

Update No. 29

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

22 August 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- The Governments of Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and UNHCR have signed a Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees from Liberia.
- A series of politically instigated outbreaks of violence heightened security concerns in Liberia ahead of the 23 August 2011 National Constitutional Referendum and the upcoming presidential and legislative elections.
- On 14 August 2011, following increasing tension between refugees from the Tropicana/Avepozo camp and the local community, a fight broke out between the two groups near the entrance to the camp. Unrest continued until the early hours of the 15 August.



IDP shelter, Duékoué Catholic Mission, Cote d'Ivoire. (UNHCR/Dewoelmont /2011)

60
YEARS



Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/ Asylum seekers	2,515	118	972	17,159	4,295	613	96	130	58	36	94	62
Liberia	The total estimated number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 171,362.											

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 18 August 2011

Donor	Contribution (USD)
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	3,939,090
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
Norway	1,431,127
OPEC fund for Intl. Dev.	339,234
Private donors	1004345
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 (*)	62,410,097

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



Destroyed houses in Quartier Carrefour, Duékoué, Côte d'Ivoire. (UNHCR/Dewoelmont /2011)

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

In August 2011, the Governments of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and UNHCR signed a Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees from Liberia. As part of the agreement, the parties agree that Ivorian refugees who do not wish to repatriate will not be forced to return to Côte d'Ivoire.

• Protection

In Abidjan, initial findings of monitoring reports indicate that many parts of the populous areas of Yopougon

and Abobo are becoming more stable. Although some people who had fled the two areas have indicated an unwillingness to return due to the fear of persecution, many of those displaced during the Post Election Violence are returning home. Several humanitarian organisations are already providing assistance to returnees in Yopougon.

In Western Côte d'Ivoire, the security situation in certain areas remains a major cause for concern for returnees. In Tai and Bolequin, there is latent community conflict based on ethnic divides and rooted in a general lack of mutual trust amongst communities. There is a significant presence of "civilians" in possession of arms. Women also face difficulties accessing markets and services because of threats and intimidation in hostile neighbourhoods.

On 16 August, the UNHCR office in Man assisted the spontaneous returns of 354 refugees from Liberia towards Toulepleu, Bolequin, Guiglo and Soubre. From 19 to 22 August, UNHCR organized the return of 109 IDP households consisting of 403 individuals to the axis of Danané –Zouan Hounien, western Côte d'Ivoire (CIV).

August 2011 IDP Statistics in Côte d'Ivoire:

- There are 48 IDP sites in Côte d'Ivoire, 27 of which are in Abidjan.
- 6913 households (30,079 persons) in IDP sites.
- 2062 households (7024 persons) in Abidjan and its vicinity.
- An estimated 500,000 IDPs country-wide.

• Humanitarian Assistance

UNHCR and WFP met to discuss their pre-positioning strategy for 6,000 families in 50 villages within Toulepleu. The objective was to ensure supply of non food items (NFIs) for vulnerable communities in western Cote d'Ivoire. Distribution had already commenced 27 July, but the trucks were found to be in poor mechanical condition. In response, UNOCI provided two trucks to assist with the distribution.

LIBERIA

A series of politically instigated outbreaks of violence heightened security concerns in Liberia ahead of the 23 August 2011 National Constitutional Referendum and the forthcoming presidential and legislative elections. In a nationwide address on 18 August 2011, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf warned that political violence could spark a slide back into civil conflict.

• Protection

The estimated figure of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 172,969 individuals mainly concentrated in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties.

New arrivals continue to be received in various border counties. Dougee and Solo refugee camps in Grand Gedeh County received more than 500 spontaneous arrivals mostly coming from the Bolequin region of Côte d'Ivoire.

In a separate development, the NGO Solidarites reported that 900 refugees that arrived in Liberia in March were not registered. These refugees are reportedly living in a remote community near Polar town, Grand Gedeh County. An assessment mission has been scheduled.

Meanwhile, relocation of Ivorian refugees to refugee camps continued. Six separated children (SC) were identified during the relocation of some 221 refugees (79 families) from Harper Town to Little Wlebo camp,

Maryland County, and referred to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) for appropriate follow-up.

Some 39 refugees (16 families) were relocated from the Zorgowee transit centre to the Bahn camp, Nimba County. Two families comprising seven individuals were relocated from Monrovia to the Bahn refugee camp and one family to Zwedru camp, Grand Gedeh County.

Registration and provision of identity documents to persons of concern continued in Monrovia. One family of five individuals was registered, while one refugee was issued a refugee attestation/certificate.

UNHCR and the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) conducted a mission to River Gee County between 18 – 21 August to assess protection issues and organize a relocation exercise.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Some 3,013 refugees in Pleebo City (Maryland County) and 1,877 refugees in Dakely received food items during the reporting week. General food distribution is ongoing in host communities in River Gee County.

UNHCR, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and LRRRC distributed non-food items (NFIs) to refugees in the relocation community in Yourpea Old Town, Nimba County. A total of 862 individuals (47 families) received NFIs. NFIs were also distributed to refugees in Maryland County.

Deplorable roads and broken bridges continue to pose a serious challenge to humanitarian activities, and in Grand Gedeh County, bulldozers were deployed to Dougee camp and Prime Timber Production (PTP) camp site. Indeed level 2 refugee registration and protection monitoring activities were suspended in the Janzon axis due to bad roads between Zwedru and Janzon, Grand Gedeh County.

Refugee students in Karnplay engaged in low land development have cleared 1.5 acres plot for planting. The low land development initiative is supported by International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA).

A Women's Centre opened in Bahn Refugee Camp on 20 August. With the opening of the Centre, it is hoped that victims of Gender-Based Violence in the camp will report them with ease.

On 18 August, UNHCR handed over a CD-4 counting machine to the Nimba County Health Team. The device will support the Saclepea Comprehensive Health Centre's (SCHC) HIV/AIDS programmes, which refugees are also benefiting from.

Following reports that some private and semi-private hospitals charge refugees higher fees than Liberian nationals for health services, UNHCR and the

Community Health Education and Social Services (CHESS) met with Ganta Methodist Hospital officials to address the issue. The hospital has now agreed to charge refugees the same fees as nationals. Similar discussions are being held with Tappita Hospital, Nimba County.

UNHCR donated 6,725 kg of rice, 100 gallons of vegetable oil and 10 sachets of salt to HIV/AIDS patients in Grand Gedeh County. The donation will be used for patients at the Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital and in other health facilities, which currently provide care and treatment to 315 persons living with HIV/AIDS. Some 25% of these patients are refugees.

CRS reported completion of shelters in relocation communities in Nimba County including 180 in Old Yorpea, 75 in Toweh, 84 in Mahdiplay and 74 shelters in Gbeinvowea Towns.

Save the Children-UK distributed some assorted text books and school bags to 400 refugee children in Dubuzon, Kaylay, Behwalay, Biahplay and Florlay Towns in Nimba County in preparation for the next academic school year.

In accordance with the Liberian curriculum, registration of refugee children in primary and secondary schools in Saclepea and in communities has begun. In Dougee refugee camp, 1,165 refugee women and girls received dignity kits.

GHANA

• Protection

The refugee population in Fetentaa Camp, Brong Ahafo region, was 883 in August. During the last week of August, the camp received 36 new arrivals including 19 asylum seekers relocated from Accra. The new arrivals were registered and provided with the standard food and NFI package.

UNHCR will liaise with the Christian Council of Ghana's (CCG) Education Coordinator to determine the best course of action for students, adolescents and young adults idling in the camp.

In the Western Region, the population in Ampain camp was 4,600. Distribution of attestations was undertaken during the reporting week. At the Eagle Star reception centre, the refugee population stood at 1,087; there was an increase of 16 new arrivals. Two convoys were organized on 15 and 17 August, for 74 asylum seekers.

New arrivals are mainly made up of women and children. Space and accommodation problems continue at Eagle Star reception centre. Families with children are being integrated into tents occupied by young men due to lack of space. UNHCR is making efforts to avoid Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and related issues from arising. Some tents are occupied by as many as 11 persons. The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) decision to move

from the border back to the camp will address some of the medical cases that have developed.

In the Central Region, the population at the Egyeikrom camp stood at 613 individuals. The National Catholic Secretariat (NCS) completed registration of the under-five population. NCS also conducted a teaching exercise for asylum seekers in the use of corn and beans as supplementary foods ('weanimix') for children.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In the Western region, CCG has begun construction of two structures to be allocated to the Child-Friendly Space project. Selected teachers joined their counterparts from Egyeikrom camp to attend a training programme organized in Takoradi by CCG on 17 August.

184 blankets, 180 mats, 72 mosquito nets, 6 boxes of soap, 2 boxes of plates, cups, spoons and 4 boxes of sanitary towels were distributed during the week.

In the Central Region, completed construction works include:

- Eating facilities building (no electricity available).
- Administration building.
- The store room. Needs to be connected to electrical grid.
- The reception centre.
- All four buildings of the school.
- Electrical installation in the Administration building, warehouse and police station.

NCS carried out food distribution on 17 and 18 August to 255 asylum seekers. Available food stock could not allow for all asylum seekers to receive full food rations. In addition, NCS donated mattresses to seven pregnant women in their third trimester.

On 17 and 18 August, 64.25 bags of rice, 7.65 bags of beans, 7.65 bags of Corn-soy blend, 12.6 boxes of oil, 1.52 bags of salt, 127.5 bags of charcoal and 12.39 boxes of soap were distributed in Egyeikrom camp. A water filtering machine was delivered to Egyeikrom Camp on 16 August.

TOGO

• Protection

The official number of refugees in the camp is 2,292 individuals, although this figure does not include new arrivals not yet registered and some 100 asylum seekers. The actual number is therefore estimated to be 2,700.

Since 25 July, the Commission Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), has been issuing "asylum seeker certificates" in lieu of "prima facie refugee status" to persons whose profiles require further analysis and individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD) with exclusion analysis. This procedure has

resulted in an increase of the number of asylum seekers. As of 9 August, the number of asylum seekers was 160 individuals, with an estimated average of 10-15 asylum seeker certificates issued per day. This increase in individual RSD is creating an increased workload for the understaffed CNAR office. In response, UNHCR authorized the hiring of additional personnel, (six lawyers and two psychologists), to prevent further backlog. An RSD training session for all new staff is due to be conducted.

- **Humanitarian Assistance**

In Tropicana/Avepozo camp, twenty new shelters were finalized and ready to be allocated to refugee families, the construction of 20 more is underway.

Taking into account the potential assistance to local communities, UNHCR has started a census of the population.

From 10 to 12 August, food distribution in the community center at Tokoin reached 993 households (1,947 individuals), including urban refugees, asylum seekers and newly arrived refugees.

GUINEA

The total number of Ivorian refugees in Guinea is 2,515.

Between 10 and 18 August, the Protection Unit carried out registration with ProGres. In the transit centre Kouankan I and in Camp Kouankan II, a total of 1,293 out of 1,488 individuals were registered. In Conakry, eight individuals were registered. On 12 August, 76 refugees were relocated from transit centre Kouankan I to Kouankan II Camp. Around 100 individuals remain in the transit centre.

BENIN

In the reporting period, 44 new arrivals were registered. The total number of Ivorian asylum-seekers and refugees in Benin stands at 613 persons. Between 9 – 12 August, UNHCR registered 156 families (267 individuals), out of which 75 families (127 individuals) were refugees, and 80 families (138 individuals) were asylum seekers.

The number of Ivorian asylum seekers in **MALI** is 972.

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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