

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Côte d'Ivoire. It covers the period from 16 to 28 July. The next report will be issued on or around 11 August, 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **The United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) is planning to deploy military personnel in the West. Eight military camps including one in Tai will be established along the Ivorian-Liberian border in order to beef up security.**
- **Humanitarian effort in Cote d'Ivoire receives a boost with the release of \$6million from the Central Emergency Relief Fund. The EHAP remains largely underfunded with only 23% of the financial requirement received.**
- **Large number of return of IDPs and Refugees is being observed, which requires urgent humanitarian assistance**

II. Situation Overview

The general security situation in Abidjan and Western part of the country remains unpredictable. Incidents of burglary and armed robbery by unknown persons are being reported. In addition to homes, a diplomatic mission and premises of law enforcement agencies have now been targeted.

In the West, the population movement continues to be very fluid. Most IDPs want to return but hesitate to do so for many reasons. They continue to engage in "go and see" visits to assess the situation in their intended zones of return. The resulting pendulum movement of the population is explained by the reigning atmosphere of insecurity, intimidation and uncertainty of receiving assistance in their zones of return.

The latest of such security incidents is the attack on two sites at Berkro and Norberkro (in the Bas Sassandra region) between the night of 18 and 19 July. At least 7 people were left dead. Nine persons were received by *Medecins Sans Frontieres* (MSF) at Tai hospital for treatment; five of them, (including three children aged between 6 and 12 years) were referred to the MSF hospital in Duekoue. The same day following the attack, MSF witnessed the arrival of IDPs moving from the encampments to Tai and other villages along the axis, as well as from Dahobly village towards Tai apparently fearing possible escalation of violence. The fleeing IDPs were received by members of their respective communities. MSF counted around 1000 people displaced on that day.

Amnesty International in a report published recently says, half a million people displaced by the post electoral crisis are still afraid to return to their homes in light of the reigning atmosphere of insecurity in the country.

Despite the security situation, the return of IDPs continues to be observed in the West. This trend is likely to continue until the end of August. However, this anticipated return will need to be accompanied by appropriate response. In the *Moyen Cavally* region, the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent societies (IFRC) has confirmed an increase in the number of returnees following which 6803 persons have been assisted in *Toulepleu, Meo Pehe, Bakoubly and Tiobly* between 16 and 22 July. WFP reports that there has been an increase of 60,000 returnees mainly along the Ivorian-Liberian border.

In most villages south of Toulepleu and Blolequin, thousands of persons remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance, but planning and delivering such assistance is rendered more difficult with the on-going pendulum population movement. In this context, more profiling activities of potential returnees and additional funding become necessary for planning and delivery of effective humanitarian response to both returnees and indigenous population in order to avoid tension within the communities. It should be noted that while some villages have recorded 80 per cent rate of return, others have only recorded 20 per cent rate of return.

While the Ivorian Government is encouraging the return of IDPs in their zones of origin, the *Liberian Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission* (LRRRC) in collaboration with UNHCR unfolded plans to reshape the direction of its refugee programme. The new Liberian refugee strategy is informed by the need to protect refugees in

light of serious security incidents observed in areas bordering Cote d'Ivoire and overcome logistical difficulties encountered in delivering protection and services to Ivorian refugees dispersed in host communities. An essential element of this strategy is to encourage all refugees to move into camps and other designated locations in the Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties.

The new strategic direction of the LRRC could deter future return of Ivorian refugees and make planning of humanitarian response effort in Cote d' Ivoire in favour of returnees difficult. The situation underscores the need for a holistic approach that will take into consideration the concerns of all partners in resolving the humanitarian crisis.

The Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) has announced the release of US\$ 6 million s for the pursuit of humanitarian assistance in Cote d'Ivoire. The funding comes at a time when there is an urgent need for the provision of health, food assistance, hygiene, and water and sanitation services in favour of displaced persons. Earlier in March, CERF allocated some \$10 million to support the response to life saving needs in the country.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



PROTECTION

Since the beginning of the crisis, protection partners have documented 219 unaccompanied and separated children in the West. Protection partners also initiated an awareness campaign and pre-identification of children this month in the Montagnes and Cavally regions.

Access to land by returnees remains a source of concern in most resettlement zones where social cohesion remains a major different challenge. Ethnic and political considerations continue to affect the frequency of returns among indigenes and new settlers especially in Fengolo, Ziaglo, Bin Houye and Bolequin zones. In these zones, the non-enforcement of Ivorian land acquisition laws remains a source of concern.

While a reliable estimate of beneficiary populations in resettlement zones is unavailable, there is urgent need to initiate the profiling and monitoring the protection of populations in such zones. The prevention and handling of inter-community conflicts, the protection of IDPs including children and vulnerable women against Gender Based Violence (GBV) remain a priority. The profiling and identification of protection needs of displaced households, host families and returnees constitute a major part of unmet needs.

A UNHCR mission arrived in Bouake, during the week (11-17 July) to meet local authorities and plan for the profiling of IDPs estimated at 62,000 in the CNO zone. Updating the figures of IDPs in the zone had remained a problem for quite some time.

As at 27 July, 29,679 IDPs living on 48 sites received non-food items (NFIs) and were assisted constructing shelters. However, Between 21 and 24 July, the International Rescue Committee, (IRC) distributed 718 tarpaulins to 605 returnees whose houses were destroyed in Blody, Niambly, Yrozon, Pona-Vahi, Sibably, Bagohouo, Guehieby, Fengolo, Diehiba, Delobly, Gozon. There is a pressing need for the rehabilitation of destroyed houses for IDPs and returnees. This need is particularly acute in villages around Pehe and Bolequin as well as those between Pehe and the Ivorian-Liberian border.

From 18 to 20 July, the *International Rescue Committee*, IRC organized mission to assess the hindrance to free traffic (roadblock, racketeering) on the roads along Man – Facolbly – Kouibly – Dieouzou – Bangolo – Duekoue, Kouibly, Baibly and Duekoue axis . Though roadblocks have been removed, they still exist along secondary roads leading to adjoining villages and seem to have been reinforced. Number of roadblocks in secondary roads set up at the entrances of villages increase on market days. Racketeering and misuse of power have been reported by pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, drivers and passengers.



FOOD SECURITY

At the onset of the post electoral crisis, a larger part of the population in the West lost all its agricultural harvest while food reserves were also looted. The needs in emergency food assistance remain a priority. The food assistance partners led by the World Food Programme (WFP) have assisted around 133,275 IDPs and returnees.

Given the fact that returning populations have lost their agricultural season, there is a need to continue providing support for the rain-fed rice and vegetable production. FAO has provided agricultural inputs to some 50,000 persons. However this assistance remains insufficient in light of the growing number of returns. This situation is more particular

in *Moyen Cavally* region where more than two-thirds of returnees in villages continue to be in dire need of seeds and inputs to enable them to save their key agricultural season. However those who possess irrigated land still have the possibility of growing rice until mid-August.

On 27 July, WFP distributed 707 tons of food to 3,780 IDPs out of 42,500 initially planned to receive such assistance in central, northern and western zone (CNO).

Given that returnees in certain zones constitute the bulk of indigenous and resettling populations, the strategy adopted by the food security cluster has slowed down the distribution of agricultural inputs mindful of the need to reduce the potential land conflicts that could be generated between the two population categories.



HEALTH

In *Toulepleu*, 13 per cent and 40 per cent of health facilities are reopened respectively but most of them are not functional due to the lack of medicines. Mobile clinic activities by MSF, STC and COOPI continue to be pursued in affected zones such as *Guiglo, Bolequin, Toulepleu, Duekoue, Bangolo and Tai* in Moyen Cavally region and in Zouhan Hounien, Bin Houye (Montagnes region). Additionally, efforts are being made by other humanitarian partners to provide medicines and equipment to other health facilities, rehabilitate destroyed infrastructures and strengthen the epidemiological surveillance system and vaccination programmes.

Given the extent of destruction of health facilities during the crisis, medical assistance does not cover the entirety of the affected zone. The limited implementation of the free medical treatment policy that the Government adopted in April, does not allow all vulnerable persons to easily access basic health care. Eventually, with the depletion of medical supplies in some health facilities has resulted in the billing of patients for services provided.

140 out of 161 health facilities in the Moyen Cavally and Montagnes regions have reported the return of medical personnel. Despite this, *Bolequin* and *Toulepleu* report a low resumption rate of 40 per cent and 13 percent respectively as a result of widespread destruction of buildings and loss of medical equipment.

Destroyed health facilities need to be equipped and the epidemiological surveillance system reinforced to avert future incidence of cholera and other diarrhea related diseases. The present levels of medical supplies remain largely insufficient while security and housing conditions for medical personnel in certain zones need to be overhauled to facilitate a speedy return to normalcy.



NUTRITION

The nutritional status of children in the West continues to be a source of concern.. This is attested to by the data collected during the nutritional screenings held between April and June, 2011. The breakdown of the figures shows that among 246,884 screened children (aged between 6 and 59 months), 18,068 children (7.3 %) were found to be suffering from moderate acute malnutrition while 3,515 children (1.4 %) were reported to be affected by severe malnutrition

In partnership with *Action Contre la Faim (ACF)*, *Association de Soutien à l'Autopromotion Sanitaire Urbaine (ASAPSU)*, *CARITAS Man*, *Organisation pour le Développement des Actions des Femmes (OIDSF)*, and *NTN*, UNICEF continues to finance the screening activities and treatment of children afflicted by severe malnutrition both in IDP camps and host families. With food items supplied by WFP, ACF has assisted 9,000 children in canteens established on sites in *Duekoue and Mahapleu*.

Since the beginning of July, the Therapeutic Nutrition Unit in Man started to work with MSF in screening activities, care of children affected by severe malnutrition and conduct of mobile clinic activities. More than 100 children were admitted for moderately acute malnutrition with complications. WFP supplied 22,332 tons of supplementary Plumpy, vegetable oil, beans and salt in support of nutritional activities and care assistants. WFP anticipates an increase in future food demands at school canteens located in resettlement zones.

Similar nutritional screenings in north western and central parts of the country are on-going. In Zanzan, UNICEF provided 1000 cartons of Supplementary Plumpy to cover the needs of 1500 malnourished children. Helen Keller International (HKI) and National Programme on Nutrition collaborated to train 80 health workers from the Bondoukou, Bouna, Nassian and Sandegue health districts in the treatment of severe malnutrition. Vallée du Bandama and Savanes regions respectively received 762 and 738 cartons of supplementary plumpy to cover the needs of moderate acute malnutrition while 132 district health workers were also trained in treatment of moderate acute malnutrition

Uncovered needs remain in the area of community based nutritional surveillance, strengthening of care for children affected by moderately acute malnutrition and severe malnutrition without complication. The deplorable state of health facilities in *Blolequin and Toulepleu* necessitates a rehabilitation effort while more support for community mobilisation and welfare of the medical personnel will be needed. Nutritional inputs (medicines, vitamin A and high energy biscuits BP-5) are lacking particularly in Duekoue and Guiglo. In Denguele and Bafing regions, the therapeutic feeding unit at Odienné is not functioning at full capacity due to lack of medicines and therapeutic inputs.



EDUCATION

While the vast majority of schools have reopened, many challenges remain regarding the completion of the school year and end-of year exams. The end-of the school year is scheduled for July 29th in the South and August 12th in the Central, Northern and Western (CNO) area, while the national primary school certificate exams will be held on September 6th. The Education Cluster is advocating for the organization of free additional classes to prepare students for the exams. In addition, the educational situation in Toulepleu and Blolequin remains alarming. In Blolequin, 165 teachers (76%) are back on duty but only 1105 students (11%) are back in class. Many teachers' houses and schools have been burnt down, damaged and looted; students have lost all their learning materials. The 'Back to School' initiative and end-of-year exams in these areas face enormous challenges.

In the West, the education sub-cluster identified 142 children in Duekoue who despite the resumption of classes in March are yet to return to school due to their displacement. Therefore, strategies are being identified for catch-up programmes for these children.

While the Education Cluster registered 224 attacks against the education system between January and June, important steps have been taken in collaboration with OCHA, Civilian-Military Coordination (CimCoord) and UNOCI to improve security situation in schools. Advocacy efforts resulted in the recovery of 11 out of 23 schools being occupied by armed forces in Abidjan, thus allowing at least 3,000 children to go back to school. In cooperation with United Nations Mine Action Services (UNMAS), eight schools in Abidjan that reported UXO presence have all been cleared, allowing 2,500 children to go back to school. Following a UNOCI Human Rights Section led mission to 3 schools in Yopougon, sanitation activities have resumed after the exhumation of bodies from graves.

The attack on buildings of 22 educational institutions (9 in the West) and theft of vehicles have hindered the ability of education authorities at local and regional level to function properly. Funding is currently not available to support to support affected institutions.

Though the Education Cluster members would like to focus on the needs of pre-school and primary-school aged children (UNICEF, Save the Children, IRC, and NRC), there is a gap with respect to secondary education due to the post-electoral crisis. The Cluster has requested UNESCO to take a position on secondary education and peace education issues in Cote d'Ivoire.

The school feeding programme, which was reaching one million children before the crisis, has not yet resumed. The resultant effect is that 140,000 students are yet to re-enroll in schools. In addition, the training of teachers in provision of psychosocial support to children is yet to take off eight most-affected regions due to lack of funding.



CAMP COORDINATION/MANAGEMENT

As at 26 July, 30275 IDPs (4715 households) remain on 48 sites. After a 4 per cent increase in population reported on 19 July, the IDP population in sites decreased by 2.5 per cent. This variation is due to updating of information. The information gap in Bas Sassandara has now been filled. Western area accounts for 22,695 IDPs on 15 sites while 7,122 IDPS live on 27 sites in Abidjan. On certain sites in Guiglo, spontaneous returns of IDPs continue while the collection of information by the cluster on IDPs intention to return to their localities will soon be published. « Go and see » visits are being planned in collaboration with the Protection cluster

Following the relative improvement of the security situation in villages of origin of IDPs, several initiatives by the protection cluster in support of organised return of IDPs to their zones of origin are on-going along the Duekoue-Bangolo axis. Similar return of remaining IDPs from Danane to their villages of origin is planned for next week.

Since the beginning of the humanitarian response, one of the major problems has been the weak presence of CCCM actors. Whether on sites or in resettlement zones; there is an urgent need for the Government to provide material and human resources to support IDPs.

The Government is requested to urgently pay water and electricity bills incurred in IDP sites. Previous pleas on this issue have yet to yield expected result. If the utility bills are not settled on time, there is a risk of services being suspended

In zones of return especially in the West, the extent of looting and destruction of houses has necessitated enormous needs in tarpaulins while waiting for the reconstruction of houses and other household utensils to support the return of populations.



WATER SANITATION HYGIENE

In the West, 250,000 persons mainly comprised of IDPs, returnees and host families are estimated to be in need of water, sanitation and hygiene services. Out of this number, only 92,594 persons have been reached with assistance. Populations in Bin Houye, Toulepleu and *Blolequin* which represent 40 per cent of affected population remain unreached. This situation constitutes a serious risk and could provoke the re-emergence of water borne and epidemic diseases in the West.

There is a growing need for the repair of damaged water infrastructures. Hygiene and sanitary conditions would need to be greatly improved among IDPs and host families through the construction of latrines and bathing spaces. For those who are yet to be reached with assistance, it is imperative to put at their disposal soap and hygiene kits as well as safe drinking water in densely populated IDP zones

IV. Neighbouring countries

LIBERIA

As of 24 July, UNHCR Ivorian refugee figures in Liberia stand at 154,000. In the context of its emergency operation to assist Ivorian refugees and affected host communities, WFP plans to provide food assistance to close to 189,000 people in July including refugees, host communities and malnourished children. Between 1 - 24 July, 96,737 beneficiaries in total were provided with food rations in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Maryland and River Gee Counties. In addition, food distribution to host communities is ongoing in Maryland County. So far 6,190 hosts have received one-off General Food Distribution (GFD).

The supplementary feeding programme for children under 5 years suffering from moderate acute malnutrition is being implemented in Grand Gedeh, Nimba and Maryland Counties; in July, some 622 malnourished children have received nutritional support under this programme.

With the onset of the rainy season, humanitarian partners are facing access challenges due to poor conditions of roads and bridges in eastern Liberia. The Ministry of Public Works has commenced rehabilitating the Zorgowee Bridge in Nimba County with the work expected to be completed towards the end of August. In the meantime, alternative but longer routes are being used by humanitarian agencies to reach beneficiaries. WFP, as lead agency for the Logistic Sector, has compiled and disseminated a road accessibility map to the different agencies working in the refugee hosting counties.

GHANA

So far in July, over 7,000 Ivorian refugees have received about 123 metric tonnes of food commodities in the Western and Brong-Ahafo settlements. An additional 15 metric tonnes of food commodities is being provided for 900 refugees who have been moved from Eagle Star following the completion of the Egyeikrom settlement

Previous statistics on Ampain camp estimates the number of beneficiaries to be 6,667. WFP has participated in the registration of refugees in the Ampain Refugee Settlement from 4 to 11 July. The final statistics are being compiled and will be provided upon completion.

WFP has been implementing an emergency operation to provide food support to 10,000 refugees under an Immediate Response Assistance (IRA) which comes to an end on 31st July 2011. A six-month Emergency Operation is being prepared for continued assistance for vulnerable Ivorian refugees. CERF allocated US\$ 2,121,502 on 22 July to support the response to this refugee situation.

V. Coordination

From 21 to 22 July 2011, the Deputy SRSG of UNOCI and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr *Ndolamb Ngokwey* paid a working visit to the West (Duekoue, Man and Danane). He was accompanied by the Minister of Family, Women and Children, Mrs. *Raymonde Goudou Coffie*, members of the Minister's cabinet, Representatives of the United Nations Country Team, the UNOCI Child Protection Section Chief, a gender officer as well as three representatives of women organizations.

The delegation met with local administrative authorities, attended meetings with local women organizations and visited several IDPs sites including the newly constructed Nahibly site and the Catholic Mission in Duekoue where 11,785 IDPs are still sheltered. Mr Ndolamb Ngokwey used the occasion to chair the Humanitarian forum in Man.

From 28 to 29 July, the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Ndolamb Ngokwey will be visiting Guiglo, Duékoué and Man. He will be accompanied by the Minister of Employment, Social Affairs and Solidarity who is also the Minister responsible for humanitarian affairs.

The mission's objective is to assess the needs in specific host communities to which IDPs and refugees intend to return with a view to responding effectively to the needs of returnees.

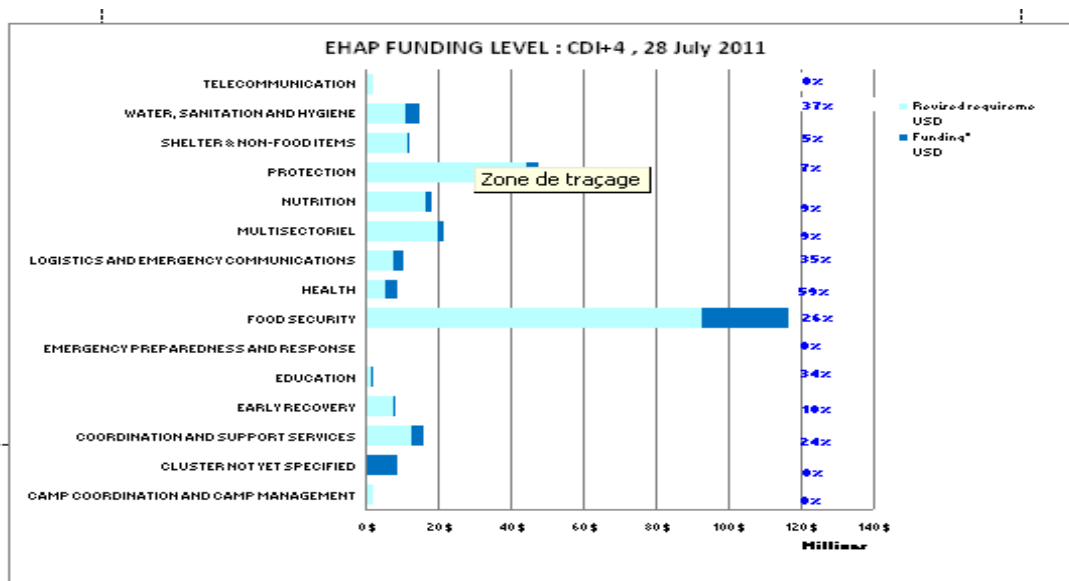
VI. Funding

As of 28 July, the Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) for Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries affected by the crisis is funded at 23 per cent with some \$55 million contributed against a total requirement of \$235 million. In absence of increased funding, humanitarian response to vulnerable populations will be impeded.

235 million
Requested (US\$)

23 %
Funded

The European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) to date has allocated a total of €60million (US\$85.9million) to support humanitarian response in Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries. (US\$49 million in Côte d'Ivoire and US\$36.9 million in Liberia, Ghana and Togo). Some of the 33 projects funded in CDI are included in the EHAP while some are not. The funds of the projects included in the EHAP are reflected in the online Financial Tracking System and therefore factored into the 23% mentioned above. Other donors have funded projects outside EHAP. Detailed contribution per donor can be accessed at: http://fts.unocha.org/reports/daily/ocha_R24c_C52_Y2011_asof_1107290204.pdf



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

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