

# Update No. 18

## d'Ivoire Situation

26 May 2011



### HIGHLIGHTS

- Coordination of civil protection, humanitarian assistance, and post-conflict reconstruction activities are underway in a joint effort by UN agencies, humanitarian partners and the respective government authorities to restore stability in Côte d'Ivoire.
- The Ivorian press reported that following a meeting between FRCI generals on 16 May, an imminent strategy to disarm the population in Gagnoa is being prepared.
- UNOCI reported combat in San Pedro on 17 May whereby four militiamen were killed and one was captured.
- The inauguration Ceremony for President Alassane Dramane Ouattara was held in Yamoussoukro on 21 May. Attendees included the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, President Nicolas Sarkozy (France), President Blaise Compoare (Burkina Faso), President Jonathan Goodluck (Nigeria) and many other Heads of State from neighbouring countries and around the world.
- On 22 May, the UNHCR Representative in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Jacques Franquin, joined the United Nations Secretary General along with the Humanitarian Coordinator and a delegation from UNOCI in a visit to internally displaced persons at the UEESO Church site in Cocody, Abidjan.



Mission Catholique site in Duékoué (Western Côte 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	2,772	115	938	14,603	5,010	335	74	105	41	44	52	4
Liberia	47,443 Ivorian refugees individually registered and 135,138 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

UNHCR's financial requirements for West Africa	
Executive Committee approved budget	\$ 99,234,686
Regional supplementary budget	\$ 125,993,829
<b>TOTAL revised requirements</b>	<b>\$ 225,228,515</b>

### 2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa at 25 May 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	2,799,489
ECOWAS	500,000
Finland	1,702,141
France	549,451
Germany	1,027,413
Liechtenstein	108,460
Ireland	544,959
Norway	1,431,127
Private donors	212,406
Rep. of Korea	300,000
Switzerland	637,767
UN Population Fund	119,840
United Kingdom	7,211,538
United States of America	16,800,000
<b>TOTAL (*)</b>	<b>45,417,661</b>
(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 towards UNHCR's initial response in Côte d'Ivoire in December 2010.	



Internally displaced children at the Mission Catholique in Duékoué. (UNHCR/deWOELMONT /2011)

## Country Operations

### CÔTE D'IVOIRE

UNHCR is leading the Protection Cluster in Abidjan, at national level, and in Man for the coordination of protection activities in western Côte d'Ivoire. Both clusters meet weekly to coordinate protection and human rights-related issues concerning the conflict-affected populations. Protection partners include UN agencies, national and international NGOs and government partners (Ministry of State, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Ministry of Health and the Department of Aid and Assistance to Refugees and Stateless Persons). UNHCR prepared manifests as well as arrangements for the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees, including 135 who were repatriated from Abidjan to Monrovia by air on 24 May. A second repatriation flight for 129 took place on 26 May. In the western region, teams from UNHCR, WHO, Danish

Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee and Caritas went on a joint assessment mission to visit return areas in six quarters of Zouan-Hounien and four villages in Teapleu. The populations indicated security concerns related to political affiliation, extortion at military barricades and absence of documentation. UNHCR will formulate recommendations with protection partners for the possibility of return assistance. If there is consensus from the Protection Cluster, UNHCR will support the establishment of reconciliation, return and peace building committees and provide return assistance.

#### • Protection

In **Abidjan**, UNHCR is providing protection monitoring and assistance to **56,800** internally displaced persons in **43** spontaneous sites (**13,500**) and in host families



(43,300). This week, internally displaced persons previously located at the Centre CIAPOL, Centre Culturel de Dabou and GESCO Mosque sites were relocated to host families as the site locations needed to resume their normal activities. Alternatively, there are six newly active sites in Abidjan: St. Laurent de Yopougon Kouté (in Yopougon), CEJAD (in Adjamé), Cite CICOR, Eglise Céleste de Jacquelineville, Eglise Réveille and Avdetaboth (in Jacquelineville).

In the **western region**, UNHCR is providing protection monitoring and assistance for **154,600** internally displaced persons in 17 spontaneous sites (**45,000**) and in host families (**109,600**). Three new spontaneous IDP sites were reported this week in Soubré, Bas-Sassandra Prefecture. In terms of site population, UNFPA reported an estimated 2,000 IDPs at the Eglise Catholique de Méagui and 2,400 in host families. In addition, the Ivorian Red Cross reported the presence of 3,000 to 5,000 internally displaced persons at two additional sites in Soubré. A joint assessment mission to verify the sites and to monitor the village of Adebene in Bas-Sassandra by UNHCR, the Service d'Aide et Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides, Afrique Secours et Assistance and the Danish Refugee Council was conducted on 23 May. Details are forthcoming. On 23 May, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP shared estimates of 63,000 displaced persons in the Vallée du Bandama Prefecture from an assessment on 14 May. All of these individuals are staying with host families, most fled from Abidjan. While new figures will continue to be reported as the security situation permits, the Protection Cluster is advocating for improved monitoring of the other regions of Côte d'Ivoire. UNHCR met with the Préfet de Bangolo to discuss a strategy for the return of internally displaced persons. The strategy includes plans to sensitize about 450 people on return to areas in Bangolo, which consist of a joint "go and see visit" with the IDP leaders and protection partners and an evaluation of property destruction. Discussions will take place with WFP to determine the content of "return kits".

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

In the **western region**, there are 742 individuals (from 111 vulnerable households) living in 60 tents at the extension site on the football field outside the Catholic Mission in Duékoué. The extension site also has water and sanitation facilities. While 13 out of 20 hectares of the new Nahibly site have been cleared, delays in construction of the UNOCI guard posts, perimeter fence and water and sanitation facilities will postpone the relocation of IDPs from the Catholic Mission in Duékoué. UNHCR's implementing partner, Afrique Secours et Assistance (ASA) has been selected to manage the Nahibly site. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) France supports the general hospital in Duékoué with mobile clinics reaching out to remote locations. MSF also assists two clinics in Guiglo and mobile clinic teams that visit 10 sites each week between Danané and Toulepleu. UNHCR is preparing a mission of the HIV-Health section scheduled from 25 to 31 May to conduct a joint assessment on the needs

of displaced populations and their host communities in Man, Duékoué, Guiglo, and Danané.

## LIBERIA

The latest round of a yellow fever vaccination campaign has been completed, targeting more than 133,000 Ivorian refugees in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties. During the verification exercise in Nimba County, refugee returns to Côte d'Ivoire as well as movements further inland were confirmed. In Bahn camp, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) reported the departure of 4 families to Côte d'Ivoire and there appear to be additional spontaneous returns. Nonetheless, during border monitoring missions some arrivals of Ivorian refugees continue to be reported. In Grand Gedeh, the currently registered population is 68,048 individuals (as of 16 May). ProGres data entry is ongoing for the refugees who are residing in the camps and transit centres. The influx of newly arrived Ivorians who reach the Janzon axis has slowed down from 200 a day last week, to around 130 a day over the reporting period. However, arriving refugees advised that there is a large number of people who are waiting to cross into Liberia through Pohan or Bawaydee. Close monitoring of the situation will continue and registration staff has been dispatched to undertake rapid registration. Given the need to respond to several influx flows simultaneously, while facing the need to accommodate a large number of refugees, UNHCR and LRRRC have agreed to transform the Solo and Dougee transit sites into permanent camps.

#### • Protection

In **Nimba County**, EQUIP organized training and awareness raising sessions for Liberia National Police and Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization officers on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sensitivity and refugee rights. In the Gborplay Public School, EQUIP organized awareness raising on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), rape laws and domestic violence. A single GBV Incident Reporting Form will be used by all stakeholders and, in order to avoid duplication of GBV groups acting in the field locations, existing GBV coordination structures are being strengthened. In Bahn Camp, Save the Children conducted an informal assessment with adolescents/youth to ascertain which income-generating activities are preferred and to identify any job skills training that youth may have started while in Côte d'Ivoire. The International Rescue Committee has deployed staff to the Gborplay axis for child protection issues and started communication with host community leaders. In the framework of the verification exercise in the border communities in Nimba, a total of 20,508 refugees had been recorded within 38 of the 69 targeted locations as of 19 May. The verification exercise is expected to be completed by the second week of June. Compilation of figure and release of final results will follow. The main challenges faced during the exercise are the following: 1) refugee movements within communities and across borders, 2) possible existence of "new" locations where refugees are reported, while others no longer host refugees, 3)

daily activities of the population (i.e. farming or casual labour, school, etc.) compounding the ability of the verification to “capture” the population, 4) logistic constraints due to road conditions and remoteness of locations.

In **Grand Gedeh**, according to refugees who have recently arrived in Liberia from Côte d'Ivoire and are currently located on the Janzon axis, fighting and skirmishes in Côte d'Ivoire are the main reason for their flight to Liberia. According to UNMIL, the border area is still to be considered as "problematic". Concerns about the presence in Zwedru of individuals involved in the recent fighting in Côte d'Ivoire were raised at a meeting organized by the local authorities and security agencies. As reported previously, there has been an increase in armed robberies in Zwedru with at least 3 incidents reported recently. Following the April 2011 Human Rights Watch report on Grand Gedeh, the joint SGBV group finalized a referral mechanism document. The next task is to clearly map all actors in Grand Gedeh. UNHCR met with refugees to discuss why few refugees wish to relocate from Janzon. Amongst the reasons stated by the refugees are questions about services provided in the transit centre and the fact that some are awaiting family members from Côte d'Ivoire

In **Maryland**, UNICEF conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment in Bishop Ferguson transit centre, Little Wlebo refugee camp and 6 other communities to assess education needs and protection issues affecting refugee children. The initial assessment report showed that the refugee children feel generally safe but they lack comprehensive education facilities. To date, level 2 registration (individual registration) has been completed in 14 out of 25 communities in River Gee County. The registration continues in the remaining communities. 150 refugees were relocated from Harper city (including Bishop Ferguson transit center) to Little Wlebo refugee camp. LRRRC and UNHCR carried out a sensitization meeting on relocation to the camp amongst the refugees in Cavalla town. In Little Wlebo refugee camp, UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and LRRRC agreed on vulnerable criteria to be considered for the construction of shelters. Currently, DRC is constructing family shelters for vulnerable persons in Little Wlebo refugee camp. UNHCR held a meeting with the Regional Commander of the Liberia National Police in Harper and requested a permanent police presence in the camp.

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

In **Nimba County**, the log bridge at Sarlay Town (Buuto Axis) is damaged, preventing the passage of trucks. While UNHCR has started the repair works, refugees can not be transferred from New Yourpea to Bahn as long as these works are not completed. Almost 2,200 refugees were vaccinated in the Bahn camp in the framework of the yellow fever vaccination campaign. As partners running health facilities and mobile clinics reported an increase in malaria cases, it was decided to distribute more mosquito nets and to spray the camp and relocation villages. The Country

Health Team (CHT), UNHCR and partners decided to conduct an assessment of care being provided to patients in Saclepea Comprehensive Health Centre and Sanniquelle hospital. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) released the findings of its nutrition assessment. Out of a total sample of 397 individuals, there were 5,79 % Global Acute Malnutrition cases and 2,27 % Severe Acute Malnutrition cases. ACF indicated that the rain season may further deteriorate this situation if food security is not assured.

FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture distributed rice production inputs to 2,600 host families (some 13,000 individuals) in border and relocation communities. The project intends to mitigate the risk of long-term food insecurity and dependence on food aid among Liberian farmers who have been hosting refugees for a longer period of time. Between all 13 partners from the food security sector in Liberia, more than 20,000 families will be receiving food production support. The unavailability of health workers at CHT for the treatment and referral of emergency cases after MSF clinic closed continues to be a challenge. Focus group discussions with some elderly refugees highlighted the need for additional blankets as well as the need to identify income generating activities for them. UNFPA continued the distribution of dignity kits. ACF provided hygiene kits to 256 families. Students of university level raised concerns about their wish to continue their education. The food distribution plan is currently being finalized for relocation communities. Food and NFI distributions will follow relocation/verification in the respective communities and should commence in the course of the up-coming week.

In **Grand Gedeh**, in the framework of the general food distribution, the works to install a temporary storage structure in Ziah town commenced. This will allow WFP to have a buffer stock in case of inaccessibility. WFP continues with the In-Patients feeding program at the Martha Tubman hospital, in close collaboration with Merlin and the CHT. OXFAM is about to start their emergency project of seeds, tools and food distribution in favour of 1,500 hosts households in 22 hosts communities in the North-Eastern part of Grand Gedeh County. Three weeks will be necessary to reach all the beneficiaries. An extension of this project will be done in July in favour of settled refugees. CONCERN has identified some 1,000 families on the tempo Axis, including more than 600 refugee families, to benefit from seeds and tools for the next farming season. On Ziah Axis, MSF has started a mobile clinic in Ziah town which shall proceed to screening of all new arrivals. A monitoring field visit to Ziah Health Centre and the transit centre revealed a number of challenges specifically related to HIV-AIDS prevention and treatment. Spontaneous walk-ins continued on site in large numbers in Solo Town transit centre/camp. Handicap International did an assessment on how to assist persons with disabilities in the camp.

In **Maryland**, OXFAM-GB in collaboration with the Emergency Rehabilitation Services has maintained water supply at 61,000 litres per day in the Bishop Ferguson transit centre. In Little Wlebo refugee camp, DRC is providing family shelter kits to the refugees for

the construction of their family shelters. DRC is also providing technical assistance to the refugees while they construct their own shelters. 30 families have completed construction of their family shelters and have moved into them. An additional 40 family shelters are under construction. In collaboration with LRRRC, Christian Aid Ministry distributed 170 bags of rice and farming tools to refugees and hosts in Cavalla, Dakey town, Sewonken, Nepachelu, and Pleebo city. Merlin vaccinated 76 refugee children against measles in Yobloken host community. UNHCR and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare conducted a joint mission to Maryland County to assess and monitor the situation in selected health facilities in the refugee hosting areas, to discuss with partners the coordination of health and related services, to assess the capacities of the implementing partners and to agree on a division of labour among them.

## GHANA

The cross border movements into the western region continued throughout the reporting period. Last week, a total of 1,123 persons arrived into Ghana bringing the total number of Ivorian refugees in the country to **14,603**. This recent influx is due to: 1) the threat of home searches in the Yopougon neighbourhood in Abidjan and 2) fear of insecurity ahead of the inauguration of President Ouattara on 21 May. UNHCR in Ghana's western region also reports that Ivorians who were previously internally displaced in Côte d'Ivoire are now arriving in Ghana in search of assistance. In the Brong Ahafo region, the situation remains calm though quite unpredictable in terms of cross border population movements. The last few days of the reporting period were characterized by a steady number of 20-30 new arrivals per day. Families were registered and assisted at Berekum and Oseikodjokorum. The majority of the new arrivals are reportedly fleeing from Abidjan for alleged security reasons. Meanwhile, small groups of refugees continue to return or continue the daily back and forth visits to Côte d'Ivoire. These dynamics still hamper an adequate update of the statistics.

In light of the new movement of Ivorian nationals through the Ghanaian border, UNHCR remains alert on the potential swift increase of the refugee numbers. Basic preparedness measures have been put in place to ensure a rapid emergency response if needed. In Brong Ahafo, the Fetenta camp site has been cleared and tents could be pitched anytime as soon as latrines and water tanks are installed.

The Ghanaian President, John Evans Atta Mills, visited refugees at the Ampain camp as part of a 4-day tour of the Western Region. Refugees voiced concerns over instability in Côte d'Ivoire and the President reassured the refugee population of Ghana's commitment towards their protection and safety.

### • Protection

In the **Brong Ahafo region**, in preparation for the relocation of refugees from Berekum camp to the new site in Fetenta and due to the observed reduction of

the population in the camp, UNHCR organized a verification exercise between 23 and 25 May and a training session for the Immigration officers participating in the exercise. UNHCR team in Brong Ahafo is strengthening border monitoring throughout the area of operations. The aim is to determine population movements between Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, while at the same time strengthening Protection presence in Oseikodjokorum.

In the **western region**, as part of the screening process for the alleged combatants/ ex-combatants, the Ghana Immigration Services is now conducting pre-screening at the border, while UNHCR and the Ghana Refugee Board are conducting screening in the Eagle Star reception center. UNHCR Ghana is continuing to advocate for swift response by the Government agencies in separation and proper screening of the alleged combatants from the civilian population in camps and the office is also exploring the possibilities of extending the screening capacity to Oseikodjokorum and the Brong Ahafo region generally.

### • Humanitarian Assistance

In the **Brong Ahafo region**, the education committee in Berekum camp is finalizing the timetable of classes which should commence as soon as the educational materials arrive. The Zakat foundation delivered items for babies (mosquito nets, baths, mattresses, nappies, soap and buckets) and sanitary materials for women. The items will be distributed following verification in Berekum camp and Oseikodjokorum transit centre, while some items will be retained for new born babies in the coming months.

In the **western region**, the opening of the new site in Egyeikrom has become a priority as Ampain camp is reaching its maximum capacity. Emergency shelters will need to be erected to address the immediate needs, while an agreement is being reached with the Government on the type of longer-term shelter to be built. In Egyeikrom (central region), portions of the campsite have been cleared, the hydro-geological survey commenced on 21 May and emergency shelters are being set up. The central region has a mobile clinic which could be used until health facilities are finalized.

## GUINEA

As of 23 May, **2,772** Ivorian refugees had been registered in Guinea.

### • Protection

A protection mission visited Kouankan I transit centre to identify available rooms in order to transfer the Ivorian refugees currently hosted in the Hôtel du Sud in N'Zérékoré. Following this mission, UNHCR transferred 77 Ivorian refugees to the transit centre in Kouankan I. During the reporting period, the Bureau Régional d'Intégration et du Statut de Réfugié (BRISR) informed UNHCR protection section of the intention of



14 young Ivorian refugees to repatriate to Côte d'Ivoire.

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

The distribution of "dignity kits" donated by UNFPA took place at Kouankan II camp and Kouankan I transit centre, benefiting some 1,250 Ivorian women. After two days, 462 women had been served. The distribution will continue in the following days both in Kouankan and in other sub-prefectures where Ivorian women are residing. Five additional tents have been completed by DRC in Kouankan II and a well is being developed.

### BURKINA FASO

The number of Ivorian asylum-seekers in Burkina Faso stands at **115**. The educational assistance of UNHCR's implementing partner CREDO received 10 Ivorian asylum-seekers during the reporting period. One girl among them mentioned her willingness to go back to Côte d'Ivoire to be able to resume courses at university.

### TOGO

351 arrivals have been reported in the reporting period in Togo, bringing the total number of Ivorian refugees in Togo to **5,010**. As of 20 May, 1,419 refugees were hosted at the Tropicana camp.

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

After completion of distribution of food and non-food items to refugees on the Tropicana camp site, it is the urban Ivorian refugees who have benefited from food distribution this week. This distribution lasted 3 days and approximately 800 families were served. The children registered in primary and secondary schools follow classes regularly and discussions with the authorities are ongoing as to allow the students to take the end-year exams.

### MALI

There are **938** registered Ivorian asylum-seekers in Mali as of 23 May. 152 of them have received a refugee card. The official handover of infrastructures built as a response to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire took

place on 20 and 21 May. At Zegoua, both the transit centre and the borehole were handed over to the local authorities, for use by the local population. The authorities have been asked to establish management committees for the water points in order to ensure sustainable use of the structures.

### NIGERIA

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

### BENIN

There are **335** Ivorian asylum-seekers (226 households) in Benin thereby indicating an increase of 39 new cases registered by the CNAR in the reporting week. The eligibility committee held a session during which 215 positive opinions were issued, 4 rejections were pronounced and additional information was asked for 21 cases. CARITAS discussed with Ivorian refugees their insertion into the Benin school programme to allow their children to pursue their education.

### 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

No new arrivals were reported this week. Thus far, **74** Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered in Niger.

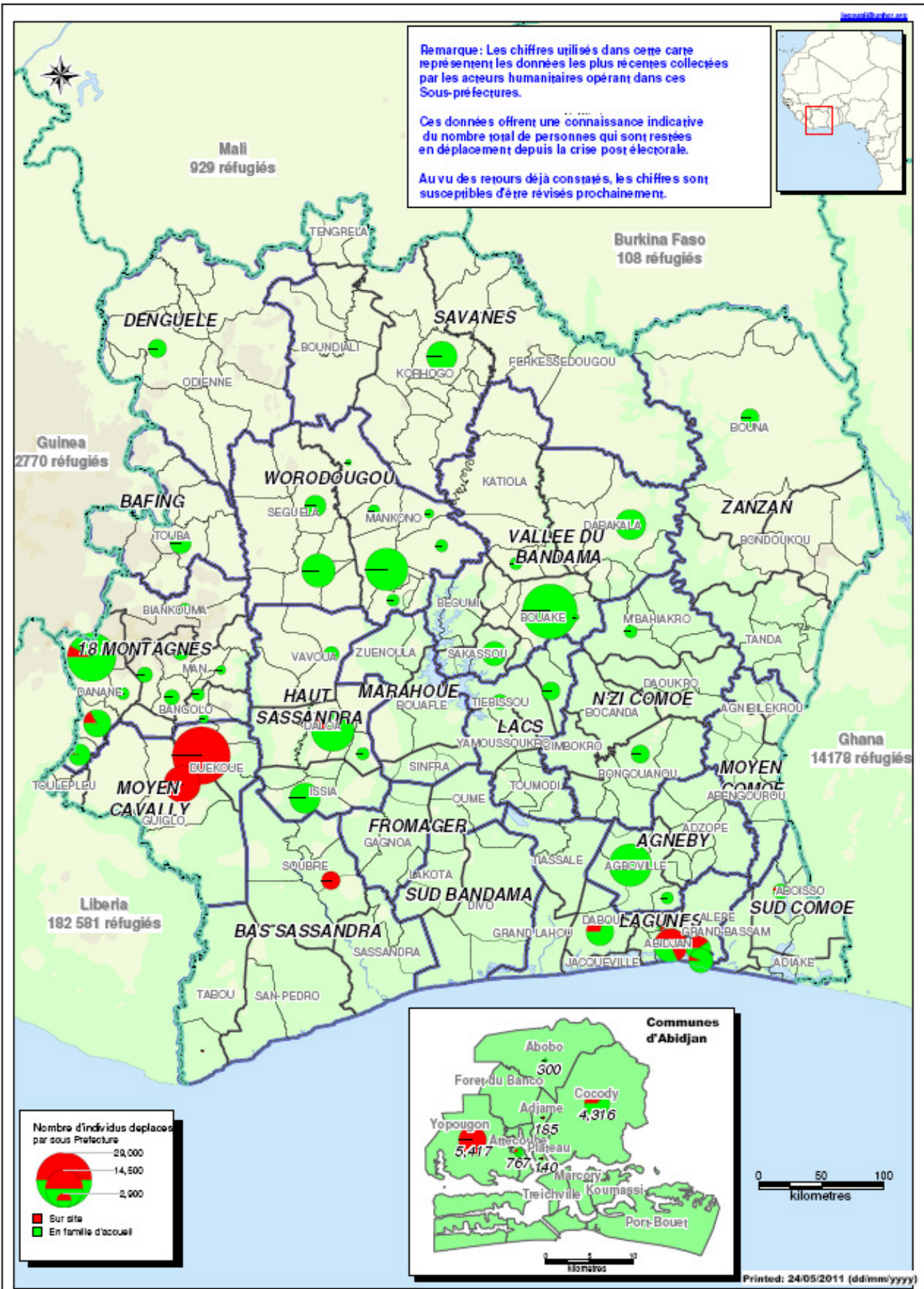
### THE GAMBIA

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

### GUINEA BISSAU

There are **44** Ivorian asylum-seekers registered in Guinea-Bissau. During the reporting period, 2 refugees from Côte d'Ivoire have requested assistance for voluntary repatriation. They were informed that UNHCR does not deem conditions in Côte d'Ivoire conducive for assisted repatriation.

# Internally displaced persons in Côte d'Ivoire – 24 May 2011



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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