

Update No. 33

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

19 September 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- In Western Côte d'Ivoire, 23 persons die in an armed attack on two villages near the Liberian border.
- In Ghana, three Ivorians are killed by unknown assailants, two near Ampain refugee camp and one near Eagle Star reception centre.
- In Liberia, 1,022 refugees are relocated to the camps, Toe Town transit centre closes.



Nahibly IDP site, Western Côte d'Ivoire (UNHCR/Hofbauer/ 2011)

Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/ Asylum seekers	2,477	118	972	17,888	4,761	698	96	130	58	76	94	62
Liberia	The total number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 176, 293.											

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 22 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	3,970,007
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	1,080,778
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 (*)	65,415,564
(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 towards UNHCR's initial response in Côte d'Ivoire in December 2010.	



Refugees in PTP camp, Liberia (UNHCR/Momodu/2011)

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Between 15 and 16 September 2011, an armed attack took place at Ziriglo and Nigré villages in Moyen Cavally region, 36 km from the provincial town of Tai and 7 km from the Liberian border. According to the Ivorian Ministry of Defense, 23 persons were killed in the attack, including 22 civilians and one member of the Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI), and 45 houses were set ablaze. Allegedly, the attack was carried out by suspected Ivorian militia and Liberian mercenaries.

FRCI, the Gendarmerie, and forces of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) are monitoring the area. UN peacekeepers in both Liberia and Ivory Coast have stepped up border patrols. Reports indicate that the population in the area continues to flee their villages, some of them crossing into Liberia. Traveling to the affected area on 20 September, UNHCR protection monitors from Man and Tabou will assess the situation to identify humanitarian needs.

• Protection

While the overall security situation in Abidjan remains calm, thefts and armed robberies, including the extortion by members of the FRCI, are still being

reported. The remaining FRCI control posts continue to be replaced by regular police.

• Humanitarian Assistance

On 6 September, a joint mission by UNHCR, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), IOM and CARE, visited villages near Guiglo and Blolequin to assess return conditions in the area. Following the signing of the Tripartite Agreement in August, the area has received increased numbers of returnees. Presently, there are 300 returnee families in the villages of Gama and Guere. The mission reported a lack of shelter material, food and non-food items, and potable water. Local authorities have taken up their responsibilities, and the FRCI is in charge of security. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is working on the rehabilitation of the hospital in Blolequin, which is functional again, and schools have reopened. Most humanitarian agencies have not returned to Blolequin as of now.

In anticipation of more returns to the area, the joint mission recommended to, inter alia: reinforce security in Blolequin and on the Guiglo axis; establish conflict prevention mechanisms; provide psycho-social support; assist in food and non-food items; rehabilitate water wells and electrical installations; and support the communities in reclaiming identity cards and civil documentation.

LIBERIA

The overall security situation in Liberia remained calm but fragile due to the fragile security situation along the border with Côte d'Ivoire as well as the upcoming presidential and legislative elections in Liberia.

Following the attack by armed men on the Ivorian villages of Ziriglou and Nigré, 7 km from the Liberian border, the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) instructed the UNHCR Field Office in Zwedru to temporarily withdraw its staff from the Tempo and Ziah areas in Grand Gedeh County.

The total number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 176,293 individuals.

• Protection

A total of 1,022 refugees were moved to refugee camps during the reporting period, including 724 from Zwedru to PTP camp, 212 from Pedebo, Cavalla, Pullah and Harper City to Little Wlebo camp, and 37 from River Gee to Little Wlebo camp. On 16 September, the last relocation of 49 refugees from Toe Town transit centre to Dougee camp was carried out. With this last movement, the Toe Town transit centre is now closed. Due to bad road conditions, the convoy movement from New Yourplea to Bahn camp in Nimba County had to be suspended. The refugees will be relocated in the coming days.

Joint sensitization campaigns on the relocation exercise by UNHCR and the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) continued in Maryland County. In some communities, the number of people wishing to relocate has reduced significantly, following the introduction of new services in the host communities.

In Grand Gedeh County, refugee camps continue to receive spontaneous arrivals. In the reporting period, 366 individuals arrived in Solo camp and 191 in Dougee camp. The slightly increased numbers include mostly refugees who had first settled in host communities without registering. There are few new arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire.

The profiling of new births by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) started in Bahn camp and on the Loguatu axis. By the close of the reporting period, NRC recorded 70 new births for Bahn and 112 new births on the Loguatu Axis. The exercise continues on other axes in the coming weeks.

Refugees continue to arrive at the LRRRC office in Harper at a rate of about 150 per week. While some are genuinely new arrivals, others are 'recyclers' already residing in the Little Wlebo camp. In the absence of biometric registration data, UNHCR and LRRRC are developing a screening system to help reduce this phenomenon.

On 14 September 2011, five male refugees were arrested by the Little Wlebo Refugees Community Watch Team and turned over to the police. They were charged with disorderly conduct and aggravated assault.

• Humanitarian Assistance

The general September food distribution for refugees in host communities started in communities in River Gee County. During the distribution, community members were informed that due to the difficult access, food distribution in some areas will only resume after the rains, approximately at the end of October. Road conditions continue in the county to deteriorate.

Food distribution is ongoing on the Buutuo axis and in Bahn refugee camp. UNHCR dispatched six commercial trucks to WFP to transport food.

In Maryland County, Logistics Services Liberia (LSL) received an assortment of non food items (NFIs) from Monrovia. Among them were 1,160 kitchen sets, 320 pieces of plastic mats, 360 blankets, and 75 light-weight tents. The NFI stock in Saclepea was replenished.

A total of 4,131 refugees participated in activities to raise awareness to gender based violence (GBV) issues in the four camps in Grand Gedeh County. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is conducting a five day workshop on basic business skills for 53 vulnerable families in Bahn camp.

Participants will receive financial grants to start their own businesses and improve their livelihood.

GHANA

In two separate security incidents in the Western Region, three Ivorian men were killed by unknown assailants. In the early morning hours of 14 September, an Ivorian male was found dead near Ampain camp. At the time of reporting, it was not established if the victim was registered as an asylum seeker. On 16 September, two dead Ivorian asylum seekers were found near the Eagle Star reception centre. Both individuals had arrived in Ghana on 15 September.

The killings are investigated by the local and regional police. The level of cooperation by the communities with the security agencies, however, is very low. In line with the investigation on the murders in Eagle Star, the police apprehended up to 35 persons, some of them residing in Egyeikrom camp in the Central Region.

• Protection

As a result of the incident in Eagle Star reception centre, the Ghanaian authorities and UNHCR decided to move all persons of concern from the reception centre to one of the established refugee camps – Ampain or Egyeikrom – with immediate effect. Preparatory work for the manifests of 227 individuals of concern was undertaken on 17 and 18 September.

A Government delegation from Ghana, supported by UNDP and UNHCR, departed on 15 September for a visit to Liberia to get information on the experiences of the Liberian Government with the separation and internment of ex-combatants. In addition, the delegation will look at the delivery of services to Ivorian refugees in Liberia.

On 12 September, UNHCR undertook a mission to host communities in the Western Region. In the district capital Half-Assini, the team met with coordinators of the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), asylum seekers and health authorities. According to NADMO, 786 refugees were living in Half-Assini as of June 2011. The president of the association of Ivorian asylum seekers in Half-Assini estimates the current figure to be close to 400. According to him, most asylum seekers moved to Takoradi and Accra, some relocated to refugee camps, and only few spontaneously returned to Côte d'Ivoire.

The asylum seekers in Half-Assini stated to have good relations with the host community. Most receive food assistance from their hosts. The interviewed refugees did not express the wish to repatriate. No asylum seekers are attending local schools.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In Fetantaa camp, in Brong Ahafo region, the monthly food distribution took place on 16 and 17 September. Normal rations, including corn soya blend (CSB), were distributed. The health status of refugees in the camp, including the under-five year old children, remains stable. Declining morbidity rates, despite the increase in population, indicate a positive impact of the camp clinic.

The school in Fetantaa camp is to reopen soon. The Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) has received uniforms for all school children and is putting in place the Ivorian academic structure.

On 14 September, a high-level donor mission from Accra visited Egyeikrom refugee camp. The mission consisted of the UNDP Resident Coordinator, the High Commissioner of the Canadian Embassy, ECHO, members of the US Embassy, and the country directors of UNICEF, WFP, and IOM.

TOGO

The total number of refugees registered by UNHCR stands unchanged at 4,761 individuals. The number of new arrivals reported by the Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), the government refugee agency, is diminishing, with 15 to 20 arrivals per day. Reportedly, most of the new arrivals are young single refugees arriving from Ghana.

• Protection

The human and financial resources of the CNAR are strained, making it difficult to ensure the efficient refugee status determination (RSD) for the pending backlog as well as an increasing number of new asylum seekers. At present, there are more than 300 cases in need of individual RSD.

UNHCR held meetings with the Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ATBEF), a Togolese non-governmental organisation providing health services, to improve the assistance for vulnerables with special needs, including victims of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

On 15 September, UNHCR and the coordinator of the CNAR met with urban refugees in Lomé to sensitize them with regard to the voluntary repatriation to Côte d'Ivoire. At present, around 50 refugees have expressed their desire to repatriate.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Between 13 and 15 September, food distribution for the month of September took place at the Avépozo refugee site. The rations included corn soya blend (CSB) and beans. Rice and vegetable oil will be distributed within the next ten days.

GUINEA

During the reporting period, UNHCR met with the Bureau Régional pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés (BRISR), the regional office of the Guinean commission for refugees, to discuss the verification and registration of refugees living outside the camp, the distribution of non food items (NFIs), and the planned intention survey on voluntary repatriation. A joint team of UNHCR, BRISR and the Guinean Red Cross (CRG) visited Kouankan 2 camp to sensitize refugees on durable solutions and the possibility of voluntary repatriation to Côte d'Ivoire.

On 15 September, the registration of refugees living in host communities started in the prefectures of N'Zérékoré, Beyla and Lola. Refugees at Karala community, having previously expressed their desire to move to the Kouankan 2 camp, will be relocated to the camp as soon as conditions permit.

MALI

On 14 September, UNCHR met with the Association des Réfugiés Ivoiriens au Mali (ARIM) to discuss durable solutions and the possibility of voluntary repatriation to Côte d'Ivoire. The profiling of the refugees starts on 19 September.

The number of registered Ivorian refugees in Mali is unchanged at 972.

BENIN

During the reporting period, the Commission Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), the government refugee agency, registered ten new Ivorian asylum seekers, bringing the total number to 698 individuals.

West Africa - Côte d'Ivoire Emergency

Number of refugees and IDPs

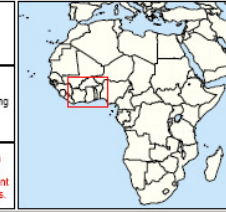
As of 19th September 2011



FIGSS
Field Information and
Coordination Support Section

Sources:
UNHCR, Global insight digital mapping
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The boundaries and names shown
and the designations used on this
map do not imply official endorsement
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- Capital
- UNHCR Country Office / National Office / Liaison Office
- UNHCR Sub-Office
- UNHCR Field Office
- UNHCR Field Unit
- UNHCR Planned Office
- IDP camp
- Refugee settlement
- Refugee camp
- Refugee centre
- Refugee location
- Urban refugee location
- Main town or village
- International boundary
- Main road
- Elevation (Above mean sea level)
 - 3,250 to 4,000 metres
 - 2,500 to 3,250 metres
 - 1,750 to 2,500 metres
 - 1,000 to 1,750 metres
 - 750 to 1,000 metres
 - 500 to 750 metres
 - 250 to 500 metres
 - 0 to 250 metres
 - Below mean sea level



* Unofficial estimate: In view of the volatile situation in Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR is not yet in a position to provide exact figures.

** Overall figures will be confirmed as verification continues in Liberia.

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