

# Update No. 21

## Côte d'Ivoire Situation

16 June 2011



### HIGHLIGHTS

- Following the formation of the new Government on 1 June 2011, appropriate decisions have been taken to return the military into their barracks and to remove checkpoints from towns and highways. In addition, police and gendarmes are expected to replace the military to perform their regular law and order duties.
- After the confirmation of at least 10 cases of cholera in the Koumassi district of Abidjan, UNICEF provided medical supplies to local authorities to treat infected people, and together with government and international partners, mobilized to provide access to clean water to an estimated 250,000 people across the country.
- The Abidjan Humanitarian Coordination Team met on 7 June and stressed the need to reassess the humanitarian situation in the country and provide adequate assistance. The Team also appealed for additional financial support
- The Minister of Interior recently approached humanitarian agencies for their assistance to 6,000 families (30,000 persons) living in the slum areas of Abidjan, who are affected by flood.



Borehole, Ampain Camp, Ghana (UNHCR/2011)

60  
YEARS



## Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/Asylum seekers	2,791	116	941	16,720	5,890	462	79	104	64	34	52	4
Liberia	The total estimated number of Ivorian refugees stands at 133,714.											

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.

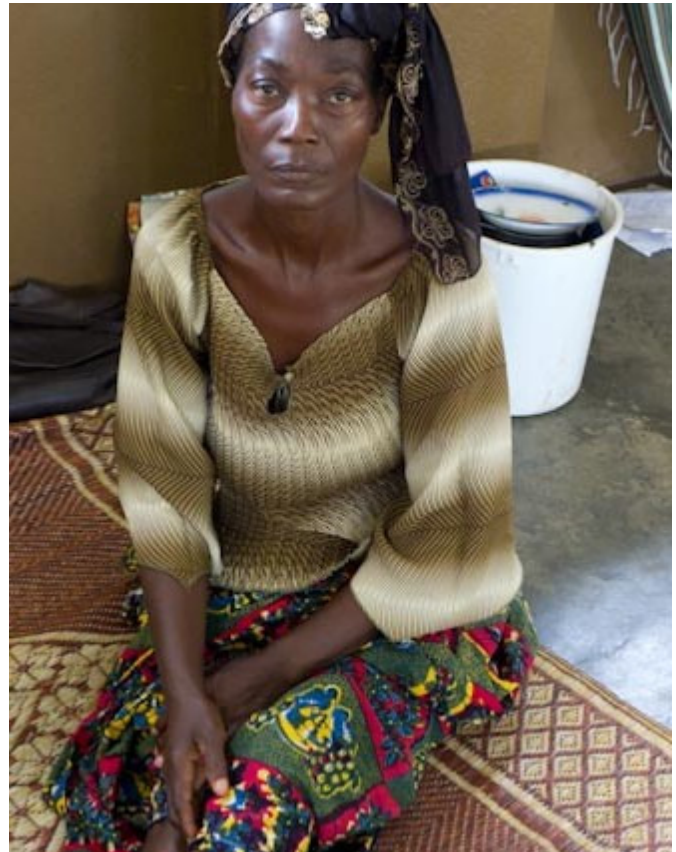
## Financial Information

UNHCR's financial requirements for West Africa	
Executive Committee approved budget (with adjustments)	\$ 99,909,136
Regional supplementary budget	\$ 125,993,829
<b>TOTAL revised requirements</b>	<b>\$ 225,902,965</b>

### 2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa at 16 June 2011

Donor	Contribution (USD)
African Union	125,000
Australia	2,028,398
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
Liechtenstein	108,460
Ireland	544,959
Norway	1,431,127
OPEC fund for Intl. Dev.	339,234
Private donors	596,676
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
<b>TOTAL (*)</b>	<b>49,887,433</b>

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



Internally displaced woman, Mission Catholique, Duékoué, western Côte d'Ivoire. (UNHCR/deWOELMONT/2011)

## Country Operations

### CÔTE D'IVOIRE

According to the figures gathered by humanitarian agencies working in the country, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) reaches over **201,000**, with near 13,100 persons in 6 locations in the east; 132,200 in 40 locations in the west; and 55,900 in 87 locations in and around Abidjan.

#### • Protection

A mission composed of the International Rescue Committee, IOM, UNHCR, *Afrique Secours et Assistance*, FAO, the Norwegian Refugee Council, UNPOL and AWECO assessed the conditions of return in the villages of Zeo, Da Zagan, Gohouo, Zagan and Bangolo, accompanied by the district officials and IDPs from Bangolo and the affected areas, including 10 IDPs from the Catholic Mission in

Duékoué. The general condition of the area, including the security condition, was found to be acceptable. Most houses were not destroyed but some were looted. However, communal conflict, the presence of armed persons in the area and reports of extortions restrict the free movement of people.

During the week, UNHCR assisted 345 Liberian refugees to voluntary repatriate from Tabou to Harper. The first convoy departed on 7 June with 204 refugees and a second one left on 10 June with 141 persons.

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

The construction of the Nahibly site in the east is progressing with the construction of 8 blocks of showers, 8 blocks of latrines, 5 kitchens, 450 meters of fencing and 2 additional living blocks, as well as the

establishment of and electrical and water systems. In Daloa, where normal water distribution has been interrupted for more than a week, 15 water bladders are being installed to give enough water to 100,000 persons on a daily basis. In Bouaflé, four bladders were set up to provide water to 6,000 persons. These installations provide temporary relief while the water distribution company (SODECI) is doing repair on the water supply network in Daloa and Bouaflé. In the west, local capacities to provide water are overwhelmed by the large numbers of IDPs. To supplement the water network and reduce the risk of spread of diseases, partners are providing enough water for 2,000 IDPs daily in the Danané II site and for 5,000 IDPs in Duékoué. In addition, UNICEF is promoting good hygiene practices by distributing supplies to treat cholera and water purification tablets for 240,000 people. It has also launched a public-awareness campaign on community radios across the country to inform the population on techniques to purify water at home and other basic hygiene practices.

## LIBERIA

As of 11 June, the estimated total refugee number stands at over **133,700**. Near 69,400 refugees are hosted in Grand Gedeh, some 45,000 in Nimba, 16,400 in Maryland and over 2,900 in River Gee. The overall numbers of refugees by location remains dynamic as new arrivals are observed while returns to Côte d'Ivoire are also taking place. This fluidity continues to pose registration and verification teams with serious challenges to individually verify refugees. In Nimba County, the verification exercise was conducted in 68 villages and was confirmed as substantially completed. The verified figure at Nimba now stands at 40,144 refugees, but the Verification Task Force agreed to add an additional 10 per cent to the UNHCR figure to account for some reported cases of probable non-verification, thus rounding the figure up to 45,000 individuals. This number is a figure close to the data obtained by the WHO-lead health sector during the recent yellow fever immunization campaign, which was jointly supported by UNICEF. Verification in Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland counties is expected to be completed by the end of June. In Solo Town transit centre (Grand Gedeh), the humanitarian community agreed to temporarily suspend humanitarian activities after security threats aimed at humanitarian personnel were reported. Despite this difficult security environment, three truckloads with water were ordered to Solo Town transit centre to provide necessary water supply to persons of concern.

### • Protection

In Maryland, UNHCR, UNICEF and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted an awareness campaign on child protection with focus on identification, tracing and assistance to unaccompanied minors and separated children in Little Wlebo refugee camp. UNPOL-BINAT observed an upward trend in the departure of Ivorian refugees from Maryland. The police continued to conduct screening for the refugees being relocated to Little Wlebo

refugee camp. The Liberian Government, through its refugee agency LRRRC, informed UNHCR that Bishop Ferguson, currently being used as temporary centre for refugees, will be returned to the owner by 31 July.

### • Humanitarian Assistance

UNHCR's consultant on mental health and psychosocial support concluded a 9-day field mission to all refugee affected counties to determine the extent of the mental and psychosocial situation among refugees. The consultant also looked into devise intervention mechanisms (strategy and action plan). UNHCR, Merlin, *Merci* and the County Health Team in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF have initiated mass measles vaccination for all children under the age of five in Maryland. Following the outbreak of measles in Maryland, the Grand Gedeh County Health Team has also initiated a plan to conduct a mass measles vaccination. UNHCR has issued 6,000 mosquito bed nets impregnated with long-lasting insecticide to be used in Nimba County. Their distribution will take place in priority in Bahn camp, New Yourpea transit centre, Zorgowee transit centre, and the refugee relocation communities.

In Nimba County, a total of 918 shelters have been constructed in Bahn camp. Of these, 73 remain currently empty. During the past week, 45 people have been relocated to Bahn via the New Yourpea way station. Space for 1,000 people is also available at Bahn camp transit centre. Action is underway to identify additional land for extension of the transit centres at Solo Town and Dougee. Preparations for the establishment of the new camp (PTP) are underway, with a goal to allow movement of refugees to the camp by the end of June. However, this will depend on prevailing weather conditions in the coming weeks. Work to upgrade the road from Zwedru to the PTP camp has now started with the assistance of UNMIL Road Construction resources and German Agro Action (GAA). GAA is also constructing a temporary bypass bridge. The completion of these works is also heavily dependent on weather conditions.

In the education sector, joint rapid needs assessments were completed in border communities in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland, under the leadership of the Ministry of Education (MOE). The data will be processed in Monrovia by a multi-agency team. Results of the Joint Rapid Needs Assessment will be available by the beginning of July and will be used by the MOE to prepare its 2012 plan. UNICEF has dispatched 73,000 books for the Ivorian curriculum, to reach 10,000 children in refugee camps, transit centres, and designated host communities. Once UNICEF partners will intervene in the border communities, the distribution of books will reach up to 30,000 primary school Ivorian students.

## GHANA

In the **Brong Ahafo region**, improved weather conditions facilitated the recovering of the land in Fetenta. The roller has levelled a portion of land to

accommodate an estimated 50 families (around 250 people) while more space is being recovered. Before the end of next week, UNHCR will attempt to move all families living in Berekum transit centre to Fetenta.

In the **western region**, heavy rains have continued to create water logs and to pose challenges for a healthy environment. The rains damage tents, food items and other belongings of asylum-seekers. In order to maintain the civilian character of Ampain camp, UNHCR and the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) conducted several interviews of mainly single men. Those who have family members at Ampain camp are reunified with them after a cross-check and match of information from the family. Similarly, unaccompanied minors identified at Eagle Star are also reunified with parents at Ampain camp.

#### • Protection

In the **Brong Ahafo region**, the issuance of GRB attestations to individuals continues. Data cleansing has been completed for verified population in Brong Ahafo. The verification exercise included a total of 794 individuals in 290 households. Of these, 588 individuals declared to reside in Berekum transit centre and 180 at Fetentaa camp. The other 26 live in communities in Atuna (1), Berekum Town (12), Drobo (4), Sampa (3) and Sunyani (6). Almost half of the population comes from Bondoukou in the Zanzan region of Côte d'Ivoire, and slightly more than 25 per cent from Yopougon and Abobo communities in Abidjan.

In the **western region**, the rate of new arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire increased again last week. The newly arrived population is mostly composed of women and children, with single men also coming in relatively great numbers. Currently, Eagle Star reception centre hosts a total of 559 Ivorian asylum-seekers and, as of 14 June, Ampain camp had a population of 6,468. Accommodation for asylum-seekers at Ampain has been challenging as the camp has exceeded its total space capacity. The registration of asylum-seekers in host communities has continued in various locations. However, some asylum-seekers have spontaneously returned to Côte d'Ivoire, reportedly due to challenges faced with their living conditions and increase in utility bills of their hosts. Protection counselling for asylum-seekers continued, with 24 people benefited from those during the week. Psychosocial counselling continues for asylum-seekers disturbed by the conflict. Three related SGBV cases were identified, referred to UNHCR and have received appropriate attention. In an effort to provide protection and assistance of separated and unaccompanied minors in Ampain camp, the Ghana District Social Welfare (DSW), Axim and UNHCR jointly started to issue documentation to these children on 14 June.

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

In the **Brong Ahafo region**, 4 shelter blocks (each having 15 plots) have been completed at Fetenta. A total of 57 tents have been pitched as emergency shelters. Action Aid Team arrived on 11 June with a

food donation and along with media representatives who interviewed the camp manager and the asylum-seekers. The food items were distributed immediately according to family size and the remaining food will be provided to those with serious medical conditions to supplement their diet. A second 10,000 litres poly-tank has been installed in the camp and has been filled with water. This emergency measure was dictated by the difficulties that the water truck faces in accessing the camp when it rains and the soil is muddy. Both poly-tanks serve a population of 185 persons at about 100 litres per person per day. Once all construction works are completed at Fetenta, the latrines will serve a population of 680 at minimum ratio of one toilet per 20 users. The environmental sanitation is improved since 8 garbage containers have been placed in various locations. A WASH committee will be formed and trained once the majority of the asylum-seekers in Berekum transit camp will have been relocated to Fetenta. Meanwhile, some asylum-seekers volunteered to keep the latrines and showers clean.

In the **western region**, NADMO supported some lactating mothers and pregnant women with 150 mattresses. This is to help alleviate the wet weather conditions in the tents during the rainy season. UNHCR's implementing partner, the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG), continues to provide educational materials such as benches for basic education of asylum-seeker children at Ampain camp. The current Ivorian education program will last for 6 months with the first assessment of children's performance/progress to start at the end of June.

In the **central region**, a mission was conducted to Egeyikrom to assess the progress in developing the new campsite.

## GUINEA

Nineteen new arrivals were registered by the *Mission Nationale pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés* (CNISR) over the past week, bringing the total of Ivorian refugees registered in Guinea to **2,791**. As of 13 June, 1,205 Ivorian refugees were hosted in Kouankan II camp, 579 in Kouankan I transit centre, 427 in N'Zérékoré town, 134 in Karala, 130 in Sino and Beyla prefectures and 316 in Conakry.

From 7 to 10 June, UNHCR, WFP, the Guinean Red Cross, ACORD and the *Bureau Régional d'Intégration et du Statut de Réfugié* (BRISR) participated in the general food distribution for Ivorian refugees in Kouankan II. The distribution was targeted to 4,434 Ivorian refugees (both pre and post November 2010).

## TOGO

297 arrivals have been reported in the course of last week, bringing the total number of Ivorian refugees in Togo to **5,890**. The number of new arrivals has stabilized at around 40 per day. As of 11 June, 1,739 Ivorian refugees were verified to be hosted in Tropicana camp.

#### • Protection

On 8 June, UNHCR protection section visited Tropicana camp site in order to identify protection problems and respond with appropriate solutions. On average, 100 refugee identity cards are delivered to Ivorian refugees each week. Two additional families (7 individuals) introduced a demand for voluntary repatriation.

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

At Tropicana camp, construction of semi-durable shelters has been accelerated despite the heavy rains to ensure a roof for every Ivorian refugee. Blankets have been distributed on 8 June to all newcomers and food distribution to Ivorian refugees started on 13 June in the camp. The distribution is still ongoing and will benefit a total of 831 families. 168 patients were treated on the Tropicana site during the week and 174 vulnerable persons received mosquito nets. Discussions between UNHCR, the *Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés* (CNAR), UNICEF and the Togolese authorities in charge of education have started to put in place the necessary mechanisms to ensure education of refugee students at Tropicana camp during the holidays and for the next academic year.

#### **BURKINA FASO**

The number of Ivorian asylum-seekers in Burkina Faso stands at **116**.

#### **MALI**

No new arrivals of Ivorian asylum-seekers were registered. There are **941** registered Ivorian asylum-seekers in Mali.

#### **NIGERIA**

No new arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire were reported in the course of the week. Thus far, **105** Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered in Nigeria.

#### **BENIN**

There are **462** Ivorian asylum-seekers (301 households) in Benin thereby indicating an increase of 28 new arrivals registered by the *Comité National Chargé des Réfugiés* (CNAR) during the week.

#### **SIERRA LEONE**

No new arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire reported in the course of the week. The number of Ivorian asylum-seekers in Sierra Leone stands at **4**.

#### **NIGER**

Thus far, **79** Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered in Niger.

#### **THE GAMBIA**

No new arrivals were reported this week. Thus far, **52** Ivorian refugees have been registered in The Gambia.

#### **GUINEA BISSAU**

There are **34** Ivorian asylum-seekers registered in Guinea-Bissau.

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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