

Update No. 30

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

29 August 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- In Abidjan, the security situation remains fragile with inter-community tensions. Some police stations continue to be occupied by the Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI).
- The national referendum in Liberia on 23 August was held without major incidents; the National Election Commission continues to announce results.
- In Liberia, a sixth refugee camp will officially open on 01 September. The pace of relocation from host communities to camps is expected to increase to about 1,200 refugees per week in September.
- In Togo, the situation in Avepozo Camp has stabilised although tensions remain.



Nutrition screening at the Ampain refugee camp, Ghana. (UNHCR//2011)

Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/Asylum seekers	2,458	118	972	17,159	4,295	659	96	130	58	76	94	62
Liberia	The total estimated number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 171,969.											

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 01 September 2011	
Donor	Contributions (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
New Zealand	872,500
Norway	1,431,127
OPEC Fund for Intl. Dev.	339,234
Private donors	1,004,345
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(*)	63,282,597
(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 to UNHCR's initial response in December 2010.	



Girl at the Ampain refugee camp, Ghana. (UNHCR//2011)

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The signing of the Tripartite Agreement among the Governments of Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and UNHCR will be followed by a tripartite meeting between 1 – 2 September at the UNHCR Office in Abidjan. It is expected that an agreement on the *modus operandi* will follow thereafter. The Parties have agreed that refugees will not be forcibly returned to Côte d'Ivoire.

While some 78,000 individuals are reported to have spontaneously returned to Côte d'Ivoire, the number of

refugees intending to return voluntarily remains uncertain.

• Protection

In Abobo and Yopougon neighbourhoods of Abidjan, the security situation is still fragile and inter-community tensions remain. Though law enforcement agents are now present in most areas of Abidjan, some police stations continue to be occupied by the Côte d'Ivoire armed forces, the Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI). In addition, certain command posts are controlled by the Dozos, a traditional hunting group in northern Côte d'Ivoire. Extortions, arbitrary arrests and discrimination based on ethnicity continue to be reported. In collaboration with UNOCI, protection field monitors continue to follow up on incidents in

Yopougon and Abobo. On 17 August, the Minister of Internal Affairs announced that plans are under way to provide security in Vridi, Koumassi, and Yopougon and to deploy more police elements to zones where security incidents have been reported in the past weeks.

An assessment by the gender based violence Sub-Cluster reports the rise of GBV cases in the Bas-Sassandra and Haut Sassandra regions. The worst affected areas are Tabou, Tai and the San Pedro-Sassandra-Tai axis. Since January 2011, 977 victims of gender based violence received specialized medical services, out of which 399 were rape cases. Some 21% of the victims were children while 23% of the perpetrators were armed men. Efforts are being made to address this issue in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, national and local NGOs.

A joint assessment mission to five potential return areas for IDPs residing in the Catholic mission in Duékoué found that all visited villages were ready to accept returnees, with some food assistance needed to fill the gap until the next harvest season.

In Bangolo, human right abuses are allegedly committed against adult males of the Guéré ethnic group, suspected to be responsible for crimes committed in the Bangolo-Duékoué axis. It is recommended to form a monitoring team in Bangolo to further assess the situation and search for a solution.

On 25 August, a convoy transported 128 IDP families (353 persons) from Danane SATD 1 and SATD 2 sites to the prefecture of Zouan Hounien.

An assessment mission to the Tabou-Prolo axis, found that some parts of the route will need repair and maintenance works. This axis could be used for the repatriation of Ivorian refugees from Liberia

In San Pedro, UNHCR and the Service d'Aide et Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides (SAARA) organized a workshop for FRCI members on the legal/international rights of refugees.

In the Lagunes and Abidjan regions where 4,469 IDPs live in 15 sites, there has been a 28% decrease in the IDP population mainly due to evictions. Camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) partners and survey teams continue to monitor the development.

• Humanitarian Assistance

The Shelter/NFI cluster held two meetings on the 19 and the 26 August respectively, where the content of the return kit and criteria for distribution were discussed. UNHCR also agreed to share a draft document that updates the situation of rehabilitation in the west as discussed by the Shelter Cluster in Man, including possible intervention measures.

LIBERIA

In Liberia, the national referendum, which took place on 23 August, had a low turnout. The results of the referendum were announced by the National Elections Commission (NEC) as they came in. The process is expected to be concluded within the coming days.

The general security situation in Liberia remained calm and UN peacekeepers and national security agencies continued to patrol the border areas.

A joint mission by UNHCR and the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) is in Côte d'Ivoire to discuss the implementation modalities of the tripartite agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees. As of 25 August, the estimated number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia was 172,969.

Movement across the border between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia continues. Some returning refugees say they are going back for employment reasons while others indicate educational purposes. At the same time, new arrivals continue, citing security concerns as the reason for their flight. In Maryland County, about 54 new arrivals crossed the border into Harper on 25 August. They were screened by security and registered by UNHCR.

The former Prime Timber Production (PTP) Camp is expected to officially open on 01 September, after the relocation of 151 refugees from the Zwedru axis to the camp. On 6 September, the pace of relocation from host communities to camps will increase to about 1,200 refugees per week. There are currently five Ivorian refugee camps in Liberia.

• Protection

A joint UNHCR/LRRRC mission was in River Gee County from 18 to 21 August 2011 to assess protection related needs. The mission also aimed at monitoring the food distribution and assessing the number of refugees willing to relocate to Little Wlebo. The mission visited Kronoken, Wlegboken, Gbaweleken, River Gbeh, and Glaro-Freetown.

UNHCR and Child Fund Liberia have concluded the profiling of refugee school-going children in Montserrado County. The final listing is being compiled for verification and final clearance by UNHCR. Three hundred refugee children of primary school age will benefit from education related assistance including provision of uniforms, other school materials, shoes, books, bags etc.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In Dougee Refugee Camp, refugee women and children demonstrated on 23 August rejecting bulgur wheat distribution. The Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), UNHCR, and WFP met with the refugees' leadership on 24 August in an effort to calm the refugees who agreed to

accept the wheat. Refugees in Zleh and Pouh, however, refused to accept the bulgur wheat and the food was returned.

In Dougee Refugee Camp, OXFAM is organising income generating activities from which 49 refugee families have benefited. Some 186,000 Liberian Dollars was provided to the beneficiaries.

Following the launching by the Government of the "Strategic direction and rationale of refugee programme in Liberia", the Health Sector constituted a working team comprised of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), UNHCR, WHO, and MSF-Holland to draft a paper defining the implications of this policy to the health sector and ensure readiness accordingly. The paper was discussed at the Health Sector Coordination meeting this week.

Partial results from round VI Polio sub-national campaign, taking place from 18 - 22 August in seven counties bordering Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast, indicated that 128,171 children were vaccinated. Of those vaccinated, 3,403 are refugees. In the previous round, 962,984 children were vaccinated of which 17,047 were refugee children.

In Little Wlebo, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) stopped shelter construction following a directive from the Rocktown local authorities that the land ownership dispute between Rocktown and Little Wlebo be addressed first. LRRRC and the office of the Superintendent are following up on the issue.

GHANA

The total number of asylum seekers from Côte d'Ivoire in Ghana is estimated at about 17,000. A renewed assessment of the host communities in the Western and Central Regions, planned for early September, will allow determining potential changes.

On 26 August, in the Central Region, 346 individuals were moved in a convoy from Eagle Star Reception to Egeyikrom Camp, relieving the congestion at the reception centre. There were 41 new arrivals during the week ending Friday 26 August 2011 bringing the population at Eagle Star Reception Centre to 782 individuals, a net decrease of 305 individuals from the previous week. In Egeyikrom Camp new arrivals were registered and provided with food and Non Food Items (NFIs). The camp now has 959 refugees.

The Fetentaa Camp in the Brong Ahafo Region, has 912 asylum seekers. Another 171 reside in host communities. There were 29 New Arrivals, during the week ending 26 August, four of whom were from San Pedro district, two from Bondoukou, two from Bonoua, 21 from Abidjan district, and one new birth. All newly arrived asylum seekers were registered and allocated shelter.

In the Western Region, the population in Ampain Camp remains at 4.600 individuals.

• Protection

In Fetentaa Camp, on the night of 28 August, anonymous calls to three asylum seekers announcing an "imminent attack" on the camp caused some panic. The threats were later found to be empty.

On 25 August, a Ghanaian woman selling food was reportedly attacked by an Ivorian asylum seeker. The attack reportedly took place in Egeyikrom Camp. The lady's father also complained that young asylum seekers in Egeyikrom went hunting at night and prevented locals from using roads along the camp perimeter, thus upsetting the local community.

In Ampain Camp, on 22 August, a meeting was held between the camp manager and the asylum seekers' leadership council to discuss sensitization of the population on matters related to food delays, security, domestic violence, and use of electricity.

On 24 August, Ghanaian security officials arrested two FRCI officers in possession of arms in Elubo.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In Fetentaa Camp, there is a need for additional tents to enable movement from provisional to permanent tents. Currently there are 253 tents, with 23 provisional tents. However, there is no cleared land left for additional tent pitching. Further, land cleared to be used as market has to be demarcated to enable the allocation to interested persons. The need to include the Fetentaa community in the allocation is to be considered, and a meeting with the Chiefs of Fetentaa on the Land issue is planned for the coming week.

On 24 August, Ampain camp received the water, sanitation and hygiene team (WASH), composed of UNHCR, UNICEF, Oxfam, NCS, GRB, and the NGOs Church of Christ and Christian Council of Ghana (CCG). The focus of the mission was to assess and improve the water and sanitation conditions on the camp. The participants committed to improve and rehabilitate the existing facilities and materials through, inter alia: rehabilitation and construction of bathrooms, toilets and latrines; digging of pit holes; hand wash facilities; improvement of the drainage system.

TOGO

After last week's violent incidents, the situation in Avepozo Camp is calm. The total number of refugees in Togo stands at 4,295 individuals.

• Protection

In order to stem the advent of non-refugees entering and settling in the camp, UNHCR met with the Coordinator of the Commission Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), the captain of the Gendarmerie and the camp manager on 24 August. Indeed, while official statistics show that the camp has a population of 2,334 refugees, the actual number of residents is estimated to be close to 3,000. During the meeting it

was agreed to establish badges for the refugees, which will help the police to bar non refugees from entry into the camp.

In the town of Baguida, five Ivorian refugees were reportedly involved in the hi-jacking of a motorcycle, according to the Ministry of Security. The arrested refugees were released after several hours.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In a meeting of the food security cluster, on 25 August, UNICEF Togo committed to participating in the therapeutic feeding process in Avepozo Camp and providing information material promoting infant and young child feeding, as well as technical and financial assistance to the Golfe district in the nutritional follow-up of the children in the camp.

In two separate meetings, in the camp and at the CNAR, refugee parents were sensitized on the start of the new school year and university studies' procedures.

GUINEA

As of 26 August, after the registration exercise in Kouankan II Camp, the number of Ivorian refugees in Guinea was 2,458 individuals. The last refugees remaining in the Transit Center Kouankan I were

transferred to the Kouankan II Camp, bringing the total population in the camp to 1,488 individuals.

• Protection

On 24 August, UNHCR met with the new president of the Commission Nationale pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés (CNIS). During the meeting, the planned issuing of identity cards for the refugees before the elections in October was discussed. UNHCR reiterated its position that the authenticity of the cards would be served better by the signature Minister of Administration. To support the preparation and harmonization of refugee identity cards in the region, a mission of the Regional Registration Officer from Dakar was recommended.

BENIN

During the reporting period, 46 newly arrived asylum seekers from Côte d'Ivoire were registered, bringing the total number to 659.

In **MALI**, the number of Ivorian asylum seekers remains 972.

West Africa - Côte d'Ivoire Emergency

Number of refugees and IDPs

As of 29th August 2011

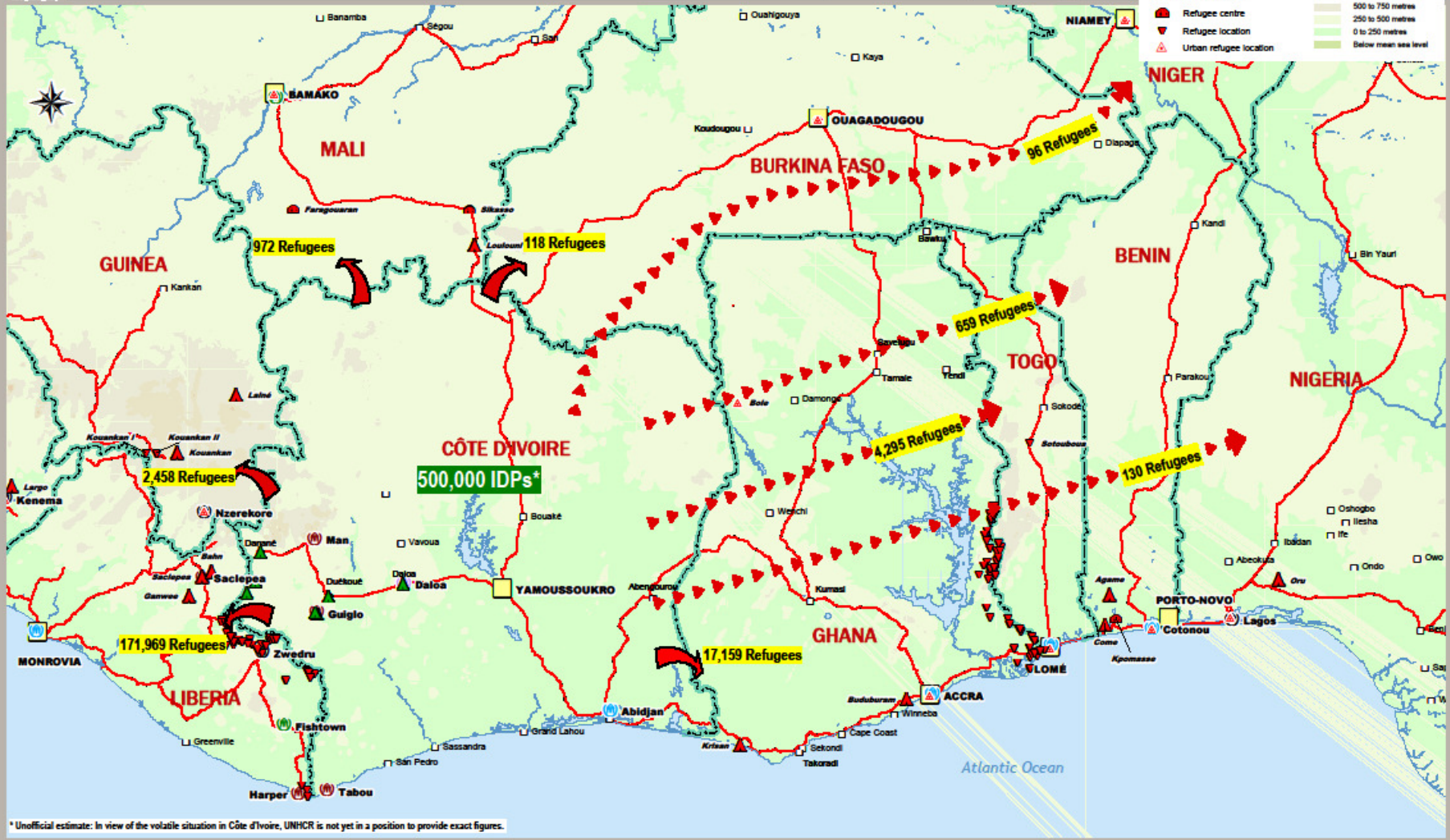
FIGSS
Field Information and
Coordination Support Section

Sources:
UNHCR, Global Insight digital mapping
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The boundaries and names shown
on this map do not imply official endorsement
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- Capital
- UNHCR Country Office / National Office / Liaison Office
- UNHCR Sub-Office
- UNHCR Field Office
- UNHCR Field Unit
- IDP camp
- Refugee settlement
- Refugee camp
- Refugee centre
- Refugee location
- Urban refugee location
- Main town or village
- International boundary
- Main road
- Elevation (Above mean sea level)
 - 3,250 to 4,000 metres
 - 2,500 to 3,250 metres
 - 1,750 to 2,500 metres
 - 1,000 to 1,750 metres
 - 750 to 1,000 metres
 - 500 to 750 metres
 - 250 to 500 metres
 - 0 to 250 metres
 - Below mean sea level



* Unofficial estimate: In view of the volatile situation in Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR is not yet in a position to provide exact figures.

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