

Update No. 38

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

29 November 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Tripartite Agreement and Practical Modalities signed by the Governments of Cote d'Ivoire and Togo and UNHCR.**
- **UN Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire visits the country.**
- **SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict in Côte d'Ivoire for a one week visit.**
- **Joint Assessment Mission to River Gee and Maryland counties in Liberia.**



Voluntary repatriation convoy at Bahn refugee camp, Liberia (UNHCR/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	15,948	5,110	370	96	114	58	78	94	62
Liberia	The total number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 138,164 .											

Financial Information

UNHCR's financial requirements for West Africa	
Executive Committee approved budget (with adjustments)	\$ 101,081,351
Regional supplementary budget	\$ 125,993,835
TOTAL revised requirements	\$ 227,075,186

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa at 29 September 2011	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
African Development Bank	630,000
African Union	225,000
Australia	4,167,435
Belgium	1,430,615
Canada	2,335,363
CERF	5,080,281
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	1,081,573
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 (*)	66,626,633
(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 towards UNHCR's initial response in Côte d'Ivoire in December 2010.	



Refugee girl in Kouankan 2 camp, Guinea (UNHCR/Zoupanou/2011)

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Mission of UN Human Rights Expert: The United Nations Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, Doudou Diène, visited the country from 14 to 25 November to assess the human rights situation after the post-election crisis. He met with the President of Côte d'Ivoire, high-level officials and civil society representatives, and visited detention centres in Abidjan, Korrogho, Odiénné, Bouna and Katiola. The Expert will present his

findings to the Human Rights Council in March 2012.

Elections: The preparations of the parliamentary elections in Côte d'Ivoire to be held on 11 December are ongoing. On 21 November, the Independent Electoral Commission (CIS) stated that 943 out of 1,182 candidates were approved. The CIS also announced that 25,000 members of the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI) will be deployed throughout the country to secure the electoral process.

Visit of SRSG on Sexual Violence: The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, arrived in Abidjan on 21 November for a one week visit.

In view of the upcoming elections, she urged the Government and all political leaders to speak out against sexual violence and advocated against impunity and for preventive measures. She also stressed the need for more assistance for survivors of sexual violence. On 25 November, the SRSG attended the official ceremony to launch the "16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women" in Bingerville.

At the same time, UNICEF reported that at least 1,121 women and children in Cote d'Ivoire have become victims of serious human rights violations between November 2010 and September 2011. Of these violations, 643 were committed against children, including 182 rapes. Most of the crimes have gone unpunished, as only 52 cases were brought to justice.

Security: The security situation in the different zones of Abidjan remains generally calm, but residents continue to report security incidents including armed robberies. In Man, the general security situation remains tense.

• Protection

Voluntary Repatriation: Spontaneous returns from Liberia continue to be registered by UNHCR monitors at both official and unofficial border crossings. UNHCR in Tabou registered more than 500 returnees in the areas of Gozon, Djamadioke and Yeouly, between 19 and 26 November.

Since 14 September, when the monitoring and reception mechanism at the official border crossings were strengthened, a total of 7,895 returnees have received assistance by UNHCR in terms of transportation and non-food items (NFI). 7,476 of them arrived spontaneously, and 419 in facilitated return convoys.

On 15 November, UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia agreed on the calendar for organised return operations. With effect from 22 November, two weekly voluntary repatriation convoys have been scheduled, and the last convoy for 2012 will be on 22 December. The road to Logouato and the two bridges at Pekan Barrage require rehabilitation by UNOCI.

Training for FRCI: UNHCR in collaboration with the Côte d'Ivoire Armed Forces organised a joint training program for 140 higher and lower level FRCI officers, between 16 and 23 November. Topics of the training included human rights, elections, the rule of law, gender based violence, as well as the protection of refugees, IDPs, children, and the stateless people.

• Internally Displaced People

IDP Returns: Following the decision of the Ivorian Government to close IDP sites by the end of 2011, the humanitarian task force set up to assist IDP returns started to facilitate the voluntary return of IDPs from the Catholic Mission in Duékoué on 16 November. As of 22 November, three convoys had transported a total of 1,308 persons to their home areas. The total planning figure for the operation is 2,893 persons. All returnees are provided with a return kit, and IOM arranges their transportation.

UNHCR continues to sensitize the communities in the areas of return to facilitate the integration of the returnees. Given the level of destruction in the return areas of Niambly, around 142 returnee families are temporarily being sheltered in a school.

LIBERIA

Security: The general security situation in Liberia has improved as a result of ongoing reconciliation efforts among political leaders.

16 Days of Activism: In the refugee camps and various locations, UNHCR and partners organized events to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

Joint Assessment Mission: In River Gee and Maryland counties, a Joint Assessment Mission including the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR assessed the current dynamics within refugee hosting communities. The mission found that food security continues to be fragile and food assistance to refugees in these counties will continue, with a further review in early 2012.

Cross Border Mission: A mission from Côte d'Ivoire, composed of ONUCI, UNHCR, WFP and OCHA, visited Grand Gedeh county to conduct an assessment on return conditions for refugees in refugee camps and host communities, and to strengthen cross border coordination and collaboration between Agencies.

• Protection

Refugee verification: The verification of Ivorian refugees commenced in Little Wlebo Camp and Grand Gedeh County, on Monday 28 November. Continuous verification exercises are necessary because of the high numbers of spontaneous returns from Liberia to Cote d'Ivoire. Statistics are updated as a result.

New arrivals: In Grand Gedeh County, monitors reported the new arrival of eight Ivorians from the Bolequin region, citing security concerns as the reason for fleeing.

BID Training: On 23 November, UNHCR facilitated a Best Interest Determination (BID) training at the LRRRC Office in Harper. Participants included representatives from the LRRRC, government ministries, UNICEF and UNHCR. The identified BID panel will focus on intervention measures to prevent and respond to child protection issues, designed to be used together with the UNHCR Guidelines for Determining the Best Interests of the Child.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Bad road conditions continue to hamper humanitarian operations in the region.

Health: A 10-day National Integrated Measles and Polio campaign commenced in Nimba county at various health centres and border communities. Financed by WHO and UNICEF, the combined immunization and nutritional program is targeting both Liberian and refugee children between the ages of six months and five years in relocation and border communities.

Education: A refugee initiative to start a secondary school in Solo Camp is under review. They are requesting assistance from UNHCR to continue operating the school where 238 children are enrolled for secondary school education. UNHCR provides primary education for refugee children aged 6-11 in all camps, with a target of 100% of children in that age group attending school.

Livelihoods: The construction of chicken poultry infrastructures in Little Wlebo Camp is almost complete. Proceeds from the poultry farming will be used to assist vulnerable families in the camp. Their identification is underway.

GHANA

The total number of Ivorian asylum seekers in Ghana stands at 15,948, out of which 7,499 are staying in camps and 8,449 among host communities. These figures do not yet reflect the recent Level II registration of asylum seekers residing in Western and Central Region host communities.

• Protection

New arrivals: Sixty four newly arrived asylum seekers were received at the Eagle Star Reception Centre during the reporting period. Additionally, 14 new arrivals were registered at Fetentaa Camp. Many of the new arrivals state that they have crossed into Ghana to re-unite with family members who fled earlier.

Relocation: On 22 November, 43 individuals were relocated from the Eagle Star Reception Centre to Ampain camp. The movement enabled newly arrived pregnant and lactating mothers plus

unaccompanied minors to re-join their families who are already staying in Ampain.

VolRep: Two families in Ampain camp expressed interest in voluntary repatriation during the reporting period, bringing the total number to 26 individuals.

• Humanitarian Assistance

SGBV: In Ampain camp, between 21 and 22 November, UNHCR organised a training for members of the SGBV committee on the prevention, identification and handling of SGBV cases.

Education: UNICEF has provided a total of 4,501 assorted secondary school textbooks for Ampain camp. The local implementing partner, the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG), handed over the books to the school teachers on 23 November. Following appeals by teachers in all three camps, UNHCR aims to engage private sponsors to provide school libraries.

Basic Services: In Ampain camp, the water supply project constructed by Oxfam is nearing completion. It will supply four standpoints with eight water-fetching points. Oxfam is hoping to finalise the work before 30 November.

Host communities: 600 bags of Maize, 300 bags of beans and 52 bags of salt were distributed to vulnerable groups at five hospitals in host communities in the Western and Central Regions.

TOGO

Tripartite Agreement: On 15 November, a Tripartite Agreement on the repatriation of Ivorian refugees was signed by the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Togo and UNHCR. A technical Task Force, composed of UNHCR, local implementing partners, and the Togolese authorities, has been created to oversee the planning and implementation of the repatriation exercise.

Indeed, the logistical and technical arrangements of the first voluntary repatriation convoy, scheduled for 30 November, were prepared. UNHCR and the Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR) informed the registered refugees about the procedures and conducted the medical screening and vaccination. The task force has also been conducting awareness campaigns for all refugees interested in repatriation.

The total number of Ivorian refugees in Togo stands at 5,119, out of which 2,807 are in camps while 2,312 are in Lomé.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Food distribution: From 15 to 17 November, food distribution for urban refugees took place in Lomé,

servicing a total of 1,623 refugees. The distributed food completed the monthly ration distributed at the beginning of the month. In Avépozo, the distribution for the month of November, servicing a total of 2,570 refugees, took place between 21 to 23 November. The rations provided by WFP were composed of rice, beans, corn soya blend (DSB) and vegetable oil.

Livelihoods: On the Avépozo site, ADRA and ATBEF continued to identify refugee-initiated income generating projects to receive support and regular follow-up.

Education: During the reporting period, school kits were distributed to refugee children enrolled after the beginning of the school year. UNHCR also provided a list with refugee students to the University of Lomé to ensure that refugees be enrolled for the standard fee and receive orientation as required.

Health: In the two weeks covered by this report, 793 patients received treatment at the clinic in Avépozo. The psychological service received 43 patients.

GUINEA

The total number of registered Ivorian refugees arrived after November 2010 stands unchanged at 2,480.

Food distribution: The next distribution of food and non-food items in Kouankan 2 camp is scheduled for 6 December. WFP, UNHCR and partners are looking into the best arrangements to avoid logistical constraints.

Protection: UNHCR, the ICRC, and the Guinean Red Cross (CRG) met in Kouankan 2 to discuss the situation of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in the camp and formulated recommendations to improve information exchange mechanisms, and the follow-up and response to the specific needs of UAMs.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and the Bureau Régional pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés (BRISR), briefed the new ad-hoc committee of Ivorian refugees in Kouankan 2 on their role and duties.

Kerosene distribution took place in Kouankan 2. Each family received two liters of kerosene to cover the months of November and December.

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

For further information, please contact:

UNHCR Headquarters
94, Rue de Montbrillant
Geneva, 1202

Valentin Tapsoba
Regional Representative
UNHCR RRWA, Dakar
Phone: +221 33 867 62 07
Email: tapsoba@unhcr.org

Rebecca Svad
Associate Durable Solutions Officer
UNHCR RRWA, Dakar
Phone: +221 33 867 62 07
Email: svad@unhcr.org

Ivo Brandau
Reporting Officer
UNHCR RRWA, Dakar
Phone: + 221 33 867 62 07
Mobile: + 221 77 333 07 25
Email: brandau@unhcr.org

