

Cote d'Ivoire Situation

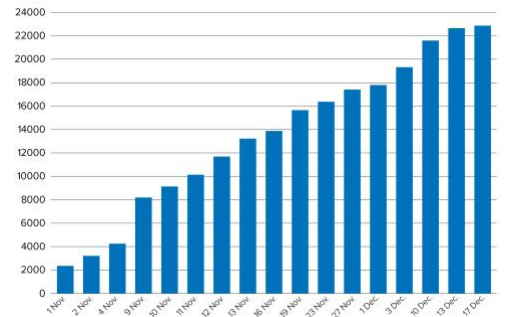
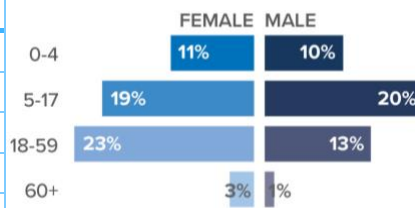
18 December 2020

As of 17 December, a total of **22,707 Ivorians have fled Cote d'Ivoire**. UNHCR continues to expand its registration exercises to previously unreachable areas to meet the needs of all new arrivals.

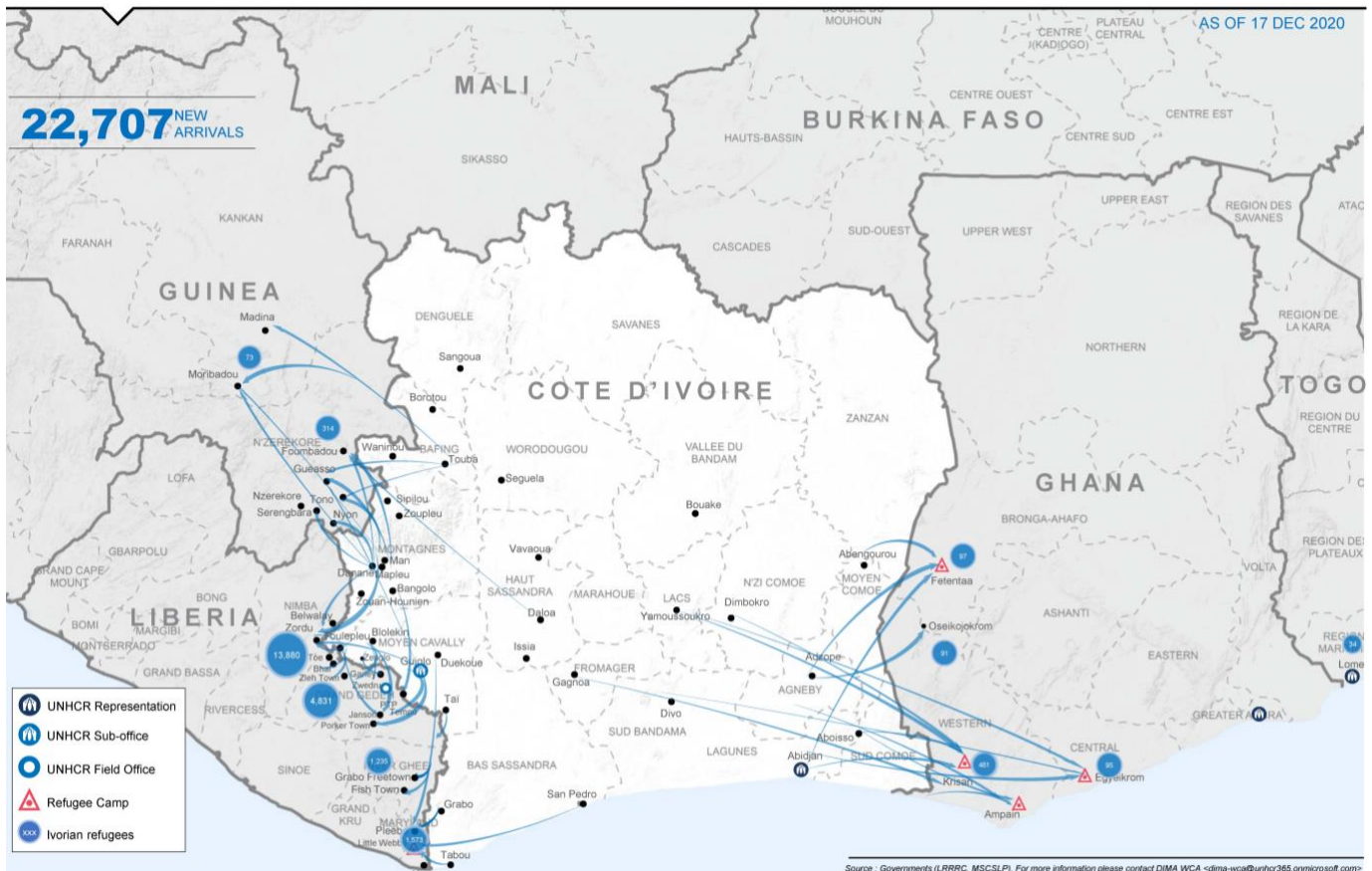
Ongoing COVID-19 prevention efforts include **conducting screenings during registration, distributing face masks and hand sanitizers,** and training community members in best practices.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Host Countries	New arrivals
Liberia	21,519
Ghana	767
Guinea	387
Togo	34
Total	22,707










*Data as of 17 December as reported by UNHCR Operations.



UNHCR Emergency Response

Key assistance provided

 22,000+ FACE MASKS	 9,000 PIECES OF SOAP	 8,500+ BAGS OF RICE	 13,000+ TARPAULIN	 1,200 KITCHEN SETS	 50 TENTS	 4,000+ BLANKETS
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Liberia



PROTECTION

- As of 17 December there are a total of 21,519 new Ivorian arrivals in Liberia, and 39% of the population (8,454) have been formally registered. More than 64% of the new arrivals are hosted in Nimba County.
- During registration, cases of persons with special needs (PWSN) such as separated children, persons with disabilities or serious medical conditions, and grandparent-headed households are identified and their cases followed up for adequate support. A total of 938 PWSNs have been identified, and records indicate there has been a marked increase in arrivals with special needs between 10-17 December, including a 57% increase in unaccompanied children and a 50% increase in arrivals with serious medical conditions.
- Rapid protection needs assessments were conducted in Nimba County. In Behwalay and Buuto axes, respondents reiterated the need for shelter, food and NFIs, in addition to health and education support for children. In Donweblee and Dubuzon, respondents indicated they will remain in host communities near the border to access farm land, but raised concerns around access to WASH resources.
- As a result of consultations with refugee and host community members, a multi-sectoral committee (MSC) will be created and trained in community-based protection techniques and COVID-19 prevention. The MSC will support awareness-raising, coordination, the identification of cases for monitoring, and field monitoring.



HEALTH

- COVID-19 prevention measures include distributing face masks to new arrivals and flagging potential cases for further screening. There are 12 individuals being tested for COVID-19 in Kaylay Town.
- To provide for the healthcare needs of new arrivals and host communities, additional trained medical staff and medical supplies are needed. UNHCR continues to coordinate with the Liberian health system and local government officials to improve access to medical services for new arrivals and host communities.



SHELTER AND WASH

- WASH assessments and consultations with communities are ongoing, and community members have expressed the need for additional latrines and reparations of boreholes and water sources. UNHCR is currently repairing 22 broken hand pumps to improve access to water in host communities.
- Due to risk of overcrowding within communities where new arrivals are being hosted in homes and public buildings, options are being explored for alternative sustainable shelter. Construction is now complete on the reception centres in Toe's Town and Little Wlebo, and in Nimba, Maryland and River Gee counties, UNHCR is conducting assessments on land in local communities for the construction of both individual and communal shelters from shelter kits.



FOOD

- In Nimba County more than 2,300 new arrivals have received food assistance. A strategic distribution plan for the next two months has been developed to meet urgent food needs.

Ghana



PROTECTION

- As of 16 December, Ghana is hosting 764 new Ivorian arrivals (326 families), and 72% of the new arrivals have been registered in the joint exercise between UNHCR and the Ghana Refugee Board.
- In total, 481 new arrivals are hosted in Ampain camp, 95 in Egyeikrom camp, 97 in Fetentaa camp, and 91 are hosted within local communities along the Oseikojokrom border.



SHELTER AND NFIS

- Sowodadzim reception centre has been operationalized and the relocation of new arrivals is ongoing. More than 65 individuals have been relocated from Ampain and Egyekrom and given NFIs since the Sowodadzim reception centre opened on 09 December.
- Tents are being mounted on the Ampain extension land to house new arrivals after their quarantine period in the reception centre is completed.
- Hot meals are being provided to new arrivals, and the distribution of face masks and hand sanitizer for COVID-19 prevention is ongoing in all locations through UNHCR's partner ADRA.

Guinea

- As of 16 December, there are 387 Ivorian new arrivals in Guinea made up of 126 households. Registration is ongoing.
- The Government of Guinea has granted humanitarian access to carry out registration activities and provide assistance for recently arrived Ivorian asylum seekers. A team is preparing a mission to the Nzérékoré Region – a border area between Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire.

Togo

- As of 16 December, the number of Ivorian refugees in Togo stands at 34. They have been received by the National Commission for Assistance to Refugees (CNAR) and are being hosted in local communities.

Burkina Faso

- As of 15 December, no new arrivals from Cote d'Ivoire have been recorded, but protection monitoring in border areas is ongoing.

Cote d'Ivoire

- Ivorian authorities informed UNHCR that half of the 5,530 IDPs have returned home. Peace efforts continue to show signs of progress in Cote d'Ivoire, and in a recent UNHCR survey, 70% of Ivorian refugees in Liberia indicated their intention to return home whenever they feel it's safe to do so.