

Update No. 24

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

14 July 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- A delegation from Côte d'Ivoire, headed by Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Guillaume Soro, met with the Liberian Government to discuss bilateral issues, including security, trade, the refugee situation along the Ivorian-Liberian border, and how to improve and accelerate regional cooperation between the two countries within the broader framework of the Mano River Union.
- Officials from the US State Department visited IDPs at the Catholic Church of Notre Dame of Nazareth in western Côte d'Ivoire. The mission met with UNHCR and IOM.
- In response to the security situation in the west of Côte d'Ivoire, United Nations Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire Mr. Y.J. Choi announced plans to establish eight new and fully-equipped military camps. This will facilitate the demilitarisation of urban areas.
- On 11 July, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a disbursement equivalent to about US\$129.2 million to support Côte d'Ivoire's economic recovery program following the crisis of December 2010 to April 2011. The disbursement, representing 25 percent of the country's quota in the Fund, is available immediately.
- UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordination, Ms. Valerie Amos has indicated that the UN will send a technical mission to work with the ECOWAS Commission to elaborate a mechanism for response to humanitarian challenges in the ECOWAS region.



Refugee children, Ampain Camp, Ghana (UNHCR/Buckenmeyer/2011)

60
YEARS



Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/ Asylum seekers	2,397	118	955	17,023	3,737	546	38	106	64	34	65	4
Liberia	The total estimated number of Ivorian refugees stands at 149,142.											

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

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 07 June 2011	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
African Union	125,000
Australia	4,167,435
Belgium	1,430,615
Canada	2,335,362
CERF	3,155,737
Denmark	3,828,573
EC/ ECHO	3,939,090
ECOWAS	500,000
Finland	1,808,808
France	549,451
Germany	1,027,413
Ireland	544,959
Japan	1,231,072
Liechtenstein	108,460
Norway	1,431,127
OPEC fund for Intl. Dev.	339,234
Private donors	895,934
Rep. of Korea	300,000
Switzerland	637,767
UN Population Fund	119,840
United Kingdom	7,211,538
United States of America	19,300,000
TOTAL (*)	54,987,415

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



Food distribution, Ampain Camp, Ghana. (UNHCR/Buckenmeyer/2011)

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

In the last two weeks, the security situation on the Man-Duékoué road has deteriorated. There have been several attacks on transport vehicles by armed elements, culminating in seven civilian deaths.

• Protection

Discussions are underway with Côte d'Ivoire authorities for an acceptable site to relocate the internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Guiglo. In Man, the second relocation of IDPs including 390 persons (92 households) from the Catholic Mission in

Duékoué to the Nahibly site was carried out on 5 July. Nahibly will host a total of 800 persons (175 families).

In Duékoué-Bagohou, a joint UNHCR, Institut de la Démocratie et de la Coopération (IDC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Afrique Secours et Assistance (ASA) (a local NGO) and CARITAS mission visited six villages in return areas. The joint mission confirmed that insecurity restricts free movement of IDPs and that it will devise a strategy to meet their needs. The mission also called for infrastructure rehabilitation and that IDPs be provided with shelter kits *in situ* (among host families).

In the 14 border villages on the Zouan-Hounien and Ben-Hounien road, 80 percent of the original

population have returned. The returnees have requested for food and non-food items (NFIs) assistance. In eight villages in Boo Canton (Blequin Prefecture), 70 percent of the population had fled the area. Returnees come from Liberia border areas and presently live in poor conditions. Their houses were damaged and pillaged during the conflict. The monitoring mission to Boo Canton indicated that in collaboration with CARITAS and ICRC, IDPs should be provided shelter kits.

In Noé, 170 km from Abidjan on the south-eastern border between Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, 1,200 persons reside in three IDP sites. The security situation is stable. IDPs in the zone have access to basic services including shelter with host families, free medical check-ups and education for their children. However, IDPs here do not have access to drinking water. High cost of medication and malnutrition are looming. Presently, IDPs only get assistance from host families. Some IDPs would like to voluntarily return to their places of origin, but can not afford the cost of transportation. The monitoring mission to Noé recommended that the security of IDPs be ensured by the Government and UNOCI. It also recommended that after verification, IDPs that voluntarily wish to return should receive transportation support and provided with return kits.

LIBERIA

As of 07 July, the estimated total number of refugees in Liberia is **149,142**. UNHCR and partners continue to register new arrivals. With the exception of Grand Gedeh County, the overall security situation in Liberia remained relatively calm.

The Liberian Ministry of Internal Affairs is preparing a policy letter to pave the way for a "One Policy" on humanitarian response in support for refugees. Border monitors from Caritas have been installed along the border area, yet monitoring of fluid refugee flows between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia remains challenging.

• Protection

The number of new arrivals in Grand Gedeh has decreased significantly from 2,000 refugees coming into Liberia per week to about 300 per week. New arrivals are mainly reported along the Tempo road. Maryland County receives about 200-400 refugees per week. In Maryland County, refugees continue to arrive in the upper part of the County's border through Yobloken and Daykay Town. UNPOL/BINAT indicated that hundreds of refugees have returned voluntarily to Côte d'Ivoire. However, claims about mass returns have not been confirmed by the Bureau for Immigration and Naturalization (BIN). Ivorian Refugees continue to show up for registration at the UNHCR Office in Monrovia. This trend has however reduced significantly. Only one female Ivorian refugee was registered during the reporting period. UNHCR BO Monrovia has registered a total of 311 refugees in

Montserrado County and conducts counselling for refugees twice a week.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Monthly food distribution was carried out in the Bahn Camp during the reporting period. WFP provided food including rice, vegetable oil, and salt to 4,993 individuals (1,805 families). In Grand Gedeh, food distribution was completed in four out of five selected points. More than 60,000 refugees in host communities, including three camps and Toe Town transit centre received rations. Food distribution is ongoing in Boe and Pohan.

951,852 children were immunised against polio during the recently completed integrated round IV of the National Immunization Days. 17,107 children received polio vaccines. 822,169 children received vitamin A supplements. 746,999 children received de-worming medication (mebendazole). 5,625 out-patient consultations were conducted. 39 percent of the caseload was refugees. Malaria remains the leading cause of health consultation. However, this trend has slightly reduced from 35 percent to 30 percent approximately.

Following request by the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and its partners, the refugee host community in Grand Gedeh County agreed to issue more land to Ivorian refugees. In Nimba County, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reported that out of the total of 107 tents initially erected at the New Yourpea way station, 69 are currently in use, 17 are in repair and 21 were completely damaged (due to bad weather?). NRC completed the preparation of Block P site during the week in the PTP camp. A new fence (1,200m long) is being erected in Solo Camp to provide improved security and to separate the camp from the main road. The damaged log bridge between Toweh's Town and New Freetown along the Graie-Buoto highway in Nimba County has been repaired by ICRC.

Oxfam is pumping an average of 65m³/day of clean treated water from the treatment plant in Little Wlebo, Maryland. An additional 50 latrines and three garbage pits were constructed. The decommissioning of WASH facilities in Bishop Ferguson continued as people were relocated.

In Saclepea, 309 refugee pupils (150 boys, 159 girls) were enrolled at Johnny Voker Elementary and Junior High Extension. In Maryland, UNICEF received another consignment of educational materials this week. They also received 10 tents that will be used as temporal school shelters.

GHANA

In the western region, level II registration continues to be the central activity of all staff from Accra and Takoradi at the camp. Local authorities visited the camp on 7 July. They offered to collaborate with those involved in the construction of the camp.

• Protection

In Brong Ahafo there were 26 new arrivals during the reporting period. 60 persons not included in the original manifest came forward during food distribution. The camp population may be over 665 individuals presently. The Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) indicated that it will follow-up on the possible appointment of a camp manager to address the current camp management gap. Following complete relocation to Fetentaa, no progress has been made towards UNHCR's request that camp committees be established.

In the western region, the population of Eagle Star reception centre has doubled. The population on 8 July stands at 808 (197 women, 493 men, and 188 children). Living conditions have worsened as a result of population increase. However, according to immigration at the border, many Ivorians registered during the Level II registration have been seen returning to Côte d'Ivoire. UNHCR and immigration are working on a system to record returning figures and determine reasons for repatriation. The population of Ampain camp is 6,688 (2,103 families).

• Humanitarian Assistance

In Brong Ahafo, voluntary English classes have started in the school. Pupils attend school daily and teachers have requested teaching materials. There is no space to accommodate new arrivals. New tents were pitched in areas designated as fire zones to accommodate new arrivals. A total of 634 persons were provided food. 50 persons did not show up.

In the western region, testing of five borehole yields has been completed on Fetenta camp. 30 toilets and 20 showers have been completed. Installations in the superstructure began on 8 July.

GUINEA

The Guinean Government has submitted a forest health sector project proposal to the African Development Bank (ADB). This project will benefit new arriving Ivorian refugees and returnees in Guinea. In this light, UNHCR briefed an ADB mission to Guinea on the situation of refugees in N'zérékoré and in border communities.

• Protection

Three new Ivorian refugees were registered during the reporting period. As of 10 July, the total number of Ivorian refugees in Guinea stands at **2,397**.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Refugee Aid Belgium contacted UNHCR on family reunification for concerned children. Seven new income generating activities (IGA) were funded by the Association for Cooperative Operations Research and Development (ACORD). 25 Ivorian pupils including 4

girls are taking the Baccalaureate, which ends on 16 July. From 5 to 8 July 2011, UNHCR and WFP's implementing partners, ACORD and the Guinean Red Cross, distributed food to 4,641 Ivorian refugees in Kouankan II including 1,389 new Ivorian refugees.

TOGO

As of 14 July, the total number of Ivorian refugees in Togo stands at **3,737** persons. A significant number of Ivorian refugees have not shown up in recent days. The team on the ground is looking into the cause of the absences. Figures will be updated accordingly.

• Protection

During the reporting period, there were 127 new arrivals including 52 female and 75 male. 115 special needs refugees were relocated.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Non-food items including, 200 mats, 150 pots, 300 plates, 200 kg of detergent, 200 ladles, 900 bars of soap, 500 towels and 20 bags of coal were distributed. 342 patients were treated. 02 cases including 01 paediatric case was referred. Most patients suffered from malaria. 03 cases of psychopathology were referred.

BURKINA FASO

Thus far, the number of Ivorian asylum-seekers in Burkina Faso stands at **118**.

MALI

No new asylum-seekers were registered during the reporting period. The latest figure for new Ivorian asylum-seekers remains at **955**.

NIGERIA

Two new Ivorian asylum-seekers were registered during the reporting week. Thus far, the number of Ivorian asylum-seekers stands at **106**.

Two months food distribution for Ivorian asylum seekers took place last week. The food items distributed were rice, beans, salt and oil. So far, 15 families including 23 individuals have received rations. Another distribution is planned for those who did not turn up.

BENIN

23 Ivorian refugees were registered during the reporting period. Presently, there are **546** Ivorian asylum-seekers in Benin. Food distribution continues in the Agame site to 1,993 refugees.

SIERRA LEONE

Thus far, the number of Ivorian asylum-seekers in Sierra-Leone stands at **4**.

NIGER

The number of Ivorian asylum-seekers in Niger stands at **38**.

THE GAMBIA

According to the Gambia Refugee Commission (GRC), there are no more Ivorian asylum-seekers in The Gambia. All Ivorians have been issued with refugee ID

cards. The number of Ivorian asylum-seekers in The Gambia stands at **65**.

In urban centres, Ivorian refugees face lack of shelter, food and worsening living conditions.

GUINEA BISSAU

No new arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire were reported in Guinea Bissau during the reporting week. Thus far, the number of Ivorian asylum-seekers stands at **34**.

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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