

Update No. 12

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

05 May 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- The inauguration of Mr. Alassane Ouattara as President of Côte d'Ivoire is scheduled to take place on 21 May.
- The Ivorian Red Cross reported 60 dead bodies in the Yopougon neighbourhood of Abidjan after ongoing fighting between the "Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire" and the pro-Gbagbo militias.
- On Monday 02 May, Laurent Gbagbo met with the South-African Archbishop, Desmond Tutu alongside former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and former Irish President and UN human rights chief Mary Robinson in Korhogo in the north of Côte d'Ivoire.
- The government has started paying civil service salaries, which were on hold during the conflict.
- Long queues formed at banks that re-opened on 26 April, after having been closed for two and a half months. Armed robberies of the Banque de l'Habitat de Côte d'Ivoire and Group BNP Paribas vaults were reported on the same day.



Community members in Awobo Village, Anyama (Abidjan) met UNHCR, ASAPSU and MESAD at the home of their chief to share the news and express the trauma inflicted upon their community during the period of conflict. (PERHAM S/ UNHCR/29 April 2011).

60
YEARS



Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/ Asylum seekers	2,699	107	880	13,508	3,851	239	38	104	41	38	47	10
Liberia	45,729 Ivorian refugees individually registered and 120,192 through the rapid emergency registration.											

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

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa	
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	2,799,489
ECOWAS	500,000
Finland	1,702,141
France	549,451
Germany	1,027,413
Ireland	544,959
Norway	1,431,127
Private donors	210,046
Republic of Korea	300,000
Switzerland	637,767
UN Population Fund	119,840
United Kingdom	7,211,538
USA	10,300,000
TOTAL(*)	38,806,841
(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 towards UNHCR's initial response in Côte d'Ivoire in December 2010.	

COTE D'IVOIRE

Throughout Abidjan, freedom of movement continues to be hindered by the Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire with road blocks. Most shops remained closed as they had been pillaged and shopkeepers displaced.

In the western region, food is scarce, markets are empty and people do not have access to cash. Infrastructures in the Zouan-Hounien – Toulepleu – Bolequin triangle in particular have been devastated by the conflict. This insecure area is a humanitarian emergency zone that requires massive and immediate assistance. Inter-agency assessment missions found many villages deserted, lacking food, potable water and basic services. The town of Toulepleu has been completely destroyed. In Bolequin, 47 men, women and children were reportedly massacred on 28 March and unexploded ordnances remain present throughout the zone.

• Protection

In Abidjan, an estimated 14,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are currently living at 31 spontaneous sites, in particular in Dabou (3,860) and Bingerville

Country Operations



UNHCR, MESAD and ASAPSU visited a man who was injured by a stray bullet to ensure that effective medical follow-up is done. (ATTE E/ASAPSU/30 April 2011).

(3,115). However, these IDPs in the identified sites are only part of the total number of displaced people and violence is still displacing many people in Abidjan and other parts of Côte d'Ivoire.

UNHCR led the national Protection Cluster meeting on 28 April to discuss response mechanisms in the west and Abidjan. UNHCR and protection partners undertook a rapid assessment of 12 displacement sites and 12 return sites in Abidjan, on 29-30 April. Protection teams visited Dabou, Songon, Cocody, Anyama, Abobo, Adjame, Bassam, Aboisso and Bingerville. In all sites, displaced persons underlined the urgent need for food, soap and improving the security situation. Unaccompanied minors and separated children were found in some of the sites. Their data was shared with the ICRC to conduct family tracing. In the meantime, they are in the care of host families. Incidents of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) have been reported by communities highlighting the need for psycho-social rehabilitation to relieve traumatized populations.

Several schools in Abidjan have been looted or damaged, students normally staying in dormitories have fled, and some schools are being used as shelters by IDPs. Parents and youth are concerned

that students will not be able to cover the costs of required materials when they return to school. Some schools in conflict zones may be unsafe due to the presence of unexploded ordnances. Sensitization on the danger of unexploded ordnances should be conducted at schools in affected areas.

In western Côte d'Ivoire, inhabitants from the Zouan-Hounien – Toulepleu – Bolequin triangle have reportedly fled into the forests, encampments in the bush or across the border into Liberia, while others are waiting for security to improve at sites in Danané. They have been the victims of inter-ethnic clashes, break-ins, pillaging, and destruction of homes.

UNHCR, OCHA and IOM met with religious leaders and a delegation of 50 IDPs at the Catholic Mission in Duékoué to discuss decongestion of the facilities and moving some IDPs to the new site in Nahibly. At the request of UNHCR, the leaders of the displaced persons at the Mission are preparing a list of people willing to be relocated and a list of people who want to return home if the necessary security measures are in place and basic assistance is provided.

The leaders at the Catholic Mission assured UNHCR that all weapons found within the site were handed over to the priests and to UNOCI.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In many areas outside of Abidjan, students have missed 4-6 months of school. UNICEF is working to re-supply schools with education materials and to promote the resumption of school activities. In the western region, many health centres, hospitals and pharmacies were pillaged, compromising access to basic health services, especially for those who have sustained injuries and who require medicines for chronic illnesses. The World Health Organization (WHO) conducted an assessment and found half of the health centres in the west to be non-functional. WHO and Médecins Sans Frontières, among others, have been providing medical assistance, by re-supply of medical kits and essential drugs. Mobile health clinics are providing assistance in hard to reach areas, but so far these programmes do not have the capacity to reach everyone in need. While some food has been distributed in the Zouan-Hounien – Toulepleu – Bolequin triangle by ICRC and the FRCI, only a limited number of the affected population has been reached and an urgent one-off massive distribution is imperative while a more comprehensive food distribution strategy is being developed. Planting season has already started, but fields have not yet been prepared. The lack of security, seeds and tools could result into serious food insecurity if immediate measures are not taken to ensure effective security enabling IDPs to return and access their fields. FAO, UNDP and Action Contre la Faim are distributing seed kits to 20,000 households that have returned to the west.

LIBERIA

Since November 2010, more than **165,000** Ivoirians are estimated to have crossed into Liberia. So far, **45,729** Ivoirian refugees have been individually registered, with their information entered into UNHCR's data base while **120,192** refugees have been registered through rapid emergency registration method. The current population at Bahn Camp stands at **3,389 refugees**. Nationwide, **11,453** refugees are hosted in the Transit Sites and **1,515** in the Way Stations.

Although movements from Côte d'Ivoire have generally decreased at most border crossing points, in Ziah Town (Grand Gedeh) UNHCR continues to register at least 250 people per day. Local authorities have also been reporting new arrivals in their towns and villages. The town chief of Balibo in Grand Gedeh informed UNHCR that 350 Ivoirian refugees had arrived during the reporting period and requested support in terms of food and basic relief items.

Some refugees have been returning to Côte d'Ivoire on assessment visits especially those from towns and villages near the border with Liberia, but no organized repatriation is taking place.

• Protection

32 unaccompanied minors were identified at Bahn Camp, of whom 23 children have been placed with foster families in the camp. Five children are over 15 years of age and have stated that they do not wish to live in foster family; they are being closely monitored by IRC.

40 people were trained on child welfare in Grand Gedeh by UNICEF's partner Save the Children Fund. 36 families in Bahn Refugee Camp and 04 families in Grand Gedeh TC were identified as foster families and have already being trained on foster parenthood.

A working group on Gender Based Violence (GBV), chaired by UNFPA, has been established to design a referral pathway that will facilitate procedures when dealing with GBV issues at Bahn camp in Nimba.

In Bahn camp, **1,596** children aged 3 to 18 are attending classes in two school compounds. In the host communities of the Buutuo axis, **1,078** children aged 3 to 18 were reached with Education and Early Childhood Development services, in the Gborplay and Loguatu axes' host communities **1,000** children were reached with ECD activities and primary education services, including life skills education.

• Humanitarian Assistance

The construction of dilapidated bridges along the way to the camp site in Grand Gedeh has commenced. 852 plastic rolls from UNHCR's Central Emergency Stockpile have arrived in Monrovia on 23 April. A sample of the solar lamps to be procured for 20,000 families is being tested. A total of 500 tents are being sent to Accra on four UNMIL flights in the coming days. The delivery of basic relief items to Saclepea continued with the first of what will be a weekly convoy

of UNMIL trucks. Additional water storage facilities have been installed at the Bishop Ferguson transit centre in Maryland County. The storage capacity at the transit centre is now 90,000 litres, benefiting some 6,000 refugees with 15 litres per person per day. 130 cubicles of latrines and 90 bathrooms have been completed at the transit centre in Maryland for more than 9,000 refugees and UNICEF distributed hygiene promotion kits. In Nimba County, the Red Cross Movement continued to run a water purification and distribution unit in Buutuo, which provided on average 35,000 litres of water per day to up to 13,000 refugees and residents. In Grand Gedeh, 3 wells were rehabilitated and 3 chlorinated. Hygiene promotion activities are on going in Nimba County.

UNICEF has secured 22,000 doses of measles vaccine and 142,000 doses of yellow fever vaccine. The measles vaccines will be used for refugee children up to 15 years of age, while the yellow fever vaccine will be for mass vaccination of refugees. An additional 20,000 doses of measles vaccine will also be provided by MSF Belgium to assist the refugees.

UNFPA donated reproductive health kits to Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties. WHO donated one supplementary health kit to Maryland County. The Ministry of Health has commenced distribution of treated mosquito bed nets in Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties. The bed nets are distributed by the Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS). UNFPA also started distribution of 45,000 condoms in Nimba County.

In Nimba County, a total of 2,545 outpatient consultations including 1,166 refugees were conducted. Outpatient consultations at mobile clinics have increased to 110 consultations per day, while in Bahn camp, the daily consultation rate stands at 60.

Five outpatient sites to treat acute malnutrition are now operational in Grand Gedeh County. UNICEF in collaboration with the County Health team and the NGO Merlin are supporting these sites. Children are now being screened and treated for acute malnutrition in Gbarzon, Konobo, Toe Town, Ziah town and Janzon health centers. In addition, all children below the age of five will also be screened as part of the national polio campaign in these sites and in the Tempo district where a majority of the refugees are residing. A survey on the nutrition status of children under five in bordering areas in Nimba County has been completed and the findings will be released soon.

The rice-planting season has already started and, according to FAO, without urgent rice seeds support, vulnerable refugees and Liberian host communities could miss an entire season. Members of host communities report to have consumed their rice stocks to support the food needs of an increasing number of refugees. The situation is further exacerbated by the disruption of markets in Côte d'Ivoire, which usually is the primary supplier of rice seeds to Liberia. FAO and partner organizations involved in the agricultural sector expressed their concern about the current situation. The agricultural sector urges the international

community to invest in agricultural activities in refugee affected areas as failure to do so will compromise the long-term food security in affected areas and generate prolonged dependence on food aid in Liberia.

In Nimba County (Northern Logatuo axis), 20 communities participating in the LNRCS and ICRC swamp rice project have continued clearing and brushing the fields to be planted with seed rice. A joint IFRC/LNRCS assessment on livelihoods support is currently being carried out.

According to WFP, 781 metric tons of food has been distributed since January 2011 for an actual distribution to 68,194 beneficiaries. A total of 2,414 mt remains available to WFP. New stocks of cereals and high energy biscuits are expected to reach Liberia in the coming weeks.

GHANA

The total number of Ivorians registered in Ghana stands now at **13,508**. In the western region, Eagle Star Transit Center is seriously congested with a population of **816** individuals. The population of Ampain Refugee Camp has reached **4,269**. In Brong Ahafo, the population in Berekum Camp is of **905** with an additional **389** in Oseikodjukrom. The remaining refugee population is scattered among host communities.

The number of crossings in the western region, between 29 April and 02 May, decreased compared to the previous reporting period. There are also reports of individuals of Ampain Refugee Camp leaving towards Togo.

In the Brong Ahafo Region, the situation remains calm and no significant number of new arrivals has been registered during the reporting period. Some asylum-seekers in various locations indicated to have been informed that the situation in Côte d'Ivoire is conducive for them to return home and resume their positions. Some decided to return not to be accused of being supporters of the opposition. Few decided to leave their families behind to verify whether the situation is stable enough for the return of all the family members.

• Protection

UNHCR and Government representatives (GRB and NADMO) agreed to organize a joint mission to the western region with the objective to assess the need of separating the combatants and ex-combatants from the civilian population. ICRC will also participate in the mission.

Since the arrest of former President Laurent Gbagbo, a significant number of young single women crossed into Ghana, in addition to the single males as previously reported. However, unlike the men these women do not have a military background. They have stated various reasons for fleeing to Ghana, including reports of continued hostilities in particular in Yopougon and Abobo, allegations of ethnic related

killings by pro-Ouattara forces and family unification reasons. During counselling it was observed that none of these asylum-seekers have immediate intentions to return. A number of those interviewed also indicated that they have family members in Côte d'Ivoire who may also leave the country.

Three unaccompanied minors have been identified in Amain Camp; two of them fled from Toulepleu, in western Côte d'Ivoire. The current care taking arrangements for them will be reviewed through the Best Interest Assessment/ Determination.

Asylum-seekers in host communities in the western region are increasingly expressing interest to relocate to the Ampain Camp, presumably because of the lack of assistance and inadequate access to health care in the host communities.

• Humanitarian Assistance

WFP is making changes in the food basket for upcoming distribution in the camps. The new proposed package includes rice and corn-soy blends in addition to oil and salt. It is expected that this will better address the nutritional needs of the population. The next food distribution is planned for 07 May in Ampain.

In Berekum Camp, the refugees have taken over the wet food preparation from the Ghanaian church. National Catholic Secretariat nutritionist has been working with them to ensure that the food quality is being maintained. The donation of food items continues to improve the food variety. A total of 389 asylum seekers received maize, beans and salt in Oseikodjukrom.

With regard to health, coordination with MSF Spain is ongoing as a MSF team is expected to come to Brong Afoho on Friday 06 May to undertake a health kit distribution to all families in both Berekum and Oseikodjukrom.

BURKINA FASO

107 Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered to date by the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés. During the reporting period, an additional seven asylum-seekers arrived in Burkina Faso. 103 individuals are in Ouagadougou, and four are located in neighbouring towns of Koudougou, Zabre and Tenkodogo and Bobo-Dioulasso.

Since the arrest of Mr. Gbagbo on April 11, numerous Ivorian asylum seekers have requested UNHCR for help to return to their country of origin. During the reporting period, UNHCR's partner, Christian Relief and Development Organization, received 10 Ivorian asylum seekers in hearing. Some financial assistance was given to a pregnant woman and to an elderly.

TOGO

The total number of Ivorian refugees stands at **3,851** and a total of **713** new arrivals were reported in the

last 7 days, which is the highest rate of arrival thus far. The number of refugees in Tropicana camp as of 02 May is **813**. A total of **198** children have been identified: 53 of them are under 5 year old. **12** other asylum requests will be examined individually for possible application of exclusion clauses, in accordance with UNHCR guidelines on exclusion clauses in situations of mass influx.

As of 20 April, **64** Ivorian refugees had requested voluntary repatriation. However, UNHCR does not consider that the current security and human rights condition in Côte d'Ivoire allow for facilitated repatriation. Many of the newly arrived refugees have spent time in Ghana before travelling to Togo: more than 200 of them had already been registered as refugees in Ghana.

• Protection

Three refugee children have been born on Togolese ground. Two of them have been registered and have received a birth certificate. The third one, born on 01 May, will be registered shortly. One 4-year old child who had been separated from his mother during the journey has been reunited with a family member. One unaccompanied minor, nine pregnant women, four lactating mothers, one SGBV victim, two people living with HIV/AIDS and 23 ill people arrived this week. Support has been provided.

• Humanitarian Assistance

A few students on the site have enrolled since yesterday in primary and secondary schools. Enrolment of the others is ongoing. All the students on site will benefit this week from financial assistance provided by the Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial. The extension of the Tropicana Camp is underway to allow for an efficient response to the refugee influx. Development works are undertaken on the Tropicana site under the coordination of the site planner. These infrastructure improvements include a hangar for the kitchen, a community shed and delimitation of blocks (plots) for housing. Three meals a day continue to be distributed to Ivorian refugees on Tropicana Site. Food (rice, sugar, oil, sardines and concentrated tomatoes) has been distributed on 03 May. This will allow each family to cook their own food. Refugee children are vaccinated on site and UNICEF has offered to take over the vaccination procedure.

GUINEA

The total number of Ivorian refugees registered in Guinea now stands at **2,699**.

In an effort to integrate the perspectives of gender and age in all its activities, UNHCR's protection section held a meeting with its partner on issues of child protection; specifically unaccompanied and separated children. UNICEF offered 467 educational kits to Ivorian children in Kouankan II camp. A general food distribution will take place in Kouankan camps from 04 to 07 May.

MALI

There are **880** registered Ivorian asylum-seekers in Mali as of 02 May. During the reporting period, a few Ivorian refugees have expressed the intention to return to their countries of origin. They have been informed of the current UNHCR policy on repatriation to Côte d'Ivoire. Despite this, there may be spontaneous returns of Ivorian refugees, mostly students, to their country of origin.

NIGERIA

No new arrivals were reported this week. The number of Ivorian asylum seekers remains at **104** individuals.

BENIN

There are **239** Ivorian asylum-seekers (153 households) in Benin, including 26 new cases registered by the Commission Nationale chargée de l'Assistance aux Réfugiés in the reporting week. The sessions to determine eligibility for refugee status are

held regularly. CARITAS received 19 students of Ivorian nationality who requested support for their studies as of next school year and asked for provision of documents to help them integrate the Benin educational program.

THE GAMBIA

A total of **47** Ivorian asylum seekers reported in Gambia. Access to food and accommodation is being reported as a challenge, particularly for women and children.

SIERRA LEONE

No new arrivals were reported this week. The number of Ivorian asylum seekers remains at **10** individuals.

GUINEA BISSAU

No new arrivals were reported this week. The number of Ivorian asylum seekers remains at **38** individuals.

For a map of operations with updated statistics, please visit:

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4d831f586.html>

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