

Update No. 27

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

04 August 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- In a report titled *'A Critical Period for Ensuring Stability in Côte d'Ivoire'*, released on 1 August, the International Crisis Group (ICG) highlighted the importance of the country's reconciliation process beginning immediately. According to ICG, the newly created Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission is laudable but, *"quick changes are needed if it is to have adequate credibility"*.
- Seven women killed during the post electoral crisis in Abobo on March 3 were remembered during the launching ceremony of the Grand Chancellery of Côte d'Ivoire on 2 August. The deceased Abobo women were posthumously decorated Knights of the National Order of Côte d'Ivoire by Ms. Henriette Diabaté, Grand Chancellor of the National Order.



Widows in Mambehiri (Bas-Sassandra region) receiving non-food items (UNHCR/Côte d'Ivoire/2011)

Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/Asylum seekers	2,397	118	968	17,159	4,295	569	96	130	58	65	94	54
Liberia	The total estimated number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 162,814.											

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 08 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.	



IDPs at the Duékoué Catholic Mission, Cote d'Ivoire. (UNHCR/Dewoelmont /2011)

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

There was a slight decline in food prices although prices of staples, including milk, rice and meat are on the rise. Rumours of a looming coup d'état in Côte d'Ivoire (CIV) spread among Ivorian refugees in neighbouring countries.

On 28 and 29 July, a high-level delegation of Government and United Nations representatives visited western CIV to assess the humanitarian situation and find ways to foster the rapid return of displaced or exiled persons.

• Protection

UNHCR and Government continued joint efforts in western CIV to facilitate the return of IDPs, through awareness-raising campaigns and humanitarian assistance to persons willing to return.

Field protection monitors deployed in several regions in CIV continued monitoring activities, including site and home return assessments to determine urgent protection issues. These monitors are in the Denguele, Baffing, Moyen Cavally, Mountains, Lower and Upper Sassandra regions. Assessments are also taking place in Bouake, in central CIV.

Some 800 IDPs were relocated by UNHCR and its partners from the Catholic Mission to the Nahibly site in Duekoue Town, in the Moyen-Cavally region. To decongest the Catholic Mission which hosted 25,000 persons, so far, 1600 IDPs have been relocated to Nahibly site, which covers an area of 32 ha and has the capacity to host 8,000 persons.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In western Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR, WFP, and local partners began large-scale distribution of food and non food items (NFIs) in the Toulepleu region. Rice, beans, corn-soy blend (CSB), oil, blankets, mats, tents and other household kits were distributed to 30,000 beneficiaries that returned from Liberia and the western region. The objective of the operation is to bring rapid assistance to returnees and above all to encourage IDPs to return.

UNHCR's community service team undertook a mission to the western region to train and educate IDPs and partners on sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.

UNHCR signed an agreement with AWECO, a local NGO, to address women's welfare, social cohesion and income-generation through several micro-projects, namely sewing, hairdressing and baking.

UNHCR, the Service d'Aide et Assistance aux Refugies et Apatrides (SAARA) and Espace Magique, a local NGO, distributed NFIs to IDPs in Soubré, Sassandra, San Pedro and Tabou Towns. A total of 1,779 IDPs (428 families) received kits consisting of tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen utensils, soap, mats, jerry cans, women sanitary napkins and mosquito nets.

Despite repeated calls by local authorities to IDPs to return, the return rate remains low.

LIBERIA

The 'Solutions Approach for Ivorian Refugees in Liberia' strategy document developed by UNHCR has been endorsed by experts including the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC).

The renovated Police station in Saclepea, Nimba County, which had been set ablaze by an angry mob in May, was inaugurated. It is the second time a police station was reportedly burnt down in Saclepea and the fourth time in Nimba County.

UNHCR, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) participated in a cross border meeting at Pedebo, Maryland County. The meeting focused on security issues along the border and facilitating return of Ivorian refugees.

• Protection

As at 27 July, there were **162, 814** Ivorian refugees in Liberia. On 28 July, UNHCR carried out a mission at Zabay town border in Grand Gedeh to verify reports of new arrivals from CIV and twenty five individuals had arrived.

Registration of new arrivals in Maryland County continued during the reporting period. New arrivals claimed they fled CIV because of insecurity.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In July, WFP distributed about 2,242 metric tons of assorted food commodities to 134,104 refugees (90% of beneficiaries planned) in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Maryland and River Gee Counties. A one-off general food distribution to 12,100 members of the host community was concluded in Maryland County, while food distribution among the communities in Karluway District, Maryland County was concluded on 29 July.

Fifteen NFIs containers were cleared from the Monrovia Free Port. In Pullah and neighbouring communities in Maryland County, NFIs were distributed to 1,261 Individuals (211 families).

Some 140 service providers at the Bahn camp had a two-day training on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and the UNHCR Code of Conduct.

The Ministry of Health has commenced a five-day nationwide polio immunization campaign targeting over 950,000 children under five years of age, including nationals and refugees. The campaign is technically and financially supported by WHO and UNICEF.

In response to increasing cases of malaria in Nimba County, Mentor Initiative collaborated with Nimba County Health Team to carryout indoor residual spraying of 1,340 refugee shelters in Bahn camp and 865 refugee shelters in designated villages. In addition, in conjunction with the County Health Team, Mentor Initiative distributed 3,356 long lasting insecticide treated bed nets to refugees in Bahn camp.

UNHCR completed first semi-permanent shelters at the former Prime Timber Production (PTP) refugee camp. The Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and the local Bahn Community are looking into options for further expansion of Bahn camp. These options are to be assessed by UNHCR.

OXFAM-GB decommissioned all Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities at the former Bishop Ferguson Transit Centre in Maryland County and backfilled all pit latrines.

Assistance for Providing Aid (APA) has completed rehabilitation of two hand pumps at the Wahodo Public Elementary School with UNICEF funding. The school accommodates refugee children in Harper city who are

receiving primary education based on the Ivorian curriculum in the French language.

OXFAM is currently installing water towers that will provide water to taps placed in camps. In total six boreholes have been retrieved from earlier works at the PTP camp site in Grand Gedeh County. Additional water supplies are being sought.

The Concern Christian Community (CCC) commenced skills training activities (tailoring and pastry) for 100 women and girls in Bahn refugee camp. The pastry training will be completed in four months and tailoring in six months. Each training class has 50 trainees. At the end of the training, graduates will receive kits to start their own businesses.

Due to the reduction in school attendance in the Gborplay axis, Nimba County, IRC education focal points and teachers are conducting meetings with parents at homes and awareness-raising on the community radio to encourage parents to send children to school. Distribution of UNICEF donated text books at Bahn camp is ongoing, where 727 (399 male, 328 female) refugee students have received books.

Refugees in Little Wlebo camp have been allocated a temporary market space in the camp. They sell commodities like pepper, magic cube and dry fish.

UNHCR in collaboration with DRC commenced distribution of the UNFPA sanitary kits in Little Wlebo camp on 29 July. So far, 98 families have received kits.

GHANA

In the western and central region, the general situation was calm. Asylum-seekers continue to seek refuge in Ghana.

• Protection

Some **539** new arrivals were registered at the Eagle Star reception centre during the period. The population in Eagle Star now stands at **822** individuals. Stocks of non food items have been positioned in preparation of an influx of new arrivals. There were **4,479** persons in Ampain refugee camp in the western region as at 31 July. As a result of the recent level II registration exercise, some 1,531 individuals indicated that they had special needs, while 1,824 individuals indicated they want to carry on with their education.

In the central region, as at 28 July, there were **583** persons in Egeikrom camp. Some 117 new arrivals were registered on 28 July, including three elderly persons, one disabled person and two pregnant women. Two individuals reportedly living in the host community in the central region approached Egeikrom camp for assistance. They were told that priority is given to camp inhabitants only. An awareness-raising campaign will be undertaken in host communities to identify asylum-seekers who wish to be moved to a refugee camp in Ghana.

About 100 new arrivals per day were registered at the Elubo border, Jomoro District, western region. The Elubo border is considered the easiest exit point from Côte d'Ivoire. Among new arrivals, some families have infants aged between one and nine months. As a result of movements at Elubo, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has moved its staff to the border including medical staff. The movement of medical screening to the border will affect the population at Eagle Star; they will not have medical attention when they fall sick.

Given the recent influx of asylum-seekers during the week under review, UNHCR undertook an 'ad hoc' border monitoring mission on 29 July to Jaway Warf and New Town borders located in the Jomoro District. The aim of the mission was to ascertain the situation at the borders. The borders in this district were calm. Most of the people registered in Half-Assini, the capital of the Jomoro District, and surrounding villages have gone back to Côte d'Ivoire. Some have also come to the camp to get assistance as their hosts can no longer help them. At Jaway Warf border, no unusual movement of asylum-seekers was reported.

Newtown border, located 27 km from Half-Assini, was a transit point for third country nationals (TCNs) at the height of the Côte d'Ivoire crisis. On 29 July, Newtown border was calm. No asylum-seekers or displaced persons were registered. Rather individuals leaving Ghana outnumbered those entering Ghana. These are mainly traders.

In Ampain camp, UNHCR continues to register asylum-seekers that were absent during the level II registration exercise. According to these absentees, some were at the hospital and others elsewhere in Ghana without any information on the level II registration exercise.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Teachers in the western region complained bitterly about work conditions and conditions of service during a meeting with UNHCR.

In the central region, UNICEF donated exercise books that are being kept by the Christian Council Ghana (CCG) at Egeikrom. The Police Post was completed. One tank was installed in Block 'F' and another in Block 'E'. Electrical installation was completed in the Administration building, warehouse and police station. Connection to the electrical grid is yet to be done.

Twenty-three children were screened and all found healthy. Two children had severe acute malnutrition and two cases of global acute malnutrition (GAM) were recorded. The malnourished children were given plumpy nuts. Some 104 individual patients were treated at Egeikrom camp during the reporting period.

Non-food items (NFIs) distributed at Egeikrom camp in the central region during the reporting period included 1,575 boxes of soap, 1,382 boxes of sanitary pads, 431 blankets, 131 sets of cooking utensils, 7,875 bags of charcoal, 263 jerry cans, 174 coal pots, 233

mosquito nets, 366 mats and 233 plates and cups. Food items distributed, included 7,937 bags of rice, 945 bags of beans, 1557 boxes of oil, 315 bags of salt and 975 bags of corn-soy blend (CSB).

GUINEA

No new Ivorian refugees were registered during the reporting period. The total number of Ivorian refugees in Guinea was **2,397** as at 1 August.

UNHCR undertook a meticulous verification of the individual data of Ivorian refugees who were part of the 19 transfers of refugees, which took place between December 2010 and July 2011. The verification was carried out in collaboration with the Bureau Régional pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés (BRISR), Crédit Rural de Guinée (CRG) and the Refugees Committee. It was aimed at identifying cases of separated families and facilitation of their reunification. In addition, some cases of fraud were detected. Families/individuals that were not registered in the database were entered to ensure that all beneficiaries registered by UNHCR and BRISR benefit from food distributions. The updating of the database will continue through the first week of August.

TOGO

During the reporting period, the Protection Unit held a meeting with refugees at the Tropicana/Avepozo camp to introduce a document on camp rules and regulations signed by the Coordinator of the *Commission Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés* (CNAR), the UNHCR Representative, the Director of the *Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial* (ATBEF) and the President of the Refugees Committee.

UNHCR and CNAR conducted a three-day registration exercise for urban refugees and asylum-seekers, thereby completing the second round of registration. As at 28 July, there were **4,295** Ivorian refugees in Togo of whom 2,334 are at the Tropicana camp in Avepozo Town.

During the level II registration exercise 93 special needs cases were identified among new arrivals (44 cases in the camp and 49 in town). The Protection Unit prepared 17 cases for resettlement. Some 666 persons indicated their intention to return to Côte d'Ivoire during the registration process.

UNHCR met the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), to discuss implementation of income generating activities that will soon be launched.

• Humanitarian Assistance

There is lack of accommodation in the camp. New arrivals do not have shelter.

A rubbish dump in front of the camp was removed and the garbage was placed in a pit. The entrance to the Tropicana camp is now clean. Awareness-raising on

keeping the camp clean is ongoing. Forty new latrines were completed in the Tropicana camp. Twenty-four bathrooms have also been completed. The problem of low water pressure in the camp faucets has been resolved.

A registration process has been undertaken to establish a list of children to be enrolled in school for the next school session.

Monthly food distribution was carried out. Sanitary pads were distributed. After a meeting between UNHCR Togo and WFP Benin Representatives, WFP pledged to provide food items to Ivorian refugees in Togo.

Fifty-one patients received psychopathological consultations. Also, some 351 patients were received at the camp clinic and had consultation. Among these patients, four were evacuated to the Lome-Tokoin University Hospital. Seven patients were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

MALI

Two new asylum-seekers were registered during the reporting period bringing the number of Ivorian asylum-seekers in Mali to **968** by 31 July.

On July 29, UNHCR Mali attended an IOM debriefing on assessments of the Kouremale border with Guinea, the Zégoua border with Côte d'Ivoire, the Heremakono border with Burkina and the Bamako international airport. Gaps identified included selective migration data collection, poor statistics and border officials' lack of knowledge of laws and regulations on entry and residence in Mali. IOM recommended capacity building of border officials including training and the provision of appropriate equipment.

SIERRA LEONE

There were **54** Ivorian refugees and 8 asylum-seekers in Sierra-Leone as at 01 August.

In Gbenderu, the UNHCR officially commissioned and handed over a three-classroom school, with an office space, a store, a VIP latrine and a hand pump to the Ministry of Education for use by the population including integrated refugees in the Gbenderu community. Also, UNHCR donated garage equipments to the Automobile Department at the Eastern Polytechnic in the Kenema District.

Furthermore, 25 shelters have been roofed and 15 slabs for VIP latrines have been cast. The remaining shelters are at various stages of construction in both Hangha and Gbenderu Towns. In the southern and eastern regions, the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) has completed construction of 218 shelters. Most of these shelters are outstanding activities of last year.

In the Gambia, the number of new Ivorian asylum seekers is steadily increasing. As at 29 July, there

were 94 Ivorian asylum-seekers. **In Nigeria**, there were 130 Ivorian asylum-seekers by 01 August 2011. Some 66 individuals received food rations. **In Guinea Bissau**, no new arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire were reported during the reporting week. Thus far, the number of Ivorian asylum-seekers stands at **65**. **In Niger**, by 04 August the number of Ivorian asylum-seekers/refugees was **96**.

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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