water are being distributed, while a water tanker under repair is expected to be fully operational by 4 April.

Identification of New Sites: Egeyikrom (in the Central Region, 11 kilometers from Elmina and 50 acres in size with a capacity of 7,000 persons) was proposed during the visit of the Joint Operations Committee led by the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO). UNHCR has looked at an additional site (Fetenta) about 8 kilometers from the Berekum site.

## GUINEA

The total number of Ivorian refugees registered as of April 4 in Guinea is **1,662**, with **1,509** in the N'Zerekore Forest Region and **153** in Conakry.

In N'Zerekore, the number of new arrivals increased this week by **515** persons (an average 90 persons per day). The majority originated from the Abobo, Yopougon and Adjamé quarters of Abidjan. They are currently staying with host families or are lodged at a hotel awaiting transfer to Kouankan I and II refugee camps.

### • Protection

As of 4 April, **454** individuals (200 households) were reported in Kouankan II Refugee Camp and **549** additional individuals (156 households) were awaiting transfer from the N'Zerekore transit centre to Kouankan II on 5 April, with logistical support from IOM and collaboration with UNHCR's implementing partners.

### • Humanitarian assistance

The capacity of Kouankan II Camp was increased by 34 temporary community tents (each tent hosts 18 individuals) last week. Twelve new community kitchens have so far been completed, and 58 sanitary blocks have been finalized with ten (10) more under construction as of 4 April. The rehabilitation of Kouankan I Camp is underway to prepare for expected new arrivals.

UNHCR's medical coordinator went on a joint mission with UNFPA to evaluate the health situation and take stock of the medical assistance available to refugees and returnees at the Sinko site.

**549** new arrivals in N'Zerekore were pre-screened and vaccinated on 4 April at the office of CRG, UNHCR's partner in charge of health.

## BURKINA FASO

A total of **70** Ivorian asylum-seekers have so far been registered by the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CONAREF). Of these, **68** individuals are in Ouagadougou, one (1) is in Koudougou and one (1) is in Zabré. In addition, IOM has offered to assist **10** Ivorians in Garango with transport to Ouagadougou.

Due to security issues related to the socio-political situation in Burkina Faso, the extraordinary session of the CONAREF Eligibility Committee to study the cases of Ivorians fleeing Côte d'Ivoire was postponed.

## BENIN

**29** (19 households) new arrivals of Ivorian refugees were registered, bringing the total to **78** individuals (41 households).

The Regional Representative, Mr. Valentin Tapsoba, visited Benin from 30 March to 2 April and met with the Regional Office Cotonou staff, the refugee community, and United Nations officials. Mr. Tapsoba also visited the Agame and Kpomasse sites as well as all IDP sites resulting from the 2010 Benin floods.

## TOGO

An influx of Ivorian refugees arrived in Lomé this week, bringing the registration total to **2,300**. In addition, there were **159** Togolese returnees from Côte d'Ivoire and four (4) third-country nationals. UNHCR continues to advocate for Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR) to issue refugee identity cards to the Ivorians. Some have already received identification documents.

The UNHCR Representative met with the CNAR Coordinator and the Minister of Security and Civil Protection to discuss activating the refugee camp site. The Minister is providing a fire brigade team consisting of members specializing in shelter construction and will deploy security forces to the camp site to make it functional this week. The Ministry is also lending 300 additional tents to UNHCR. Ivorian refugees are currently receiving one meal per day in the compound of CNAR.

## NIGERIA

There are **90** registered Ivorian asylum-seekers in Nigeria with **16** new registrations this week. They claimed to have arrived in Nigeria between December 2010 and March 2011 and were residents of Adjame, Abobo, Ayama and Yopougon, in Abidjan. All transited Ghana, Togo, and Benin.

## MALI

There are **404** registered Ivorian asylum-seekers (207 households) in Mali, where the number of asylum-seekers increased to approximately **50** per day during the past week's offensive by the FRCI. Five (5) individuals (2 households) requested asylum from the UNHCR team in Sikasso.

The first convoy of approximately **700** Malians arrived safely from Abidjan aboard ten vehicles chartered by the Government of Mali. They were met by the Minister of Malians Abroad and African Integration (Ministre des Maliens de l'Extérieur et de l'Intégration Africaine). Additional convoys are expected in the coming days.

UNHCR Sikasso continued sensitization around the border areas of Zégoua. Brochures on the structures and procedures for asylum are being distributed to new arrivals. The Commission Nationale Chargée des Réfugiés (CNCR) informed UNHCR that the Ivorian asylum-seekers will benefit from *prima facie* recognition.

The Zégoua Transit Center is functional. The facilities consist of one registration centre, one dormitory, and six latrines all with electricity. A team consisting of UNHCR and IOM staff will soon be deployed to the location. Refugees will soon be transferred to Faragouaran refugee site.

Four boreholes planned as part of the emergency response were drilled (two in Faragouaran by Islamic Relief and two in Zégoua and Manankoro by World Vision).



# West Africa - Côte d'Ivoire Emergency

Number of refugees

As of 8th April 2011

**PIIGS**  
Field Information and  
Coordination Support Section

Sources:  
UNHCR, Global Inflight digital mapping  
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Capital  
UNHCR Country Office /  
National Office / Liaison Office  
UNHCR Sub-Office  
UNHCR Field Office  
UNHCR Field Unit  
Refugee settlement  
Refugee camp  
Refugee centre  
Refugee location  
Urban refugee location  
Main town or village

International boundary  
Main road  
Elevation  
(Above mean sea level)

3,200 to 4,000 metres  
2,400 to 3,200 metres  
1,700 to 2,400 metres  
1,000 to 1,700 metres  
700 to 1,000 metres  
300 to 700 metres  
0 to 300 metres  
Below mean sea level



\* In view of the volatile situation in Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR is not yet in a position to provide exact figures  
\*\* Out of this figure, 81540 refugees have been registered through emergency registration  
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