

# Update No. 35

## Côte d'Ivoire Situation

10 October 2011



### HIGHLIGHTS

- Ivorian Commission on Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation commences its work.
- International Criminal Court announces investigation of crimes against humanity in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia is now 159,000, following increased returns and a verification exercise.
- Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees signed by Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and UNHCR.



Girls in 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	2,480	120	972	17,985	4,761	722	96	130	58	76	94	62
Liberia	The total number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at <b>159,489</b> .											

## Financial Information

UNHCR's financial requirements for West Africa	
Executive Committee approved budget (with adjustments)	\$ 100,313,854
Regional supplementary budget	\$ 125,993,829
<b>TOTAL revised requirements</b>	<b>\$ 226,307,683</b>

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa at 13 October 2011	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
African Development Bank	630,000
African Union	125,000
Australia	4,167,435
Belgium	1,430,615
Canada	2,335,363
CERF	5,068,375
Denmark	3,828,572
EC/ ECHO	5,365,624
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	1,080,778
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
<b>TOTAL (*)</b>	<b>65,415,564</b>
(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 towards UNHCR's initial response in Côte d'Ivoire in December 2010.	



Water tap in Ampain refugee camp, Ghana (UNHCR/ 2011)

## Country Operations

### CÔTE D'IVOIRE

On 28 September, the national Commission on Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation (CDVR) commenced its work in the Ivorian capital Abidjan. The CDVR is expected to help create conditions for permanent peace and lead the process of dialogue, truth and reconciliation.

Meanwhile, on 3 October, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) announced that the ICC would investigate crimes against humanity committed by the two opposing camps in Côte d'Ivoire following the presidential elections of 28 November 2010.

The general security situation in Abidjan remains calm, although there are reported increases in armed robberies in and around the city.

In Guiglo a large movement of Dozos (traditional hunters), and other unknown armed men has been reported. This heightened feelings of insecurity among the population. A verification exercise in Guiglo zone also reported exactions, arbitrary arrests and other forms of abuse meted out against the civilian population.

#### • Protection

As of 30 September, the population living in the 35 IDP sites in Côte d'Ivoire stood at 25,109. The western zones of Moyen Cavally, 18 Montagnes and

Haut Sassandra alone host around 20,000 IDPs. Reportedly 15% of the total IDP population is under the threat of expulsion and some ten sites could be closed within weeks.

In September, five IDP sites were closed throughout the country, including two sites in Abidjan, one in Aboisso, and two in Danané. Ten more IDP sites, hosting 4,612 IDPs, are threatened with closure.

UNHCR is following up on the situation and has approached all concerned ministries. In addition, UNHCR is in contact with the land owners of the sites. The Humanitarian Coordinator also raised the issue with the authorities.

Between 26 and 29 September, 330 families consisting of 1,361 IDPs were relocated from the Catholic Mission of Duékoué to the IDP site in Nahibly.

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

On 5 October, a high-level delegation composed of four Ivorian Ministers held discussions at several IDP sites in the west of the country. The objective of the mission was to build confidence among the population. The Ministers addressed the issue of possible returns of the IDPs to their areas of origin. The delegation took note of the concerns expressed by the IDPs such as the lack of security, transportation to return, and the need for shelter and reintegration measures in their places of origin.

As part of its social cohesion and recreational activities, UNHCR and its partners organised a mission of the international NGO, Clowns without Borders - Spain, to perform at different IDP camps, between 3 and 16 October.

## LIBERIA

The general security situation remains stable. The last days of campaigning ahead of the Presidential and Legislative Elections on 11 October were calm with no reports of violence.

During the reporting period, refugees started returning to Côte d'Ivoire in much larger numbers. Among other reasons, returning refugees cited fear of violence during the elections in Liberia as the main reason behind their return. As at 10 October, the number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stood at 159,000. Besides return movements, the decrease of the overall number can also be attributed to the completion of a verification exercise in Grand Gedeh, and the harmonisation of UNHCR registration data in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

Following extensive rehabilitation, the 78 Km long stretch of road between Butuo and Bahn is open to UN vehicles again. The road offers the shortest route to relocation of communities but has been unusable due to its deplorable condition. UNHCR

and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) have been working on its rehabilitation since March 2011, including the building of four bridges. Additional bridges are under construction.

From 26 to 30 September, a joint assessment on food flows to Côte d'Ivoire from border villages in Nimba County was conducted by the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), WFP, other UN agencies, donors and NGOs.

#### • Protection

On 4 October, 254 Ivorian refugees were relocated to PTP Camp from the Bawaydee – Janzon axis. This was the first relocation to the camp that did not originate from the Zwedru axis.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and LRRRC held meetings with refugees and their Liberian hosts in Cavalla, Maryland County, to discuss their concerns relating to the relocation exercise. The local authorities committed to support the government policy to relocate refugees to Little Wlebo camp. However, refugees in Cavalla indicated that they are hesitant to move. They said that they do not want to disrupt the school year by moving to the camp. Most refugees in the area also have planted food and would like to harvest before relocating to the camp. UNHCR and LRRRC informed the refugees that children can continue their studies in the camp without any disruption.

In order to exclude the registration of previously registered refugees and non-Ivorians, UNHCR and LRRRC decided that new arrivals in refugee hosting communities in Maryland County will only be registered if they are willing to relocate to the camp.

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

Food distribution to refugees is ongoing in Maryland, Grand Gedeh, Nimba and River Gee counties. So far, 24,067 refugees have received rice, pulses, salt, oil and Corn Soya Blend (CSB). Targeted food distribution to vulnerable host population in Grand Gedeh has also started, with about 2,000 beneficiaries receiving food support in October.

Some 367 refugees in Little Wlebo camp, most of them newly relocated, received non food items (NFIs) including plastic mats, washing soap, jerry cans and kitchen sets. A total of 1,207 refugees were provided with an assortment of hygiene items.

UNHCR has procured and received drugs and medical supplies sufficing for six months for Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties. The items will be handed over to partners providing health services.

Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium (MSF-B) has decided to pull out of the refugee operation in Nimba County at the end of December 2011. MSF-B has already started to gradually reduce their health

provision activities on the Buutuo Axis. The new partner, Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), will take over the health related activities in Bahn camp in January 2012. AHA has already started the assessment of the camp and discussions with MSF-B to ensure a smooth transition.

Médecins Sans Frontières Holland (MSF-H) also decided to end its engagement in Grand Gedeh at the end of November 2011. MSF-H has been providing health services at Dougee, Solo, and PTP camps. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) will take over services in Dougee and PTP camps, and the international NGO Merlin in Solo camp.

In all camps, sanitation facilities are reaching an average coverage of 26 persons per latrine, 58-81 persons per shower; 12-19 litres of water per person are distributed. All functional water points were tested negative for faecal coliform bacteria.

UNHCR handed over 75 vacant shelters to 74 newly registered families in two relocation communities in Nimba County, including 40 families in Zuatuo and 34 families in Toweh's Town.

## GHANA

The overall security situation in Ghana remains stable. No new security incidents have been reported.

On 6 October, the Governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and UNHCR signed a Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees in Ghana.

Between 4 and 7 October, UNHCR conducted the first Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) Participatory Assessment in all camps hosting Ivorian refugees. The assessment started with briefing sessions, followed by exercises with the participation of numerous partners.

### • Protection

The number of new arrivals to Ghana continues to decline, with only 31 persons seeking asylum between 2 and 9 October.

On 27 September, in Ampain camp, 16 asylum seekers formed a Child Protection Committee and will be trained by UNICEF in basic child protection matters. On 1 October, the Deputy Minister for Interior visited the camp. The delegation expressed their concern for the security and wellbeing of the refugees and urged them to live in harmony with the host community.

During the participatory assessment in Fetantaa camp, asylum seekers expressed concerns about the security measures in place. It was proposed that UNHCR fence the camp or increase the presence of policemen.

UNHCR shared 28 verified claims of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and 17 separated children with an ICRC team on mission to the Western and Central regions. UNHCR asked ICRC to share their findings and other relevant information as a feedback in its efforts to adhering to family reunification principles.

### • Humanitarian Assistance

On 3 October, schools re-opened in all camps. In Ampain camp, out of 712 children enrolled, 502 are attending primary school and 210 are in the kindergarten. School uniforms were distributed to all school-going children. In Fetantaa camp, 144 children are attending primary school, while 51 are in the kindergarten. In Egeyikrom camp, 127 individuals have registered for the adult literacy programme.

Between 3 and 8 October, 306 people received services at the clinic in Ampain camp. There continues to be a high prevalence of malaria. In Fetantaa camp, 95 refugees visited the clinic for consultation. In Egeyikrom camp, immunization against Tetanus was carried out on 29 and 30 September. A total of 179 women and girls were immunized.

In Fetantaa camp, temporary space for pitching provisional tents has been identified. The total number of tents currently stands at 264. Forty-five new tents will be pitched by 17 October for 140 refugees previously staying in Accra or with friends in the camp.

## TOGO

The overall situation at the Avépozo refugee site is calm. Relations between refugees and the host communities are further improving.

Between 3 and 9 October, a joint assessment mission composed of UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, the national refugee agency Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), the local NGOs Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ATBEF) and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and the refugee committee, assessed the situation and needs of refugees in Avépozo and Lomé. The mission held meetings with representative focus groups and key stakeholders. The findings will be shared shortly.

### • Protection

No new arrivals were registered during the reporting period. The overall number of Ivorian refugees in Togo stands at 4,761 of which 2,617 are staying at Avépozo and 2,144 in Lomé.

The National Eligibility Commission (CNE) has started to work on the backlog of Ivorian asylum seekers. According to the CNAR, there are more

than 300 pending asylum-seeker cases. UNHCR is following up on this issue in view of providing the necessary support to the CNAR.

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

During the reporting period, UNHCR and ADRA distributed food to all urban refugees and asylum seekers in Lomé. The monthly ration contained rice, oil, beans and Corn Soya Blend (CSB), providing around 2,500 kcal per day.

In Avépozo, UNHCR organized a two-day capacity building training for partners on international protection for refugees, the UNHCR code of conduct and programme management.

On 10 October, schools in Avépozo opened, with 344 children in primary school and kindergarten. Children in Lomé and in Avépozo received school kits, and their parents were sensitized on financial and material support provided for school children. Enrolment is continuing.

Between 26 September and 9 October, 742 patients received treatment at the clinic in Avépozo. The psychological service received 55 patients.

## GUINEA

The total number of registered Ivorian refugees in Guinea stands at 2,480.

Between 5 and 8 October, general food distribution took place in Kouankan 2 camp.

## BENIN

Between 26 September and 9 October, the Commission Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), the national refugee authority, registered 14 new Ivorian asylum seekers, bringing the total number to 722 individuals.

On 3 October, schools opened for the new academic year. Ivorian refugee children received schools kits, and 97 started classes in primary schools and 44 in secondary schools. UNHCR had held meetings with several schools to ensure the enrolment of refugees.

## BURKINA FASO

As of 10 October, the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CONAREF), the national refugee commission of Burkina Faso, registered two new Ivorian asylum seekers. The total number of Ivorian asylum seekers is 120, of which 113 are staying in Ouagadougou and seven in other cities.

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