

# Côte d'Ivoire Situation

## update CIV+5

United Nations  
High Commissioner  
for Refugees

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- In Brief...** UNHCR appeals to warring groups in Côte d'Ivoire to avoid placing civilian lives at risk;
- An estimated 200,000-300,000 displaced persons from Abobo are in and around Abidjan and thousands of people are holed up in community centres or without any help;
  - A relocation plan involving the use of transit centres and way stations has been established in Liberia to facilitate relocation of refugees from the border communities to the refugee camp;
  - The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated US\$6 million to UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO and UNFPA in order to help tens of thousand of refugees who have fled to Liberia from Côte d'Ivoire.

### MAIN HIGHLIGHTS ON COTE D'IVOIRE

UNHCR appealed to warring groups in Côte d'Ivoire to commit themselves to supporting urgently-needed humanitarian efforts and to avoid placing civilian lives at risk. UNHCR warned as well that access for humanitarian organizations in Abidjan and other parts of Côte d'Ivoire is shrinking rapidly amid widening insecurity. Groups of displaced persons staying in temporary locations around the city, such as churches or communal places, are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March, BBC News Africa, AFP and other press agencies reported that security forces shot and killed seven women during a peaceful march in support of Alassane Ouattara.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, UNOCI stressed during its press briefing the urgent need to secure a humanitarian corridor to allow civilians to leave their homes to reach safety. M. Ovedo of the Associated Press described hundreds of bodies in varying stages of decomposition stacked at the Anyama morgue, where there was no room to store them. Other bodies were piled on the ground or lying in the streets. Hamadoun Toure, spokesperson of UNOCI, confirmed that this was a major issue and one of the reasons behind calls for a truce in Abobo.

### MAIN HIGHLIGHTS ON LIBERIA

A relocation plan involving the use of transit centres and way stations has been established to facilitate relocation of refugees from the border communities to the refugee camp. In Luguatuu axes, two transit centres will receive up to 9,000 persons to be transferred within three to four weeks to the Garwee refugee camp, which will open shortly. From Buutuo axes, refugees are being transferred to New Yourpea way stations (capacity up to 4,000 people) before being transferred to Bahn camp. An emergency transit centre will also be established in Bahn camp to accommodate the rapid influx of persons coming from transit centres and way stations.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, two rockets reportedly landed in Biahplay and Duoplay, but nobody was hit. Heavy bombings in Zouan-Hounien (opposite Dubozon) were reported as well.

Following fighting in Toulepleu reported on 6<sup>th</sup> March and media reports confirming that the Forces Nouvelles had taken Toulepleu town, LRRRC and UNHCR undertook a mission on 7<sup>th</sup> March to assess the situation with regard to the influx of refugees in Toe Town, to provide NFIs, and to register new arrivals before transferring them to host families or transit centres. By the end of the day, some 1300 individuals were transferred and received NFIs (blankets, sleeping mats, soap, plastic sheeting, lanterns, kitchen sets, jerry cans, buckets, mosquito nets, empty rice bags, and kerosene for lamps and tents).

# Humanitarian Challenges and Response

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## LIBERIA

As of 18<sup>th</sup> February, 39,784 persons had been registered by UNHCR. On 24<sup>th</sup> February a new influx began due to fierce fighting in western Côte d'Ivoire that forced a large number of Ivorians to cross the border.

Since 24<sup>th</sup> February, an additional 37,172 individuals have been preliminarily registered with UNHCR, while an estimated few thousand additional people have also arrived. At this point, figures from rapid emergency registration may include multiple registrations as a result of back-and-forth movements between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. The exact figure of refugees will be confirmed once refugees have been transferred away from the border. Enhanced individual registration is taking place at the transit centres and ways stations, allowing vulnerable cases to be identified more fully.

The number of refugees registered in Bahn Camp stands at 722 individuals, and acceleration of transfer to Bahn camp is ongoing; in parallel, 659 individuals were transferred to Karnplay transit centre and 189 to New Yorpea way station.

### ***Protection at Border Communities***

Border monitoring undertaken by NRC, LRRRC, and UNHCR continued, and various locations were visited, including Dubuzon (300 persons reported by partners on site) and Behwaley (1,850 people reported by LRRRC on site) to follow up on reports of high numbers of refugees. Teams are currently deployed to these locations for rapid emergency registration.

Buutuo School was emptied on 5<sup>th</sup> March and rehabilitation works are being undertaken in order to allow classes to resume as quickly as possible.

In light of a number of cases of spontaneous arrivals at various locations, a policy for handling this situation is being finalized.

The main protection challenges remain:

1. Registration and documentation of a very mobile population next to porous borders;
2. Border monitoring along a conflict zone while security of the area has yet to be strengthened;
3. Field protection with the vast majority of the refugee population scattered in host communities;
4. Dealing with vulnerabilities in an environment

already characterized by limited access to basic services for local populations.

### ***Site Planning/Shelter / Water Sanitation / Shelter***

#### **Bahn Camp**

ACF identified the location for the latrines, and construction started on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

A total of 317 family shelters have been constructed so far in Bahn camp, of which 175 are occupied, 82 are ready for occupation, and 60 are at different stages of construction.

The UNHCR electrical engineer has finalized the electrical plan for the camp site.

#### **Garwee Camp**

LRRRC, EPA and UNHCR met on 5<sup>th</sup> March with representatives of the Garwee community on site in order to sign the MOU. The community representative insisted on the importance of the creek that runs through the site, symbolically, traditionally, and ecologically, asking that it be protected and conserved. The MOU was signed and clearing of the site, intended to shelter some 15,000 individuals, started on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Technicians planning the rehabilitation of the bridges along the Garwee access road have prepared their final assessment.

#### **Buutuo Axis**

UNHCR completed the rehabilitation of the ten bridges on the Graie-Buutuo road. An engineering unit is set up in Graie and will spend one month working on grading and other critical problems on the 78-km road. DRC is rehabilitating the Bahn-Buutuo road, with work expected to be completed in 45 days. The water and sanitation situation was reported critical on 4<sup>th</sup> March, with few latrines and scarce water. Three water treatment stations are being finalized by ICRC in order to serve 5,000 persons. UNHCR provided a water truck to facilitate water distribution in Buutuo and nearby communities.

#### New Yorpea 1 (football field)

107 tents were erected in New Yorpea.

The communal kitchen was roofed and construction of the dining hall and reception area started.

Two shower blocks were completed, as well as two blocks of latrines, each with six drop holes.

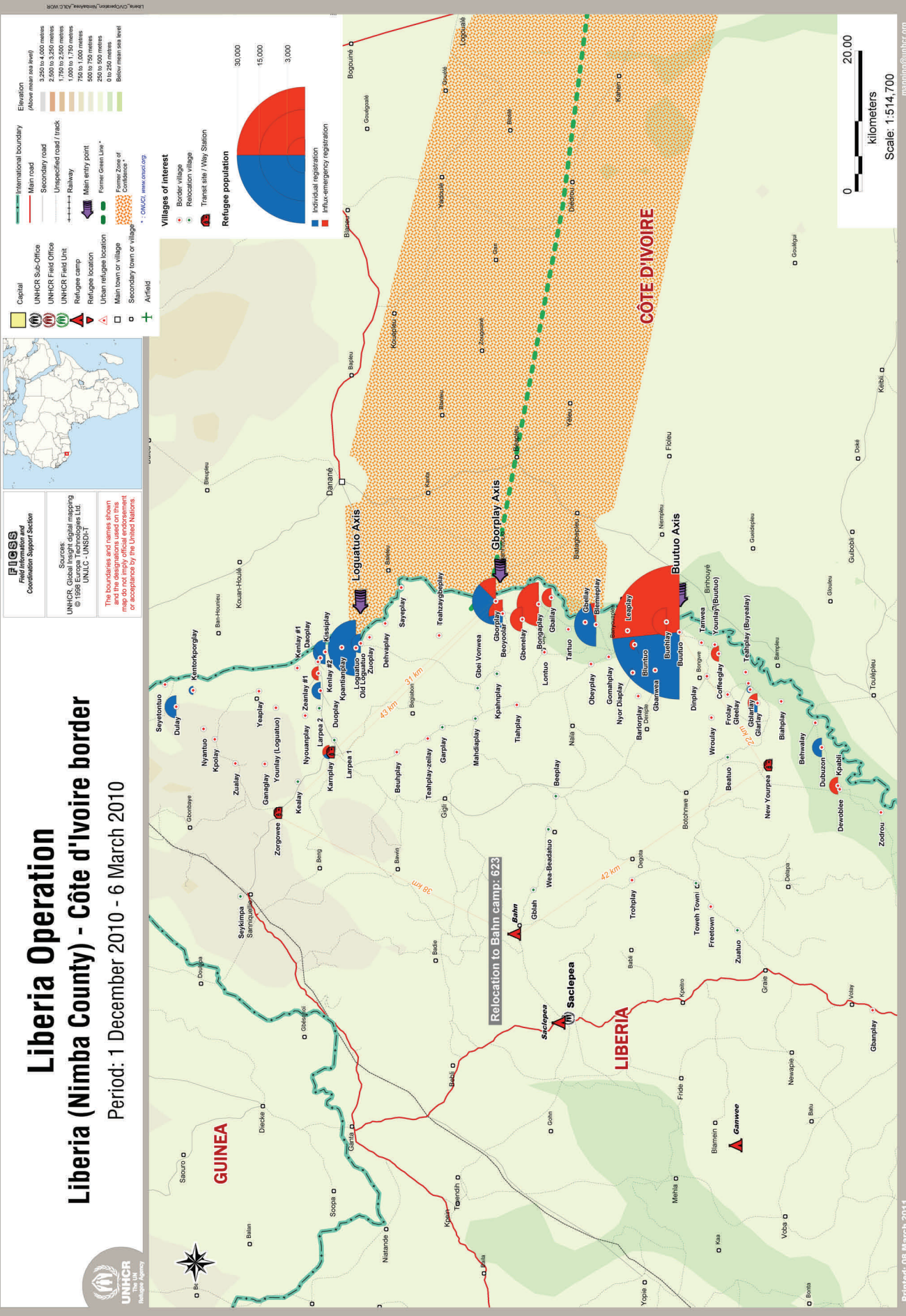
#### New Yorpea 2

CRS began plotting the site on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

# Humanitarian Challenges and Response

## Liberia Operation Liberia (Nimba County) - Côte d'Ivoire border

Period: 1 December 2010 - 6 March 2011



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## Gborplay axis

### Karnplay 1

Refugees are given warm meals, NFIs (sleeping mats, blankets, flash lights, and jerry cans) upon arrival.

ADRA-Liberia completed brushing the site, with 40 persons participating in the brushing and clearing of the site and the construction of 131 tents in addition to the communal shelter. Eighty-four of these are currently occupied and fencing has started.

The water supply system is being set up in two phases starting on 4<sup>th</sup> March: 1) CIPORD is slated to provide 20L per person and per day for five days; 2) the water supply system will be provided by UNICEF/CIPORD.

Seven blocks of six latrines each have been completed and construction of the showers has started.

DRC continued setting up the latrines and two hygiene promoters were recruited on 4<sup>th</sup> March and are assigned full-time to this camp.

### Karnplay 2

Most of the area has been cleared and plastic sheeting is on site

## **Relocation Communities**

Some refugees moved spontaneously to relocation communities and were put up by the community in shelters constructed by partners. CRS completed 15 shelters and 16 more are in the pipeline. ARC constructed 20 shelters in different communities.

As finding carpenters is a challenge, LRRRC has committed to identifying them while UNHCR is assisting in transporting them in order to ensure that the objective of constructing 40 shelters a week is met.

## **Food Security/NFIs**

WFP, NRC, and UNHCR met on 7<sup>th</sup> March to look into the modalities of distributing to the refugees who arrived in the border communities prior to 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Upon arrival in New Yorpea 1, refugees receive NFIs and wet food (provided by WFP) prepared by NRC. Construction of the communal eco-stoves was completed at Karnplay 1, and 128 family eco-stoves were constructed.

Distribution of NFIs took place on 4<sup>th</sup> March at Karnplay 1, including sleeping mats, kitchen sets, buckets, soap, blankets and jerry cans.

## **Health**

Cases of diarrhea and malaria were reported in Buutuo town. WHO and a county health team visited clinics to identify gaps and constraints in service delivery.

According to IRC, malaria and watery diarrhea are increasing at Blemieplay Town and two cases of measles were discovered in Bongoplay last week. Moreover, it appears that a large number of the refugee women have STIs and could potentially be HIV-positive.

111 persons were vaccinated at New Yorpea 1 and 34 at Karnplay 1.

The CHES ambulance is now based in Beoyoola/Karnplay to accompany convoys from Beoyoola to Karnplay transit site. A pre-departure visual screening team is also based in Beoyoola.

## **COTE D'IVOIRE**

Over the past few days the situation in Côte d'Ivoire has worsened, leading to higher insecurity and very restricted movement for UN humanitarian workers.

An estimated 200,000-300,000 people are displaced from Abobo to other areas in and around Abidjan, with thousands holed up in community centres or without any help. In the west (Duekoue/Guiglo), UNHCR is still working with local partners to try to assist IDPs, in particular those in the Catholic Mission. Numbers of IDPs in Catholic Mission seem to have drastically decreased (now at around 3,000 instead of nearly 9,000 registered previously). The preparation of the site for relocating IDPs from the mission has been put on hold, as the population would not be able to relocate due to the extremely tense situation.

UN humanitarian workers cannot travel to Duekoue/Guiglo, as they are not allowed to use the road between Man and Duékoué (the so-called "confidence zone"). In Danane, some 1,400 IDPs have found shelter in a school. UNHCR is trying to send NFIs to them in the coming days. In Abidjan, UNHCR is coordinating information and response to the displacement. ICRC, UNICEF and Caritas have also

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been able to provide some limited assistance in a few sites as well. UNHCR and UNICEF are working very closely with local NGOs such as Caritas, ASA, Asapsu and AVSI.

UNHCR initiated a coordination mechanism through the establishment of an “operation centre” based in its office. UNHCR protection teams compile information, distribute it to partners, and help identify the urgent needs of the IDPs and the partners that can cover the needs. In addition, NFIs are distributed in three different sites with the assistance of local partners. Attempts to reach other sites are ongoing.

The protection cluster and sub-clusters are still activated and are facing enormous challenges due to the present situation. Therefore the cluster relies on its local NGO partners to try to deliver assistance and undertake protection activities. So far the best protection available to IDPs is within their own families and communities.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March, UNHCR and CARITAS reported an attack in Anokoi Koute (Anyama), at the St. Mathieu Catholic mission where 560 IDPs were located. Deaths and burnt houses were reported. The same day, UNHCR monitored Guinean families traveling back to Guinea via Man following an attack on their shop in Yopougon on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

In addition, anti-UN propaganda has intensified in Abidjan.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March some 3,700 IDPs were reported in Yopougon, Anonkoi route, Cocody Anger, Anyama, Abo-bo, and N'dotre. The majority of the areas were not accessible due to insecurity, checkpoints, and zones of conflict.

## SITUATION IN AFFECTED COUNTRIES

### GHANA

A total of 214 Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered thus far. Ghana recorded the arrival of 50 individual Ivorians at Half-Assini, Cocotown, Sanzule and Elubo. Other borders, including the northern region of Brong Ahafo, were reportedly quiet, with no influx of refugees.

Hundreds of Ivorians have been reported crossing into Ghana to access bank facilities in Elubo. Immigration officials reported that these people returned to Côte d'Ivoire after conducting their banking transactions in Ghana.

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## Movement of population in affected countries – overall picture

	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau
Refugees	916	22	143	214	353	26	31	58	15	30

During the UNCT meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, UN heads of agencies urged speedy preparations in view of the escalating situation in Côte d'Ivoire. UNHCR shared current information on the measures already undertaken, the level of coordination with partners in the western region, and the operational challenges requiring an interagency response.

Seventy volunteers from the Red Cross and NADMO were trained in the western region on joint identification, monitoring, and referral systems. A similar training was then organized for immigration officers at the Jaway Wharf border crossing.

Planning of the Ampain site has been finalized, including the locations of bathrooms, toilets and warehouses. In addition, the National Catholic Secretariat started to drill latrines and bathroom holes.

## BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso's press reported on 1<sup>st</sup> March that a Mossi chief was killed in Agboville while protesting against President Blaise Compaoré's policies toward the Côte d'Ivoire situation. This article also reported that a political leader has accused mercenaries from Burkina Faso of fighting alongside the Forces Nouvelles against Gbagbo and his supporters.

## MALI

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, RRWA participated in a teleconference with DSRSG/HC Côte d'Ivoire and Regional Directors organized by UNOCHA to give an overview on the latest developments in Côte d'Ivoire and neighboring countries. UN agencies and other partners took part. OCHA stressed that each agency should work on the revision of the EHAP.

A Regional Country Operations Plans (COP) meeting is being held in Dakar from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March with the participation of the fifteen UNHCR offices in the region as well as partner agencies in order to review and develop strategic objectives for 2012-2013 UNHCR programmes.



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## Funding

Donor	Liberia	Côte d'Ivoire	Total (US\$)
Canada	500,501		500,501
CERF	2,255,737		2,255,737
EC/ ECHO	681,199		681,199
ECOWAS	500,000		500,000
Germany	340,599		340,599
Rep. of Korea	200,000		200,000
Rep. of Korea		100,000	100,000
Switzerland	422,713		422,713
<b>Total (US\$)</b>	<b>4,900,749</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>5,000,749</b>

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated US\$6 million to help tens of thousands of refugees who have fled to Liberia from Côte d'Ivoire. UNHCR will use \$2.3 million to strengthen protection monitoring at the Liberian border, construct shelters in refugee camps, and carry out distribution of NFIs. Other agencies receiving CERF funding include: UNICEF for nutrition, water, sanitation, health response, education and protection of children; WFP for improving regional logistics and telecommunications; FAO for emergency food and security assistance to refugees and host families in Nimba County; and WHO and UNFPA for various programs to help refugees and host communities.



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## UNHCR Régional Office Dakar

**Valentin Tapsoba, Regional Representative**

[Tapsoba@unhcr.org](mailto:Tapsoba@unhcr.org) / +221 33 867 62 07

**Myriam Houtart, Assistant Regional Representative (Programme)**

[houtart@unhcr.org](mailto:houtart@unhcr.org) / +221 33 867 62 09