UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

CÔTE D'IVOIRE
FACTSHEET
April - May 2017

HIGHLIGHTS
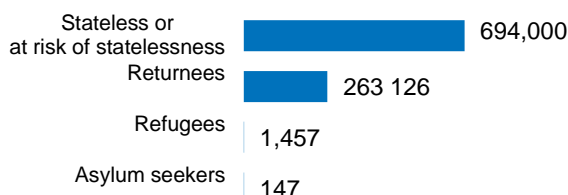
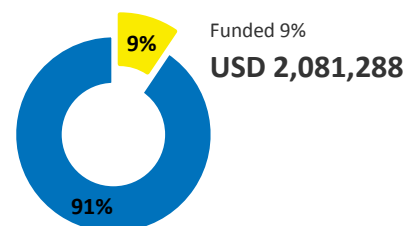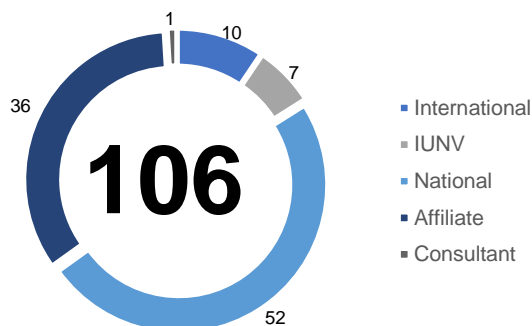|		
1,651 returns of Ivorian refugees facilitated in April and May 2017	Introduction of **Mobile Data Collection**, a new tool for collecting and processing data more efficiently	**1,604** registered refugees and asylum seekers

Population of Concern : **958 730**
Côte d'Ivoire

- Stateless or at risk of statelessness — 694,000
- Returnees — 263 126
- Refugees — 1,457
- Asylum seekers — 147

Funding (as of May 2017)
USD 20,177,160 M
requested for the Côte d'Ivoire situation

Funded 9%
USD 2,081,288

9%
91%

UNHCR Presence: Staffing

106

1
10
7
36
52

- International
- IUNV
- National
- Affiliate
- Consultant

Three **offices**: Abidjan (Branch Office), Guiglo (Sub-Office) and Tabou (Field Office)

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

MALI | BURKINA FASO | GUINEA | Korhogo | Bouake | GHANA | Bouake | LIBERIA | Guiglo | San Pedro | Tabou | Abidjan | ATLANTIC OCEAN | 50 km

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire works in close partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Human Rights, the *Association de Soutien à l'Auto-promotion Sanitaire Urbaine* (*ASAPSU*), *Caritas*, *Développement Rural et Agricole à l'Ouest* (*DRAO*), the *World Food Program* (*WFP*), the *UN Office for Project Services* (*UNOPS*) and the *Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire* (*AFJCI*).

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors to the Côte d'Ivoire operation: Denmark | Private donors in Japan| Peacebuilding Fund, as well as donors of unrestricted and regional funds: United States of America | Sweden | United Kingdom| Netherlands | Norway | Private donors in Spain | Australia | Japan | Switzerland | France | Canada | Private donors in Italy.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire has undertaken to modernize its data collection tools as part of its Protection Monitoring. Since May 2017, UNHCRs Field Protection Officers use therefore **Mobile Data Collection** (MDC) in the main return zones in order to collect and process information more efficiently.
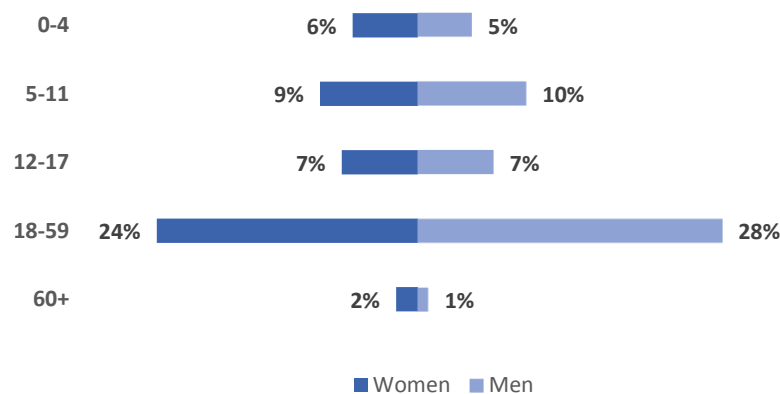
Since May 2017, UNHCR has provided its partner organizations with a number of additional **motor vehicles** to facilitate the implementation of projects. A total of 15 motorbikes, six trucks, four light vehicles and one ambulance have been made available to ASAPSU, CARITAS, SAARA, AFJCI, DRAO and the Ministry of Justice.

From 12-15 May 2017, the **security situation** in Côte d'Ivoire deteriorated when troops mutinied over unpaid bonuses, raising fears about the countries' overall stability. UNHCRs operational activities in Côte d'Ivoire were not severely impacted. However, a number of missions and other scheduled activities had to be postponed due to the impacted by the fragile security situation.

REFUGEES

UNHCR, together with its partners *SAARA and* ASAPSU, continues to facilitate the administrative processes for refugees and asylum seekers through a **one-stop shop in Abidjan**, launched in January 2017. The shop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during which time refugees can seek support regarding questions related to education, health and Income Generating Activities (IGAs) as well as issues related to protection and security concerns. From its opening to end of May, the one-stop shop received on average 190 people per month seeking information and assistance.

Breakdown by age and sex of refugees in Côte d'Ivoire

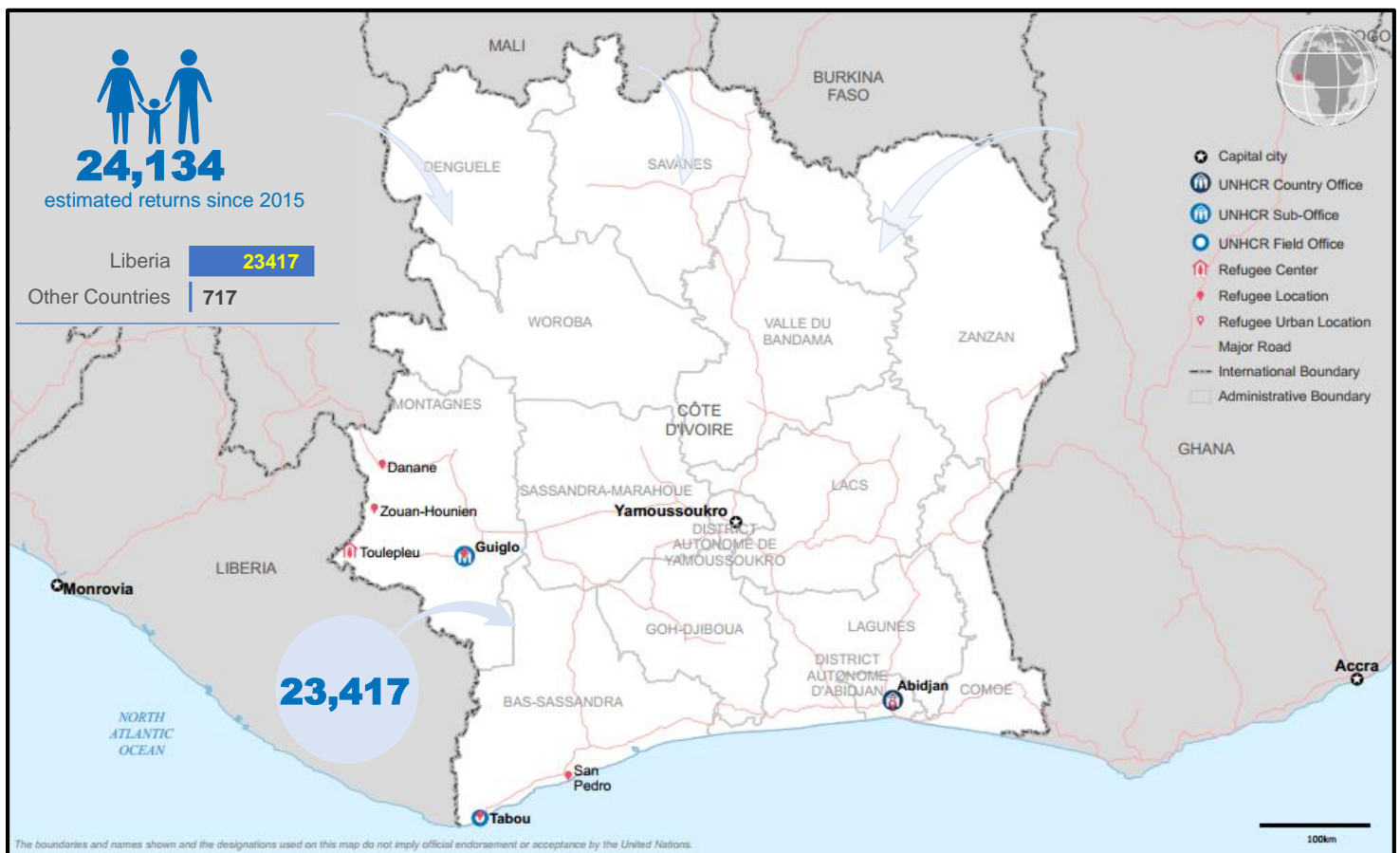| Age	Women	Men
0-4	6%	5%
5-11	9%	10%
12-17	7%	7%
18-59	24%	28%
60+	2%	1%

■ Women ■ Men

RESETTLEMENT

During the reporting period, a resettlement request for one household of three Liberian refugees was submitted to the USA. The identification of new cases for possible resettlement is ongoing.
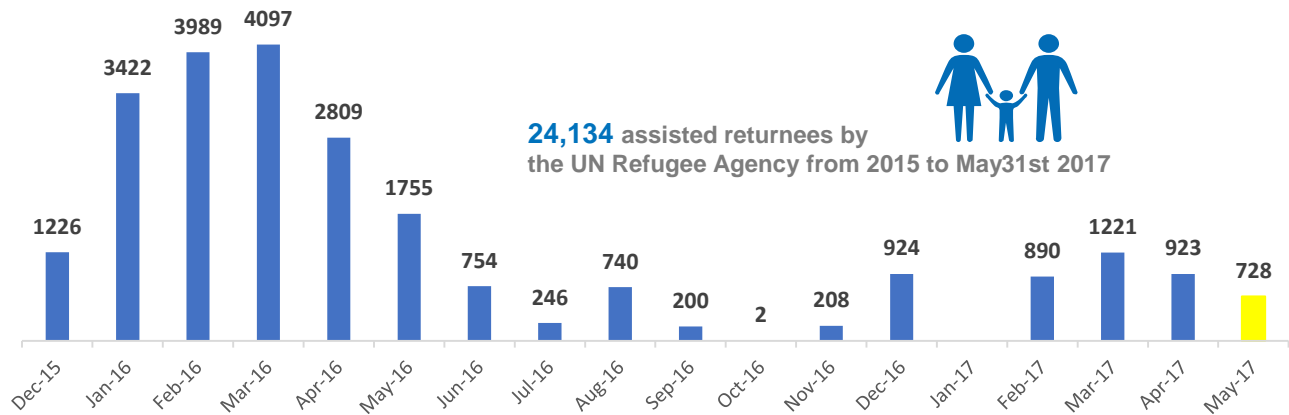
VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF IVORIAN REFUGEES

Since 2015, a total of **24,134 Ivorian refugees have returned** with support from UNHCR and its partners, 23,417 of whom from Liberia and 717 from Togo, Mali and Senegal (as of 31 May 2017). Since the beginning of 2017 alone, UNHCR has facilitated the safe and dignified return of 3,762 Ivorian refugees. Today, some 30,000 Ivorian refugees are still exiled in other countries in Africa.

From 9 to 15 April 2017, a delegation of 16 Ivorian refugees from Liberia took part in a **« Go & See » visit.** The refugees, tasked by their communities in Liberia to assess the security and socio-economic situation in the main return areas, were accompanied by representatives of the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), UNHCR Liberia, UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire, WFP as well as the *Service d'Aide et Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides* (SAARA).

Provenance of facilitated returns since 2015

24,134 assisted returnees by the UN Refugee Agency from 2015 to May31st 2017

Chart data (Dec-15 to May-17):
- Dec-15: 1226
- Jan-16: 3422
- Feb-16: 3989
- Mar-16: 4097
- Apr-16: 2809
- May-16: 1755
- Jun-16: 754
- Jul-16: 246
- Aug-16: 740
- Sep-16: 200
- Oct-16: 2
- Nov-16: 208
- Dec-16: 924
- Jan-17: (none)
- Feb-17: 890
- Mar-17: 1221
- Apr-17: 923
- May-17: 728

STATELESSNESS

In April 2017, UNHCR started its country-wide **awareness raising campaign** in Côte d'Ivoire to address issues related to statelessness through musical, dance and theatrical performances, a short film and Q&A sessions with the public. The campaign had been launched in Abidjan and its surroundings and continued with events in San Pedro, Bouaké and Bondoukou. Events in Korhogo and Odienne had to be postponed due to deterioration of the security situation Côte d'Ivoire experienced in mid-April, and are now rescheduled to take place in June 2017.

On 9 May 2017, the Ministers in charge of nationality issues of all fifteen ECOWAS countries gathered at a joint ECOWAS/UNHCR Conference and adopted a **landmark regional Plan of Action** to eradicate statelessness in West Africa. The Conference, hosted by the Gambian government, was held in Banjul and was convened in two stages: an Expert Meeting to formulate a Plan of Action, which saw the active participation of UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire; and a Ministerial Meeting, which endorsed the discussions and validated the Plan. The validation of the Plan of Action was well received by the Ministers, who agreed on concrete measures to resolve the issue of statelessness by 2024.

On 12 April, UNHCR organized a **briefing on statelessness** at the Embassy of Great Britain upon invitation of the ambassador. The UNHCR-CDI Representative introduced the causes, consequences and scope of statelessness in Côte d'Ivoire to representatives of the EU, the Netherlands, the USA, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium and South Africa. He called for the reinforcement of advocacy activities to create durable solutions for historic migrants of undetermined nationality and their descendants, and ways to reduce and prevent further statelessness among children.