

CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

More IDPs return as the peace process moves forward

A profile of the internal displacement situation

10 April, 2008

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Through its work, the Centre contributes to improving national and international capacities to protect and assist the millions of people around the globe who have been displaced within their own country as a result of conflicts or human rights violations.

At the request of the United Nations, the Geneva-based Centre runs an online database providing comprehensive information and analysis on internal displacement in some 50 countries.

Based on its monitoring and data collection activities, the Centre advocates for durable solutions to the plight of the internally displaced in line with international standards.

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Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

Norwegian Refugee Council
Chemin de Balexert 7-9
1219 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 799 07 00
idmc@nrc.ch

www.internal-displacement.org

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	3
OVERVIEW	7
MORE IDPS RETURN AS THE PEACE PROCESS MOVES FORWARD	7
CAUSES AND BACKGROUND	14
BACKGROUND	14
A CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS (2008)	14
THE MANIPULATION OF ETHNIC FACTORS FOR POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL PURPOSES, 1893-2002	17
WARRING PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE POST-SEPTEMBER 2002 CRISIS: AN OVERVIEW	19
COCOA TRADE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO FUNDING THE ARMED CONFLICT AND FUEL POLITICAL INSTABILITY, 2002-2007	21
MERCENARIES AND REFUGEES FROM LIBERIA RECRUITED BY ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, END 2002-2003	23
“REGIONAL WARRIORS” RE-RECRUITED TO FIGHT IN CÔTE D’IVOIRE, 2004-2005	26
UN SANCTIONS IVORIAN LEADERS IN WAKE OF ORCHESTRATED ANTI-UN VIOLENCE, FEBRUARY 2006	27
PEACE EFFORTS	29
LINAS-MARCOUSSIS ACCORD SIGNED BY ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, JANUARY 2003	29
PEACE SUMMIT BRINGS NEW HOPE, BUT NOT FOR LONG, AUGUST 2004	30
UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION ESTABLISHED IN COTE D’IVOIRE, 2004-2007	33
OCTOBER 2005 ELECTIONS FAIL TO BE HELD AS POLITICAL IMPASSE DEEPENS	34
ELECTIONS ONCE AGAIN IMPOSSIBLE AS PEACE PROCESS DERAILS, SEPTEMBER 2006	35
THE PEACE PROCESS MOVES FORWARD THANKS TO HOME-GROWN AGREEMENT, MARCH–APRIL 2007	37
PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUAGADOUGOU AGREEMENT, APRIL 2007-FEBRUARY 2008	39
MAIN CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT	42
XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI FOREIGNER SENTIMENTS ARE A ROOT CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT	42
GOVERNMENT AND REBEL FORCES CAUSE MASS DISPLACEMENT IN ABIDJAN AND PROVINCES IN AFTERMATH OF FAILED COUP OF SEPTEMBER 2002	46
ABUSES IN REBEL-HELD AREAS CAUSE RENEWED DISPLACEMENT FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 2004 CRISIS (2004-2005)	48
RESUMPTION OF ARMED CLASHES AND MOB VIOLENCE IN ABIDJAN CAUSES DISPLACEMENT AND MASS EVACUATION OF EXPATRIATES (NOVEMBER 2004)	50
INTER-COMMUNAL CLASHES DISPLACE CIVILIANS, 2002-2007	52

POPULATION FIGURES AND PROFILE **57**

GLOBAL FIGURES	57
IDP NUMBER REMAINS 709,000 FOR PLANNING PURPOSES (JANUARY 2008)	57
MORE THAN 1 MILLION IVORIANS WERE ESTIMATED TO BE DISPLACED AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CONFLICT (2003)	58
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	58
IDPS HOSTED IN THE CENTRE D'ACCUEIL TEMPORAIRE DES DEPLACES (DECEMBER 2007)	58
ABIDJAN HOSTS ALMOST 70 PER CENT OF IDPS IN GOVERNMENT-HELD SOUTH (NOVEMBER 2006)	60
DISAGGREGATED DATA	61
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF IDPS IN GOVERNMENT ZONES (MARCH 2006)	61

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT **62**

GENERAL	62
VAST MAJORITY OF IDPS LIVE WITH HOST FAMILIES OR COMMUNITIES (2007)	62
CHAIN DISPLACEMENT AFFECTS THE WEST (JULY 2007)	64
CONTINUOUS VIOLENCE CAUSES REPEATED SHORT-TERM DISPLACEMENT (2007)	65
COMPLEX PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT AND LACK OF ACCESS MAKE IDPS HARD TO LOCATE (2003)	65

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT **67**

PHYSICAL SECURITY	67
LEVELS OF INSECURITY REMAIN HIGH ESPECIALLY IN MOYEN CAVALLY, SAVANES AND VALLÉE DU BANDAMA REGIONS (JANUARY 2008)	67
DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE MOST VULNERABLE PARTICULARLY TO ACTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE (AUGUST 2007)	69
PROTECTION CONCERNS FOR CHILDREN INCLUDE SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND LOSS OF LIFE BECAUSE OF INTER-COMMUNITY TENSIONS (AUGUST 2007)	71
IMPUNITY CONTINUES TO BE MAJOR FACTOR IN WORSENING HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION (NOVEMBER 2006)	74
BOTH GOVERNMENT FORCES AND REBELS HAVE COMMITTED WAR CRIMES, REPORTS HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH (2003)	78
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT	79
ROADBLOCKS CONTINUE TO HINDER FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS (JANUARY 2008)	79
REMOVAL OF BUFFER ZONE TO FACILITATE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT (2007)	80
UN 'PEACE CORRIDORS' TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT (2004)	81

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS **82**

GENERAL	82
DIFFICULT LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE WEST LEAD TO IDPS' FEELING OF ABANDONMENT (NOVEMBER 2006)	82
HUGE PRESENCE OF IDPS PUTS INCREASING STRAIN ON VULNERABLE HOST FAMILIES (JULY 2006)	82

SUMMARY OF LIVING CONDITIONS OF IDPs AND HOST FAMILIES – NEW SURVEY (MARCH 2006)	82
DISPLACEMENT IS MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO WIDE-RANGING NEEDS OF CHILDREN (MARCH 2006)	83
HEALTH	84
COST RECOVERY POLICIES MAY HINDER ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR IDPs (SEPTEMBER 2007)	84
IDPs WITH HIV FACE PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES (APRIL 2007)	85
DETERIORATION OF HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE HINDERS PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES (2007)	86
SUMMARY OF HEALTH DATA ON IDPs (MARCH 2006)	88
CRISIS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR CONTINUES IN ALL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY (2004-2006)	88
FOOD	91
FOOD INSECURITY IN THE WEST IS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR IDPs AND RETURNEES (SEPTEMBER 2007)	91
DIFFICULT ACCESS TO LAND LEADS TO REDUCED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (JANUARY 2007)	92
SHELTER	93
IDPs' HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS (2006)	93
THOUSANDS REMAIN HOMELESS FOLLOWING THE DESTRUCTION OF SHANTY TOWNS IN ABIDJAN (JANUARY 2003)	94
WATER AND SANITATION	95
WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES REMAIN PRECARIOUS FOR IDPs AND HOST COMMUNITIES (DECEMBER 2007)	95
 <u>ACCESS TO EDUCATION</u>	 98
 GENERAL	 98
LACK OF TEACHERS IN AREAS OF RETURN REMAINS A SERIOUS CONCERN (JANUARY 2008)	98
SMALL PROGRESS IS MADE WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF TWO ROUNDS OF EXAMS (2007)	99
SUMMARY OF EDUCATION DATA ON IDPs (MARCH 2006)	100
AFTER THREE YEARS OF LIMBO, PROMISE OF EXAMS FOR THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS IN REBEL-HELD NORTH (FEBRUARY 2006)	100
EDUCATION SEVERELY DISRUPTED BY THE CRISIS (2005)	101
 <u>ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	 103
 SELF-RELIANCE	 103
EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES USED BY IDPs (2008)	103
INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES IN THE WEST SUFFER FROM DISPLACEMENT AND LITTLE SUPPORT BY HUMANITARIAN ACTORS (2007)	104
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	105
IDPs RISK DISENFRANCHISEMENT IN RUSHED ELECTIONS (2005)	105
 <u>DOCUMENTATION NEEDS AND CITIZENSHIP</u>	 106

GENERAL	106
THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS AIMS AT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE UNDOCUMENTED (2008)	106
OVERVIEW OF THE DOCUMENTATION NEEDS OF IDPs IN ABIDJAN AND GRAND BASSAM (JULY 2007)	107
RENEWAL OF NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS MADE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC AFFILIATION (2007)	108
LIFE FOR THE UNDOCUMENTED IS DIFFICULT (2007)	108
<u>PROPERTY ISSUES</u>	109
GENERAL	109
THE 1998 RURAL LAND ACT IS DIFFICULT TO APPLY IN THE CONTEXT OF IDPs' RETURN (2007)	109
PROPERTY RESTITUTION POSES PROBLEMS IN THE NORTH (2007)	111
THE CASE OF THE PROTECTED FORESTS IN THE WEST (2007)	112
LAND ISSUES ARE AT THE HEART OF THE DISPLACEMENT SITUATION (2007)	113
<u>PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT</u>	118
GENERAL	118
OVERVIEW OF RETURNS (FEBRUARY 2008)	118
PEACE PROCESS PROMOTES RETURN BUT OBSTACLES REMAIN (2007)	120
SUMMARY OF DATA ON IDPs' WISHES TO RETURN OR RESETTLE (MARCH 2006)	121
TENSIONS HIGH BETWEEN RETURNING IDPs AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN COTE D'IVOIRE (2004)	122
<u>HUMANITARIAN ACCESS</u>	125
GENERAL	125
ROADBLOCKS IMPEDE HUMANITARIAN ACCESS (2007)	125
ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs THREATENED BY ANTI-UN RIOTS (JANUARY 2006)	125
<u>NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES</u>	127
NATIONAL RESPONSE	127
OVERVIEW: GOVERNMENT RESPONSE LIMITED DESPITE POSITIVE STEPS (2007)	127
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE	128
OVERVIEW: INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE IS CONSTRAINED (2007)	128
REFERENCES TO THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	128
KNOWN REFERENCES TO THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES	128
<u>LIST OF SOURCES USED</u>	131

OVERVIEW

More IDPs return as the peace process moves forward

Following the March 2007 Ouagadougou Peace Accord, some of Côte d'Ivoire's internally displaced people (IDPs) have started to return home, either spontaneously or in a few cases assisted by the government and humanitarian agencies. Some tens of thousands of IDPs are believed to have returned, from over 700,000 counted in just five government controlled regions in 2005.

While the political atmosphere remains generally positive and all the parties involved continue to support the implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement, the new unity government has struggled to abide by the road map for peace and meet the deadlines set out in the Accord and its supplementary agreements. Delays in the implementation of the plan were due to the lack of funding, the limited capacity of national institutions and the need to balance political and military aspirations over the sensitive issue of dismantling both pro- and anti-government militias and integrating them into the regular army. The June 2007 attack against the Prime Minister, Guillaume Soro, ex-rebel leader of the Forces Nouvelles underlined the continuing fragility of the peace process. While this current peace agreement has enabled some displaced people to return or resettle, the overall situation needs to improve further, especially in the west of the country, before IDPs can voluntarily return to their areas of origin or resettle in another area of the country in safety and with dignity.

In a context characterised by a transition towards early recovery, access to services remains precarious, especially in the north, while humanitarian needs are still extensive in the western regions. Here, ethnic tensions and inter-community clashes still cause low-level displacement and encourage discrimination which makes it more difficult for returning IDPs to reach durable solutions. Problems in accessing land and property, compounded by people's difficulties in establishing their legal identity, are an integral part of the displacement situation and need to be confronted. Indeed, the country's displaced people will only be able to voluntarily return or resettle if all parties demonstrate a serious commitment to implementing the peace process and addressing the root causes of Côte d'Ivoire's conflict.

Background and causes of displacement

For more than three decades after independence from France in 1960, Côte d'Ivoire was a beacon of stability in West Africa. The country's stability from 1960 to 1980 was due not only to the political pragmatism of President Félix Houphouët-Boigny's autocratic government but also to a very favourable economic environment. A key to the economic development of the country was the availability of foreign labour, which was further encouraged by liberal laws on land ownership, under which the land belonged to those cultivating it. However, Houphouët-Boigny's pragmatism and political opportunism failed to tackle existing tensions in any sustainable way (UN Commission on Human Rights, 22 December 2004). Following a sharp decline in the commodity prices of coffee and cocoa, Côte d'Ivoire's main exports, a recession at the end of the 1980s not only had an impact on general standards of living but also exacerbated tensions between locals, workers from other West African countries and internal economic migrants (CRISE, March 2007).

As discontent spread, Houphouët-Boigny's successor Henri Konan Bédié started politicising ethnicity in a bid to hang on to power. In 1995, he introduced the concept of "Ivoirité", which served to deny Ivorian citizenship to his main political rival, Alassane Ouattara, in order to exclude him from running in elections held that year. According to this new concept of national

identity, a citizen of Côte d'Ivoire had to be born of Ivorian parents belonging to one of the country's "autochthonous" ethnic groups, had to belong to one of the country's ethno-linguistic and cultural groups and had to share the same socio-cultural experience as the Ivorian people. The concept was used by its creators both to exclude political opponents and to mobilise political support against people of foreign origin among an increasingly impoverished population. As the country's economy declined, people became receptive to the political hate propaganda (Human Rights Watch, August 2001), and the policy undermined the residence rights of millions of people who had migrated to Cote d'Ivoire from the neighbouring countries throughout the economically prosperous 1960s and 1970s and even during colonial times. Around one quarter of the population of 17 million, especially in the north and west of the country, was increasingly disenfranchised.

A protracted political crisis erupted when the army, under the leadership of General Robert Gueï, overthrew the elected government of Konan Bédié in the country's first ever coup on Christmas Eve 1999. Building on the theme of "*Ivoirité*", Gueï introduced even stricter eligibility requirements for the presidential election of October 2000, which was eventually won by Laurent Gbagbo. Gbagbo, like his predecessors, made the issue of nationality central to his political agenda and failed to resolve the growing ethnic and religious divisions across the country (HRW, August 2001). In September 2002, a failed coup by disaffected soldiers set off civil war. Intense fighting left the rebels of the *Mouvement Patriotique pour la Côte d'Ivoire* (MPCI) in control of much of the centre and the predominantly Muslim north of the country, with government forces holding the largely Christian south. Hundreds of thousands of civilians were displaced.

At least 200,000 people fled the rebel-held northern town of Bouaké and many sought refuge in Abidjan. Further displacements occurred later that year when two new rebel factions emerged in western Côte d'Ivoire. In Abidjan, several thousands were made homeless by a government demolition policy (UN OCHA, 15 October 2002; UNHCR, 8 October 2002). The main targets of the demolition were immigrants whom the authorities accused of supporting the rebellion. Many Ivorians were displaced, as well as refugees from wars in neighbouring countries, causing population movements that threatened the stability of the entire region. International efforts to end the civil war had limited success. Three peace agreements brokered between 2003 and 2005 failed and violence persisted in the country.

Following a wave of anti-UN violence in January 2006, which resulted in the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers from the west of the country and the evacuation of humanitarian agencies (IRIN, 18 January 2006), the main political rivals bowed to international pressure to iron out their differences in early 2006. After a year of deadlock over the main issues standing in the way of elections, principally voter registration and disarmament, new hopes emerged with the signing of the Ouagadougou Peace Accord, which addressed these outstanding points of concern.

Progress in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Accord

In March 2007, the government of Côte d'Ivoire and the *Forces Nouvelles* – as the rebel groups had become collectively known – signed a peace agreement reaffirming the need to bring peace and stability to the country. Under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the signatories recognised *inter alia* the need for the identification of the population and the registration of voters. Even though the agreement has been praised as a concrete attempt at reviving a stalled peace process (Government of Burkina Faso, 14 January 2008; AU, 19 December 2007), concerns remain over the ability of both parties to adhere to the timeline set forth in the Accord and in the subsequent supplementary agreements (Oxford Analytica, 15 November 2007; Reuters, 29 November 2007).

After several delays, the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programme targeting *Forces Nouvelles* elements and government-aligned militias was launched in December 2007 (Reuters, 29 November 2007; UNOCI, 24 December 2007). Some progress has also been made in the redeployment of the state administration, with 70 per cent of around 24,000 displaced civil servants resuming their positions between 2005 and 2007, and up to 19,000 having returned to their posts in the north, the centre and the west by the end of March 2008 (UNOCI, 23 January 2008, and by email, 31 March 2008). Equally, the process for registering legal identity, started with the deployment of mobile courts in September 2007, has managed to progress without any major security incidents.

Serious constraints, however, remain. Lack of funding and unclear reintegration arrangements afflict the DDR programme. A difficult transfer of administrative and financial authority forced the redeployed administrators into a de facto power-sharing arrangement with the intact *Forces Nouvelles*' command structures. Due to a failure to prepare the ground properly and financial, logistical and political constraints, the mobile courts have encountered a low response and have covered a restricted geographical area.

Scope of displacement

Given the patterns of displacement, with people being hosted by friends and family, and the near-total lack of information from the former *Forces Nouvelles*-controlled area in the north, reliable statistics about the number of internally displaced people in the whole country are difficult to obtain. A UNFPA-funded survey, carried out by the national statistics agency ENSEA in late 2005 and published in March 2006, put the total number of IDPs in five government-held regions at 709,377. In early 2008, humanitarian agencies continued to use for planning purposes the same estimate of 709,000 internally displaced people for the five regions surveyed by ENSEA (UNHCR-Geneva by email, 23 January 2008). According to the Ministry of Solidarity and War Victims, around 553,000 IDPs were identified during a 2007 census exercise for war victims. The exercise did not have the same geographical coverage as the UNFPA/ENSEA survey, and did not include the area in the west from Guiglo to Odienne, or the city of Abidjan (NRC by email, 7 December 2007). As of April 2008, both the government and humanitarian agencies are trying to quantify the ongoing small-scale returns, to provide a better picture of the current scope of displacement. Meanwhile, low-level displacement continues, mainly due to land disputes and inter-community tensions (UNOCI, 29 January 2008; UN OCHA, 20 December 2007).

Some attempts at providing a clearer picture of the displacement situation were recorded in 2007. The ENSEA study had highlighted that the commercial capital Abidjan hosted almost 70 per cent of the IDPs included in the survey in 2005, for the most part northern Ivorians or people from neighbouring countries, who had been in Côte d'Ivoire for decades and who may be entitled to Ivorian nationality. In order to gain a better understanding of the humanitarian and protection needs of the IDP population in Abidjan, attempts were made during 2007 to survey their numbers, their living conditions and access to services. A study commissioned by UNHCR identified identification, documentation and general vulnerability as major protection issues but the methodology used did not allow extrapolation from the number of IDPs in Abidjan and Grand Bassam (UNHCR, July 2007). A parallel study conducted by the IDMC and Tufts University concludes that the number of internally displaced people in Abidjan could range between 299,000 and 440,000, depending on the variables used (IDMC/Tufts University, forthcoming). An additional survey is planned for 2008 to further establish the scale of displacement in the areas formerly held by the *Forces Nouvelles*. UNFPA is sponsoring this new study which will be carried out by ENSEA, using a methodology similar to the previous one.

Return movements

The signing of the Ouagadougou agreement and the consequent dismantling of the “zone of confidence” between government and rebel-held areas had initially led to the expectation that huge numbers of IDPs would go back to their areas of origin (ICRC, 31 May 2007). However, only small-scale return movements were recorded through 2007. Generally, however, these movements have been only partially documented and there is no reliable data on the number of returns. The lack of data is largely due to the complexity of the displacement patterns themselves, as well as a lack of resources. Humanitarian agencies had recorded some 50,000 returnees in the west of the country by the end of 2007 (UN SC, 2 January 2008; UN OCHA, 20 December 2007). The improvement in security with the deployment of mixed government/*Forces Nouvelles* brigades reportedly contributed to the increase in returning IDPs. In the north, the Ministry of Solidarity and War Victims registered some 15,000 returnees in and around Bouaké in its identification exercise between April and September (UN OCHA, 30 September 2007). The new UNFPA-sponsored survey should also provide a more comprehensive picture of the scope of returns.

As the peace process has moved forward, attempts have multiplied to facilitate the return or resettlement of the hundreds of thousands displaced by the conflict (IOM, 7 August 2007, 25 September 2007, 16 October 2007; Fondation Akwaba, November 2007). However, obstacles to return remain. Although the level of security has somewhat improved in the course of 2007, criminal attacks and incidents of extortion still occurred especially in the west because of the widespread presence of arms, the limited deployment of the mixed brigades (UN SC, 2 January 2008; UNOCI, 7 December 2007, 5 December 2007; IRIN, 14 November 2007) and the continuing existence of checkpoints (IRIN, 21 March 2008; UNOCI, 26 December 2007, 26 September 2007). In the absence of effective deployment of the administration, returnees cannot count on a regular provision of services, while law and order are only loosely guaranteed, especially in the north. In some cases, returnees have included male heads of households, who have decided to leave their families behind until they can ensure appropriate housing conditions in the areas of return, or because of the lack of services, such as education and health, in return areas (IDMC Interviews, Bouaké, 23 September 2007; UN OCHA, 7 October 2007).

As of March 2008, intermittent conflict between returning groups seeking access to their agricultural land and communities of origin blocking their return (UNHCR, 26 March 2008; IOM, 16 March 2008) was still causing secondary displacements. With the rainy season approaching, preventing access to land to some of the returnees could have the same effect and also endanger the food security situation in some areas. However, though some IDPs may have found themselves forced to return to or to resettle in areas where the conditions necessary for their safety and dignity are not yet in place, the humanitarian community has identified areas where conditions for safe and dignified return or resettlement are met, in the Moyen Cavally and 18 Montagnes regions (UN OCHA, 20 December 2007).

The application of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement is being advocated with particular regard to the voluntary aspect of the process (UN, 10 December 2007). There is however less focus on the right of IDPs to opt for local integration in areas of displacement. In Abidjan, a significant percentage of IDPs have expressed their intention to remain (IDMC/Tufts University, forthcoming) and will be considered “resettled” when they are able to address their specific needs, especially with regard to restitution of or compensation for lost property.

Protection concerns and humanitarian conditions

Property restitution and access to land still constitute sources of inter-communal conflict, and remain politically charged issues, particularly in western Côte d’Ivoire (UNHCR, 26 March 2008;

UNOCI, 23 October 2007). In a situation of chain displacement, returnees may be refused access to land by the communities in return areas, by other IDPs currently occupying the land (UNSC, 2 January 2008; IASC, 15 August 2007) or by newly arrived migrant workers.

According to the 1998 Rural Land Act, which is yet to be implemented, only Ivorian citizens have the right to own land while non-Ivorians can only hope to obtain long-lease agreements. The law aims to acknowledge and translate customary rights into statutory ownership titles. Customary transfers of rights between “autochthonous” groups and “foreigners” are characteristic of the agrarian system, especially in the forest belt in western Côte d’Ivoire, where “foreigners” make up the majority of farmers. According to custom, the transfer of rights takes place under the “*tutorat*” relationship which also regulates the social integration of the “foreigners” into the host community. In the context of return, whereby codes of social integration have been signed in some areas reinforcing this customary practice, warnings have been issued by some protection actors as to avoid the implementation of practices leading to discrimination between indigenous communities, national migrants and foreign workers (UN OCHA/EU-Côte d’Ivoire, September 2007; UNHCR, 17 May 2007).

Meanwhile, in the north, *Forces Nouvelles* members still occupy houses owned by IDPs. Identified by many as a pre-condition for return, repossession of occupied property is still a delicate matter (IDMC Interviews, Abidjan, 17 September 2007; IASC, 15 August 2007), which is further aggravated by internal differences within the *Forces Nouvelles* and the lack of an operational judicial system.

In general, access to justice remains difficult, especially for the most vulnerable groups including internally displaced people, as access to courts is limited by distance, cost and widespread ignorance of the necessary administrative procedures (UNOCI, June 2007). The mobile courts (*audiences foraines*) can be seen as a first step towards moving the administration of justice closer to the people, but as a dedicated documentation measure they do not support the redeployment of national court structures. The Ouagadougou Peace Accord provides for the organisation of nationwide public mobile courts to issue auxiliary judgements (*jugements supplétifs*), which will certify the nationality of the applicant’s parents and therefore the nationality of the applicant in the absence of a birth certificate. Mobile courts and tribunals, however, can only issue documents to people born within their jurisdiction, and for others judgements can be provided only on the basis of birth registration. Concerns therefore remain for those IDPs whose birth was never registered. Moreover, as around 35 per cent of civil registries in eight regions were lost or destroyed following the 2002 events (CNSI/ONI/EU, 2005), it will require time to guarantee everybody’s right to “recognition everywhere before the law”. In a profiling study conducted in Abidjan in 2007, it appeared that IDPs were less likely to hold birth certificates than non-IDPs while no particular differences were found with regard to certificates of nationality (IDMC/Tufts University, forthcoming).

Donors and humanitarian agencies have gradually started to view Côte d’Ivoire (except for its western regions) as a challenge of early recovery and long-term development rather than a humanitarian emergency (IASC, 15 August 2007). Basic social services are however inadequate or non-existent in both the north and the west of the country. The main issues of concern include the limited access to health services, education and state structures including the judiciary, the lack of clean drinking water and the absence of food security. Severe and moderate malnutrition have long affected children under five in north-western Côte d’Ivoire (IRIN, 9 July 2007). Aid agencies found, however, that chronic malnutrition rates were particularly high in landlocked areas in the west and where conflict-induced displacement had impacted on the already weakened crop production systems (UN OCHA/EU-Côte d’Ivoire, September 2007; WFP, 2 January 2007). Humanitarian organisations have ensured the distribution of food and seeds in the few cases of assisted returns, but they have been unable to guarantee assistance to all those who returned spontaneously. Geographical discrepancies are also recorded in the west, with the

department of Toulepleu having been particularly targeted with food assistance (UN OCHA/EU-Côte d'Ivoire, September 2007).

Access to health services is also restricted, with infrastructure in need of rebuilding and qualified health workers scarce (UN, 10 December 2007). With humanitarian agencies such as Médecins Sans Frontières leaving the country and state care workers going on strike over pay negotiations (IRIN, 7 September 2007), discussions are under way on the sustainability of a health system based on cost recovery. The need to pay for health care would especially impact highly vulnerable groups including internally displaced people and returnees (IRIN, 24 August 2007; MSF, July 2007). An inter-agency study showed that IDPs presenting risk factors for HIV/AIDS had greater difficulties in accessing treatment because of the deterioration of health infrastructure, their increasing impoverishment and their very displacement (UNHCR/GoCdi/UNAIDS, 28 March 2007; UNHCR, 25 April 2007).

The education system was particularly affected by the division of the country, with rebel-held areas facing a shortage of teachers and the deterioration of school infrastructure (UNICEF, 29 January 2007). The signing of the Ouagadougou Accord and the gradual redeployment of public servants laid the foundations for gradual improvement in areas of return, and as a mark of positive development, on 17 September 2007, the school year started on the same day nationwide for the first time since the civil war erupted. However, in his August 2007 report to the UN Security Council, the UN Secretary-General affirmed that around 700,000 children had no access to education in the country (UN SC, 30 August 2007), mainly due to a continuing lack of qualified teachers and the poor state of the education infrastructure (UN, 10 December 2007).

The August 2007 UN Secretary-General's report noted that there was no evidence of recruitment of children by the armed forces, but raised serious concerns with regard to instances of grave sexual violence throughout the country (UN SC, 30 August 2007). A report published by Human Rights Watch found that internally displaced people "appeared to be particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse", and noted that displacement and conflict-related poverty were causing women and girls to resort to prostitution (HRW, 2 August 2007) as a means of sustaining themselves and their families.

National and international response

Since the start of Côte d'Ivoire's civil conflict in September 2002, the government's policy and operational response to the internal displacement in the country has been hampered by its lack of experience in tackling humanitarian crises. While several government ministries – including the Ministry of Solidarity and War Victims, the Ministry of National Reconciliation and Institutional Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Reconstruction and Reintegration – have worked to varying degrees on issues related to displaced people, the lack of a government focal point greatly constrained efforts led by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) to put in place a coordinated IDP response structure. However, in mid-2006, the Ministry of Solidarity and War Victims officially took the lead role on IDP issues. The government has also set up a number of bodies, including an inter-ministerial committee, in charge of coordinating the protection of and assistance to the country's internally displaced people (IDMC, 8 February 2007; GoCdi, 20 March 2007), but the broad lack of high-level political representation has limited their effectiveness.

The proclaimed overarching goal of the government's IDP plan is the return of all displaced people to their original homes. The Ouagadougou Accord focuses on the drafting of a national strategy document to facilitate the return of IDPs, and remains silent on the right to voluntary resettlement in another part of the country, as prescribed in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The government formulated in August 2006 a programme of assistance for the

voluntary return of people displaced by the conflict (GoCdl, August 2006), in collaboration with a number of UN agencies and international NGOs; the programme aimed to provide psychological, medical and administrative assistance to returning IDPs while guaranteeing their reintegration in areas of origin. Initially to be developed in two phases, with a pilot phase benefiting 5,000 IDPs, the programme could not be launched in November 2006 as planned due to a lack of funding. Elements of a national legal framework upholding the rights of IDPs, including draft bills for the protection of internally displaced people and the compensation of war victims including IDPs, were being prepared as of March 2008. Finally, training sessions on the rights of IDPs and on the responsibilities of government towards them were organised throughout 2007, for both government officials and members of the *Forces Nouvelles* (UN OCHA, 7 October 2007; 6 September 2007; 30 July 2007).

Funding constraints have generally affected both the national and the international response to the internal displacement situation in Côte d'Ivoire. After his visit in June 2007, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Walter Kälin, noted that overall the humanitarian response had improved since his last visit in 2006, even though the lack of resources visibly hampered implementation efforts at all levels (IASC, 15 August 2007; UNOCI, 2 July 2007). A number of missions to the west, where the humanitarian needs are most pressing, were organised with donor and aid representatives in an effort to increase the support for protection and monitoring activities (UN SC, 2 January 2008; IRIN, 24 July 2007). By 2008, various protection forums existed within the Protection Cluster under UNHCR's leadership, which intends to bring greater accountability and predictability to the protection of civilians, including IDPs. Regional clusters in Tabou, Guiglo and Bouaké were also operational. While the efforts of these forums have been praised, concerns have been voiced over their effectiveness in moving from the analytical to the operational and implementation stages.

The UN response to the humanitarian crisis in Côte d'Ivoire is headed by the Humanitarian Coordinator, Georg Charpentier, who is also the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, supported by UN OCHA in Abidjan and other strategic locations. He leads the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Coordination Committee (IAHCC), which includes UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, the International Organisation for Migration and international NGOs. With the situation in Côte d'Ivoire being characterised more and more by early recovery and long-term development challenges, it is likely, however, that several UN humanitarian agencies will start scaling down during 2008 and 2009. In line with this trend, organisations like UNDP, the European Union and the World Bank are conversely scaling up their interventions to bridge the gap between the humanitarian and the early recovery phases with varied success. The level of humanitarian intervention provided will depend to some extent on the continuation of the Humanitarian Coordinator role through this period. In this context, a CAP exercise for 2009 looks unlikely.

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND

Background

A chronology of key events (2008)

BBC News, 26 April 2007

“**1842** - France imposes protectorate over coastal zone.

1893 - Ivory Coast made into a colony.

<p>FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY Post-independence president, in power until his death in 1993 1945: Elected deputy to French National Assembly 1946: Founds Ivory Coast Democratic Party 1960: Elected as president 1990: Wins first contested presidential election</p>

1904 - Ivory Coast becomes part of the French Federation of West Africa.

1944 - Felix Houphouet-Boigny, later to become Ivory Coast's first president, founds a union of African farmers, which develops into the inter-territorial African Democratic Rally and its Ivorian section, the Ivory Coast Democratic Party.

1958 - Ivory Coast becomes a republic within the French Community.

Independence

1960 - France grants independence under President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. He holds power until he dies in 1993.

1990 - Opposition parties legalised; Houphouet-Boigny wins Ivory Coast's first multiparty presidential election, beating Laurent Gbagbo of the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI).

1993 - Henri Konan Bedie becomes president following the death of Houphouet-Boigny.

1995 October - Bedie re-elected in a ballot that is boycotted by opposition parties in protest at restrictions imposed on their candidates.

1999 - July - Alassane Ouattara, a Muslim, leaves job at International Monetary Fund and returns to run for president in 2000; his plan to challenge Bedie splits country along ethnic and religious lines. Opponents say he is national of Burkina Faso, not Ivory Coast.

Coup

1999 - Bedie overthrown in military coup led by Robert Guei. Bedie flees to France.

2000 October - Guei proclaims himself president after announcing he has won presidential elections, but is forced to flee in the wake of a popular uprising against his perceived rigging of the poll.

2000 October - Laurent Gbagbo, believed to be the real winner in the presidential election, is proclaimed president. Opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, excluded from running in the poll, calls for a fresh election.

2000 October - Fighting erupts between Gbagbo's mainly southern Christian supporters and followers of Ouattara, who are mostly Muslims from the north.

2000 December - President Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) emerges as the biggest single party in parliamentary elections.

2001 January - Attempted coup fails.

2001 March - President Gbagbo and opposition leader Ouattara meet for the first time since violence erupted between their supporters in October 2000 and agree to work towards reconciliation.

2001 - Reports of child slave ship off Africa's west coast spark allegations of child slavery in cocoa plantations, straining international relations. Government moves to tackle the issue.

2001 March - Calls for fresh presidential and legislative elections after Alassane Ouattara's party gains majority at local polls.

2001 June - Amnesty International criticises government's human rights record over alleged extra-judicial killings of 57 northerners during presidential election campaign in October 2000. Eight gendarmes accused of the killings are cleared in August.

2001 October - President Gbagbo sets up National Reconciliation Forum. General Guei refuses to attend in protest against the arrest of his close aide Captain Fabien Coulibaly.

2001 November - Opposition leader Alassane Ouattara returns, ending year-long exile in France and Gabon.

2002 August - Ouattara's RDR opposition party given four ministerial posts in new government.

Rebellion

2002 19 September - Mutiny in Abidjan by soldiers unhappy at being demobilised grows into full-scale rebellion, with Ivory Coast Patriotic Movement rebels seizing control of the north.

2002 October-December - Short-lived ceasefire in October gives way to further clashes and battle for key cocoa-industry town of Daloa. Previously unknown rebel groups seize towns in west.

2003 January - President Gbagbo accepts peace deal at talks in Paris. Deal proposes power-sharing government.

Power-sharing

2003 March - Political parties, rebels agree on new government to include nine members from rebel ranks. "Consensus" prime minister, Seydou Diarra, tasked with forming cabinet.

2003 May - Armed forces sign "full" ceasefire with rebel groups to end almost eight months of rebellion.

2003 July - At presidential palace ceremony military chiefs and rebels declare war is over.

2003 August - Group of suspected mercenaries and their backers detained in France; said to have planned to assassinate President Gbagbo.

2003 September - Rebels accuse President Gbagbo of failing to honour peace agreement and pull out of unity government.

2003 December - 19 killed in armed attack on state TV building in Abidjan.

Rebels rejoin government of national unity.

2004 March - Deadly clashes during crackdown on opposition rally against President Gbagbo in Abidjan.

The former ruling party - the Ivory Coast Democratic Party (PDCI) - pulls out of the government, accusing President Gbagbo of "destabilising the peace process".

First contingent of UN peacekeeping force deployed.

2004 May - UN report says March's opposition rally was used as pretext for planned operation by security forces. Report says more than 120 people were killed and alleges summary executions, torture.

2004 November - Outbreak of hostilities: Ivorian air force attacks rebels; French forces enter the fray after nine of their soldiers are killed in an air strike. Violent anti-French protests ensue. UN imposes arms embargo.

2004 December - Parliament passes key reforms envisaged under 2003 peace accord, including abolishing need for president to have Ivorian mother and father.

2005 April - Government, rebels declare an "immediate and final end" to hostilities. The move follows talks in South Africa.

2005 June - Massacres in western town of Duekoue: President Gbagbo says more than 100 people were killed, but contradicts widely-held view that ethnic rifts lay behind violence.

Poll called off

2005 October - Planned elections are shelved as President Gbagbo invokes a law which he says allows him to stay in power. The UN extends his mandate for a further year.

2005 December - Economist Charles Konan Banny is nominated as prime minister by mediators. He is expected to disarm militias and rebels and to organise elections.

2006 January - Supporters of President Gbagbo take to the streets over what they see as UN interference in internal affairs.

2006 February - Main political rivals meet on Ivorian soil for the first time since the 2002 rebellion and agree to hold more meetings to iron out their differences.

2006 June - Militias loyal to President Gbagbo miss disarmament deadlines.

2006 September - Political, rebel leaders say they've failed to make any breakthrough on the main issues standing in the way of elections - principally voter registration and disarmament.

The government resigns over a scandal involving the dumping of toxic waste in Abidjan. Fumes from the waste kill three people and make many more ill.

2006 November - UN Security Council resolution extends the transitional government's mandate for another year.

2007 March - Government and New Forces rebels sign a power-sharing peace deal, mediated by Burkina Faso. Under the deal, New Forces leader Guillaume Soro is named as prime minister.

2007 April - President Gbagbo declares "the war is over" between his government and northern rebels, as the two sides move to dismantle the military buffer zone.

2007 April - President Gbagbo declares "the war is over" between his government and northern rebels, as the two sides move to dismantle the military buffer zone. Within days aid workers report an increase in violence. Within days aid workers report an increase in violence.

2007 May - Militia begin to disarm.

2007 June - Prime minister Soro survives a rocket attack on his plane.

2007 October - UN Security Council votes to maintain sanctions for another year.

2007 December - Rebel, government soldiers pull back from front-line positions as part of process to reunite country.

2008 January - UN renews mandate of 8,000 peacekeepers for six months to ensure polls are held by mid-year."

The manipulation of ethnic factors for political and ideological purposes, 1893-2002

- For many years, ethnic factors in Ivorian society have been subject to political manipulation
- Since former President Henri Konan Bedie introduced the concept of 'Ivoirité' in 1995, the political and ideological manipulation of issues of nationality and ethno-religious divisions have been exacerbated
- Human Rights Watch report describes atrocities committed during presidential and parliamentary elections in October and December 2000, including more than 200 killings, as well as torture, rape and arbitrary detention
- Flawed election of President Laurent Gbagbo in 2000, based on a blatantly racist agenda, laid the ground for the eventual division of the country into distinct ethnic and religious zones in 2002

UN Commission for Human Rights, 22 December 2004, paras. 41-42

"Ethnic factors in Ivorian society have for many years - and increasingly - been subject to political manipulation. In Côte d'Ivoire as elsewhere in Africa, the colonial Power frequently exploited ethnic differences to divide and rule, or else, using anthropology and ethnology, ethnicized groups and communities whose relationships had been regulated by traditional values and cultural practices for jointly dealing with ethnic tensions. Economic imperatives such as labour-

force mobility did not respond to any desire to promote a genuine, interactive coexistence that might have fostered a national consciousness as opposed to the colonial policy of assimilation. Later, President Houphouët-Boigny found the implicit tensions within Ivorian society relatively manageable and was able to maintain a generally quiescent inter-ethnic coexistence. However, his approach to ethnic tensions, a mix of traditionalist pragmatism, political opportunism and the use of corruption and repression, within a non-democratic, one-party system, did nothing to neutralize the threat of conflict those tensions posed in any deep or lasting way. During his reign, Côte d'Ivoire was the scene of both xenophobic violence targeting foreign groups and political repression directed against particular Ivorian ethnic groups and their leaders.

This tendency finally took political expression in 1990, with the introduction of a multiparty system in which ethnic tension became a decisive political factor. In the forced transition from a paternalistic single-party system to a democratic multiparty one, in the context of multi-ethnic Côte d'Ivoire, it was only too tempting to play the ethnic card in the political manoeuvring, i.e., in the absence of any debate on ideas or substantive platforms, to resort to ethnic considerations to build up a militant political base for the conquest of power. In this context, "ivoirité", or Ivorianness, became the conceptual basis for the construction of an ideology of political manipulation of the ethnic factor.

HRW, August 2001

"The 2000 presidential and parliamentary elections in Côte d'Ivoire in October and December were marred by political violence which left over 200 people dead and hundreds wounded. In the months preceding the October presidential and December parliamentary elections, political leaders exploited ethnic divisions to oust rivals, used the state apparatus to repress opponents, and incited hatred and fear among populations which had for decades lived in relative harmony. Their actions culminated in two unprecedented waves of violence which shocked Ivorians and members of the international community alike, as well as grimly highlighting the danger of manipulating ethnic loyalties and latent prejudice for political gain. The legacy of the heightened suspicion and intolerance generated during the election period will take determined action to overcome; action which has so far been seriously lacking.

The violence shattered Côte d'Ivoire's hopes of rapidly regaining its status as francophone West Africa's economic powerhouse and a regional beacon of stability. This was lost a year earlier when a coup d'état against the corrupt government of incumbent elected president Henri Konan Bédié installed General Robert Guei as a military head of state in December 1999. General Guei had promised to return Côte d'Ivoire to civilian rule, and scheduled elections to do so, but had manipulated the process to such an extent that the legitimacy of the elections was already in doubt before they were held. A new constitution introduced by General Guei and approved by a July 2000 referendum required both parents of any Ivorian wishing to contest the presidential election to have been born in Côte d'Ivoire. This amendment was transparently designed to exclude Alassane Ouattara, the leader of the Rally of Republicans party (*Rassemblement des Républicains*, RDR), the largest opposition party, from the contest. On October 6, 2000, a controversial Supreme Court decision disqualified from running fourteen of the nineteen presidential candidates, including Ouattara, on citizenship grounds, and former president Bédié for not submitting a proper medical certificate. The Supreme Court, headed by General Guei's then legal adviser, was widely believed to have been hand picked by Guei himself.

On October 24, 2000, after early results showed Laurent Gbagbo, leader of the Ivorian Popular Front (*Front Populaire Ivoirien*, FPI), leading in the presidential poll, General Guei dissolved the National Electoral Commission and proclaimed himself the winner. Just two days later, he fled the country, in the midst of violence surrounding protests at his attempts to rig the elections. Laurent Gbagbo was left as the leading presidential candidate.

Despite the very serious concerns surrounding the legitimacy of the elections-both the widespread violence and the exclusion of Alassane Ouattara from the contest-Gbagbo was installed as president. Gbagbo then used the same methods as his predecessor during the December parliamentary elections, in particular to ensure that Ouattara was once again not allowed to run. Since assuming office, he has failed to acknowledge the flawed manner in which he became head of state, to promise new elections, to seek accountability for the violence, or to take adequate steps to ensure that, under his leadership, Côte d'Ivoire would be characterized by the rule of law, not by ethno-religious tension and military impunity."

Warring parties involved in the post-September 2002 crisis: an overview

AFP, 12 January 2003

"Following are details of the rebel groups [...] operating in the country:

Ivory Coast Patriotic Movement (MPCI):

The best known of the three groups which started the conflict with a well-synchronised rebellion on September 19 by disgruntled soldiers facing demobilisation.

Although the MPCI was defeated in the country's main city Abidjan on the first day, they occupied the northern half of the world's top cocoa producer in a lightning campaign.

This movement is headquartered in Ivory Coast's second city Bouake, the main economic hub after the economic capital Abidjan. Its other stronghold is the northern town of Korhogo.

The group now has tens of thousands of fighters in its ranks, which have swelled due to voluntary enlistment by youths living in occupied territory.

The MPCI insists it is not a political movement and claims that none of the country's main political leaders are backing it.

However, it says it is fighting for the rights of the Muslim-majority northerners who have been discriminated against by the government of President Laurent Gbagbo, a Christian based in the south.

The best-known public faces of the MPCI are two soldiers -- Tuo Fozie and Sherif Usman -- but the leaders of their political wing remain shadowy.

Another of the leaders of the political movement is Louis Dakoury-Tabley, ironically one of Gbagbo's closest friends when the latter was an opposition figure and often forced to go into hiding.

The MPCI says it is determined to remove Gbagbo and usher in a new government after holding fresh elections.

It has strenuously denied claims that it is backed by neighbouring Burkina Faso, fingered by the government as the shadowy mastermind of the rebellion, or that it has any links with exiled opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, Gbagbo's arch-foe.

The MPCI signed a West African brokered ceasefire on October 17 which was "accepted" by Gbagbo as well but the truce was shattered late last month when fighting resumed in the country's west, where two new rebel groups emerged at the same time.

The MPCI and the Ivorian government began peace talks in the Togolese capital Lome on October 30 but the negotiations have been deadlocked for weeks.

Far West Ivory Coast People's Movement (MPIGO):

The group, which has now pulled out of the Paris talks, made a dramatic appearance on November 28 by taking the key western town of Danane near the Liberian border.

Its fighters are often armed with old-fashioned rifles and essentially comprise soldiers and men close to former military ruler General Robert Guei, killed in Abidjan on the first day of the September uprising.

The MPIGO claims to have around 6,000 fighters and controls a vast swathe of the west including Guei's native village of Gouessesso, where Guei withdrew after Gbagbo defeated him in presidential elections in 2000.

The MPIGO accuses the government of killing Guei and says it wants to avenge his murder and to secure a place for Guei's Yakuba ethnic group in Ivory Coast's pluralist society.

The group has repeatedly denied roping in Liberian fighters although witnesses have reported the presence of "English-speaking" combatants who loot and terrorise locals in sharp contrast to the MPCl forces.

Most of their men do not wear uniforms -- another major difference between the MPIGO and the two other rebel groups.

In December, French troops fired on the MPIGO to prevent them from taking the strategic town of Duekoue, on the route to Ivory Coast's cocoa capital Daloa, prompting the insurgents to threaten all-out war against the peacekeepers.

But like the MJP (see below) they have since signed a ceasefire, despite vowing to continue to fight the government forces.

Movement for Justice and Peace (MJP):

Surfaced on the same day as the MPIGO, with which it later concluded an alliance, when it took the key western town of Man on November 28.

Also based in western Ivory Coast, the MJP is thought to group some 250 soldiers of whom about one-fifth are traditional 'dozo' hunters who are reputed to possess magical powers.

Its leaders claim the group is a breakaway faction of the main MPCl rebel movement, whom they oppose for agreeing to enter into peace talks with the Ivorian government under the aegis of Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

The MJP however insists it has no links whatsoever with the MPCl despite maintaining "cordial relations" with the MPCl top brass including Tuo Fozie."

In December 2002, Soro's MPCl combined with the two other rebel groups to form the Forces Nouvelles (New Forces). Guillaume Soro became secretary-general of the group.

Chatham House, September 2007, p.16, 18

"In November 2002, two months after the war broke out, two other rebel groups emerged in western Cote d'Ivoire, until then untouched by the fighting. The Mouvement pour la Justice et la Paix (MJP) and the Mouvement Populaire Ivoirien du Grand Ouest (MPIGO) allied themselves to the main, northern rebel group, the MPCl, and quickly took over much of the west, including the region's major town of Man. They claimed to be independent, fighting to avenge the murder of Guéi by loyalists soon after the September 19 coup attempt began.

[...]

There is a good deal of uncertainty over how many rebel fighters there are. According to the national disarmament commission and the terms of a series of disarmament deals signed in 2005 - the principles of which still hold, although deadlines have been repeatedly missed - the rebels have 42,564 troops. The deals state that all these troops are to hand in their weapons and be paid 499,500 CFA francs (£518, US\$970) each. They could also benefit from loans for small business start-ups, or farming, reaching a maximum of 430,000 CFA (£446, US\$830).

There may well be an element of paying for peace in the disarmament programme and the figure of 42,564 - a huge number compared to the loyalists' 17,050 military and paramilitary troops - should be taken with some scepticism. Reviewing the figures over time, one can see an inflation of troop numbers claimed by the Forces Nouvelles as disarmament has crept up the agenda and become a more realistic possibility.

The Forces Nouvelles have every reason to exaggerate their numbers, as the more troops who are officially disarmed, the more money they receive. The Ivorian authorities may turn a blind eye to inflation of the rebels' real troop numbers, viewing the disarmament process as a pay-off for the insurgency disbanding itself. The same temptation exists among the militias on the loyalist side. The MPCl had an estimated 800 fighters at the very beginning of the war, including most of the Ivorian soldiers based in the north - who had little choice but to join the revolt - and the *zinzins* and *bahefoués* [former footsoldiers of Guéi's regime]. The MJP and MPIGO sprung up on 28 November 2002, adding an extra 2,000 rebel fighters, including some 1,000 Liberian who were mostly within the ranks of the MPIGO. Sympathetic northerners and foreigners joined the MPCl during the major fighting from September 2002 to May 2003. By the end of March 2003, the UN estimated the MPCl's numbers had increased to 5,000 bringing the total number of rebel fighters to 7,000."

Cocoa trade has contributed to funding the armed conflict and fuel political instability, 2002-2007

- Cocoa trade had provided funding for the war effort
- On the government side, cocoa institutions have contributed directly with both money and vehicles
- The Forces Nouvelles derived substantial financial support from the cocoa trade, both through escort taxes and cocoa taxes
- Cocoa continues to be smuggled from northern Cote d'Ivoire despite the Ouagadougou Agreement

Voice of America, 30 October 2007

"Robert Rensi, an Ivory Coast specialist at the European Union, says the story of cocoa sums up the stakes in the country's fitful conflict.

"The whole Ivorian crisis can be translated into a struggle among different forces and the exclusion of part of the population in accessing these resources," Rensi said. "Cocoa has created a land tenure problem, has created a false identity problem. But at the bottom of all this, there's a struggle for control of resources that traditionally have been managed in a non-transparent way.

Meanwhile, the London-based International Cocoa Organization says Ivory Coast's \$1.4-billion cocoa industry is coasting on a booming world demand for chocolate. It says that demand is growing at about four percent a year."

Reuters, 30 October 2007

" Cocoa smuggling from the rebel-held north of world top cocoa grower Ivory Coast continues despite a peace deal intended to reunite the West African country, merchants say.

The rebel New Forces who seized the northern half of the country in a 2002-2003 civil war have long acknowledged using revenue from cocoa smuggled through their zone to neighbouring countries to fund their movement.

But in spite of a March peace deal that led President Laurent Gbagbo to make New Forces chief Guillaume Soro prime minister, truckloads of beans still roll over the northern border.

"No one told us to stop sending cocoa through Burkina Faso, Guinea or elsewhere and it's not because of peace that it's going to stop. We'll send our cocoa wherever the price is good," cocoa merchant Falikou Cisse said.

He is one of many buyers working in Fengolo, a village just north of Duekoue in Ivory Coast's main western cocoa belt.

Merchants send cocoa grown around Fengolo, including some grown in the government south as well as in the rebel zone, to neighbouring states as New Forces taxes are much lower than those payable to the state at the country's two sea ports.

These lower taxes enable smugglers to outbid other merchants working in this area and that has forced some cooperatives and independent buyers out of business."

Global Witness, June 2007, pp. 24, 33

"Cote d'Ivoire's national cocoa institutions, with the assent of the biggest exporters' union, have directly contributed to the war effort by providing the government with money, vehicles and weapons, using money from cocoa levies. These payments and gifts coincided with a period when some of the worst human rights violations by government forces took place. A World Bank official told Global Witness: "We know that the revenues collected from cocoa are used to fund the military". This is an obvious deviation from the cocoa institutions' official role, which is to regulate the cocoa trade and support cocoa farmers. Today, profits from the sector remain a potential "weapon of war" and little has been done to break the links between the cocoa trade and the armed conflict.

Three cocoa institutions have directly contributed at least 10.6bn CFA (US\$20.3m) to the war effort: the Autorité de Régulation du Café et du Cacao (ARCC), the Bourse du Café et Cacao (BCC) - whose board included two representatives of the biggest exporters' union, the Groupement Professionnel des Exportateurs de Café-Cacao (GEPEX), ADM Cocoa SIFCA's general manager and the director of Dafci, at the time owned by French company Bolloré - and the Fonds de Développement et de Promotion des Activités des Producteurs de Café et de Cacao (FDPCC). They have also given vehicles to the Forces de Défense et de Sécurité (FDS, the national security forces). To do so, they used money from levies paid by cocoa exporters. Such initiatives and deviations from the official role of cocoa institutions were facilitated by the lack of transparency and absence of checks and balances in the cocoa sector.

[...]

Individuals within the Forces Nouvelles (FN) have enjoyed financial as well as political rewards as a result of the conflict and the country's partition. They have a vested interest in prolonging the crisis: once the country is reunited, they may lose their control over natural resources and financial assets. As a significant source of the FN's finances, the cocoa trade has effectively contributed to delaying a resolution of the crisis.

Cocoa is a substantial source of revenue for the FN. Global Witness estimates that since 2004, the FN have derived an average of around 15.1bn CFA (US\$30m) per year from the cocoa trade.

This figure was obtained by calculating the total of all the taxes and export agreements as well as the number of trucks taxed (about 3,250 trucks) for the estimated yearly cocoa production. According to FN estimate, annual cocoa production in the FN zone is 130,000 tonnes and is worth 104bn CFA (US\$203m). This represents a tenth of Cote d'Ivoire's total production and up to 3.6% of world production. The FN was quick to seize the opportunity to start taxing cocoa.

Initially, from September 2002 onwards, FN troops and rebel commanders developed a survival strategy based on extortion. It was reported that during a single week in August 2003, the FN made 69m CFA (US\$136,600) from sales of fuel and taxes on convoys. Economic operators were made to pay "protection" taxes to travel in the FN-controlled zone. No truck could travel without an FN escort - usually attacks by bandits (*coupeurs de route*) and ease the way through the numerous FN checkpoints along the roads. This was later institutionalised as an "escort tax", costing 5,000 CFA (US\$9.6) and paid to the escort.

At the end of 2002, in addition to the protection taxes, cocoa was subject to a tax of 50CFA (10 US cents) per kilogramme. The trucks were weighed on a weighbridge in Séguéla and the tax was paid to Séguéla's FN commander, Zakaria Koné. The weighing system in Séguéla was abandoned in early 2003 in favour of a standard payment of 2m CFA (US\$3,870) per truck (which works out at approximately the same rate per kilogramme), paid at the start of the route, in Man or Vavoua."

Mercenaries and refugees from Liberia recruited by all parties to the conflict, end 2002-2003

- MJP and MPIGO and Ivorian government forces accused of using Liberian fighters
- Civilians displaced after attacks by presumed Liberian fighters in the west of war-torn Côte d'Ivoire
- Ivorian and Liberian authorities reported attacks on their common border by groups from each other's territory
- Liberia accuses Côte d'Ivoire government to back armed groups, which launch attacks from Toulepleu on the Ivorian side of the border
- Côte d'Ivoire asks France to activate bilateral defence pact following alleged raids by Liberian soldiers

UN OCHA, 3 March 2003

"Defence authorities in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia have reported attacks by groups from each others' territory on locations on either side of their border. However, the claims could not be immediately confirmed by third parties.

Defence authorities in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, said that heavy fighting continued on Monday between Liberian government troops and insurgents in Toe Town, close to the Ivorian border. The town was captured on Friday by the Liberians United for Reconciliation (LURD) rebel group, according to the Liberian government.

Liberian Defence spokesman Philibert Browne told IRIN on Monday that Liberian government troops were "engaging the rebels to regain control of the town" which, prior to the attack, was a transit point for Ivorian refugees and Liberians fleeing armed conflict in Cote d'Ivoire.

Liberian Defense Minister Daniel Chea had told a news conference in Monrovia on Saturday that Toe Town had been attacked by two platoons of insurgents "armed and backed by the Ivorian

government". He said the attack had been launched from the town of Toulepleu, on the Ivorian side of the border.

"For the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to encourage Liberian mercenaries fighting alongside their own troops in their civil crisis to cross the border into Liberian territory is tantamount to a declaration of war," Chea said. "[...] those who want to continue this wave of violence against our people must understand that we reserve the right to self-defense."

However, Cote d'Ivoire's armed forces denied Chea's claims. The armed forces "would like to indicate that no foreign mercenary is fighting alongside it and that the statements of the minister of defence of Liberia constitute groundless accusations," Armed Forces spokesman Lt Col Jules Yao Yao said on Sunday.

"On the other hand," he continued, the Ivorian armed forces "recognise that the situation in the west of Cote d'Ivoire remains worrying since the different actors intervening in the conflict are difficult to identify."

Two rebel groups, the Mouvement pour la Justice et la Paix (MJP) and the Mouvement patriotique du Grand Ouest (MPIGO), operate on the Ivorian side of the border between Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia. The MJP has its headquarters in the town of Man, while MPIGO's territory is farther south, around the town of Danane. Like the Ivorian government, both groups have been accused of using Liberian fighters."

AFP, 24 January 2003

"They speak English and they kill," said Madeleine Ga Ahou, one of several thousand people displaced after attacks by presumed Liberian fighters in the west of war-torn Ivory Coast.

"Some were in uniform, the others in civvies. We don't know if they were rebels or others," she told AFP in the town of Guiglo, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) east of Toulepleu, the scene of bitter fighting on Wednesday and Thursday.

Ga Ahou arrived in Guiglo on Friday with her two children and was lodged at a camp run by the Red Cross.

She cannot say with certitude, like the Ivorian military, that the attackers were regular soldiers from neighbouring Liberia who went on the rampage alongside two rebel movements based in western Ivory Coast.

"All that we saw is that they had guns and they kill people," she said simply.

The Ivorian military has accused soldiers from the Liberian army of fighting alongside Ivorian rebel groups and of involvement in a deadly raid Wednesday in the town of Toulepleu which it claims killed at least 29 people.

Ivorian Defence Minister Kadet Bertin said on Thursday that Abidjan had officially asked former colonial ruler France to activate a bilateral defence pact following the alleged raids by Liberian soldiers.

Bertin said he had proof "that it is regular Liberian forces who are attacking us," adding that the attacks may not have been ordered by Liberian President Charles Taylor but "those in higher echelons of power with bad intentions."

Taylor on Friday denied the allegation but stressed that Liberian mercenaries were fighting both for the rebels and the Ivorian troops, albeit without Monrovia's blessings or knowledge.

However, several witnesses have reported the presence of Liberian fighters in Ivory Coast since the end of November.

The people of Guiglo are convinced that Liberians were involved in the attacks in the west, near the prized cocoa belt of Ivory Coast, the world's top producer of the bean.

Ga Ahou said she saw the "Liberians," mostly young men in their twenties, for the first time at the start of December in her campment of Iffa, in the heart of cocoa country near the town of Bolekin.

She said they looted and extorted locals but did not kill them. But on "Tuesday, they returned and started shooting, started demanding money and killing people who did not give them cash."

"They looted, they took food. we didn't understand what they were saying. They took my cycle and my little brother," said Joachim Koffi Kouame.

Kouame, a cocoa planter from central Ivory Coast, came to the region in 1986. But now he is returning to his native region.

Nearly 2,500 people from the Baoule ethnic group, natives of central Ivory Coast like Kouame, have fled during the last 15 days to the relative safety of Guiglo, said Koffi Tanoh, an official looking after the displaced.

Clement Gnan, who is among those who escaped, said "Many fled on foot through thick forests and the journey took several days."

However, most do not have severe wounds and generally suffer from fatigue or have grazes. But they have deep psychological scars. "They spoil everything. I've lost 10 years of my life, 10 years of my work," a fiftyish-year-old man said his eyes brimming with tears."

Reuters, 2 January 2003

"Villagers who escaped Neka said there were many Liberians among the fighters who struck on Wednesday in an attack claimed by the Ivorian Patriotic Movement of the Far West (MPIGO).

"There were a lot of dead, they killed lots of people," said one woman called Aminata, who had found a truck to San Pedro after escaping into the bush. "We saw the bodies."

Gbagbo's adviser in Europe, Toussaint Alain, accused mercenaries from Liberia's own savage wars of "massacring the inhabitants (of Neka) with machetes and burning their homes".

Fleeing civilians said they saw helicopter gunships and trucks full of Gbagbo's troops heading towards the fighting. Residents of San Pedro said white mercenaries paid by the army had also arrived in town.

"We're advancing on San Pedro," rebel spokesman Felix Doh told Reuters by satellite phone on Thursday.

San Pedro exports about half the cocoa beans from a country producing 40 percent of the world's supply and prices for benchmark March cocoa futures shot up more than five percent in London on Thursday because of the news from Ivory Coast.

A big contingent of troops from former colonial power France is based in San Pedro to protect hundreds of foreigners.

The French have committed helicopters, heavy arms and some 2,500 soldiers to Ivory Coast in their biggest African intervention since the 1980s to try to stabilise the war-torn country, once the region's economic powerhouse.

A first contingent of West African soldiers is also due to arrive this week to help the French in monitoring the ceasefire between the government and main rebel group.

The Ivorian army says Tuesday's helicopter raid on a small village called Menakro near Beoumi followed an attack on its own positions and spokesman Colonel Jules Yao Yao accused the rebels of using civilians as human shields."

"Regional warriors" re-recruited to fight in Côte d'Ivoire, 2004-2005

- Many young fighters, often forcibly recruited as children, have effectively ended up as mercenaries fighting in numerous armed conflicts in the region
- Armed groups have committed gross human rights violations against civilians with impunity
- Testimonies of "regional warriors", documented by Human Rights Watch, confirms that economic deprivation is a key cause of continuing cycle of war crimes throughout the region
- Since November 2004, hundreds of disarmed fighters in Liberia have been recruited to fight in pro-government militias in Cote d'Ivoire

HRW, 13 April 2005

"Since the late 1980's, the armed conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire have reverberated across each country's porous borders. Gliding back and forth across these borders is a migrant population of young fighters – regional warriors – who view war as mainly an economic opportunity. Their military 'careers' most often began when they were abducted and forcibly recruited by rebels in Liberia or Sierra Leone, usually as children. Thrust into a world of brutality, physical hardship, forced labor and drug abuse, they emerged as perpetrators, willing to rape, abduct, mutilate and even kill. Later, as veteran fighters struggling to support themselves within the war-shattered economy at home, they were lured by recruiters back to the frontlines – this time of a neighbor's war. There, they took the opportunity to loot and pillage; an all too familiar means of providing for their families or enriching themselves.

The flow of arms and combatants across the fluid borders of West Africa, paired with the willingness of governments in the region to support the actions of insurgent groups and government militias in neighboring countries has had lethal consequences, particularly for civilians. The armed groups these regional warriors are part of have a well-documented record of committing unspeakable human rights abuses against unarmed civilians and have so far enjoyed impunity for the violations they commit. Efforts by the international community to disarm and reintegrate these fighters into their home communities –including through training – have so far had limited success. At present, the armed conflict in Côte d'Ivoire and the unstable political situation in Guinea appear to be the current theaters into which these regional warriors are being drawn.

The voices of the regional warriors heard in this report clearly illuminate the link between economic deprivation and the continuing cycle of war crimes throughout the region. The regional warriors unanimously identified crippling poverty and hopelessness as the key factors which motivated them to risk dying in subsequent armed conflicts. They described being deeply affected by poverty and obsessed with the struggle of daily survival, a reality not lost on the recruiters. Indeed they were born in and fight in some of the world's poorest countries. Many described their broken dreams and how, given the dire economic conditions within the region, going to war was their best option for economic survival. Each group with whom these combatants went on to fight with has, to varying degrees, committed serious human rights crimes against civilians, often on a widespread and systematic scale. The brutal armed conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire have resulted in tens of thousands of civilians being killed, raped or maimed.

[...]

Aid organizations and United Nations officials working in Liberia say that hundreds of recently demobilized combatants, including children, have since at least November 2004 been re-recruited

to fight in Côte d'Ivoire. The majority have, according to their reports, gone to fight alongside militias associated with the Ivorian government.

[...]

Deterioration in the military-political situation in Côte d'Ivoire would likely be accompanied by human rights abuses on a massive scale, given the proliferation of militias and level of ethnic tension."

See also UN Office for West Africa, 'Youth unemployment and regional insecurity in West Africa', 31 December 2005

UN sanctions Ivorian leaders in wake of orchestrated anti-UN violence, February 2006

- In February 2006, the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on three key Ivorian political figures found to constitute a "threat to peace" in the country
- Two of the individuals were leaders of a pro-government youth militia, and the third a rebel leader
- Sanctions came after a wave of orchestrated anti-UN violence in January, which caused several deaths and widespread damage
- The violence resulted in the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers from the west and the evacuation of humanitarian agencies

IRIN, 8 February 2006

"The United Nations' Security Council has slapped a 12-month travel ban and assets freeze on three Cote d'Ivoire political figures it accuses of hampering efforts to bring peace to the divided West African nation.

A Security Council sanctions committee on Tuesday called on member states to 'prevent the entry or transit' and 'freeze immediately the funds' of the three who it said constituted 'a threat to the peace and reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire.'

Those listed, according to a statement by the committee, are: Charles Ble Goude and Eugene Djue, leaders of the Young Patriots movement loyal to Cote d'Ivoire's President Laurent Gbagbo. Last month, the Young Patriots called supporters onto the streets to demand the departure of UN and French peacekeepers.

The third person is Martin Kouakou Fofie, a commander of the rebel New Forces movement, who was linked by the sanctions committee to human rights violations in the northern city of Korhogo.

Cote d'Ivoire split in two after a failed coup to oust Gbagbo in September 2002. The UN maintains a force of 7,000 blue helmets working alongside 4,000 French peacekeepers.

The UN decided to impose sanctions after hundreds of peacekeepers were forced to retreat as protesters set fire to UN vehicles and offices and ransacked compounds and humanitarian stores. Around 400 civilian staff have been temporarily evacuated and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has warned that Gbagbo and his military chief of staff will be held personally responsible for new disturbances.

The Sanctions Committee said in its statement on Tuesday that it 'will continue to update the (sanctions) list on a regular basis.' "

IRIN, 18 January 2006

“Five people were killed and hundreds of UN peacekeepers forced to abandon base on Wednesday as anti-UN protests swept government-held southern Cote d’Ivoire for a third straight day.

After repeated attacks on UN compounds, vehicles and offices, a UN official said civilian personnel were being concentrated in central locations. ‘The security of staff remains our primary concern,’ he said.

As angry protesters loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo took over state television and broadcast calls for mass anti-UN demonstrations in the street, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, who also heads the African Union, flew in to help defuse the sudden crisis shortly before nightfall.

The main city Abidjan was paralysed for the third straight day by road blocks thrown up by angry youths loyal to Gbagbo.

Cote d’Ivoire split into two more than three years ago and some 10,000 UN and French troops monitor the buffer zone between the government south and the north, which is under rebel control.

In the volatile western region near the Liberian border, hundreds of blue-helmets based in Guiglo and Duekoue were forced to retreat after young protesters invaded compounds and torched UN buildings bearing the distinctive blue flag.

In Guiglo, some 350 km from the main city Abidjan, Bangladeshi soldiers opened fire to repel youths who besieged their barracks overnight. Hours later, the 200-300 men redeployed taking UN civilian personnel with them.

At the local hospital, a doctor who declined to be named told IRIN by telephone that five people were killed and 10 injured from gunshot wounds.

UN officials in Abidjan said four attackers were killed.

[...]

UN peacekeepers operate under the so-called Chapter VII of the UN Charter enabling soldiers to defend themselves and the local population if they come under direct attack.

[...]

Youths loyal to President Gbagbo who belong to a movement known as the Young Patriots have been targeting UN facilities since international mediators overseeing a UN peace blueprint backed measures effectively reducing Gbagbo’s powers.

On Sunday, mediators in the ministerial-level International Working Group (IWG) said that parliament, which is packed with Gbagbo’s Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) party members, does not have a mandate.

Parliament’s mandate expired on 16 December and the IWG recommended the mandate not be renewed, effectively disbanding the assembly.

Gbagbo’s ruling FPI on Tuesday announced in protest that it was quitting the peace process and pulling out its seven members in a transitional government headed by Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny.

A spokesman for the New Forces rebel movement, Sidiki Konate, meanwhile warned that the country was on the edge of war and said the UN withdrawal from Guiglo and Duekoue meant local populations had been left with no protection.

[...]

At the UN base in Guiglo, as well as at the offices of the aid group Save The Children, looters made away with everything they could salvage.

Western Cote d'Ivoire saw some of the fiercest fighting in the early days of the September 2002 rebellion that split the world's largest cocoa producing nation in two and brought into being the UN peacekeeping mission in April 2004. The volatile west has also often been the scene of ethnic strife.

Residents told IRIN that at the local radio station in the western town of Daloa, Young Patriots had demanded the station transmit pro-government propaganda. But when workers refused, the station was ransacked and looted.

Some 250 km away in Abidjan, makeshift barricades manned by young men brought activity to a standstill. While the number of Young Patriots roaming the streets was lower than during widely supported 2004 anti-French riots, all businesses were closed and most residents stayed at home.

At a hillside hotel transformed into UN headquarters, UN troops fired tear gas grenades and live bullets to warn off a crowd of protestors that has swollen from several hundred in the morning by over a 1,000 by the afternoon.

Nearly 500 youths meanwhile gathered outside the French military base, according to spokesman Jean-Luc Cotard. 'So far they are not violent, they are chanting and dancing,' he told IRIN.

But Young Patriots also massed outside the French Embassy in the lagoon-side business district of Plateau, Abidjan, blocking exits.

[...]

The group was especially vocal against France in violence in November 2004 when thousands of French nationals had to be evacuated from the country."

Peace efforts

Linac-Marcoussis accord signed by all parties to the conflict, January 2003

- The accord received the full support of the United Nations, the European Union, and the African Union, among others
- The French "Operation Unicorn" forces and the ECOWAS forces, already monitoring the cease-fire, are mandated by the UN Security Council Resolution 1454 to protect civilians
- A National Security Council has been formed to oversee protection and national defence matters in a consensual forum
- The new National reconciliation government with ministers from the rebel forces has been formed

UN OCHA, 31 March 2003

"The Linac-Marcoussis accord, signed by all parties to the Ivorian conflict in France on 24 January, has received the full support of the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union and the United States, among others.

UNSG Special Representative for Cote d'Ivoire Mr. Albert Tevoedjre, as President of the international Monitoring Committee of the Marcoussis accord, and consensus Prime Minister Mr.

Seydou Diarra, as well as ECOWAS, have been actively conferring nationally, regionally and internationally with all concerned groups to bring about the successful formation and functioning of the new government.

The French "Operation Unicorn" forces and the ECOWAS forces, newly dubbed "ECOMICI", already monitoring the cease-fire, are mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1464 to protect civilians and ensure a secure environment for the National Reconciliation Government to take root in.

A National Security Council has also been formed to oversee protection and national defense matters in a consensual forum. UNSC resolution 1467 was recently unanimously adopted, and addresses the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, mercenary activities and the phenomenon of child soldiers in West Africa.

After the signing of the Marcoussis accord, violent protests - often with strong anti-French tones - rocked Abidjan, spurring an exodus of foreign nationals and the closure of some embassies and major companies.

On 5 February the UN authorised Security Phase IV for the whole of Côte d'Ivoire, effectively realigning the efforts of the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes present in the country towards emergency humanitarian interventions. A symptomatic economic development is the temporary evacuation of the African Development Bank to Tunis.

Sporadic fighting between Government troops and rebel elements has erupted along the northern cease-fire line, and fairly regular skirmishes between Government, rebels and other armed elements have been taking place in the extremely troubled western region of the country, where two rebel groups, MPIGO and MJP, Liberian mercenaries and, reportedly, local armed militia are present.

Ministers from the rebel forces attended for the first time a cabinet meeting of the National Reconciliation Government on 3 April. Despite this positive political development, humanitarian conditions on the ground continue to worsen."

Peace summit brings new hope, but not for long, August 2004

- Following talks in the Ghanaian capital Accra in August, all parties to the conflict agreed to enact all political reforms demanded by the August 2003 peace agreement, and to start disarmament on 15 October
- Key reforms include amending nationality laws, reinstating previously sacked ministers from the coalition government, and the delegation of executive presidential powers
- This led to the first cabinet meeting in five months, with President Gbagbo, nine ministers representing the rebel movement, and 17 other ministers representing the four main opposition parties, all sitting at the same table
- Little over one month later, in early October, hundreds of pro-government youth militia members staged violent protests against French peacekeepers in Abidjan, while police carried out a brutal raid against northern Ivorians and West African immigrants suspected of sympathising with the rebels
- This was followed by rebel sympathisers attacking bases of French and UN peacekeepers in the rebel-held north of the country

IRIN, 1 August 2004

“Under heavy pressure from a dozen African leaders and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the leaders of the rival factions in Cote d'Ivoire have agreed to a new timetable to put the country's faltering peace process back on track, with the aim of starting a disarmament programme on 15 October.

An agreement signed on Friday night after two days of talks in the Ghanaian capital Accra committed them to enacting all the political reforms demanded by the French-brokered Linas-Marcoussis peace agreement of January 2003 by the end of August.

The key reforms are: a new nationality law to make it easier for West African immigrants to Cote d'Ivoire and their descendents to gain Ivorian nationality, a new law to make it easier for such immigrants to gain title to the land they work and allow their children to inherit such land and, finally, a reform of the constitution to make it easier for Ivorians of immigrant descent to become president.

The Accra agreement also commits President Laurent Gbagbo to issuing a decree to formally delegate executive powers to Prime Minister Seydou Diarra, the independent head of a power-sharing government which collapsed at the end of March.

In the past, Diarra's decisions were often been over-ruled by Gbagbo, who enjoys near absolute authority under the terms of Cote d'Ivoire's constitution.

The Accra accord aims to prevent this situation from recurring. It demands that Gbagbo enshrine in law the delegation of specific powers to Diarra to implement the Marcoussis peace agreement. These powers were outlined in a letter from the president to the prime minister on 12 December.

With the reform process apparently back on track, the rebel movement occupying the north of Cote d'Ivoire and the four main opposition parties represented in parliament agreed to return to the government of national reconciliation.

They withdrew their 26 ministers at the end of March in protest at the security forces's heavy handed repression of a banned opposition demonstration in Abidjan. UN investigators said at least 120 people died in two days of political violence in the city.

Diplomats said Gbagbo had meanwhile agreed to reinstate three opposition ministers whom he fired in May, including rebel leader Guillaume Soro.

This obligation was not specifically mentioned in the joint statement published by Gbagbo and his opponents at the end of the Accra agreement

Along with the resurrection of the power-sharing government and the enactment of political reforms by parliament, the Ivorian factions committed themselves to starting a long-delayed process of disarmament, demobilisation and rehabilitation (DDR) 'by October 15 at the latest.' ”

IRIN, 9 August 2004

“The cabinet of Cote d'Ivoire's government of national reconciliation met on Monday for the first time in five months following a peace summit in Accra to put the country's deadlocked peace process back on track.

President Laurent Gbagbo sat at the same table as nine ministers representing the rebel movement, which has occupied the north of Cote d'Ivoire for the past two years, and 17 others ministers representing the four main opposition parties in parliament.

All 26 had walked out of the broad-based cabinet following the security forces' bloody repression of a banned opposition demonstration in Abidjan on 25 March. UN investigators have said at least 120 people died in the political violence which followed.

Rebel leader Guillaume Soro, who holds the portfolio of Communications Minister, was present at Monday's hour-long cabinet meeting, along with two other ministers who Gbagbo had tried to sack on May 19.

Diplomats said the fact that the G7 opposition alliance had returned to government represented an important first step back to political normality.

A statement from the presidency issued after the cabinet meeting said Gbagbo had passed three decrees.

One let the three previously-fired ministers back into the government.

Another delegated certain powers to politically independent Prime Minister Seydou Diarra, as Gbagbo had agreed at Accra."

IRIN, 5 October 2004

"Wielding machetes, hurling stones, firing marbles with catapults and slinging burning tyres, young supporters of Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo have resumed their protests against the continued presence of French peacekeeping troops in the divided country.

On Tuesday, about 300 members the militia-style youth movement known as the Young Patriots staged a third day of rowdy demonstrations outside the main French military base in Abidjan, ignoring a plea by Gbagbo to stop the violence.

The resumption of Young Patriot protests outside the base near Abidjan airport after a gap of three months, comes as political tensions are rising and Cote d'Ivoire's fragile peace process once more appears to be running into quicksand.

The latest deal between Gbagbo, the parliamentary opposition parties and rebels occupying the north of the country, signed in the Ghanaian capital Accra on July 30, is coming unstuck. The government has failed to legislate promised political reforms and it is now clear that the rebels will not begin to disarm on 15 October as planned.

As in previous times of crisis since a French-brokered peace agreement was signed in January 2003, the 4,000 French troops, stationed alongside 6,000 UN peacekeepers in the world's largest cocoa producer, are coming under attack from Gbagbo supporters.

So too are people from northern Cote d'Ivoire and immigrants from other West African countries suspected of sympathising with the rebels. They were the main target of a particularly brutal raid by police and soldiers on Adjame market in Abidjan on 29 September.

It provoked a protest from the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI), which said it was 'seriously worried' that human rights violations appeared to have taken place.

Many traders were beaten up and had their goods confiscated as the security forces raided the market on the grounds of checking for unlicensed traders and diplomatic sources said some women were raped.

Then on Monday the French force said its troops were involved in a clash with machete-wielding youths at the small town of Sikensi, 80 km north of Abidjan, injuring one of them with a rubber bullet fired in self-defence.

For the past two weeks, the government's feared Mi-24 helicopter gunships have been making frequent low-level flights over Abidjan, raising fears of renewed violence among the population as a whole, and military road blocks have been stepped up."

IRIN, 11 October 2004

"UN and French peacekeeping troops fired warning shots in the direction of rowdy rebel demonstrators who attacked them with stones and slingshots in Bouake, the rebel capital of Cote d'Ivoire, on Monday, an IRIN reporter at the scene and a French military spokesman said.

The rebel authorities said later in a statement that three civilians were injured when Moroccan troops serving with the UN peacekeeping force in Cote d'Ivoire fired on the crowd of demonstrators which gathered outside their headquarters in Bouake on Monday morning.

[...]

The French and UN peacekeeping forces in Cote d'Ivoire have frequently come under attack in the government-held south of the country from the militia-style youth groups that support President Laurent Gbagbo, who are known as Young Patriots.

However, over the past week, the 4,000 French troops and 6,000 UN peacekeepers have also become the target of rebel supporters in the north of the country too.

Last Thursday, three Moroccan peacekeepers serving with the UN forces were injured and one UN vehicle was damaged when rebel supporters staged an earlier demonstration outside the ONUCI office in Bouake.

And on Saturday eyewitnesses said a similar protest against French peacekeepers took place in the western rebel stronghold of Man. A French military spokesman told IRIN on Monday that tear gas and warning shots had also been fired on that occasion during which, he said, 10 French peacekeepers were hurt.

Tension has been rising throughout the country in recent weeks as a result of renewed deadlock in efforts to end Cote d'Ivoire's two-year-old civil war."

UN peacekeeping mission established in Cote d'Ivoire, 2004-2007

- UN Security Council establishes 6,240-strong Chapter VII peacekeeping mission (UNOCI), for an initial period of 12 months from 4 April
- UNOCI's mandate includes assistance in disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement, identification of the population, monitoring the arms embargo, support for the organization of open, free, fair and transparent polls and support for humanitarian assistance
- UNOCI's mandate is extended until 30 June 2007

UN SC, 27 February 2004

"The Security Council this morning, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, established the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for an initial period of 12 months, from 4 April.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1528 (2004), the Council also requested the Secretary-General to transfer authority from the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) forces to UNOCI on that date, and decided, therefore, to renew MINUCI's mandate until 4 April.

The Council also decided to renew until 4 April the authorization given to the French forces and ECOWAS forces through its resolution 1527, as well as authorized the French forces to use all necessary means to support UNOCI in accordance with the agreement to be reached between UNOCI and the French authorities.

Comprising a military strength of a maximum of 6,240 United Nations personnel, UNOCI's mandate, in coordination with the French forces, will include observing and monitoring the implementation of the comprehensive ceasefire agreement of 3 May 2003 and movements of armed groups; assistance in disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement; protection of United Nations personnel, institutions and civilians; support for humanitarian assistance, implementation of the peace process; and assistance in the field of human rights, public information and law and order."

UN SC, 10 January 2007

"The Security Council [...] (d)ecides that the mandates of UNOCI and of the French forces which support it, determined respectively in paragraphs 2 and 8 below, shall be extended until 30 June 2007, and expresses its intention to review by this date their mandates, including their length, and UNOCI's level of troops, in the light of the progress achieved in the implementation of the peace process as referred to in resolution 1721 (2006)"

October 2005 elections fail to be held as political impasse deepens

- South African mediation failed to narrow the divide between the government and opposition forces
- Forces Nouvelles rejected South Africa's mediation role on the basis of bias towards the government, including its assessment that legislative reforms undertaken were sufficient under the terms of previous peace agreements
- Disarmament both of government militia and rebel forces failed to go ahead as scheduled
- Impossibility of 30 October elections raises serious concerns over the transition period thereafter
- UN Secretary General recommends imposition of targeted sanctions against individuals under Resolution 1572, which the South African mediation had advised against to avoid negative impact on the peace process

UN SC, 26 September 2005, paras. 60-63

"Despite the very commendable efforts of the African Union Mediator, President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, actively supported by the United Nations, the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, and in particular the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement, has made little progress. Moreover, the gap between the positions of President Gbagbo and his ruling party, on one side, and those of the forces of the opposition, on the other, remains wide. As members of the Council are aware, the African Union Mediation considers that the remaining obstacles to the implementation of the

Linah-Marcoussis, Accra III and Pretoria Agreements have been removed. Although many in the international community have questioned the posture adopted by President Gbagbo in the past, the Mediation feels that he is now committed to finding solutions to the problems facing his country. The Forces nouvelles, however, have not implemented the commitments they have undertaken. The Mediation also advised the Security Council not to impose targeted sanctions on individuals at this stage of the peace process, as that may have a negative impact on its efforts, but rather to consider taking actions against those obstructing the implementation of the agreements they have signed. At the same time, in the view of the Mediation, the lack of trust between the Ivorian leadership continues to affect the manner in which they interact. Ivorian leaders, like many others before them, must seek to overcome the continuing legacy of mistrust and engage in a genuine sustained dialogue.

Meanwhile, in a letter to me dated 28 August, Guillaume Soro expressed strong doubts over the impartiality of the Mediation, suggesting that, at this stage in the peace process, a “political transition” would be required, the modalities of which should be discussed within a broader framework than that provided by the Mediation. On 29 August in Abidjan, the political opposition declared that it would be impossible to hold elections on 30 October, while stressing the need for a transitional period during which President Gbagbo would not be in power. Furthermore, in a letter to me dated 8 September, the main leaders of the political opposition, including Mr. Bédié and Mr. Ouattara, expressed surprise over the assessment that President Gbagbo had carried out what was required of him under the Pretoria Agreement.

Once again, therefore, Côte d'Ivoire finds itself at a crossroads, with daunting challenges lying ahead. Under the present circumstances, the elections will not be held on 30 October, as required by the Ivorian Constitution. Consequently, urgent attention must be given to the management of the post-30 October period and the preparation of free, fair and transparent elections, the results of which would be acceptable to all. The parties will need to agree on a realistic time frame for meeting key benchmarks in the electoral process. In particular, now that the nationality and identification laws have been brought into conformity with the Linah-Marcoussis Agreement, sufficient time will need to be allotted to the voter registration process in order to ensure that it is conducted in a credible manner. Meanwhile, it is vital that the reconstituted Independent Electoral Commission be established without further delay. Urgent steps must also be taken to dismantle and disarm the militia, while continuing preparations for the pre-cantonment of the Forces Nouvelles combatants.

To that end, the Security Council may wish to consider taking firm action against those who attempt to obstruct the implementation of these and other key provisions of the Pretoria Agreement, notably through the imposition of the targeted sanctions envisaged under Security Council resolution 1572 (2004). The time has come for the Ivorian parties to clearly assume their respective responsibilities. I therefore welcome the decision of the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) to visit Côte d'Ivoire in the coming weeks.”

Elections once again impossible as peace process derails, September 2006

- Key processes of disarmament and voter identification and registration fail to make progress, making October 2006 elections impossible
- President Gbagbo boycotts meeting in New York aimed at reviving peace process, and says UN peacekeepers should leave Cote d'Ivoire
- Tensions rise over uncertainty of what will happen once Gbagbo's mandate expires at the end of October 2006
- Tensions exacerbated by toxic waste scandal in Abidjan, which prompts government to resign

ICG, 7 September 2006

"In May 2006, Crisis Group gave the Banny government a fairly positive evaluation. In its first few months it had installed an independent electoral commission, relaunched direct dialogue on disarmament between the belligerent forces and solved some longstanding problems like the organisation of school exams in the part of the country controlled by the former insurgents, the Forces Nouvelles (FN). But it had not yet addressed the main elements of the roadmap: the nationwide program to identify citizens and produce identity cards for them and papers for foreign residents; the program of demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) of FN fighters and the government's Defense and Security Forces (FDS); disarmament and dismantling of the militias backing President Laurent Gbagbo; and voter registration and the actual organisation of free, fair and transparent presidential elections. Four months later, the government which, although dissolved by Banny on 6 September, is likely to be reconstituted largely intact - has achieved meagre results on all these counts, and a presidential election by the end of October is impossible."

BBC News, 21 September 2006

"Ivory Coast's elections will not happen by the end of October, when President Laurent Gbagbo's extended mandate runs out, the United Nations has confirmed.

A meeting in New York between the country's main rivals and African mediators failed to end a deadlock.

Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo boycotted the meeting - and recently said UN peacekeepers should leave.

Peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Guehenno said there were serious obstacles, making a vote impossible.

The country has been split in two for four years.

Mr Guehenno said the meeting, chaired by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, established that 'there are serious roadblocks in Ivory Coast which will make it impossible to hold the elections as scheduled'.

Little progress has been made on the identification and registrations of voters and the disarmament of militias and rebels - a pre-condition for polls.

However it is not yet clear what will happen at the end of October, when Mr Gbagbo's mandate runs out.

He has said he will stay on until elections are held - a suggestion rejected by rebels and the opposition.

International mediators have suggested that he remain but cede most of his powers to the neutral prime minister of the government of national unity.

The Ivorian government resigned earlier this month over a toxic waste dumping scandal in the main city, Abidjan - which has led to tens of thousands of Ivorians seeking treatment."

The peace process moves forward thanks to home-grown agreement, March–April 2007

- On March 4, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the New Forces (Forces Nouvelles) sign a peace agreement reaffirming the necessity to build peace and stability in the country
- The parties recognize the need for the identification of the population and the registration of voters in view of the presidential elections
- The peace agreement envisages the early formation of a new government, the elimination of the "confidence zone," the eventual departure of foreign troops, and the future reunification of the government and rebel armies

United Nations Security Council, 8 March 2007, para. 17

"On 4 March, President Gbagbo and Mr. Soro signed the new agreement in Ouagadougou, under the facilitation of President Compaoré. The agreement builds upon Security Council resolution 1721 (2006) and previous peace agreements. It addresses key issues that had blocked the implementation of the identification of the population, the disarmament process, the restructuring of the armed forces, the restoration of State authority throughout the country and the preparation of the voters list. The agreement also envisages new institutional arrangements, which are expected to be agreed upon within a month. An annex to the agreement sets out an implementation schedule, which envisages the completion of the key process within a period of ten months. The parties requested the facilitator to submit the agreement to the Security Council, through the African Union, for endorsement. "

Government of Côte d'Ivoire, 4 March 2007

"A l'invitation de Son Excellence Monsieur Blaise COMPAORE, Président du Burkina Faso, en sa qualité de Président en exercice de la Conférence des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), agissant sur mandat exprés de celle-ci, deux délégations de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, l'une représentant le Président de la République et l'autre les Froces Nouvelles, se sont rencontrées à Ouagadougou du 5 février au 3 mars 2007. Cette rencontre fait suite à l'annonce, le 19 décembre 2006, du plan de sortie de la crise du Président Laurent GBAGBO qui a saisi, le 23 janvier 2007, le Président en exercice de la CEDEAO pour faciliter le dialogue direct entre les ex-belligérants du conflit armé en Côte d'Ivoire.

[...]

Elles ont souligné l'impérieuse nécessité de construire la paix et la stabilité ; de lutter contre l'insécurité grandissante, le chômage et la pauvreté ; de restaurer l'autorité de l'Etat sur l'ensemble du territoire national et de garantir la libre circulation des personnes et des biens sur toute l'étendue du territoire national.

En raison de la responsabilité particulière qu'elles ont dans la conduite du processus de sortie de crise, les deux Parties au conflit armé en Côte d'Ivoire ont reconnu l'impérieuse nécessité de se mettre ensemble pour consolider la paix, promouvoir une véritable réconciliation nationale et parvenir à une normalisation politique et institutionnelle, à travers un dialogue permanent et une confiance mutuelle. Après avoir identifié les problèmes rencontrés dans la mise en œuvre des Accords de Linas-Marcoussis, d'Accra et de Pretoria, ainsi que des Résolutions de l'ONU sur la Côte d'Ivoire, les Parties en vue d'arrêter des décisions ont réaffirmé :

- leur attachement au respect de la souveraineté, de l'indépendance, de l'intégrité territoriale et de l'unité de la Côte d'Ivoire ;
- leur attachement à la Constitution ;
- leur attachement aux Accords de Linas-Marcoussis, d'Accra et de Pretoria ;

- leur attachement à toutes les Résolutions des Nations Unies sur la Côte d'Ivoire, en particulier aux Résolutions 1633 (2005) et 1721 (2006) du Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU ;
- leur volonté de créer les conditions d'élections libres, ouvertes, transparentes et démocratiques ;
- leur volonté de mettre en commun leurs efforts et leurs énergies en vue d'un fonctionnement normal des Institutions de la Côte d'Ivoire et d'un retour à la normalité politique, administrative et militaire en Côte d'Ivoire. »

I. DE L'IDENTIFICATION GENERALE DES POPULATIONS

Les Parties signataires du présent Accord ont reconnu que l'identification des populations ivoiriennes et étrangères vivant en Côte d'Ivoire, constitue une préoccupation majeure. Le défaut d'une identification claire et cohérente, de même que l'absence de pièces administratives uniques attestant l'identité et la nationalité des individus constituent une source de conflits.

[...]

I. DE L'IDENTIFICATION GENERALE DES POPULATIONS

Soucieuses de parvenir, dans les meilleurs délais, à une paix durable et à une normalisation politique et institutionnelle en Côte d'Ivoire, les Parties au Dialogue Direct réaffirment leur engagement à pré parer, à l'issue de l'opération d'identification, des élections présidentielles ouvertes, démocratiques et transparentes, conformément aux accords de Linas-Marcoussis, d'Accra et de Pretoria.

[...]

III : DES FORCES DE DEFENSE ET DE SECURITE DE COTE D'IVOIRE

Les Parties au présent Accord, consciencieuses que l'Armée nationale doit être le reflet de l'unité et la cohésion nationales et la garantie de la stabilité des institutions républicaines, se sont engagées à procéder à la restructuration et à la refondation des deux armées en vue de la mise en place de nouvelles forces de défense et de sécurité attachées aux valeurs d'intégrité et de moralité républicaine.

Un mécanisme spécial de restructuration et de refondation de l'Armée sera adopté par ordonnance pour fixer le cadre général d'organisation, de composition et de fonctionnement des nouvelles Forces de Défense et de Sécurité. En conséquence, les deux Parties décident de procéder à l'unification des deux forces en présence par la création d'une structure opérationnelle intégrée.

[...]

IV : DE LA RESTAURATION DE L'AUTORITE DE L'ETAT ET DU REDEPLOIEMENT DE L'ADMINISTRATION SUR L'ENSEMBLE DU TERRITOIRE NATIONAL

4.2 Le redéploiement de l'administration et des services publics se fera par l'ensemble des ministères concernés, sous l'autorité du Premier Ministre, dès la suppression de la zone de confiance et l'établissement des postes d'observation. Le redéploiement de l'administration concernera l'ensemble des services publics, y compris les services sociaux de base, notamment ceux de l'éducation, de la santé, de l'eau et de l'assainissement."

UNOCI, 12 April 2007

"« The process of eliminating the zone of confidence will stretch over many weeks, » the Force Commander of the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), General Fernand Amoussou, announced on Thursday at UNOCI's weekly press conference.

Gen Amoussou was speaking one day after the chiefs of staff of the Defence and Security Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FDS-CI) and the Armed Forces of the Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) along with the commanders of the impartial forces signed a document stipulating that the lifting of the zone of

confidence will begin on Monday 16 April at noon. "The process is heavy with regard to both the repositioning of our units and, in particular, the transfer of responsibilities to the Ivorian forces," he explained.

Referring to the document, Gen Amoussou pointed out that in keeping with the Ouagadougou Agreement concluded on 4 March by Côte d'Ivoire's presidential camp and Forces Nouvelles (FN), the impartial forces will withdraw from their checkpoints in the zone of confidence and set up 17 observation posts. "We shall thus continue to observe, survey the situation and ensure that the peace process cannot be reversed," he stated, adding that this first phase was aimed at ensuring the continuity of the Ivorian territory.

Asked by journalists about the role of his forces on the ground, the ONUCI Force Commander said they would no longer be involved in checking the movement of persons and goods on the ground. Those not in the observation posts would be redeployed in Abidjan and elsewhere on the national territory. "Whether or not [UNOCI's] military troop strength is reduced depends on the Security Council," Gen Amoussou said.

In this connection, he recalled that the multi-sectoral assessment mission now in Côte d'Ivoire would report to the Security Council which, in turn, would decide on UNOCI's role within the framework of the Ouagadougou Agreement."

A [report](#) by the International Crisis Group (ICG) of 27 June 2007 provides an analysis of the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement and more background information to its signing.

Progress in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement, April 2007-February 2008

- Given initial delays and the impossibility of abiding by the deadlines set in the Ougadougou Agreement, two supplementary agreements were signed in November 2007 providing a new timeline
- The integrated command centre was installed in its new headquarters in December 2007 but it continues to face difficulties because of financial and operational constraints
- UNOCI is continuing to dismantle its observation posts in order to complete the total lifting of the green line
- The disarmament process of government and rebel troops started on December 22, 2007
- Progress with the redeployment of the State administration was recorded even though as at end of January it was still not completed
- The identification process started on September 25, 2007 but as at 24 December 2007 only 33 out of 55 technical teams had been deployed

United Nations Security Council, 2 January 2008, paras. 13-14

"In my previous report, I observed that implementation of the Ougadougou Agreement, which had had an encouraging beginning, had started to encounter serious delays. However, the signing of the two supplementary agreements [...] gave new impetus to the peace process.

The second supplementary agreement endorses the 9 November decision of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee that the French company SAGEM should serve as the technical operator for the identification process, a proposal welcomed by both former President Bédié and former Prime Minister Ouattara. The third supplementary agreement set out new timelines for the completion of the tasks outstanding under the Ouagadougou Agreement, as follows: the adoption of a structure for the new national armed forces by 15 December; the launching of the process of

the disarmament and dismantling of militias, the cantonment of former combatants and the storage of their weapons under the supervision of the impartial forces, and recruitment for the national civic service, as from 22 December; the completion of the redeployment of the fiscal and customs administration throughout the country by 30 December; and the holding of presidential elections by June 2008. The parties agreed to leave the decision on quotas and military ranks of Forces Nouvelles elements to be integrated into the unified national army to the facilitator for arbitration."

Establishment of the integrated command centre
UNOCI, 4 December 2007

"Ivorian Prime Minister Guillaume Soro is due to inaugurate the new headquarters of the Integrated Command Centre (ICC) in Yamoussoukro on 17th December 2007, according to information obtained from the UN Development Programme (UNDP)."

United Nations Security Council, 2 January 2008, para. 16

"The integrated command centre comprises seven mixed cells and four support platoons and is currently manned by 120 Government and 51 Forces Nouvelles military personnel. The performance of the command centre has improved, owing in part to the logistical and technical support provided by UNOCI. However, the centre continued to face difficulties in fulfilling its mandate as a result of financial constraints and its limited planning and operational capacities. Lack of adequate communication and transport assets also presented serious challenges."

Deployment of mixed units and the gradual lifting of the green line
Reuters, 30 April 2007

"Once sworn foes, government and rebel soldiers in Ivory Coast on Monday began their first joint patrols in a "battle for peace" aimed at reuniting the West Africa state split by a 2002/2003 civil war.

The patrols will gradually replace United Nations and French peacekeepers in a 600 km (375 mile)-long buffer zone that has kept the two sides apart since the brief conflict that divided the world's top cocoa producer into two opposing halves.

It is being dismantled under a March 4 peace plan struck between President Laurent Gbagbo and his rebel foes which foresees national reunification and elections within a year."

United Nations Security Council, 2 January 2008, para. 18

"Pursuant to the Ouagadougou Agreement, according to which the mission [UNOCI] was to halve the number of observation posts every two months, UNOCI decided to remove eight observation posts between 30 November and 18 December. The gradual removal of the remaining nine posts will be based on further threat assessments and consultations with the integrated command centre and depend on overall progress made in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement."

UN News, 8 February 2008

"The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Côte d'Ivoire, known as UNOCI, is dismantling its observation posts in the former zone of confidence in the West African nation divided between the Government-controlled south and the rebel Forces Nouvelles-held north. Four posts are currently being taken apart and, security conditions permitting, the next dismantling will take place at the end of March, UNOCI Military Spokesperson Colonel Mustapha Dafir announced yesterday in Abidjan.

Under the Ouagadougou Agreement reached between the two sides last March, the zone is to be replaced with a green line monitored by UNOCI."

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

Reuters, 29 November 2007

"Ivory Coast government troops and northern rebels will start to disarm by Dec. 22 in a step towards forming a new national army and reuniting the West African country, a mediator said on Thursday.

[...]

"Demobilisation of combatants, stockpiling of weapons and the dismantling of militias will start from December 22, 2007, led by the Integrated Command Centre and under the supervision of (U.N. and French) impartial forces," Zakane said.

[...]

The disarmament process calls for forces to gather at allotted sites where they will hand over their weapons to United Nations and French peacekeepers.

Soldiers and combatants who meet selection criteria will then be able to enrol in the new national army. Those not selected will be reintegrated into civil society with help to start their own small business or find work, officials say.

An 18-month programme is also being planned to provide vocational training for around 40,000 ex-combatants on both sides.

[...]

Militia groups in the unstable west of the country briefly began to disarm in May this year but the process quickly fell apart amid squabbles over money."

United Nations Security Council, 2 January 2008, para. 24

"On 22 December, President Gbagbo, accompanied by Prime Minister Soro, presided over a ceremony marking the launch of the cantonment process in Tieébissou and Djébonoua, on either side of the former zone of confidence. The President and Prime Minister gave assurances that the necessary measures would be taken so that all combatants would either be integrated into the unified army, join the civic service or take part in reintegration programmes. The ceremony culminated in three national armed forces and two Forces Nouvelles plattons proceeding to their cantonment site in Yamoussoukro, and six Forces Nouvelles platoons moving to their cantonment site in Bouaké."

Redeployment of State administration

United Nations Security Council, 2 January 2008, para. 29

"Some progress was made during the period under review with respects to the redeployment of State administration throughout the country. All 22 préfets of regions and departments, 27 secretaries-general of the prefectures and 107 sous-préfets have been deployed to their respective areas of responsibility in the north, the centre and the south. The national committee for the redeployment of the administration announced in November that the installation of the préfets, secretaries-general of prefectures and sous-préfets in Ferkessédougou marked the completion of the redeployment of State administration in the area controlled by the Forces Nouvelles. During the same period, however, no progress was made in redeploying the judiciary to the north of the country. Furthermore, the law enforcement and penitentiary personnel required to support the judiciary have not been redeployed. Altogether, according to the national committee, of the 24,437 civil servants who were displaced during the crisis, some 15,000 had returned to their posts in the north and the west as at 24 December 2007."

Identification of the population and elections

IRIN, 31 May 2007

"The peace accord signed by President Laurent Gbagbo and the former head of the New Forces rebel movement in the Burkina Faso capital Ouagadougou in March, promised to "make it easier" for people to prove their Ivorian citizenship by laying out a process to accelerate the issuing of national identity cards.

A series of 'mobile tribunals' will travel around the country to furnish those who do not have birth certificates with special documents, the accord stated.

Alain Lobognon, communications director in the office of former rebel leader and now Prime Minister Guillaume Soro, said government officials met recently to finalise a list of 60 teams that will run the mobile tribunals.

He said the Prime Minister's office is still ironing out logistics for such a huge undertaking, which is expected to cost about \$37 million. As of 2 May, the shortfall stood at \$33 million, although major foreign donors are expected to provide logistical and financial help."

United Nations Security Council, 2 January 2008, para. 32

"A total of 111 mobile courts were planned to conduct the process of the identification of the Ivorian population, which started on 25 September. In all, 55 technical teams had been deployed as at 24 December 2007, of which only 33 were operational. Also, as that date, a total of 93,027 duplicate birth certificates had been granted by the mobile courts nationwide. with the noticeable exception of an incident in Bouaké on 18 December, in which judges serving in the mobile courts teams were attacked by Forces Nouvelles elements who were protesting against the non-payment of their allowances, the mobile courts operations have progressed without any major security incidents."

See also ISN Security Watch's "Ivory Coast: Flames of Peace" (14 August 2007) for an analysis of the first steps of the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement and AFP's "Attack on Ivory Coast PM reveals holes in new peace plan" for an account of the June 2007 attack on Guillaume Soro.

Main causes of displacement

Xenophobia and anti foreigner sentiments are a root cause of displacement

- The concept of foreigner stands in negative relief against "ivoirité" and leads to its consideration as the root cause of displacement and exclusion
- Thousands of people have been persecuted, harassed, threatened and evicted from their lands during the past few years because they, or their parents were foreign-born
- In November 1999, the anti-foreigner sentiment resulted in the displacement of 15,000 Burkinabes who were chased from their homes in the southwestern town of Tabou
- The conflation of ethnicity, culture and religion has proved particularly dangerous and several massacres have underscored the pattern of ethnic persecution as Muslims and other northerners claimed at the time that security forces in Abidjan had rounded them up and tortured them

Commission on Human Rights, 22 December 2004, paras. 50, 52, 53

"The outbreak of war in a context so dominated by this heightening of ethnic sensitivities by ideological, political, legal and administrative means helped push the dynamic of xenophobia into a higher gear. Representing as it did a shift from words to action, the war paved the way for pent-up feelings of frustration, fear and exclusion to spill over into acts of violence and other clearly xenophobic behaviours, some committed by the forces of law and order, the police, the armed forces and gendarmerie, or paramilitary groups, others by rebel groups. The next stage was that

the various political rivals, appealing now to ethnic rather than democratic legitimacy, began acting and speaking in such a way as to effectively take the population hostage, giving the groups and communities whose interests they claimed to be defending the impression that they had no choice but to go along with their proposals and give them, if not their active support, at least a degree of approval.

[...]

E. The conflation of ethnicity, culture and religion

Côte d'Ivoire is a multireligious country made up principally of animists, Christians and Muslims. Although the north is usually portrayed as mainly Muslim and the south as Christian, Côte d'Ivoire has for a great many years benefited from a rich mix of coexisting faiths. Thus while the majority in the north are indeed the mainly Muslim north Mande, there are also Gur, who are basically Christians or animists. To the west live the southern Mande, who include Christians (some of them Yacouba and some Gouro), animists (Yacouba, Gouro and Krou) and Muslims (chiefly Yacouba). The east of the country is inhabited mainly by Akan, for the most part animists or Christians, while to the south live Krou, Lagunaires and Akan, again mainly animists or Christians.

However, during his visit, the Special Rapporteur found that the withdrawal into a core identity had given rise to a tendency to conflate ethnicity and religion, a particularly dangerous shift. Thus it emerges from reports received that northerners, foreigners and those who oppose the President are being termed Muslims. Some of the media have fanned the hatred of certain sections of the population for Muslim communities, who have apparently been accused of wishing to "incinerate Côte d'Ivoire". The Special Rapporteur has received reports of a proliferation of Islamophobic acts such as damage to places of worship, the destruction of Muslims' property, as well as violence and torture and even summary executions of members of the Muslim faith. Several imams have allegedly been murdered."

Alertnet, 23 June 2003

"Since the start of the war in Ivory Coast, approximately 400,000 foreigners have fled the country, including about 200,000 Burkinabes, 70,000 Guineans, 48,000 Malians, and 44,000 Liberians.

These people were not simply fleeing the conflict. Instead, many have run from the hostile xenophobia that has grown rampant in the past year in Ivory Coast. Thousands have been harassed, threatened and evicted from their homes or their lands.

When I visited Ivory Coast in March I was stunned by what I found. I travelled there expecting to investigate the needs of people fleeing the fighting between the rebels and the government, which had been well documented by NGOs and the media.

Instead I discovered a serious problem that was hardly being reported: many people were fleeing persecution because they, or their parents, were foreign-born. Ivoirian civilians and military have harassed, threatened, and in a few instances, killed those considered foreigners.

Let's parse the term "foreigner". By the government definition, anyone whose parents were not born in Ivory Coast -- both parents, mind you -- is regarded as foreign. This working definition renders about 30 percent of Ivory Coast's 16 million inhabitants foreign, and, thereby, subject to hostility, even though many of these foreigners have never set foot outside Ivory Coast.

The concept of foreigner stands in negative relief against that of ivoirité, or "ivoirianness." One's ivoirité is established simply by lacking foreign-born parents, and yet this has become the credential du jour throughout Ivory Coast.

LICENCE TO PILLAGE

For some Ivorians, it has also become a licence to pillage, intimidate and kill. Military and armed local youth have organised outfits of terror in western Ivory Coast.

The 35,000 Liberian refugees that remain in Ivory Coast are in imminent danger of being caught up in the conflict in the west and being targeted by these bands of thugs. In effect, the Liberian refugees who have sought refuge in Ivory Coast in the past decade are again in need of a safe haven.

This campaign of xenophobia comes at a high cost, literally. Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa producer, relied on thousands of foreigners to work in the plantations. The violence inspired by the government has had the effect of dispersing this labour force from the cacao and coffee plantations.

[...]

The origins of ivoirité-based ethnic tension are varied and complex. The notion itself began as a political tactic of former President Henri Konan-Bédié to prohibit some politicians, including prominent northerner Alassane Ouattara, from standing as president.

It has increased tensions among ethnic groups and created a division between the mainly Muslim north, which is where most of those considered "foreigners" are living, and the mainly Christian south.

CHASSED FROM THEIR HOMES

In November 1999, the anti-foreigner sentiment resulted in the displacement of 15,000 Burkinabes who were chased from their homes in the southwestern town of Tabou.

In the past eight months of conflict, Burkinabes, along with other foreigners such as Malians and Liberians, have been the targets of hostility. An ethnic massacre at Yopougon, outside Abidjan, in October 2000 and the massacre of gendarmes by northern rebels in the town of Bouaké in October 2002 exemplified ethnic hostility.

The roadblocks to peace in Ivory Coast are legion. Human rights abuses, including forced recruitment, must be stopped immediately. Liberian refugees need to be moved from western Ivory Coast to a safer area.

The government must ensure the protection of immigrants and refugees. It should also establish a new legal framework that liberalises citizenship requirements and protects the rights of foreign nationals living and working in the country.

These measures alone will not suffice. The government must also root out its own hypocrisy on the matter. For a government that has occasionally encouraged anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiments by publicly reviling foreigners, taking an active and public role in soothing xenophobic tension is imperative.

National reconciliation in any meaningful sense cannot happen until the government defuses ivoirité, and welcomes its citizens - all of them - to a persecution-free Ivory Coast. Until the people of Ivory Coast scrap the identity politics, there is little hope for a lasting peace."

Refugees International, 6 May 2003

"Since the start of Ivory Coast's conflict on September 19, 2002, more than one million people have been displaced. In addition to the political turmoil that has impelled their flight, many of these people have fled persecution. In the last seven months of conflict, the Government of Ivory

Coast has occasionally encouraged anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiments by publicly reviling "foreigners."

Although a new government of national unity was recently created and a ceasefire was signed this weekend, failure to curb xenophobic laws and attitudes could compromise attempts at peaceful resolution and catalyze further displacement.

The term "foreigners" in this case is a misnomer: many of those being persecuted were actually born or raised in Ivory Coast, and some have never been outside of the country.

But by the government's narrow definition of "Ivoirian," about 30% of Ivory Coast's 16 million inhabitants are considered "foreigners" because both parents were not born in Ivory Coast. Ivoirian civilians and military have harassed, threatened, and in a few instances, killed those designated foreigners. Since the start of the war, approximately 400,000 "foreigners" have fled the country, including about 200,000 Burkinabès, 70,000 Guineans, 48,000 Malians, and 44,000 Liberians.

Members of the international community have highlighted the importance of national reconciliation, and have pointed to the need to address the anti-immigrant sentiment. The United Nations Humanitarian Envoy to Ivory Coast, Carolyn McAskie, and the new National Reconciliation Minister, Sebastien Danon Djedje, discussed xenophobia when they met recently.

On April 24, the UN information network reported that in this meeting with the new minister, McAskie "highlighted the importance of his portfolio, assured him that the international community was willing to help Ivory Coast's government, but noted the need for reconciliation at the government level."

The campaign of xenophobia has already caused massive damage to the country and the region. Thousands have been harassed, threatened, and evicted from their homes or their lands. In addition, damage to the regional economy has been great. Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa producer, relied on thousands of foreigners to work in the plantations. The violence inspired by the government has had the effect of dispersing this labor force from the cacao and coffee plantations. The hostile and intimidating environment may leave the plantation workers reluctant to return even if Ivory Coast is stabilized. Such disruption of planting and harvesting - even for a short time - would deal a severe blow to a major pillar of West Africa's economy.

Neighboring countries have already suffered economic losses. For example, the Humanitarian Envoy reported, "Mali relied on Côte d'Ivoire for over 70% of its imports and exports, and along with Burkina Faso, and to a certain extent Niger, is suffering serious economic setbacks at a time when it is also affected by the drought in the Sahel." The violence and xenophobia in the Ivory Coast have had severe economic consequences: the loss of remittances, a poor agricultural season, and the strain for communities in Burkina Faso and Mali of accepting thousands of returnees. Together, these consequences present a major challenge to the region.

Anti-foreigner sentiment is not new in Ivory Coast. The notion of "ivoirité" or "ivoirianness" started out as a political tactic of former President Konan-Bédié to prohibit some politicians, including prominent northerner Alassane Ouattara, from running for President. It has increased tensions among ethnic groups and created a division between the mainly Muslim north, which is where most of those considered "foreigners" are living, and the mainly Christian south.

In November 1999, the anti-foreigner sentiment resulted in the displacement of 15,000 Burkinabès who were chased from their homes in the southwestern town of Tabou. In the last seven months of conflict, Burkinabès, along with other foreigners such as Malians and Liberians, have been the targets of hostility.

In response to the latest outflow of Burkinabès, a UN worker told RI that "it appears to be rather clear cut that the Burkinabès have left Ivory Coast based on a well-founded fear of being persecuted owing to their nationality."

Several massacres have underscored the pattern of ethnic persecution. A recent Amnesty International report explained that an October 2002 massacre of gendarmes by the northern rebels in the town of Bouaké was reminiscent of an ethnic massacre at Yopougon (outside of Abidjan) in October 2000.

"All the victims of this massacre belonged to the Dioula ethnic group, a name often used to describe Côte d'Ivoire nationals from the north of the country... [Dioula] is also sometimes used to describe nationals of neighboring countries, especially those from Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea," stated Amnesty. The report added that until the massacre at Yopougon, "[Ivory Coast] had steered clear of ethnically motivated massacres and violence, even though for some years, certain sections of the press and the state media had been regularly publishing xenophobic material promoting the ideology of 'ivoirité.'"

Refugees International has advocated for increased protection of Liberian refugees in Ivory Coast who also face anti-foreigner threats. In March, RI reported, "More than 35,000 Liberian refugees that remain in the Ivory Coast are in imminent danger of being caught up in the conflict in the west or targeted by the military and armed local youth.

These Liberian refugees, who [have] sought refuge in the Ivory Coast over the last decade, are again in need of a safe haven." This safe haven has not been furnished. Furthermore, recent reports from western Ivory Coast state that there is an increase of forced recruitment of these refugees."

Government and rebel forces cause mass displacement in Abidjan and provinces in aftermath of failed coup of September 2002

- In September 2002, a failed coup by disaffected soldiers marked the beginning of the worst crisis in Cote d'Ivoire's post-independence history
- Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced by fighting which left rebels in control of much of the predominantly Muslim north of the country
- At least 200,000 people were estimated to have fled the rebel-held northern town of Bouake, and several thousand were made homeless in the economic capital Abidjan by a government demolition policy aimed at rooting out dissidents
- Fierce fighting between government forces and two new rebel factions in the west of the country, as well as systematic human rights abuses against civilians displaced more than one million people, including some 150,000 who fled to neighbouring countries

UNHCR, 8 October 2002

"UNHCR remains concerned about the ongoing developments in Cote d'Ivoire amid reports of growing internal displacement following renewed fighting after the collapse of cease-fire negotiations on Sunday. A government-sanctioned program to raze shanty towns in Abidjan is also continuing, displacing thousands of local residents and foreigners, including refugees.

As a result of the renewed fighting in Bouake, a humanitarian inter-agency needs-assessment mission (OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and UNHCR) that was heading towards Bouaké yesterday (Monday) to assess the dire humanitarian situation there was turned back on the outskirts of

Abidjan for security reasons. An advance team left Abidjan again this morning to the capital, Yamoussoukro. Depending on security conditions, the planned inter-agency mission to Bouake could take place in the next few days.

Worsening conditions in Bouake, including lack of water, electricity and food supplies, have prompted many residents to flee. According to the Red Cross, between 150,000 and 200,000 residents of Bouaké (pop. 600,000) have fled in recent days to escape fighting and insecurity. Most of them are believed to have sought shelter with families of relatives in other parts of the country.

In Abidjan, meanwhile, the demolition of houses in the city's shanty towns continues, affecting thousands of Abidjan's local and foreign inhabitants, including refugees. The governor of Abidjan announced on Friday that the burning of shanty towns in Abidjan is expected to be completed in one month. During a visit to UNHCR's office in Abidjan on Friday, however, the Minister of Human Rights said the razing of shanty towns would be suspended for ten days. There is still no suspension, however. Such a suspension would be welcomed because it would give humanitarian agencies some more time to find alternative accommodation for the thousands of people, including migrants, refugees and Ivorians, who are being displaced on a daily basis. The minister told UNHCR that this is not an operation against foreigners, as many Ivorians are also affected. She reiterated that refugees have always been welcome in Cote d'Ivoire and remain so."

UN OCHA, 15 October 2002

"According to mission members, the city of Bouake has partially become a 'ghost town' with several neighbourhoods completely empty of its residents. Shops, banks, pharmacies and commercial businesses remained closed since the 19th of September. The inability of Bouake's remaining residents to withdraw money from the banks is creating an increasingly untenable situation. The few open markets have very limited produce with only onions and yams available in some quantity. In addition, the prices of these basic commodities have increased three to four times from their original price since the beginning of the conflict. Cooking gas or charcoal has also become very scarce and expensive.

While hospitals and other social services are barely functioning, most of the medical personnel have either left the city or are unable to leave their homes.

The mission witnessed an estimated influx of more than 32,000 people fleeing Bouake in the direction of Brobo, M'Bahiakro, Sakassou, Didievei and Yamoussoukro. This brings to about 200,000 the number of people estimated to have left Bouake and become internally displaced persons [IDPs]. The figures, collected from some of the transit centers in the region of Bouake, are partial and need to be verified. After leaving Bouake some of the IDPs proceeded to their villages of origin or towns located further south of the 'ghost town'. Women and children are the most affected, exhibiting signs of extreme exhaustion and fatigue including swollen feet, after two to three days of walking to safety. The Catholic Church has been instrumental in providing shelter and food, and in some instances transportation for the displaced. Their capacity to continue this level of services will be stretched to the limit should the flow of displaced persons continue to increase."

IRIN, 29 January 2003

"The UN children's agency, UNICEF, has appealed for US \$5.7 million for emergency health, nutrition and education to cover over the next two months needs of more than one million people displaced by conflict in Cote d'Ivoire, over the next two months. At least 150,000 of the displaced had crossed into neighboring countries, straining already weak social service systems.

'Four months after the attempted coup in Côte d'Ivoire, the country is teetering on the brink of a catastrophe that threatens to trigger massive population upheaval if fighting between rebels and government forces continues,' UNICEF said. 'The political turmoil has unleashed an anti-immigrant sentiment affecting millions of foreigners in Côte d'Ivoire that likely will linger even if a

solution to the current military standoff can be found. Vigilante groups, often acting with total impunity, continue to target immigrants from the sub-region.’ ”

Abuses in rebel-held areas cause renewed displacement following November 2004 crisis (2004-2005)

- Rebels in northern Cote d'Ivoire have reportedly increased human rights violations against civilians since November 2004, including kidnapping for ransom, which has caused new displacement
- Thousands of IDPs sheltering at various sites and with host families following attacks and harassment by Forces nouvelles rebels remain too afraid to return to the north
- In Abidjan, the humanitarian situation of IDPs continues to deteriorate and little assistance is provided

IRIN, 25 November 2004

“Government bombs may have stopped falling on towns in the northern half of Cote d'Ivoire, but now rebels are taking residents hostage for ransom, reports of human rights violations are on the increase, and the price of essential items such as bread and fuel has doubled.

Rebel forces, who hold the north of the country and were hit by Ivorian airplanes when an 18-month ceasefire was shattered on 4 November, are reported to be raiding villages to demand cash.

Some commentators in the Abidjan press see this as part of a drive by the rebels to strengthen their war chest in case full-scale conflict resumes.

An Ivorian woman, who asked not to be identified, told IRIN on Thursday that rebel fighters had stormed her home village of Konaklo in early November, looking for money.

All the young men in Konaklo, which lies about 50 km from the main rebel stronghold Bouake, fled into the bush as the rebel fighters arrived. The gunmen began breaking into houses to search for hidden notes and beat up many of the people they found inside, who pleaded that they had nothing left to give.

The woman said her own mother, who is aged over 70, also fled. She was smuggled over the frontline by a young nephew, who carried her on his bicycle.

Four middle-aged men were not so lucky. They were taken hostage by the rebels, who imprisoned them in containers seven kilometres down the road in the town of Sakassou, pending the payment of a 1.5 million CFA (\$3,000) ransom.

The New Forces rebel movement have used containers as makeshift prisons before in the northern city of Korhogo.

A UN human rights investigation into clashes between rival rebel factions in Korhogo in June reported that dozens of people were arrested and held in hot airless containers. A medical examination of 99 bodies discovered in mass graves on the outskirts of the city showed that many of them had suffocated to death.

Race to raise funds

With their neighbours languishing in custody, the remaining Konaklo villagers were only able to raise one million francs between them, the woman said. They therefore sent an envoy to Abidjan at the end of last week to raise the remaining 500,000 CFA (\$1,000) from people who had left the farming community to seek jobs in Cote d'Ivoire's economic capital.

The woman said the rebel fighters gave no reasons for demanding money and did not accuse the villagers, who are mostly from the Baoule ethnic group of former president Felix Houphouet Boigny, of siding with the government.

But she said the rebel gunmen threatened bluntly to kill the hostages and burn down the entire village unless the money was paid. One of her relatives, who witnessed the scene first-hand, quoted the leader of the rebel fighters as saying: 'If you don't give us the money, you won't see them again. They will be dead.' ”

UN OCHA, 17 January 2005

“Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) remain a particularly vulnerable group in Côte d'Ivoire. It is expected that more humanitarian assistance will be needed in 2005 as many IDPs and their host families have exhausted their resources and no longer have the capacity to cope with a third year of crisis. In the meanwhile, new displacements have taken place since the November crisis, also demanding humanitarian assistance.

Between August and December 2004, IOM has registered 1.233 new arrivals at the IDP centre in Guiglo since August 2004. There are now a total of 6.648 IDPs at the centre. Many of the new arrivals are IDPs who until recently were living with host communities in and around Guiglo, who have come to the centre to benefit from the humanitarian assistance available at the camp. It is expected that more families will arrive at the camp in 2005 as many no longer have the coping mechanisms to deal with a third year of little revenue and limited food stock. IOM is concerned, as the IDP centre does not have the capacity to deal with this growing population. In December the centre received 15 new tents and 2 kitchens in order to cater for the new arrivals.

Over 3500 IDPs, the majority of them children and women, remain sheltered at various sites and with host families in the towns of Priko and M'Bahiakro situated within the zone of confidence. The many IDPs gathered here following attacks and harassment by the Forces Nouvelles in early November. Humanitarian aid agencies have provided assistance and are currently reviewing the possibility of facilitating their return to the North. A joint mission including ONUCI, FANCI and Licorne went to Priko and M'bahiakro to encourage the return of IDPs to the village of Bonguera, so far 35 IDPs in M'Bahiakro returned to Bonguéra, however many are still wary of the security situation and prefer to wait. UNICEF has ensured the supply of water and sanitation to these two towns as well as conducted a vaccination campaign against measles and provided vitamin A supplements for the children. WFP has distributed 30days of ration benefiting 2109 IDPs.

UNHCR has commenced its repatriation programme for 2005. In early January 100 Liberian refugees from Bolequin were voluntarily repatriated to Liberia with the support of GTZ and SAARA. Another 50 refugees will be flown to Liberia by UNHCR on 18th January. UNHCR plans to repatriate approximately 45.000 Liberian refugees by the end of 2005. It is estimated that there are currently 72.000 refugees living in Côte d'Ivoire.

OCHA Korhogo, has received reports from the local NGO ARK, that a group of Ivorian refugees from Mali have returned to the border town of Pogo in Côte d'Ivoire and are in need of assistance. OCHA Korhogo is currently organising an assessment/verification mission to the site.

The Mie N'Gou centre in Yamoussoukro, will remain open until further notice. The centre was scheduled to close by the end of the year 2004. The 479 IDPs residing there have refused to leave following the November crisis as they are concerned about the security situation in the North. The local NGO ASAPSU continues to provide medical assistance to the IDPs at the centre and WFP provides food assistance.

The number of refugees in the Tabou refugee camp has increased by 128 people since September 2004. The new arrivals previously lived with host communities, but had come to the camp for assistance due to increased vulnerability from sickness and/or poverty. WFP distributes food aid to the refugees at the camp, in September WFP distributed aid to 3,369 refugees, in January 3,497 people benefited from assistance.

In Abidjan, the humanitarian situation of IDPs continues to deteriorate and little assistance is provided. A local association for IDPs from Bouaké, has reported that many of those who had returned to the North have now come back to Abidjan following the crisis of November. In Abobo, there are 11 631 IDPs from the North of which 2412 are children. Enfance Meurtrie Sans Frontières (EMSF) is the only international NGO currently providing assistance to this group.”

Resumption of armed clashes and mob violence in Abidjan causes displacement and mass evacuation of expatriates (November 2004)

- In November 2004 government warplanes bombed the rebel stronghold of Bouake in an operation to retake the north, killing nine French peacekeepers and an American aid worker
- France's response of destroying Cote d'Ivoire's airforce sparked widespread mob violence in Abidjan, targeting mainly French citizens as well as opposition politicians and immigrants
- Several thousand expatriates were evacuated amid accusations that France was supporting Ivorian rebels

AFP, 5 November 2004

“The Ivory Coast military on Friday resumed air strikes on positions held by former rebels, after 24 hours of air raids and political violence targeting opposition parties in Abidjan raised fears of a collapse back into civil strife.

Regional leaders prepared talks to cool the situation, with African Union leaders calling a crisis meeting for Saturday, while UN agencies suspended relief and humanitarian work in response to the fighting.

On Thursday, military aircraft attacked strongholds of the ex-rebel New Forces (NF) at Bouake in central Ivory Coast and Korhogo in the north, leading NF officials to describe a shaky peace pact as ‘defunct’.

[...]

The Ivorian military said Thursday's raids -- in which three people died and at least 40 were wounded -- had achieved their objectives, destroying ex-rebel camps and strategic targets in both cities.

Overnight arson attacks on opposition party buildings in Abidjan and belligerent language from both sides have added to tensions in the divided country.

Radical young supporters of Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo ransacked the Abidjan offices of two main opposition parties late Thursday, also torching the offices of three pro-opposition newspapers.

Targeted were the Ivory Coast Democratic Party (PDCI), the country's former ruling and now main opposition party, and the Rally for Republicans (RDR) which is led by exiled former prime minister Alassane Ouattara.”

IRIN, 7 November 2004

“Militant supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo rampaged through Abidjan's streets overnight, looting and burning French homes, schools and businesses and forcing France's military to airlift more than 150 foreigners to safety and send in troops to restore calm.

The violence erupted in Cote d'Ivoire's commercial capital after France destroyed almost the entire airforce of its former colony, following the Ivorian army's bombardment of a French base in the north. Nine French peacekeepers and one American civilian died in Saturday's bombing on the rebel town of Bouake.

Pro-Gbagbo militants, some wielding machetes and sticks, set fire to three French schools and the offices of the Orange mobile phone company. French-owned restaurants, hotels and homes were also looted as militant leader Charles Ble Goude called on his Young Patriots group to ‘go and liberate Cote d'Ivoire’.”

IRIN, 8 November 2004

“France sought on Monday to reassure thousands of angry Ivorian demonstrators that it was not trying to topple President Laurent Gbagbo, after a weekend of mob violence forced more than 2,000 foreigners to flee their homes.

As French troops tried to restore calm to the streets of the West African nation, French diplomats scurried to push a resolution through the UN Security Council that would impose penalties on Cote d'Ivoire, while South African President Thabo Mbeki prepared to fly into Abidjan to kick-start the battered peace process.

Ivorian youths began setting fire to French schools and businesses, looting homes and threatening foreigners on Saturday after the French army destroyed almost the entire Ivorian air force in retaliation for the killing of nine of its peacekeepers in an aerial bombardment in the northern town of Bouake.

At least 2,050 foreign residents were sheltering in French and UN military bases in Abidjan on Monday, many having been plucked by helicopter from their homes as they came under attack from angry mobs, some armed with sticks, stones and machetes.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said well over 400 people had been treated on Sunday, some for wounds from live ammunition and it appealed to be allowed to continue its activities unharmed.

Gbagbo made his first television appearance late Sunday, appealing to protesters to head home and not let themselves be provoked, but on Monday around 5,000 demonstrators lined up opposite French tanks stationed outside the Hotel Ivoire in the upmarket suburb of Cocody.

Screaming anti-French slogans and carrying banners branding the French assassins, the protesters rallied at the hotel following a morning appeal on state radio to form a human shield to protect Gbagbo, whose residence is nearby.

A diplomat at the hotel said French troops had fired shots in the air to disperse the protesters. Ivorian state television broadcast images of injured people getting to hospital. Over the weekend, it also showed the bodies of protesters who, it said, had been killed by French forces.

However it was unclear how many casualties there were."

Inter-communal clashes displace civilians, 2002-2007

- Inter-communal violence in western Cote d'Ivoire has been on the increase since the failed coup of September 2002, continuing into 2007, displacing many thousands of people
- Fighting has taken place in and around the 'Zone of Confidence' where only French and UN peacekeeping troops are supposed to carry arms
- Violence in this area had originally been provoked by indisciplined bands of Liberian militiamen, but more recently has involved villagers of the local Guere tribe and settlers from Burkina Faso, Guinea and other parts of Cote d'Ivoire who grow cocoa in the region
- Thousands of immigrants have been chased off their land, and many have sought refuge at the already overburdened camps at Guiglo and Niela
- Complicated property issues in cocoa-growing areas and the proliferation of small arms contribute to the tension in western Cote d'Ivoire
- There are also examples of inter-communal violence between pastoralists and agriculturalists

US Department of State, 11 March 2008

"New population displacements continued on a regular basis in the western region, particularly in the area around Guiglo and in the former ZOC, although on a much smaller scale than had occurred in previous years. Persons who had settled on abandoned plantations during the crisis were themselves displaced by returning landowners. During the year confusion over land tenure caused significant tension in the region as ethnically different returning communities and those who were never displaced were required to negotiate a new and delicate balance of power. Although the origin of most disputes appeared to be economic, generally resulting from issues of land tenure and access to arable farmland, most of these conflicts also cut along ethnic lines."

UNOCI, 21 September 2007, paras. 47-48

"Le mercredi 30 août, le corps sans vie d'Olivier Ayekoué Kouadio a été découvert dans un puits près du quartier Dioulakro, à Moapé, village situé dans la Sous-Préfecture d'Adzopé. Les autochtones ont aussitôt organisé une expédition punitive contre les allogènes qu'ils ont accusés d'être à l'origine de ce drame. Ce conflit a entraîné le déplacement interne de plus de 100 familles qui se sont réfugiées à la gendarmerie d'Adzopé avant d'être accueillies par leurs communautés respectives. La situation étant redevenue calme, les familles ont commencé à regagner le village de Moapé au mois de septembre.

Une personne de l'ethnie Abouré a été tuée le dimanche 10 septembre au cours d'affrontements entre les communautés Abouré et Gwa, dans la localité d'Alépé. Ce décès a été confirmé par le Commandant Guy Tanny, de la Compagnie de la Gendarmerie nationale d'Alépé. Il s'agirait selon lui, de vieux conflits interethniques qui éclatent de façon sporadique."

UN OCHA, 8 July 2007

"La cohabitation entre les éleveurs peuhls et les agriculteurs de Touba, est de plus en plus difficile. Les agriculteurs ont souvent manifesté leur mécontentement face à la dévastation des champs et des récoltes par les bœufs. Un conflit qui s'est déclenché dans la semaine du 25 au 30 juin 2007 suite au refus d'un jeune peuhl de répondre à une convocation des autorités

villageoises Toranou S/P de Booko, s'est vite répandu dans 9 autres villages de ladite sous-préfecture. Les peuhls de ces villages ont été chassés, 2 cases ont été saccagées et des troupeaux de bœufs dispersés. Il faut ajouter qu'il y a eu des pertes d'argent et autres biens matériels chez les peuhls. Ce sont environ 120 personnes qui ont quitté leurs cases. Vingt déplacés se sont réfugiés à Touba et 100 autres se sont rendus à Odienné où ils vivent chez leurs compatriotes dans conditions de forte promiscuité."

UN Human Rights Council, 18 October 2006, paras. 10-11

" The Representative of the Secretary-General concludes from various discussions he had that the causes of population displacement today are basically related to the conflict that broke out in September 2002. According to the information he received, displacement has many causes. First, people have fled areas of conflict following attacks on military facilities in Abidjan, Bouaké and Korhogo. The Representative of the Secretary-General was also informed about displacements that occurred between October 2002 and March 2003 in Abidjan after the destruction of some of the poorest districts there. In the west of the country and in the 'zone of confidence', which are under the control of the neutral forces of Operation Licorne and UNOCI, inter-community conflicts are also a cause of population displacement. The Representative of the Secretary-General notes, moreover, that a general sense of insecurity with regard to political developments, fear of reprisals from one of the two parties to the conflict, the dismantling of the public administration and the destruction of infrastructure in the area controlled by the Forces Nouvelles and in the zone of confidence, as well as the economic consequences of the conflict, are at the root of some of the more recent cases of displacement.

Many observers have drawn attention to the land-related conflicts that have given rise to a large number of displacements, especially in the west, a highly agricultural area. Many people are reported to have been chased from their homes in Moyen Cavammy region since 2003, often by gangs of youths or by village or ethnic-based self-defence committees. Recent events in late 2004 and in 2005 have also given rise to displacements in the regions of Guiglo, Bolequin and Duékoué. In this region, the land issue continues to give rise to further displacements following inter-community clashes and criminal attacks. The Representative of the Secretary-General also observed that, while the recent crisis in the country has had an impact on internal displacement, especially as a result of political groups exploiting the problem for political ends, the land issue and subsequent inter-community conflicts predate the crisis."

OCHA-CI, 13 March 2006

"L'Ouest du pays reste le théâtre de déplacements des populations en raison des affrontements entre les différentes communautés ethniques. Dans la nuit du 05 au 06 février 2006, le campement de Peehapa du village Mona, situé à environ 17 km de Guiglo a été attaqué par des individus non encore identifiés. Au total, 12 personnes appartenant aux communautés Guéré et Gnaboua (ethnie minoritaire ivoirienne) ont été tuées et il y a eu plusieurs autres blessées. Cette attaque a provoqué un mouvement de population dans la zone. Une vingtaine des familles déplacées a été signalée par le comité de crise de la mairie de Guiglo. Les familles déplacées ont trouvé refuge dans des familles d'accueil. Les autorités politico-administratives et militaires de Guiglo ont ouvert une enquête qui se poursuit.

Suite à l'attaque de Peehapa, un groupe des jeunes des villages de Zouan et de Monan situés à une dizaine de kilomètres à l'ouest de Guiglo se sont mobilisés le 13 février 2006, pour aller attaquer le Centre d'Accueil Temporaire (CATD) à Guiglo. Selon les rapports des FDS, les jeunes voulaient se venger de l'assassinat de leurs douze (12) parents dans le campement de Peehapa une semaine avant. Ils accusaient les burkinabés d'être les auteurs de ce massacre. Les autorités locales (mairie, préfecture et FDS) informées des menaces, se sont rendues sur le lieu et ont contenu les jeunes. Les autorités locales restent en contact avec le comité de déplacés et ont promis de continuer à assurer leur sécurité.

En janvier 2006 le département de Tabou a connu les mouvements importants des populations suite aux tensions inter-communautaires. Les affrontements inter-communautaires à Yakro le 19 janvier 2006, entre les lobi (groupe ethnique du nord de la Côte d'Ivoire avec des ramifications au Burkina Faso) et les populations considérées comme « allogènes » (baoulé et abron) et « autochtones » (krumen), ont fait 09 morts et plusieurs blessés. Face à la dégradation de la situation sécuritaire, les populations de Yaokro ont fui leur campement pour se réfugier dans les villages voisins et ensuite à la mission catholique de Tabou. Pendant les premiers jours, 153 déplacés avaient été enregistrés sur le site de la mission catholique. Les déplacés étaient pris en charge par le HCR et la mission catholique. La mission du PAM sur le terrain les 26-28 janvier 2006 a confirmé les faits.

A la fin du mois de février 2006, les déplacés ont quitté le site de la mission. Toutefois, IRC-Tabou a rapporté que le village de Niplou (approximativement 35 km de Tabou) reste toujours vide de presque toute sa population (environ 289 personnes) qui a trouvé le refuge dans les villages environnants, notamment à Béséréké (25 km de Tabou) pour des raisons de sécurité. Selon les autorités locales de Déholinké, les populations n'ont pas accès à leurs champs parce que des hommes armés (apparemment des lobis) les empêchent d'y accéder."

UN, 18 November 2005

Examples of inter Community conflicts in 2005

Date	Principal events	Impact assessment
28 February 2005	Following the attack on the positions of the <i>Force Armée des Forces Nouvelles</i> (FAFN) at Logoualé, the youths of the MILOCI militia set fire to the houses of the so-called alien Burkinabe (from Burkina Faso) at Fengolo, who in turn retaliated by burning the houses of the Guérés	Destruction of the majority of the houses at Fengolo and all the indigenous population fled to Duékoué
16 March 2005	Request for investigation by UNOCI following the death of 13 so-called alien villagers who were said to have been tortured by the forest guards in the Marahoué national park	13 fatalities and several wounded
30 March 2005	An argument between Dioula and Baoulé (ethnic groups) children led to inter-ethnic clash between two communities at Boli village	6 people suffered severe injuries, hundreds of people were displaced and the majority of the houses and shops were torched
29 April 2005	Inter ethnic clashes between the Dioulas and the Guérés at Duékoué	More than 15 died and some 500 people were displaced at Duékoué
30 mai/02 June 2005	Another inter ethnic incidents between Dioulas and the Guérés at Duékoué	More than 70 died and some 5000 people were displaced at Duékoué and at Man
14/15 June 2005	Expropriation by the so-called local Attié youth of farmers from the North, (of the Lobi, Koulangoand Abron ethnic groups), who have been in Attié country for generations	More than 500 displaced persons people at Alépé,
23/24 Juillet2005	Attack by unidentified elements at Agboville and Anyama	Some 25 deaths including 7 soldiers

Human Rights Watch, 3 June 2005

"In the past week alone, renewed clashes between local indigenous groups and farm workers from the north and neighbouring countries have brought the total number of dead in western Côte d'Ivoire since February to at least 89. Ethnic tension in this fertile cocoa-producing region predates the civil war between northern-based rebels and the Ivorian government, which is primarily composed of officials from the south and west.

Despite the end of the war in 2003, tension has remained high between indigenous groups in the west and the northern and foreign-born workers who for decades have worked on the local cacao plantations. In recent years, this tension has been both exploited and exacerbated by the country's political and military divisions.

[...]

At least three waves of communal violence have broken out in Côte d'Ivoire in the last four months. On February 28, an attack by government-backed militia on the rebel-held town of Logoualé sparked ethnically motivated attacks between the indigenous Wê tribe and immigrant farm workers, mostly from Burkina Faso, that caused some 16 deaths. The violence also caused more than 13,000 villagers to flee, and left several villages in flames. In late April, several days of interethnic fighting around Duékoué resulted in the death of at least 15 people from the indigenous Guéré and Northern Dioula tribes.

The latest wave began one week ago when Guéré tribesmen allegedly killed at least four farmers from the Senoufo ethnic tribe, which originates from the northern part of the country. On May 31, unidentified men attacked the two largely Guéré villages of Guitrozon and Petit Duékoué, shooting, stabbing or burning to death at least 41. This in turn triggered more attacks against Dioulas and Burkinabe (those originally from Burkina Faso), which on June 1 claimed at least another 11 lives.

[...]

The western region of Côte d'Ivoire, the heart of the country's vital cocoa and coffee industry, is a zone of smoldering instability which, if ignited, could engulf the whole sub-region. For decades, immigrants from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Guinea have provided cheap labor for local landowners, which helped turn Côte d'Ivoire into the world's leading cocoa producer.

However, competition over land rights, economic decline and the 2002-2003 civil war resulted in ever-increasing ethnic tension. As a result, both indigenous groups and immigrant farmers have organized themselves into militias and self-defense groups resulting in a lethal tit-for-tat dynamic between the groups. Western Côte d'Ivoire saw the heaviest fighting in the months after the September 2002 rebellion."

IRIN, 2 February 2005

"Suleymankro is a microcosm of the cocoa belt, a region where so many different ethnic groups and nationalities live together that political leaders once proudly nicknamed Côte d'Ivoire the 'land of hospitality'.

For decades, the indigenous Bete people welcomed migrants from less fertile regions of northern Côte d'Ivoire and immigrants from Burkina Faso and Mali to cultivate the land alongside them.

But the settlers' welcome wore out as cocoa prices fell and unused land grew sparse.

During the 1990s, nationalist politicians began to promote the notion of 'Ivoirite' - Ivorian national identity - from which the immigrants and their descendents were excluded.

However, violent clashes between the two communities only began in September 2002 when rebels from northern Côte d'Ivoire tried to overthrow president Laurent Gbagbo in a coup d'état that presidential supporters say was sponsored by Burkina Faso.

The coup failed, but Cote d'Ivoire plunged into civil war. The country ended up split into a rebel-controlled north and a government-controlled south, with French and UN peacekeeping troops patrolling a buffer zone in between.

Since the conflict erupted two and a half years ago, angry Bete villagers have driven hundreds of settlers off their farms, accusing them of being a fifth column, sympathetic towards the rebels if not openly collaborating with them.

However, many residents of Suleymankro believe that the expulsions have little to do with politics or ethnicity. They say that the indigenous population is primarily interested in easy money. ”

See also, International Crisis Group (ICG), [Cote d'Ivoire: 'The War Is Not Yet Over'](#), 28 November 2003

POPULATION FIGURES AND PROFILE

Global figures

IDP number remains 709,000 for planning purposes (January 2008)

- UNFPA-funded study published in March 2006 puts total number of IDPs at 709,377 in five key government-held zones (Abidjan, Daloa, Duékoué, Toulépleu and Yamoussoukro)
- Figure subsequently revised to 750,000 in the Mid-Year Review of the UN Consolidated Appeal
- In their planning exercises for 2008, humanitarian agencies keep the IDP figure of 709,000

There are no country-wide statistics on the number of IDPs in Cote d'Ivoire nor comprehensive data on return movements. Humanitarian agencies are therefore retaining the number for 709,000 for planning purposes.

UNHCR, 24 January 2008, p.24

"UNHCR will further reinforce its leadership role to pursue protection on behalf of some 700,000 IDPs in the centre, western, south-western and northern Cote d'Ivoire."

UN OCHA, 10 December 2007, p.2

Population	15,366,000 persons
Under five mortality	195 p/1,000 (UNICEF 2005)
Life expectancy	45.9 years (UNDP Human Development Report 2006)
Prevalence of under-nourishment in total population	13% (FAO Statistical Division 2004 estimate)
Gross national income per capita	\$870 (World Bank Key Development Data and Statistics 2005)
Percentage of population living on less than \$1 per day	14.8% (WHO Statistical Information System 2005)
Proportion of population without sustainable access to an improved drinking water source	84% (MDG 2004)
IDPs (number and percent of population)	709,380 (4.6%) (UNHCR 2006)
Refugees	• In-country; 24,155 Liberians and 453 others (UNHCR August 2007)* • Abroad. 15,000 (UNHCR 2007)
ECHO Vulnerability and Crisis Index score	3/3 (most severe rank)
2006 UNDP Human Development Index score	0.421: 164 of 177 – low (UNDP Human Development Report 2006)

UNHCR, 23 March 2007, p. 6

Planning figures for Côte d'Ivoire				
Type of population	Origin	Dec 2007		
		Total in country	Total in country	To be assisted by UNHCR
IDPs	Western, northern and central Côte d'Ivoire	709,000	509,000	170,000
Returnees (IDPs)	Western, northern and central Côte d'Ivoire	300	200,000*	65,000
Total		709,300	709,000*	235,000

*200,000 IDPs are expected return only if political stability and the reunification of the country are reached.

UN, 18 July 2006

"One of the main challenges in Côte d'Ivoire at present is to extend and diversify humanitarian responses to better address the needs of returning IDPs and host communities at a time when, each year, an additional 2% of the population is falling below the poverty line. According to a new baseline survey the total figure of IDPs in Côte d'Ivoire – originally believed to be close to 500,000 – is now estimated at 750,000 with less than 10% living in transit camps and more than 90% being hosted by families. Each host family on average cares for about six IDPs, while about 30% of displaced children are not attending school."

More than 1 million Ivoirians were estimated to be displaced at the height of the conflict (2003)

UN OCHA 8 May 2003

"Relief agencies estimate that between 700,000 and one million people were forced to flee their homes by the fighting and seek refuge in other parts of the country - mainly the government-held south."

UN OCHA, 10 January 2003

"The scale of displacement in Cote d'Ivoire is both large and rapid. Out of a population of 16 million, an estimated 600,000 were displaced internally by the end of November. Fighting in the west since then has caused further population movements, currently estimated at an additional 500,000. The total number of IDPs topped 1.1 million by the beginning of January."

Geographical distribution

IDPs hosted in the Centre d'Accueil Temporaire des Déplacés (December 2007)

- In mid-2003, Guiglo's local authorities and Moyen Cavally's Prefect granted the use of a piece of land close to the village of Nicla for the construction of an IDP camp
- Between August and December 2003, the 8,000 IDPs who were occupying public buildings in Guiglo were all transferred to the Centre d'Accueil Temporaire des Déplacés (CATD)

- People declared that a total number of 5,935 IDPs lived in the CATD in mid-2007
- Considering the number of returns, people resettled in Guiglo and IDPs temporarily away, the study found that 4,155 IDPs were permanent residents of the CATD as of April 2007

IOM, October 2007, p. 2

"A la moitié de l'année 2003, les autorités municipales de Guiglo ainsi que le Préfet de la Région du Moyen Cavally, dont les bâtiments administratifs étaient occupés par les déplacés, ont octroyé un terrain de 8 ha proche du centre de transit du HCR (5 ha) sur la route du village de Nicla pour construire un centre d'accueil des déplacés. L'aménagement de ce nouveau site a été financé par le HCR et l'UNICEF, tandis que la réalisation a été confiée à la GTZ. Ces deux sites mitoyens constituent le Centre d'Accueil Temporaire des Déplacés (CATD) de Guiglo.

Entre août et décembre 2003, les 8,000 déplacés qui occupaient les sites de la Mairie, de la Préfecture de Région et de la mission catholique de Guiglo, ont été installés sur le CATD. En décembre 2003, le recensement effectué par les partenaires humanitaires sur place, établissait : Nicla 1 (centre de transit du HCR), 4800 personnes; Nicla 2 (nouveau centre), 3 200 personnes, soit un total de 8 000 PDI dont 95% originaires du Burkina Faso et particulièrement stigmatisées, dans un grand dénuement et ayant été victimes, pour certaines, de violences, de vols et de viols.

Dès la réunion de coordination du 23 septembre 2003 à Abidjan à laquelle participaient, outre OIM, OCHA, ECHO, HCR, PAM, UNICEF, GTZ, CICR, Coopération belge, MERLIN, l'évaluation de la situation des personnes déplacées de Guiglo faite par les participants, a conclu au besoin d'un gestionnaire du CATD. Il a été alors demandé à l'OIM d'organiser le CATD et d'en assurer la gestion au quotidien, y compris l'approvisionnement des populations en vivres et non – vivres, l'achèvement des infrastructures minimales (notamment eau & assainissement), la coordination des activités des différents intervenants humanitaires, les relations avec les autorités locales... La gestion quotidienne du CATD et par conséquent l'assistance aux déplacés du CATD par l'OIM, a donc débuté en décembre 2003 sur un financement ECHO. Cette assistance d'urgence conduite par l'OIM depuis, se fait avec les apports du PAM, de l'UNICEF, de MSF et de Save The Children-UK (SCUK)."

IOM, June 2007, pp. 2, 3

"Au total, l'étude a permis d'interviewer 1043 résidents du centre en leur qualité de chef de famille, dont 64 femmes (6,6%) et 979 hommes (93,4%). L'analyse des informations issues de ces entretiens, a permis d'établir que 1 043 familles déclarent 5 935 membres résidents au CATD dont

- 777 PDI absentes au moment des entretiens,

- 703 PDI se sont réinstallées volontairement à Guiglo et ses environs accueillies dans des familles d'accueil; et

- 300 PDI sont retournées volontairement dans leurs lieux de vie habituelle parmi celles-ci 180 personnes ont été assistées par l'OIM pour leur retour à Péhé le 21 mars 2007.

[...]

Tableau 2: Synthèse des résultats des interviews des PDI du CATD de Guiglo

Caractérisation des PDI du CATD	Total	Pourcentage
PDI déclarées par les personnes interviewées	5 935	100%
PDI absentes temporairement (ou travailleurs saisonniers ayant leurs	777	13%

familles sur le Centre)		
PDI réinstallées à Guiglo	703	12%
PDI retournées dans les lieux habituels de vie	300	5%
Total de PDI permanentes au CATD en avril 2007	4 155	70%

Source : Interviews des PDI avril 2007 (Etude)"

[Click here for IDP statistics for the CATD as of December 2007](#)

Abidjan hosts almost 70 per cent of IDPs in government-held south (November 2006)

- IDPs are generally concentrated in urban areas with almost 70% in Abidjan
- Rural IDPs are more numerically relevant in the other departments

ENSEA, March 2006

"Au total, environ 709 377 personnes ont été accueillies dans des ménages avec une proportion relativement importante (67,5 %) pour le département d'Abidjan. Cette population déplacée est composée de 48 % d'hommes et de 52 % de femmes. La supériorité numérique de la population féminine est constatée dans tous les départements. Les PDI sont dans l'ensemble concentrées en milieu urbain (81% des déplacés) : ceci est lié au poids démographique de la ville d'Abidjan et des possibilités offertes pour les accueillir. En revanche, la population rurale des déplacés est numériquement plus élevée dans les autres départements exception faite de Duékoué (43%) : Daloa 68%, Toulépleu 71%, Yamoussoukro 55%. Un quart des PDI sont des enfants de moins de 10 ans. Les jeunes de moins de 25 ans représentent 62% des déplacés. Par ailleurs, parmi les 709 377 PDI, 51 037 sont des enfants nés après le déplacement des parents. Par conséquent, l'ajustement de l'estimation des Personnes Déplacées Internes, après déflation de l'effectif de ces enfants, conduit à 658 340 déplacés internes."

United Nations, 30 November 2006, p. 56

"The table below presents recent statistics on displaced persons registered in the zone [west] by various sources:

Locality of origin of IDPs	Current places of residence in the West Zone	Total Number Registered	Source/ Observations
Zarabaon County (Zou)	San Pedro	271	IOM Figures, Extract summary table, registered on July 2006.
	Duekoué	1,161	
	Bangolo	220	
	Guiglo	6,987	
	Bolequin	1,003	
	Abidjan	1,907	
TOTAL		11,549	
Various Categories	Tabou	5,117	Source: Office of War Victims and Displaced Persons in Tabou, August 2006.
Non-Natives	Duékoué-Guiglo-Bolequin	46,958	8,426 families IOM Figures, April 2006.

Non-Natives and Foreigners	CATD	7,092	1,107 families; IOM Figures
Various Localities (Dieouzon...)	Bangolo	12,000	ICRC, August 06 Displaced persons and affected families.

Disaggregated data

Demographic data of IDPs in government zones (March 2006)

- The majority of IDPs surveyed were aged between 0-4 years and 15-19 years (13 per cent in each category)
- 50 per cent of host family members were aged between 15-30 years
- One in five heads of household (of host families) were women
- The vast majority of IDPs were directly related to the head of their host family

ENSEA, March 2006

“ Structure par sexe et âge

Les groupes d'âge dominants dans la population des déplacés sont ceux compris entre 0 et 4 ans et 15 et 19 ans (13% chacun). Au sein de ces âges, les effectifs par sexe sont quasiment identiques (13% de femmes contre 12% d'hommes). En outre, une personne sur deux a moins de 20 ans. En considérant la population non déplacée, il apparaît une faible proportion d'enfants âgés de 0 à 5 ans. Elle est deux fois moins importante que dans la population déplacée. Par ailleurs, la majorité des personnes non déplacées se situe dans la tranche de 15 à 30 ans (50% de la population non déplacée). Par ailleurs, avant 30 ans, il existe plus de femmes que d'hommes parmi les déplacés ; cette tendance est inversée chez les non déplacés.

Caractéristique des ménages

Les ménages de plus de 8 membres sont majoritaires (16%), suivis de ceux comportant 3 personnes (14%) et des unités regroupant 5 individus (13%). L'âge moyen des chefs de ménage est de 45 ans ; 39,5% d'entre eux n'ont jamais été scolarisés. A Daloa et à Toulépleu, cette proportion est relativement importante et atteint 47%. Il ressort qu'une femme sur cinq est chef de ménage. C'est à Yamoussoukro que cette proportion est la plus élevée (31% des chefs de ménage). Chez les déplacés, les personnes sans lien de parenté avec le chef de ménage et son épouse sont en faible proportion dans l'ensemble (2%). Toutefois, le département de Toulépleu reste une exception avec 19% dans l'ensemble et 27% dans son milieu rural. Enfin, la proportion de chefs de ménage occupés a connu une baisse significative de 12%. La baisse la plus importante (25%) est survenue à Duékoué suivie d'Abidjan (13%).”

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

General

Vast majority of IDPs live with host families or communities (2007)

- Of the estimated 700,000 IDPs in Cote d'Ivoire, only a small number are housed in camps
- IDPs are generically concentrated in urban areas
- The vast majority of IDPs live with host families or communities
- IDP movements are mainly registered around conflict areas where IDPs have settled in villages and towns nearby their areas of origin
- In general, displaced men from 'Vallée du Bandama' have mainly relocated to urban areas while those from 'Haut Sassandra' have preferred to remain in rural areas

UNHCR, 23 March 2007, p.4

"Apart from IDPs staying with host families or renting accommodation, there are about 8,000 IDPs in camps, of which approximately 7,000 are in Guiglo and 1,000 in Yamassoukrou. The fact that most IDPs are not in camps has made their plight less visible to the humanitarian community and has made it more difficult to reach them and assess their situation."

United Nations, 30 November 2006, p.19

"The survey on IDPs conducted by ENSEA in collaboration with UNFPA in five departments (Daloa, Abidjan, Duékoué, Toulépleu and Yamoussokro) showed that the displaced population is composed of 48% men and 52% women. The numerical superiority of the female population is observed in all the departments. The IDPs are generally concentrated in urban areas (81% of IDPs) with a relatively important proportion of 67.5% for Abidjan department. On the other hand, the rural population of displaced persons is numerically higher in the other departments with the exception of Duékoué (43%), Daloa (68%), Toulépleu (71%) and Yamoussokro (55%)."

UN Human Rights Council, 18 October 2006, para. 13

"The representative of the Secretary-General notes with interest that only a small number of displaced persons are housed in camps or shelters; most of them are in Guiglo, where there are two centres that hold about 7,100 people. Most of the displaced persons – about 98 per cent of them – have been taken in by families, which shows the generosity and solidarity of the Ivorian people. However, their social integration complicates the job of monitoring and assisting displaced persons."

ENSEA, March 2006, pp. 38-39 ; p.45

"Le mouvement des personnes déplacées a été guidé plutôt par le souci de retrouver un endroit plus sécurisant. Les plus chanceux d'entre eux ont trouvé refuge, dès leur arrivée, auprès de parents, d'amis, de collègues, etc... Les autres ont transité par des camps aménagés avant de trouver une famille d'accueil. L'insertion des personnes déplacées dans un ménage d'accueil s'est réalisée selon différentes approches (Tableau 25).

Tableau 25 : Répartition des familles d'accueil selon l'organisation de l'arrivée des déplacés

		Décision du CM	Entente CM et PDI	Famille ou communauté	Initiative PDI	Autre	Effectif
Abidjan	Urbain	31,1	15,8	6,4	44,4	2,4	283
	Rural	48,1	5,9	4,5	40,8	0,7	232
	Total	33,2	14,6	6,1	43,9	2,2	515
Daloa	Urbain	46,7	5,9	5,5	41,9	1,7	225
	Rural	21,4	7,5	29,6	39,5	1,9	254
	Total	22,5	7,5	28,6	39,6	1,8	479
Duékoué	Urbain	37,2	13,9	7,2	39,0	2,8	287
	Rural	19,4	9,0	2,2	60,5	8,9	186
	Total	24,5	10,4	3,6	54,3	7,1	473
Toulépleu	Urbain	20,1	14,2	24,2	41,5	0,2	211
	Rural	22,0	5,9	15,1	57,1	0,9	242
	Total	21,8	6,6	15,8	55,8	0,1	453
Yamoussoukro	Urbain	20,6	46,1	5,2	27,7	0,4	245
	Rural	46,5	15,6	17,8	19,4	0,7	218
	Total	39,4	24,0	14,3	21,7	0,6	463
Type De Ménage							
	Non accueil	20,9	17,1	12,1	48,1	1,8	2203
	Accueil	33,1	13,3	9,5	41,6	2,5	2383
Statut du chef de ménage							
	Non déplacé	24,4	13,6	13,0	45,9	3,0	3229
	Déplacé	42,7	14,3	4,7	36,9	1,4	1357
	Total	31,3	13,9	9,9	42,3	2,4	4586

Source : ENSEA - PDI 2005

Dans la plupart des cas (43%), c'est le déplacé lui-même qui a entrepris les démarches d'hébergement auprès des familles d'accueil. Les chefs de ménage ont pris eux-mêmes l'initiative d'héberger les déplacés dans 31% des cas. Peu de situations ont nécessité une entente entre chefs de ménage et déplacés (14%) ou l'intervention de la famille ou d'une communauté (10%) à laquelle appartient le déplacé. Le recours à la famille ou à une communauté comme intermédiaire dans la recherche d'une famille d'accueil se rencontre principalement en milieu rural (16% contre 6% en milieu urbain).

Depuis le déclenchement de la crise, les départs des zones de conflits ont été organisés par vagues successives. La durée des conflits est un facteur important dans le changement de comportement car certains ménages ont pu se reconstituer et accueillent les nouveaux déplacés. Les déplacés installés dans leur propre ménage se montrent plus sensibles à la situation des autres déplacés. En effet parmi les personnes ayant facilité l'accueil des déplacés dans leur ménage, 43 % (contre 24 %) sont des chefs de ménage eux-mêmes déplacés.

[...]

Le conflit armé a provoqué des mouvements de population fuyant prioritairement les régions de combat mais venant également de diverses zones du pays pour différentes raisons. C'est ainsi que les localités situées en lisière des zones ayant connu les conflits, ceux situés dans l'Ouest, le département du Haut Sassandra et la Vallée du Bandama, ont reçu une des vagues importantes de personnes déplacées. Les personnes rendues nécessiteuses du fait de la guerre, viennent ainsi principalement des zones peu éloignées des régions d'accueil. On note en effet une relative concentration des personnes déplacées dans les villes ou villages proches de leur localité de départ. La solidarité de proximité a été ainsi largement développée lors de la crise. A l'ouest, Duékoué et Toulépleu ont recueilli la quasi totalité des réfugiés venant de l'Ouest (97% et 83% respectivement). De même à Yamoussoukro, on note une prépondérance des déplacés issus de la Vallée du Bandama : 78% en milieu urbain et 64% en milieu rural (Tableau 32). Quant à Daloa, ville située au Centre Ouest, elle a accueilli essentiellement des déplacés venant de la Région du Haut Sassandra et de l'Ouest. Abidjan, située loin des zones d'hostilités, connaît une situation

moins tranchée. On y compte une majorité de déplacés venant de la Vallée du Bandama mais aussi une part importante de réfugiés qui résidaient dans la partie septentrionale du pays ou dans l'Ouest.

D'une manière générale, on observe que les hommes déplacés provenant de la Vallée du Bandama se sont surtout installés en zone urbaine (51%). Par contre, ceux issus du Haut Sassandra ont préféré le milieu rural (2% de destination vers les villes) (Annexe Tableau E.2.1). Chez les femmes, le comportement reste identique. En effet, celles en provenance de la Vallée du Bandama et de l'Ouest ont préféré les villes contrairement à celles issues du Haut Sassandra (3% de destination vers les villes) (Annexe Tableau E.2.2)."

Chain displacement affects the West (July 2007)

- There are occurrences of displacements in series especially in the south-west and west of the ex-Zone of Confidence
- Displaced communities occupy land belonging to other IDPs while they are at their turn chased away again

US Department of State, 6 March 2007, section 2.d

"The displacement patterns often complicated the return of IDPs. For example, the displaced Burkinabe and other settlers living in the Guiglo IDP camp said that their plantations around the western town of Bolequin, south of the Zone of Confidence, were being occupied by indigenous Guere populations, who themselves had been displaced from their land in the Zone of Confidence at the beginning of the crisis. The government had not addressed this situation by year's end."

UN Human Rights Council, 18 October 2006, para. 37

"The Representative of the Secretary-General observed during his mission that people continue to be displaced in Cote d'Ivoire, particularly in the south-west, which is under government control and in the west of the zone of confidence, which is under the control of neutral UNOCI and Licorne forces. These areas are characterized by high levels of insecurity that led to displacement. The land issue, which is sometimes related to intercommunity conflicts, is also a source of insecurity for inhabitants. The Representative of the Secretary-General observed that displacements occur in series in this areas, when one population group chases away another and is then itself chased away. In the district of Zouan, for example, the people chased out of Zou occupied villages belonging to communities that had to flee their homes. Shortly after the visit by the Representative of the Secretary-General, the new arrivals were themselves attacked."

Cases of multiple displacements with final destination in Abidjan and Grand Bassam

UNHCR/GoCdi, July 2007, pp.9-10

"3,602 ménages (32%) ont effectué des mouvements transitoires dans d'autres localités avant d'atteindre leurs destinations finales qui deviennent leurs lieux de déplacement actuels. Les principales régions de transit identifiées sont les régions de la Vallée du Bandama (49%), des 18 Montagnes (26%), le Moyen Cavally (8%) et les Savanes (5%).

Les principales villes de transit ont été Bouaké, Korhogo, Bondoukou, Yamoussoukro, Daloa et Abidjan (pour les déplacés de Grand Bassam en provenance du centre nord et de l'ouest)."

Continuous violence causes repeated short-term displacement (2007)

Médecins Sans Frontières, 2007, p. 7

“When violence flares, people flee their village and seek refuge in larger towns or in the bush. The pattern of attacks and counter-attacks results in repeated short-term displacement lasting anywhere from days to months. Families lose their goods, abandon their fields and are exposed to malnutrition and disease.

When the war started, my in-laws fled to the bush to save their lives. They only returned to the village after one and a half years. But sometimes, even now, they spend the night in the village and the only return to the bush during the day- especially when they hear some rumour and are afraid.

This year, many people fled to other villages to stay with their family and friends. When we heard about the recent attack [in July 2005], we fled to the bush- but not for long because the attack was farther away. We stayed in the bush for three days because we wanted to be careful.

We are always on the run, fleeing people who might attack. We sleep on the bare floor. We don't eat well. When we are thirsty, we drink whatever water we can find. There is no time for us to nourish our children well- but it was not like this before the war. We are eating food from the old manioc fields that my in-laws planted in the bush when they were there over a year ago.

Woman from the zone of confidence, interviewed in August 2005. “

Complex patterns of displacement and lack of access make IDPs hard to locate (2003)

- In March 2003, UN OCHA reported that despite a concerted effort to document numbers of IDPs, available information and data were insufficient
- Reasons for this included lack of access, lack of national capacity, and ad hoc registration and monitoring
- Biggest constraint to accurate information was the fact that some 80 per cent of IDPs had found shelter with host families

UN OCHA, 31 March 2003

“The weeks and months following the violence of the 19 September coup attempt saw population movements mainly from the central areas of Cote d'Ivoire towards the south, and from areas further north into neighboring countries. Based on accounts coming out of rebel-held zones, including that Cote d'Ivoire's northern "second" city Bouake (pop. 600,000) had become a ghost town, it was estimated that as many as 600,000 people had been displaced by mid-November.

Then two more rebel groups emerged in the west, and that violence created further displacement, roughly estimated at 500,000. In January of 2003, however, given differing estimates of the number of IDPs among various UN Agencies and the Government, a concerted effort to tackle the issue was begun. OCHA held two ad hoc working groups on IDPs in February, which were followed by a workshop held in Abidjan in March by an OCHA IDP expert sent from Geneva. The current estimate, based on the information and data available, is that approximately 750,000 IDPs are currently in Cote d'Ivoire.

Available information and data are, however, insufficient due to a variety of factors. The majority of population movements occurred before humanitarian structures were in place; the humanitarian community lacks targeted information on IDP presence in large portions of the north; the west is almost completely inaccessible due to violence and insecurity; the Government

Solidarity and Humanitarian Action Cell is lacking in human resources and technical capacity to tackle the issue in the south; registration and monitoring to date have been largely ad hoc and incomplete; and perhaps most important, approximately 80% of IDPs have found shelter with host families, making them hard to locate.”

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Physical security

Levels of insecurity remain high especially in Moyen Cavally, Savanes and Vallée du Bandama regions (January 2008)

- The number of security incidents are generally high in the Moyen Cavally, Savanes and Vallée du Bandama regions
- While the situation in the west remains volatile, security has somewhat improved thanks to the deployment of mixed police units
- Banditry is quite common especially on road axes around Bangolo and in northwestern Côte d'Ivoire
- Reasons for insecurity in the north include the absence of national law enforcement agencies and a functioning judicial system

UN Security Council, 2 January 2008, paras. 4-5

"In the western part of the country, which remains the most volatile, the security situation improved somewhat during the reporting period as the Ivorian mixed police units continued to maintain law and order, with the support of United Nations police officers, in particular in the former zone of confidence. However, logistical and financial constraints continued to impede the operations of the mixed police units. The mixed unit deployed in Bangolo blocked the Bangolo-Duékoué axis on 14 and 17 November to protest against poor conditions of service. The incident remained localized and was expeditiously resolved by the integrated command centre.

As the disarmament and dismantling of militias stalled, disgruntled militia groups made increasingly belligerent demands for safety net packages and food allowances. In Bouaké on 18 December some 120 disgruntled elements of the Forces nouvelles, who were protesting against the non-payment of their allowances, hijacked private vehicles and attacked several stores in the city. However, the incident was quickly resolved by the leadership of the Forces nouvelles."

IRIN, 10 December 2007

"The head of the ex-rebel group 'Forces Nouvelles' in northwestern Côte d'Ivoire has banned driving after 6pm as a measure "to fully ensure" people's security in the region, where often-deadly road attacks have become an almost daily occurrence.

'Forces Nouvelles' commander in the regional capital Odienné, Ousmane Coulibaly, told IRIN on 10 December: "The decision has been made for reasons of security".

Attacks by Kalashnikov-wielding, masked men [have become increasingly common in many areas of Côte d'Ivoire](#), particularly in the northwest and west, in the past several months."

UN Security Council, 1 October 2007, paras. 5-6

"[T]he security situation in the volatile west of the country continues to improve, as the Ivorian mixed police units began their operations with support from United Nations police officers. The units provided security support for national school examinations, which were conducted throughout the country for the first time since the crisis began in 2003. The unit deployed at Zéalé conducted regular patrols of villages bordering Liberia to monitor the security situation.

The north of the country, which remains under control of the Forces nouvelles commanders, grew increasingly insecure owing to the continued absence of the national law enforcement agencies and a functioning justice system. Forces nouvelles elements do not receive regular salaries and continue to resort to extortion for their livelihood. Armed robberies have also been reported along the main highways. Meanwhile, the status of some 600 police auxiliaries, who were trained by United Nations police to maintain law and order in the north, is still undefined. According to the Ouagadougou Agreement, the 600 police auxiliaries from the Forces nouvelles are expected to provide security for the redeployment of State officials to the north."

UN OCHA, 30 September 2007

"La situation sécuritaire s'est sensiblement améliorée dans la région des Savanes et particulièrement dans la ville de Korhogo. On note une relative accalmie sur les axes routiers qui avaient été identifiés comme « zones à risque ». Cette accalmie est consécutive aux nouvelles dispositions prises par le comité régional de gestion de la sécurité (RSMT) du système des Nations Unies en collaboration avec les autorités, la Police et La gendarmerie. Plusieurs cas de vol à mains armées et de braquage routier ont été enregistrés ces derniers mois à Korhogo et certains axes routiers principaux de la région. Des patrouilles renforcées avec la police de l'ONUCI entre 23 heures et 6 heures du matin ont contribué à cette amélioration des conditions sécuritaires."

UN OCHA, 16 September 2007

"La recrudescence de la criminalité à Korhogo préoccupe la communauté humanitaire. Le point a été vivement débattu au cours d'une réunion SMT [*Security Management Team*] du 10 septembre 2007 à Korhogo. Il a été constaté que les malfrats opèrent généralement la nuit avec les armes de guerre, profitant souvent de la pluie. Les attaques sont pour la plupart ciblées et visent des personnes en possession d'argent et d'autres biens de valeur."

UN OCHA, 6 September 2007

"Le 28 août 2007, le HCR, OCHA et l'IRC ont effectué une mission de suivi dans le Zou. Il ressort de cette mission que les incidents sécuritaires deviennent fréquents sur l'axe Tié Iné – Diourouzon – Géhiébly (sud-ouest de Bangolo). Il a été signalé des braquages perpétrés par des hommes armés masqués qui opèrent régulièrement sur cet axe. On rappelle que le 3 août 2007, un enfant a été touché au ventre par balle et transporté en urgence à l'hôpital. Le 5 août 2007, un homme a été tué. Les cas de cambriolage à domicile sont aussi signalés dans les villages, ciblant particulièrement le petit commerce ainsi que les écoles. La gendarmerie de Bangolo affirme avoir interpellé 32 malfaiteurs dans la seule semaine du 20 au 28 août 2007.

[...]

Face à la recrudescence du banditisme, les informations font état de ce que les autorités FN auraient fait appel aux Dozos (chasseurs traditionnels armés) pour renforcer la sécurité dans les artères de la ville de Korhogo. Des dispositions auraient été prises quant à la rémunération des Dozos, impayées depuis plusieurs mois et dont le travail relativement sécurisé la ville et ses environs."

UN OCHA, 26 August 2007

"Par ailleurs, le phénomène de coupeurs de route a refait surface sur l'axe Korhogo- Boundiali. Le 22 août 2007, une voiture taxi a été attaquée vers 9 heures du matin près du village Katégué (30 kms de Korhogo). Les sept passagers seraient des commerçants qui se rendaient au marché dans le village Tangafla ont été dépouillées de tous leurs biens et objets de valeur.

Dans la plupart des cas, les braqueurs se positionnent sur les parties les plus dégradées de la route (exemple de l'axe Ferké-Ouangolo) ou au niveau des ponts (sur l'axe de Boundiali), et profitent du ralentissement des véhicules. Face à cette montée du banditisme, la Police de l'ONUCI a multiplié ses patrouilles. Les Forces Armées des Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) à qui

incombe en premier lieu la sécurisation de la zone sous leur contrôle, auraient parallèlement renforcé leurs patrouilles aussi."

UN OCHA, 19 August 2007

"L'insécurité refait surface à Man où plusieurs cas de vols à domicile et braquages sont enregistrés. Notamment le cambriolage dans la nuit du 12 au 13 août 2007, de l'agence locale d'une maison de transfert des fonds. Certaines résidences privées auraient également cambriolé la même nuit par des hommes armés. Les soldes impayés pourraient être à l'origine de la multiplication des actes de banditisme dans la ville."

UN OCHA 30 July 2007

"Dans l'ensemble de la Région des Savanes, la semaine est restée une fois de plus marquée par des vols et cambriolages à domicile. Notamment les braquages intervenus successivement dans les nuits du 21 au 22 juillet et 24 au 25 juillet 2007 sur l'axe menant à Ferkessedougou et la zone de Niofoin. "

UN OCHA, 6 July 2007

"- A Bouaké, dans la Région de la Vallée du Bandama, l'insécurité a pris de l'ampleur. Les maisons de civiles sont constamment visitées les nuits par des cambrioleurs. En deux semaines, on enregistre 4 cas d'agression sur le staff de l'ONUCI.

- A Korhogo, dans la Région des Savanes, selon les Forces impartiales, les quartiers les plus concernés par l'insécurité sont le quartier 14, le quartier sinistré et le quartier Tchékélézo où les cas de vols à mains armées dans les domiciles sont fréquents. Par ailleurs, la zone de Paniha (15 à 17 kms de Ferké) on signale des cas vols fréquents de bétails. Des éleveurs ont vu leurs parcs entiers emportés.

- Dans la région du Moyen Cavally, selon OCHA/Duekoué, la principale inquiétude concerne le désarmement qui tarde à reprendre. Les milices détiennent encore les armes tant à Duékoué, Guiglo, Bloléquin et Toulepleu et même à Daloa où divers groupes de milices (Front pour la libération de Vavoua, Groupement de Résistance et de Libération du Centre Ouest, Mouvement Populaire pour la Libération du Grand Ouest) sont encore en alerte, surtout, avec l'attaque de l'avion du Premier Ministre Soro Guillaume, à Bouaké, le 29 juin 2007.

- Face à la montée de l'insécurité à Odiénné, dans la Région du Denguélé, les forces impartiales et les Forces Nouvelles ont décidé d'organiser des patrouilles mixtes sur les différents axes. Ainsi, dès le jeudi 28 juin 2007 au matin, les premières équipes mixtes ont commencé à parcourir les grands axes où l'on signale souvent des cas braquages."

Displaced women and girls are most vulnerable particularly to acts of sexual violence (August 2007)

- IDP population consists largely of West African immigrants, among whom women and girls remain most exposed to abuse, especially sexual violence
- Protection needs of these groups are great, but support is practically non-existent
- Displacement has fueled an increase in prostitution, sexual violence and sexual exploitation of women and children
- IDPs are discriminated against in various fields, which also impacts on the prospects of return/resettlement

Human Rights Watch, 2 August, 2007, pp. 51-52, 73, 83

"When French and UN troops began patrolling the buffer zone between northern rebels and government forces in the south, active fighting came to a halt, ushering in the political and military stalemate of 2004-2007. This period has often been characterized as the period of "no peace, no war." While abuses against civilians were more concentrated in the period of active hostilities, serious violations including massacres, extrajudicial executions, torture, harassment, pillaging, and intimidation have nevertheless continued to take place.

Human Rights Watch documented fewer cases of sexual abuse committed by the New Forces rebels during the period of 2004-2006 than was the case during the 2002-2003 war or ensuing periods of active combat. This improvement was also noted by civil society representatives and humanitarian workers active in rebel-held Côte d'Ivoire.

Absent more substantial data on patterns and prevalence, it is impossible to be sure why sexual and other attacks have decreased since 2004. However, local observers and civil society members attribute the decrease in sexual attacks first and foremost to the departure in 2003 of Liberian and Sierra Leonean fighters (who had been the most egregious perpetrators of sexual assaults against women and girls); second to the French peacekeepers' impact while controlling a buffer zone known as the "Zone of Confidence" and conducting regular patrols into rebel territory; third to the arrival of ONUCI troops who also conduct regular patrols in rebel-held areas; and fourth to an effort on the part of rebel leadership to address the problem. For example, after the UN-imposed sanctions on rebel commander Martin Kouakou Fofié for major human rights violations in February 2006, New Forces leader Guillaume Soro ordered a reduction in checkpoints, partly in recognition of the many incidents of human rights abuses at such locations.

[...]

Some cases of sexual violence against women originating from neighboring West African countries have taken place within the context of interethnic conflicts over land, particularly in the southwest. Indeed, southwestern Côte d'Ivoire remains beset by ethnic tensions and violence, characterized by armed gangs and militias attacking villages, destroying homes, schools, wells, and health centers, resulting in ongoing cycles of displacement. Killings, rapes, and a few massacres have continued up until the present, long past the end of active hostilities, and even within the Zone of Confidence.

[...]

The protracted nature of the Ivorian political-military crisis has appeared to increase girls' and women's vulnerability to various forms of sexual violence and exploitation including non-conflict-related rape, prostitution of children, sexual abuse by teachers, forced and early marriage, and domestic violence. Many women and girls described being driven to commercial sex work or locked into abusive relationships as a result of the increased poverty caused by the conflict.

Rates of rape where perpetrators are unknown and appear to be civilians or simply armed men without overt government or rebel affiliation are reportedly high. Many cases of sexual assault and exploitation appear to have been facilitated by the breakdown of the legal system, proliferation of arms, and general climate of impunity.

Displacement and poverty caused by the conflict have fueled a major increase in prostitution, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse of women and children in Côte d'Ivoire. The war is estimated to have displaced an estimated 1.7 million people within the country and additional hundreds of thousands abroad, often splitting up families, undermining the networks that traditionally protect them and leaving women or children to deal alone with responsibility for managing household finances and supporting children. Internally displaced persons appeared to be particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse."

Amnesty International, 15 March 2007, para. 3.1

“Although accurate statistics are difficult to obtain, it is estimated that hundreds, possibly thousands of women were victims of sexual violence as a result of the armed conflict. Large movements of IDPs and refugees fleeing the conflict have resulted in increased vulnerability for IDP and refugee women, particularly Liberian women, in Côte d’Ivoire. Recent information gathered by Amnesty International shows that women continue to suffer sexual assault committed with complete impunity by members of the security forces as well as by members of armed opposition groups. Civilians and militia members benefiting either from the political backing of government authorities in the south, or from the support of the New Forces in the territory under their control, also commit sexual violence against women with total impunity.”

UN, 17 December 2004

“Throughout the country, in the Government and FN-controlled zone as well as the Zone of confidence, inadequate prosecution of human rights violations, cases of arbitrary arrests, recruitment of refugees and children, detentions, tortures, rapes, disappearances, and destruction of property continue to be reported.

Both sides of the conflict have breached international humanitarian law. Humanitarian actors have been harassed, have vehicles searched and confiscated and it has been reported that Liberian refugees and children have been targeted for recruitment as soldiers.

In the South, the recent events confirmed the vulnerability of certain communities and the lack of state protection and security available to them. People and communities identified as the most vulnerable and exposed to acts of violence include non-African foreigners (particularly French), urban refugees, Ivorians living in poorer neighbourhoods, other West-African nationals living in poorer areas (Burkinabe, Malian, Senegalese, Beninoise etc.) and youths aged 13-18. Within these groups women and girls remain the most exposed, particularly to sexual violence. For these groups of people there is little physical or moral security and limited access to judicial support. Psychosocial assistance is practically non-existent for those who have suffered traumatic experiences. ‘These communities form the largest part of the IDP population which, due to their displacement status, face specific protection needs which have to be addressed. These needs are linked to the root causes of displacement where groups have been targeted specifically because of their membership to the above communities. As a result they continue to be discriminated against in various fields which also will influence the return / resettlement of the displaced. The discrimination issue has to be included in the peace process and also followed up in responding to the protection needs of the displaced.’

The state-controlled media has also played a key role in mobilising the violence of the 4-12 November, spreading discriminatory, xenophobic and hateful messages and encouraging the pro-Gbagbo supporters to take to the streets. The coverage was entirely partial as all the opposition newspapers were silenced by vandalism and/or death threats and the international radio stations were pulled off the air.

Many children have been directly affected and traumatised by the situation. A number of children were mobilised to participate in street demonstrations and have therefore been directly subjected to violence, aggression, and psychosocial trauma. Four French schools in Abidjan were burnt down and other schools throughout the South remained closed for several days.”

Protection concerns for children include sexual violence and loss of life because of inter-community tensions (August 2007)

- Sexual violence against children remains the most serious concern
- There have been no reports of direct involvement of children with the armed forces as of September 2007

- Reintegration activities of child-soldiers have been successful thanks to the provision of medical assistance, educational support and assistance in reintegrating into their families
- The culture of impunity for cases of sexual violence against children as well as the breakdown of law and order constitute the major obstacles for the enjoyment of children's rights
- Particularly concerned by the absence of the administration in the areas covered by the Forces Nouvelles in the west is birth registration
- Child protection committees have been created in all the villages in the west targeted by NGOs' activities with the aim of promoting a participatory approach
- There has been an increase in the number of street children and those aged between 9 and 14 years are particularly vulnerable

UN OCHA/EU-Cote d'Ivoire, September 2007, pp. 134-135

"2.3.1 Activités

Les activités de réinsertion des enfants ciblent les enfants ex-associés aux groupes armés. Les belligérants FN et FDS ont signé un protocole de remise des enfants. Selon les ONG, les activités d'identification ont permis de retirer tous les enfants de l'influence des groupes armés. L'estimation se monterait à 4.000 enfants, sans pouvoir être vérifiée.

Le traitement de ces enfants se profile de la manière suivante :

- identification et profilage,
- assistance médicale,
- assistance en vêtements,
- assistance à la réintégration des enfants dans les familles,
- éducation et formation aux métiers chez des maîtres artisans,
- appui à l'éducation informelle au travers de la création de Centres Sociaux d'Education (CSE) ou d'appui aux ONG (PAHO, Sœurs catholiques, ODAFEM). Ces centres apportent aux enfants qui ne peuvent pas aller à l'école, une formation aux métiers en couture, coiffure, menuiserie, etc.
- des activités d'appui au retour à l'école au travers des écoles passerelles ont été appliquées aux enfants capables d'aller à l'école ; la réintégration scolaire a été facilitée et accompagnée de fourniture de kits fournis aux maîtres et aux enfants. Ces activités délivrées dans les Centres ont été étendues aux enfants vulnérables et orphelins dans le soutien apporté aux OEV.

L'exemple type de traitement appliqué aux enfants est le protocole UNICEF suivi par l'ONG ODAFEM qui a pris en charge 178 enfants dont 103 auto démobilisés et 75 vulnérables (58 filles). ODAFEM a ouvert deux Centres de Transit et d'Orientation (Zéré, Man) pouvant accueillir 100 enfants chacun. Les enfants sont reçus en pension complète pendant trois mois afin de les stabiliser. Le CTO définit pour chacun un objectif de vie et délivre des activités d'écoute. Ils sont ensuite placés en famille d'accueil avec un soutien en vivres du PAM et un suivi. Le centre procède à la mise en apprentissage de l'enfant auprès d'un artisan payé à 50.000 FCFA par enfant pris en charge.

Des activités de lutte contre la traite des enfants le long des frontières libériennes ont été menées par Save The Children-UK afin de décourager l'exploitation des enfants dans les mines et les plantations.

2.3.2 Activités de déclaration des naissances

L'UNICEF a conduit avec les ONG partenaires une action vigoureuse de sensibilisation des familles et des communautés à la déclaration des naissances. Ces initiatives ont butté contre une très faible réception. Dans les Zones FN, l'absence de toute administration a été un facteur

limitant. Mais là où elle existe, dans le Moyen-Cavally, l'éloignement des campements, les procédures pour parvenir à l'extrait de naissances ne motivent pas les populations.

2.3.3 Participation communautaire et création de comité de protection de l'enfant

Les méthodes d'intervention des ONG en matière de protection des enfants sont toutes fondées sur la participation communautaire dans les zones choisies en fonction de l'urgence du traitement des cibles. Dans chacun des villages, les programmes créent des Comités de Protection de l'Enfant. Ces comités sont installés sur incitation des ONG par les populations qui en choisissent les membres. Leur fonction est la sensibilisation et le traitement des cas :

- sensibilisation des familles sur l'intérêt à scolariser les enfants surtout les filles,
- sensibilisation des populations à l'ensemble du processus de la réunification familiale (identification, documentation, tracing, actes de naissance etc.)

2.3.4 Résultats acquis des projets de protection des enfants

Dans la région, il n'existe plus d'enfants ex-associés aux forces et groupes armés selon les ONG. La plupart des réunifications familiales ont été réalisées.

Les appels à la scolarisation et les appuis ont permis d'envoyer davantage d'enfants à l'école, en particulier les filles. Le PAM va renforcer cette action en offrant une ration supplémentaire aux familles ayant ou voulant scolariser leurs filles.

2.3.5 Limites des activités

Suspension des déclarations des naissances: la suspension des déclarations s'explique par l'apathie des populations mais aussi par les distances et les lourdeurs procéduriales administratives.

L'insuffisance de traitement des OEV/VIH et des handicapés: la rareté des centres spécialisés et le manque de moyens réduisent les capacités d'accueil des OEV et des handicapés. CARITAS / DASU fait état de la faiblesse des soutiens qui lui sont apportés dans la gestion de ses services pour les enfants vulnérables.

Le déficit de protection des jeunes filles: Le personnel de l'enseignement secondaire observe de plus en plus un déficit de protection des élèves et surtout des jeunes filles-mères. La précarité de leur condition de vie en accueil dans les villes (manque de nourriture et de tuteurs) semble en être la cause.

L'insuffisance des activités de lutte contre l'exploitation des enfants : l'enclavement de nombreuses parties de l'Ouest ne facilite pas la lutte contre la traite des enfants. Les activités dans ce domaine sont encore peu développées par les ONG.

L'absence de réponses aux problèmes de montée des enfants des rues : Il existe un grand risque de marginalisation des enfants de 9 -14 ans. Les ONG rencontrent des difficultés de traitement de cette catégorie que la législation ne permet pas de faire travailler mais dont le profil ne permet pas non plus d'aller à l'école. Les effectifs de cette catégorie d'enfants ne sont pas connus mais sont de plus en plus visibles en ville."

UN Security Council, 30 August 2007, paras.8, 11-13, 15

"During the reporting period there was an upsurge in the number of reported cases of rape, while reported killings and abductions have declined in number. There were no confirmed reports of attacks against schools or hospitals nor of any denial of humanitarian access to children by armed groups. Crimes committed against children, particularly rape, killings and abduction, are generally perpetrated by civilian criminals, who may include uncontrolled elements of the armed groups taking advantage of the insecure environment and the lack of law and order. There have

been no confirmed reports of violations committed by armed forces and groups cited in my last report.

[...]

During the reporting period, there was no substantiated evidence of the active recruitment and use of children by armed groups. The regular dialogue with parties to the conflict and the progressive stabilization of the political and military situation have led to a steady decrease in the association of children with armed forces and groups. It should also be noted that the United Nations has been able to monitor and verify compliance with action plan commitments on a regular basis.

[...]

Although the majority of the most serious incidents of sexual violence occurred during the clashes of 2002 and 2004, rape and other grave sexual violence against children, especially girls, take place with alarming frequency. These violations happen throughout the country.

Despite the recommendations addressed to the Government and the Forces nouvelles to ensure the rigorous and timely investigation of such incidents and the prosecution of perpetrators contained in my previous report, greater commitment and efforts are still required to redress the culture of impunity for such crimes. In areas under the control of the Forces nouvelles, where the administration of justice system has not been functioning since 2002, no rape cases have been prosecuted. Meanwhile, in Government-controlled areas only a few of the cases reported to the police reach the courts, primarily because of the lack of timely and thorough investigation. Furthermore, the lack of awareness of their own rights, fears of social stigmatization and discrimination and of reprisals by perpetrators often discourage the victims and their families from pursuing cases.

[...]

While there has been a decline in reported cases of killings, children continue to lose their lives as a direct consequence of the environment of high insecurity and the breakdown of law and order and of institutions. The most immediate threat to the lives of children remains inter-community tensions and violence, with children often caught up in clashes at this level. Many of the killings are not investigated and the perpetrators are rarely identified. The killings are also often associated with other violations such as rape. "

Impunity continues to be major factor in worsening human rights situation (November 2006)

- Violations of human rights increase as the administrative and judiciary authorities as well as the police are not present or operational in most of the country
- The roundtable on the "Protection of Civilians in Côte d'Ivoire" identified the stalemate of the DDR process as a risk for the protection of civilians in the north, an atmosphere of impunity in the west and the lack of an independent judiciary in the south
- Both government forces, their allied militia and rebel forces are continuing to commit serious abuses against civilians with impunity, increasing the likelihood of pre-election violence
- HRW recommends prompt publication of key UN inquiry into human rights violations committed since 2002, as well as an investigatory mission by the International Criminal Court
- The UN similarly warns of the problem of impunity as a factor in the worsening human rights situation across Cote d'Ivoire

United Nations, 30 November 2006, pp. 37-38; pp.61-62

"An increasing number of cases of violations of human rights and humanitarian law and of crime rates, including Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), inter and intra-ethnic violence and the requisition of child soldiers and of children associated with armed forces as well as some

20,000 newly displaced persons and the murder of more than 50 persons during the first half of the year in the West and in the Zone of Confidence, highlight the fact that the administrative, police and judiciary authorities are not present in most of the country and/or are not operational. There is also a climate of impunity, in which these acts of violence and violations go unpunished.

[...]

Following the Protection of Civilians roundtable in New York, OCHA organised in Abidjan a roundtable on “Protection of Civilians in Côte d’Ivoire”, from 12 to 13 October 2006. Approximately 80 representatives from the Government – including a representative of the FN - UNOCI, UN Agencies, international humanitarian organisations, ICRC and civil society participated in the workshop.

There was a consensus amongst participants on the fact that the stalemate in the peace process is deepening the protection crisis in Côte d’Ivoire and that protection concerns vary according to the different zones in the country, the north, the Zone of Confidence and the south. The western region seems to be most affected by the large presence of militia, the large number of violations of human rights, humanitarian law and crime in an atmosphere of impunity and ongoing internal displacement. The security challenges in the zone of confidence were discussed in depth and various recommendations made on how to respond. The main threats to civilians in the north were related to the absence of the public administration and limited access to basic social services and public utilities (education, health, safe drinking water). In addition, the stalemate of the DDR process was considered a further risk for the protection of civilians, given the large scale of forces to be demobilised and reintegrated (approximately 30,000). As for the south, participants identified the lack of an efficient and politically independent judiciary as an obstacle to the effective protection of civilian populations. Key final recommendations were to:

- Have more effective coordination among all stakeholders and to develop a policy framework for the protection of civilians in specific sectors and geographic areas;
- Improve the regular exchange of security information between the impartial forces and other stakeholders, particularly at field level, and to suggest comprehensive measures to strengthen the security situation particularly in the Zone of Confidence and in its neighbouring areas.”

[...]

The issue of protection and social cohesion is marked by the increasing number of human rights violations and IDPs, social and cultural fracture in a context of impunity.

- The socio-political and security context prevailing in the West, as illustrated by the multiple uncontrolled manifestations, often affecting the life of the populations, and this in total impunity. This climate may further deteriorate at the end of October, with the pending issues concerning the elections, identification and mobile courts (which have been opposed by the patriots and militia in the Moyen Cavally);
- The problem of displaced persons confronted with difficulties of survival and integration;
- Aggravation of the vulnerability of the population, especially of women and young populations exposed to all the dangers (prostitution, AIDS, rape, drogue, enrolment, etc.). Concerning the protection of children and girls, the situation, according to the Sainte Gemma nuns, is highly worrying in the Bas Sassandra. Several young girls are pregnant, raped and sexually abused in families. They are mostly from the villages. Those who are pregnant are particularly found in the “Sans lois” popular district of Sassandra. This situation is due to lack of accommodation, tutors and reception structures for school children from villages, who often sleep five to ten in one room, thus creating visible promiscuity;
- The land issue, regularly a source of inter-ethnic conflicts and killings/injuries, followed by reprisals and population movements. In this regard, in Tabou, there are major risks to be feared by the month of November 2006, the period set for the end of the banishment of the Burkinabé community expelled from Tabou and surrounding villages since 1999, following a land dispute

that resulted in the death of a native. This issue is still of concern for the authorities of Tabou, who are relying on the meetings and discussions being held for several months by the National Association for Peace and civil servants from the department as well as traditional chiefs.”

UN Human Rights Council, 18 October 2006, paras. 22, 47

“There have been reports of violations of the right to life and physical integrity, particularly in the form of torture and ill-treatment, in the area under the control of the Forces Nouvelles. The UNOCI report refers to a fall in the number of arrests for infiltration during this period, but notes the resurgence of inter-community conflicts and an increase in the number of rapes of minors and forced marriages.

[...]

The Representative of the Secretary-General is also concerned about the persistence of problems related to the physical protection of displaced persons, particularly in the regions in the west and south of Côte d’Ivoire. Throughout the crisis, in fact, displaced persons who have had to flee their regions of origin for, basically, security reasons have been the victims of serious human rights violations committed both by the defence and security forces and by rebel or youth groups, who often go unpunished. According to the information received by the Representative of the Secretary-General, displaced persons continue to be the victims of numerous violations, and cases of targeted assassination, torture and sexual abuse have also been reported. There have also been reports of atrocities during the coffee and cocoa harvest. It is alleged that displaced persons are frequently the victims of extortion and racketeering.”

Human Rights Watch, 25 May 2006

“Government forces in Côte d’Ivoire, their allied militias and New Forces rebels alike are committing serious abuses against civilians with impunity...These abuses and the impunity that fuels them raise serious concerns about the potential for violence in the run-up to the October elections.

[...]

Human Rights Watch found that members of the government security forces continue to prey on civilians by extorting, robbing and, at times, beating those they are entrusted to protect. These abuses typically take place under the guise of routine security checks during which police and gendarmes inspect the identity papers of individuals they stop at road blocks, in markets or other public places. Nationals of neighboring states and Ivorians from the north of the country are particularly signaled out for abuse, on the basis of suspicions that they support the northern rebels. Individuals from these groups are targeted and frequently subjected to arbitrary arrests, beatings, torture and sometimes murder, particularly during episodes of heightened political tension.

In the northern part of Cote d’Ivoire, Human Rights Watch found that New Forces rebels routinely extort money from civilians through threats, intimidation or outright force. In the zone administered by the New Forces, citizens accused of common crimes are sometimes subject to arbitrary arrest by rebel-administered police officers, and the imposition of custodial “sentences” of questionable legal authority continue to occur with no independent judicial or executive checks.

The report notes how neither the Ivorian authorities, the leadership of the rebel New Forces, nor the international community has taken meaningful steps to bring to justice those responsible for serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in Côte d’Ivoire. Unless measures are taken now to combat impunity, a repeat of the violence experienced during the 2000 presidential and parliamentary elections could occur. In 2000, political, ethnic and religious

violence in the run-up to the elections resulted in the deaths of more than 200 people and injuries to hundreds more.

Human Rights Watch recommended that the U.N. Security Council authorize wider application of travel and economic sanctions against individuals identified as responsible for serious human rights abuses. The organization said the council should promptly publish and discuss the recommendations of a U.N. Commission of Inquiry's report into human rights violations committed since 2002 – a report that has not yet been made public, even though it was submitted to the Security Council in December 2004.

[...]

The International Criminal Court should promptly dispatch a mission to Côte d'Ivoire to investigate government and rebel forces accused of serious crimes. The report also calls on the government of Côte d'Ivoire and the New Forces to investigate and punish, in accordance with international standards, crimes committed in their area of effective control, including extrajudicial execution, torture, and the harassment and extortion of civilians."

UN Security Council, 11 April 2006, paras. 55-57

"Serious human rights violations continue to be committed in Côte d'Ivoire, mainly by elements of the Defence and Security Forces in the Government-controlled south, elements of the Forces nouvelles in the northern zone under their control, and militias on both sides of the Ivorian conflict. As in the past, human rights violations documented by UNOCI include summary executions, disappearances and death threats, rape and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, torture, and inhuman and degrading treatment, as well as interference with freedom of expression, freedom of movement and freedom of association.

Impunity continues to be a major contributing factor to the worsening human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire. Repeated appeals by UNOCI and other international actors to civilian and military authorities to institute criminal proceedings against elements of the Defence and Security Forces in the south, and of the Forces nouvelles in the north, who have committed serious human rights violations, have remained unheeded. The imposition of sanctions by the Security Council early in February against a commanding officer of the Forces nouvelles for human rights violations is a welcome signal to military and civilian leaders on both sides of the Ivorian crisis that they will henceforth be held personally accountable for serious human rights violations.

UNOCI continued to implement its human rights promotion programme, with funding from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In a pilot phase, for which a grant of \$25,000 was received, human rights training was conducted for a total of 250 representatives of Government departments, judicial services, local administrations and civil society organizations in Abidjan, Bouaké and Yamoussoukro. Within the same programme, human rights awareness-raising materials, including posters, pamphlets and T-shirts, were produced and distributed to more than 50,000 people in target communities. The Operation is also establishing a field presence in Bouna, Korhogo and Odienné, bringing to eight the number of UNOCI human rights regional offices in the country."

See also:

IRIN, COTE D'IVOIRE: "Hostages in our own land", 22 March 2007

Human Rights Watch, "Côte d'Ivoire: the Human Rights Cost of the Political Impasse", 21 December 2005

Both government forces and rebels have committed war crimes, reports Human Rights Watch (2003)

- The war has produced numerous abuses against civilians
- Armed groups have targeted civilians, as looting has been their primary objective
- HRW has documented executions, sexual violence, and forced labor at the hands of both government and rebels in the west of Côte d'Ivoire

Human Rights Watch, 20 June 2003

"The eight-month-old war in the Côte d'Ivoire has revealed deep divisions in Ivorian society and produced numerous serious abuses against civilians, some of which amount to war crimes.

Western Côte d'Ivoire has been the site of a virtual proxy war by Liberian forces, demonstrating the easy spillover potential of the Liberian conflict. As was the pattern by all sides in Liberia, armed groups have targeted civilians for abuse, and looting has been a primary objective.

Human Rights Watch has documented widespread abuses by both government and rebel-allied fighters in the west. Executions, sexual violence, forced labor and systematic looting of property have been commonplace, abuses that echo the treatment of civilians in Liberia.

The recent ceasefire in the west, and the formation of the government of reconciliation, are steps in the right direction, but the Ivorian peace process remains extremely fragile.

There is an urgent need for the parties to the conflict, the United Nations and member states to reinforce these positive steps with further concrete action, both within Côte d'Ivoire and in neighboring Liberia. Parts of the country, particularly along the Liberian border, remain volatile, demonstrating the degree to which the Liberian and Ivorian conflicts are interlinked.

Impunity-both past and present, Ivorian and regional-remains a key concern that must be addressed if a stable Côte d'Ivoire is to emerge from the past months of conflict. Efforts must be made to bridge the social divisions created by years of manipulation of ethnic and political tensions.

Abuses committed by the government and government-allied forces include: reprisal killings by state security forces based on the ethnic, national, religious or political affiliations of individuals; indiscriminate attacks on civilians by helicopter gunships; killings, rapes, and other acts of violence against civilians committed by Liberians recruited by the Ivorian government in refugee camps and from the Liberian MODEL rebel group; and attacks on northern Ivorians and immigrant civilians by civilian militias encouraged by and sometimes working in complicity with government in and around Duékoué, Daloa, Toulepleu and Tabou.

Abuses by the "Forces Nouvelles"¹ rebel groups and allied Liberian fighters include: summary executions of dozens of government officials, suspected government sympathizers and members of civilian militias by Ivorian rebel troops; systematic looting, summary executions and other acts of violence against civilians by Liberian fighters allied to the MPIGO rebel group; and sexual violence against girls and women in the west, including rape and sexual slavery.

Refugees and immigrants have been particular targets in the Ivorian war. Liberian refugees, including children, have been subjected to forced recruitment and violence by state authorities and local communities in western Côte d'Ivoire.

Immigrants, particularly Burkinabé, continue to suffer from widespread attacks that have in many instances been encouraged or tolerated by authorities. Efforts to relocate the refugee population and ensure protection for the immigrant population must be implemented without further delay."

Freedom of movement

Roadblocks continue to hinder free movement of people and goods (January 2008)

- Militia barricades on the Guiglo-Bloléquin axis prevented the return of some 900 IDPs in February 2007
- Displaced persons without identity papers are particularly limited in their freedom of movement
- Roadblocks in both government and rebel-held areas continue to impede freedom of movement, limit the provision of basic supplies to the north, and ultimately contribute to the economic downturn of the country

UN Security Council, 2 January 2008, para. 45

"While no deterioration in the human rights situation was observed during the reporting period, the mission continued to receive regular reports of abuses inflicted on civilians by defence and security forces and elements of the Forces nouvelles, including intimidation, arbitrary arrest and detention, and racketeering at checkpoints. Moreover, a surge in crime in urban areas and along highways undermined the right of civilians to security and freedom of movement."

Refugees International, 31 January 2007

"Numerous security and identity checkpoints subject the population not only to physical risks but also to lost income and work opportunities. Detained individuals experience endless delays, constant harassment, and extortion from armed elements on both sides, who frequently confiscate or destroy papers, seize goods, arrest travelers, or physically abuse and even rape vulnerable travelers. A person might be pressed to give between \$1-10 (of a \$30 monthly income) to regain freedom of movement. Human rights workers told RI, "Checkpoints are places where women are set aside and sexually assaulted. The bus leaves and they are alone. This is a hidden problem, but is increasing."

IRIN, 2 August 2007

"The economic damage [of these roadblocks] is bad enough," Ivorian Chamber of Commerce President Jean-Louis Billon told IRIN from the commercial capital, Abidjan. "But the most revolting part of this is the human rights violations. There are invasive body searches, including of women. We heard of cases of rape." He added: "And this, from those the citizens should be able to count on for security."

[...]

Koffi, who lives in the northwestern town of Odienne, recently travelled to his home town in central Côte d'Ivoire for his father's funeral. It was his first time making the trip from rebel-held to government territory since before the conflict. "It's the height of humiliation," he said. "The way these officers shake us down for money and abuse people – and it's all done as if it's completely normal. Nothing is hidden."

He spent 7,000 CFA francs (about US\$15) just on bribes at roadblocks – at least several days' work driving his taxi in Odienne. "These days, I could even go a week without making that." At one point he was running out of money and he pleaded with a gendarme. "I told him, 'Please –

I'm travelling to my home village for my Dad's burial.' The gendarme shrugged and said, 'I don't give a damn.' All he cared about was getting money from me."

[...]

Many say the hateful and pitiless behaviour on the part of those manning roadblocks mirrors the very kinds of social division and abuse that were integral to the causes of Côte d'Ivoire's rebellion. One factor that gave rise to the rebellion was northerners' exasperation over what they called blatant discrimination and abuse on the part of government security forces. At roadblocks people with names from northern ethnic groups would be singled out and made to pay bribes.

[...]

Social cohesion aside, the racket on Côte d'Ivoire's roads continues to batter families economically.

The extra tariffs hauliers must pay on the roads force up the prices of goods. "Five years ago, three yams [a staple in Côte d'Ivoire] cost between 300 and 500 CFA francs (\$US0.62 to 1.04). Today, they cost about double that," said Aly Cisse, who sells yams in a Bouake market. The price of most items in the market has gone up by 30 to 50 percent, he said.

[...]

Officials with the government and former rebel forces say things are getting better. "This racketeering is certainly a reality," military prosecutor Ange Kessi Kouame told IRIN. "But we're committed to fighting this." He said things are starting to improve, and added: "Especially since it ruins the economy, we must fight this to the end."

Commander Losseni Fofana of the former rebel New Forces said his forces provided passes for vehicles to travel throughout the north. At the road barriers, he said, "there are formalities to take care of". He added: "If this racket still exists, these are isolated acts that we will fight." "

UN Security Council, 8 March 2007, para. 35

"The situation has deteriorated in recent weeks, as increased banditry and militia activities have severely hampered humanitarian operations in the western part of the country. Since 26 February [2007], militia elements of the Front de liberation du grand-ouest have erected barricades on the Guiglo-Bloléquin axis and prevented vehicular traffic in the area. This obstruction to freedom of movement disrupted the repatriation of Liberian refugees from Toulepleu, which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had scheduled for 27 February. On the same day, the International Organization for Migration was forced to suspend the return of some 900 internally displaced persons from Toulepleu to 14 villages around Péhé. These incidents were brought to the attention of the Minister for Territorial Administration and to that of the local administrative authorities in Guiglo."

UN Human Rights Council, 18 October 2006, para. 44

"Infringements of the freedom of movement have also been reported to the Representative of the Secretary-General. Roadblocks are common, and displaced persons without identity papers are particularly susceptible to harassment and racketeering when they reach one. As a result, people facing serious economic difficulties cannot always afford to move around."

Removal of buffer zone to facilitate freedom of movement (2007)

Agence France Presse, 11 April 2007

"The removal of the buffer zone will allow Ivorians to freely move between the two parts of the country and be subjected to fewer controls than before.

"All the practical modalities will depend also on the Ivorians. Others would like it to go fast, but others are worried to see the international forces pulling out quickly," said a European military source. "

UN 'peace corridors' to promote freedom of movement (2004)

- UN 'peace corridors' aim to allow families separated by fighting to travel between government-controlled and rebel-held areas

UN News, 9 September 2004

"The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) today announced plans to set up 'peace corridors' in a bid to promote freedom of movement in the strife-torn West African country.

As the parties work to reunify the divided country by implementing the Accra III agreement reached in late July, the UN mission is helping those displaced by the conflict which began in 2002. The corridors will serve to allow families separated by the fighting to travel between areas controlled by the Government and those controlled by the rebel Force Nouvelles.

ONUCI says the travel should provide hope to the war's victims that peace is returning to Côte d'Ivoire."

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS

General

Difficult living conditions in the west lead to IDPs' feeling of abandonment (November 2006)

United Nations, 30 November 2006, p. 55

"A critical issue is addressing the protection of displaced persons in the West of Côte d'Ivoire, pending the resolution of the crisis. Indeed from Sassandra to Tabou, Bangolo, Touleupleu through Duekoué, Guiglo, Bolequin and villages along the same route, the displaced are facing extremely difficult living conditions and feel abandoned. In the urban areas, where there is a high concentration of displaced persons, most of whom have no access to land, the major problems concern feeding, health, non-food products (cooking utensils, sleeping materials, etc.), shelter, education."

Huge presence of IDPs puts increasing strain on vulnerable host families (July 2006)

- Effects of ongoing displacement have seriously affected purchasing power of host families
- Water crisis remains of particular concern across the country

United Nations, 18 July 2006

"The need to address the devastating 'spill-over effects' of the massive presence of IDPs on vulnerable host families and on already fragile inter-ethnic relations is corroborated by a WFP needs assessment indicating that forced population displacements from conflict zones to more secure zones has led to a significant drop in the purchasing power of host families. Further, despite limited progress in some areas, the water crisis in the country remains a major problem. Côte d'Ivoire's utilities companies have supplied an estimated six million people in the north with free water and electricity resulting in the near halt of services and the collapse of infrastructure. In May 2006, Guiglo experienced power supply cuts for several days and its telephone communication network also collapsed. Concurrently, the telephone network of the entire region of Denguelé was out of service for two weeks contributing to nurture apprehension and increase social tensions. Similarly, the second biggest town in the country, Bouaké (about 600,000 inhabitants) remained without water supply for the whole month as a result of the breakdown of hydraulic pumps caused by lack of adequate maintenance. A grave humanitarian crisis was avoided thanks to the action of humanitarian agencies and organisations as well as ONUCI that supplied local health facilities, schools and public utility services with emergency water supplies and assisted in sanitising water sources. As a result also of persistent and concerted humanitarian advocacy, the hydraulic pumps were repaired at the beginning of June."

Summary of living conditions of IDPs and host families – new survey (March 2006)

- Living conditions differ between rural and urban areas
- In Abidjan and Yamoussoukro families have access to potable water while in rural areas the water quality is only mediocre
- Families almost equally access latrines in both urban and rural areas

ENSEA, March 2006*“Cadre de vie et équipements*

A l'opposé des ménages urbains qui comptent un cinquième de propriétaires, en milieu rural, deux ménages sur quatre le sont et vivent en majorité dans leurs propres maisons ou celles de leurs familles. En ce qui concerne le mode d'approvisionnement en eau, il existe une inégalité entre les milieux de résidence et les départements. En effet, les ménages urbains d'Abidjan et de Yamoussoukro ont un accès correct à l'eau potable avec environ quatre ménages ravitaillés sur cinq, alors que ceux de la zone rurale ont recours de façon générale à des sources d'eau de qualité médiocre. Au plan de l'éclairage, en milieu urbain, la quasi-totalité des ménages utilise l'électricité pour moins d'un ménage sur deux en milieu rural. En matière d'équipement, les postes radios sont plus fréquents dans les ménages ruraux (47%) qu'en milieu urbain (23,5%). Le téléphone est disponible dans 10% des ménages ruraux et le téléviseur dans 16%. Ces deux équipements se retrouvent beaucoup plus en ville. Concernant l'assainissement, dans l'ensemble, plus de quatre ménages sur dix utilisent des latrines situées dans leur cour, deux sur dix utilisent la nature comme lieu d'aisance, une proportion équivalente se sert de WC avec chasse d'eau et un sur dix, d'un WC sans chasse d'eau. En milieu rural les ménages font usage en majorité des latrines localisées dans leur concession (25,5%) ou dans la nature (26,6%).”

Displacement is major contributing factor to wide-ranging needs of children (March 2006)

- Child and infant mortality rates have seen a serious increase primarily due to collapse of the health care system and poor nutrition
- In early 2006, UNICEF estimated 40,000 children in Cote d'Ivoire were living with HIV/AIDS, a rate likely to increase
- Massive displacement has contributed to serious nutritional problems of children and women

UNICEF, 27 March 2006

“The health system, which was gravely disrupted due to the crisis, has been reactivated in 2005, but suffers from an insufficient return of qualified personnel. This situation, in combination with poor nutrition and disease monitoring and reduced routine EPI coverage, has contributed to a serious increase in child and infant mortality rates. A recent meningitis outbreak caused several deaths before UNICEF could respond with a vaccination campaign in the targeted area.

Access to safe drinking water is problematic due to a high number of broken water pumps and absence of public administration personnel in FN-controlled areas.

According to the latest estimates, 40,000 children in Côte d'Ivoire are currently living with HIV/AIDS, and as long as the crisis continues, this rate is likely to increase.

Loss of harvests, food reserves and the massive displacements of persons have seriously affected the nutritional status of children and women, leading to 11% of children in the Northern half suffering from wasting, and over 20% from stunting.

The Education sector has been seriously affected as well, with excess enrollment demands in government controlled areas and shortages of teachers and deterioration of school infrastructures in the FN-controlled areas. In addition, national exams have not been held in the latter for more than two years, but this situation is currently being addressed with some 93,000 children convened to take exams in the FN-controlled zones.

The lack of a functioning judicial system and state representatives in the North negatively affects the protection of children and women. Birth registration is problematic and girls have been exposed to all sorts of sexual abuse without having subsequent access to health or judicial assistance.”

Health

Cost recovery policies may hinder access to health care for IDPs (September 2007)

- The health sector is being affected by repeated strikes over pay scales
- At the same time, the government is looking into the introduction of a cost recovery policy that would prevent the poorest, including IDPs and returnees, from accessing health care
- In a study conducted in Bin-Houye and Zouan-Hounien districts, it appeared that free care had allowed a reduction in the mortality rate of a population presenting a high morbidity rate

IRIN, 7 September 2007

"The strike, which began on 5 September, is the second in two months as negotiations with the government over pay scale and other trade union grievances have failed.

In the earlier strike in August, hospitals provided some minimum services but this time round that is not the case. The medical trade union this time called for an "indefinite strike without minimum services", according to the union's secretary general, Amichia Magloire.

The Minister of Public Health and Hygiene, Remi Allah Kouadio, has appealed to the state doctors to retain minimum services for the population but they have refused.

This means that even people in urgent need are on their own. At a hospital in the Treichville neighbourhood of Abidjan, an ambulance carrying a patient was turned away on."

UN OCHA/EU-Cote d'Ivoire, September 2007, pp. 65-66

"La question relative aux coûts des prestations/médicaments proposés à une population appauvrie par la guerre est encore sujette à débats. D'un côté, il est considéré que les populations, en particulier les populations déplacées (retournées) n'ont pas les moyens de se soigner. De l'autre, le rétablissement de la politique de recouvrement des coûts n'autorise pas un retour en arrière à la gratuité des soins, d'autant que les coûts de médicaments génériques sont faibles et certains soins sont déjà gratuits. Néanmoins, des expériences de gratuité ciblée (femmes et enfants ou pathologies spécifiques comme le paludisme/VIH) ou de gratuité partielle (consultation payante/médicaments gratuits) et dégressive (1 à 2 mois) sont rendues possibles grâce à des donations en médicaments. Cette solution doit s'accompagner de mesures et moyens de contrôle de la gestion des donations en médicaments par les agents de santé, pour éviter qu'ils fassent payer les patients. Le contrôle de la tarification des actes de santé a été résolu dans certains cas, où les autorités préfectorales se sont directement impliquées dans le contrôle et la gestion des comités de santé."

IRIN, 24 August 2007

"The Ivorian health ministry is reviewing its policy of charging fees for health services, hearing recommendations from UN agencies, aid groups and other experts on potential changes to the 10-year-old system.

The effort comes as aid organisations are lobbying the government to provide free health care, at least to some at-risk groups.

The government is "evaluating the health cost recovery system, in place since 1996, to see what has worked and what has not," N'da K. Simeon, head of communications at the Ministry of Public Health and Hygiene, told IRIN. But he said the evaluation is not linked to a debate swirling in Côte

d'Ivoire over the merits of free access, saying it is simply time to take stock of a policy that has existed for more than a decade."

Médecins sans Frontières, 12 July 2007, p. 35

"We can extract the following messages from the results of this survey combined with the evidence from the literature referenced above. These should be the key points used in advocacy:

The population of the region is an extremely poor one both in absolute terms and compared to the rest of the country, and the population has not recovered economically from the effects of the conflict.

This population also carries a high burden of morbidity.

This survey provides clear evidence that currently, providing free access to health care has ensured good access to services for this otherwise very vulnerable population.

Introduction of cost recovery will negatively impact on this population's capacity to access health care, and therefore risks reversing the reductions seen in mortality in this survey.

The socio-economic analysis also demonstrates that only a very small proportion of the population would be able to participate in a cost-recovery system. This has serious implications for the sustainability of a cost recovery system based on exemptions for those unable to pay. The great majority of the population will be exempted and therefore the fees will not provide adequate returns to make the health care system self-funding or sustainable."

IDPs with HIV face particular difficulties (April 2007)

- ARV adherence is more difficult among IDPs with HIV because of their mobility
- IDP's vulnerability to HIV has been aggravated by the war as IDP women and girls are more vulnerable to sexual violence
- IDPs with HIV have less access to services because of their impoverishment due to displacement and marginalisation

UNHCR, 25 April 2007, p.7

"They found increased vulnerability to HIV due to impoverishment, increased unemployment, family fragmentation and disruption of social networks, and dependence. The assessment also found that there was an increase risk of HIV due to increases in sexual trading for financial support, sexual exploitation, early sexual relations and unsafe sex (documented by a growth in the number of child mothers). Additionally, only minimal health services were available at most sites, since the many of the health workers had gone to Abidjan to work.

Key vulnerability and risk factors and corresponding recommendations were highlighted during the presentation, including the need to develop a strategy to ensure social and economic independence among IDPs, targeted HIV prevention for children and increased prevention interventions for students, improved quality and dissemination of information on HIV, increased availability of condoms, improved voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) access, quality, confidentiality and referral, and ensured access to treatment, care and support for PLWHs. Dr. Diabate stated that there were no specific programmes for IDPs, and that in many instances the IDPs had integrated within the existing populations, making existing services insufficient to cover the overall needs of the community. She also noted that issues of stigmatization and discrimination had left many fearful of seeking services. She emphasized the need for services to be distributed fairly within the community."

UNHCR/GoCdi/UNAIDS, 28 March 2007, pp. iv-v

"The internally displaced people interviewed who for the most part had had stable financial and familial conditions, have been stripped of their homes and income. They describe how financial strain of their extended stay with relatives has worn out family ties and social networks. Parental loss and impoverishment has fractured households as case studies illustrate, where children have either chosen or been forced to leave home and fend for themselves. Parents, humiliated by destitution and degrading events during their displacement express that they have lost their authority over their children, who are engaging in unrestrained sexual activity.

People living with HIV share that even in times of peace they can face financial difficulties when needing to pay for opportunistic infection treatment and prophylaxis. They state that the unemployment, undernutrition, deterioration of health care and unavailability of drugs and reagents they have experienced as a result of the war further aggravates their financial situation. ARV adherence among displaced people living with HIV is noticeably more difficult by their mobility. Moreover, HIV counselors suggest that the proximity of their new living conditions is a further barrier to medication adherence, because suspicious behaviour could reveal their positive status and lead to rejection from family members and/or the host.

Death, financial strains and liaisons with transient men were some sources of fracture among displaced and impoverished families. Women, children and even men were found to be vulnerable to sexual exploitation or trading. The UN peacekeepers were cited as a main source of sexual exploitation in Bouaké. The scale of the violence perpetrated by other men in uniform and paramilitaries could not be documented, although a first hand account of sexual exploitation by a militia was recorded. Teachers' sexual exploitation of students reportedly rose with the vulnerability of their students.

Forced sexual relations were not the only factor increasing risk of HIV. In one case, the separation of spouses after displacement also encouraged unprotected extramarital sexual relations, with voluntary HIV testing never considered. Here, lack of knowledge and displacement combined to raise risk of HIV infection.

Overall, knowledge of HIV was inadequate. Sexual transmission and discriminatory practices towards PLWH were commonly stated. Condom use was not systematic in any site, but appeared to be more frequent in Abidjan than in other towns according to the sex workers interviewed and their clients.

In all four sites, HIV interventions and services were inadequate, and sometimes absent. Displaced people's risky sexual behaviour and vulnerability to HIV have been aggravated by the war; they have poor access to protective mechanisms and HIV services due to their impoverishment, lack of information and marginalisation."

Deterioration of health infrastructure hinders provision of health services (2007)

- A meningitis outbreak was recorded in the north of the country affected by a strong degradation of health infrastructures
- An outbreak of chicken pox was registered at the IDP camp in Mie Ngou where drastic hygienic conditions facilitate the spread of epidemics
- Health care provision for HIV-positive patients in the north remains precarious for lack of healthcare facilities and health workers

IRIN, 21 February 2007

"Health authorities in Côte d'Ivoire have reported an outbreak of meningitis in the north of the country where health infrastructure has deteriorated during a more than four-year political impasse that has divided the country.

Thirty-six cases of bacterial meningitis, including six deaths, had been reported at the regional hospital in the city of Bouaké as of 5 February, according to the United Nations humanitarian coordination office (OCHA).

"We confirm that there are cases of meningitis in Bouaké," said Souleymane Kone, spokesman for the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Côte d'Ivoire. "Also, in partnership with the Ivorian Health Ministry, we are pursuing investigations in other health facilities in Bouaké to see if there are other cases."

A vaccination campaign is being prepared for the region of Savanes and some districts in the region of Bouaké, 350km north of the main city, Abidjan, according to the Health Ministry.

Although Côte d'Ivoire has been divided between a government-run south and rebel-held north since a brief civil war in 2002, the Health Ministry is working with WHO in Bouaké, which is the rebel stronghold, without hindrance."

OCHA, rapport hebdomadaire n. 5, 8 février 2007

"Selon OCHA/Bouaké, une cinquantaine de cas de varicelle sont aussi rapportés à Bouaké, dans certains hôpitaux visités et à Yamoussoukro (au site des déplacés du centre Mie Ngou). Selon l'ONG IRC, le district sanitaire de Yamoussoukro confirme dix cas de varicelle au site des déplacés du centre Mie Ngou, dont huit (08) enfants de deux (2) à quinze (15) ans et deux adultes. Le district sanitaire, qui envisage une intervention au niveau du site a exprimé un besoin en produits (Ehozin). En plus des cas de varicelle, la situation hygiénique est aussi préoccupante (latrines très sales et remplies jusqu'à déborder dans la cours) au centre Mie Ngou et nécessite une action d'urgence, pour prévenir d'autres maladies et ou une épidémie au vu de la promiscuité."

IRIN, 20 October 2006

"Services declined drastically when the area was drained of healthcare workers and services after conflict broke out in September 2002. A study in 2004 by the Swiss Centre for Scientific Research, in conjunction with the University of Abidjan, found that in parts of the north nearly 90 percent of health professionals had abandoned their posts and 80 percent of healthcare facilities were destroyed or looted.

Patients receiving ARVs from the government's National Programme for the Fight Against AIDS were the first to see supplies cut off, and even when the drugs were available at hospitals, many patients could not afford the monthly cost of US\$2.

[...]

Local NGOs say they lack the means to provide comprehensive care. Health workers who stayed or have agreed to return to the north complain about the lack of support by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry for the Fight Against AIDS, and the results are showing.

In the hospital at Man, currently run by the international medical charity, Medecins Sans Frontieres, AIDS has become the main cause of death among hospitalised patients, followed by tuberculosis, the most common AIDS-related illness.

Another emerging problem is the cost of treatment. Most NGOs waived patient fees in light in of the critical situation, but these will likely be reinstated once the state takes over.”

Summary of health data on IDPs (March 2006)

- Almost 50% of IDPs have noticed a worsening of their health conditions since the beginning of the crisis
- The causes can be found in a generalised degradation of living conditions and on the mental health status of the displaced
- Clear differences are found in the different departments with Abidjan and Daloa registering a higher number of health-related cases

ENSEA, March 2006, p.67

“La crise telle qu’elle est vécue par les déplacés internes a probablement des répercussions néfastes sur leur état morbide. Bien que ne se basant sur aucun diagnostic clinique, l’enquête essaie d’apprécier l’évolution de la situation médicale de ces derniers en comparant la situation d’avant la crise à celle qu’ils vivent actuellement. Se basant donc sur leur perception des choses, les déplacés se sont prononcés sur l’évolution de leur état morbide. Il leur est apparu prioritairement que leur état de santé s’est souvent dégradé, beaucoup plus que par le passé lorsqu’elles n’avaient pas encore la crise. En effet, 49% des personnes interrogées ont remarqué qu’elles connaissent plus souvent des problèmes de santé. Cette aggravation de l’état morbide de la population des déplacés a probablement une double cause. Elle se justifie par les conditions de vie qui se sont nettement dégradées pour tout le monde. Les plus nécessiteux ont bien entendu payé un plus lourd tribut. La seconde cause se rapporte vraisemblablement à l’état psychologique des déplacés qui, accablés de tout part, ne peuvent pas toujours compter sur les autres pour se tirer d’affaires. Les déplacés du milieu rural semblent connaître relativement les mêmes problèmes de santé que leurs homologues du milieu urbain. En effet, 48.4% des ‘ruraux’ et 50.5% des ‘citadins’ ont rapporté une aggravation de leur état de santé. En outre, on relève des différences parfois notoires entre les départements de résidence. Abidjan et Daloa se situent au-dessus de la moyenne avec des proportions plus élevées de personnes dont la situation sanitaire s’est aggravée alors qu’à Touleupleu les plaintes pour les problèmes de santé sont relativement moins nombreuses.”

Crisis in the health sector continues in all areas of the country (2004-2006)

- IDPs and other vulnerable groups in the north and west of the country have extremely limited access to health care facilities, while malnutrition and various diseases have been on the increase
- In one area of the north a single doctor serves a population of 200,000
- During the November 2004 crisis in Abidjan hospitals did not have the capacity to provide emergency treatment to some 2,000 people
- The prevalence of HIV/AIDS is estimated at 7 per cent as a direct consequence of the crisis (the highest rate in West Africa)

United Nations, 18 November 2005

“The health sector is still an issue of concern, especially in the North and West of the country, despite the efforts of humanitarian agencies. A rehabilitation exercise carried out by UNICEF and ICRC in the West and North reported that about 497 out of a total of 578 health centres were open. UNICEF has supplied drugs to the majority of these health centres. The ICRC ensures and will continue to ensure in 2006 the supply of medicines from the central pharmacy Pharmacie de la Santé Publique (PSP) to seven major hospitals and clinics in the North. The World Health Organization (WHO) opened a sub office in Bouaké to facilitate information management through quick assessment and information sharing for better health interventions coordination. Apart from the rehabilitation of health centres by UNICEF and the European Union, international NGOs working in the field of health and nutrition participated in the humanitarian response. Save the Children-U.K. initiated a programme of mobile clinics, with UNICEF’s support, to cover the health care needs of displaced local populations at Duékoué and immigrants who remained at Fengolo in departments of Guiglo, Bloléquin and Grabo.

Some NGOs have invested heavily in nutrition centres to combat chronic malnutrition, that is ranging between 3% and 15% in the West. As of 1 August 2005, the Therapeutic Nutrition Centre “Centre de Nutrition Thérapeutique” (CNT) of MSF-France in Guiglo was treating 85 children including 40 inpatients and 45 outpatients. According to ACF, cases of malnutrition increased at three of its Supplemental Nutrition Centres “Centres de Nutrition Supplémentaires” (CNS) in the third quarter of 2005. During the same period, MSF-Belgium was concerned by the growing number of malnourished children at its CNT in Man, which received 232 children from the Bangolo area and the Northern part of Danané. Humanitarian actors are considering a concerted curative and preventive action in Bangolo and northern Danané where the majority of those hospitalised originate from. In addition, ACF and MSF-Belgium received WFP food rations for care and support of malnourished children admitted to the National Health Centres of Zouan Hounien, Bin Houyé and Téapleu, and the National Transit Centres in Man and Zouan Hounien. Meanwhile, the Northern region has recorded the highest rate of malnutrition estimated 15%.

In spite of the various initiatives and actions carried out to rehabilitate health facilities and supply materials and drugs, access to health care remains problematic for populations impoverished by the crisis. After three years of crisis, most people cannot afford to pay for health care.

In response to the low national immunisation coverage, observed in the past six years, the Ministry of Health, with the support of UNICEF, WHO and several other partners, organised three vaccination campaigns in 2005 against polio, immunising more than 5 million children aged 0 - 5 years, i.e. 99.9%. As part of the fight against measles, 7,8 million children aged 9 months - 14 years were vaccinated between 18 and 27 August 2005, representing 87.7%. Hence, for the year 2005, there was significant improvement in the prevention of poliomyelitis and measles, increasing from a coverage rate of approximately 50% in 2004.

Côte d’Ivoire is the country most affected by HIV in West Africa, and one of the 15 most affected countries in the world. In fact, the country continues to register the highest rates of HIV prevalence since the outbreak of the pandemic, at 7% (range: 4.9-10%) although Abidjan registered its lowest rate in a decade (6%)⁵in 2000. Accordingly, it is estimated that there were 570,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in 2004. HIV/AIDS has become one of the main causes of death in adults in Côte d’Ivoire. The infected populations are increasingly young and mostly women.

This indicator is currently all the more significant given the crisis raging in the country for the past three years, bringing in its wake factors favouring the spread of HIV, notably population displacements, collapse of traditional sexual standards, explosion of the sex industry, rape, destruction of the health systems and increase in the consumption of substances (alcohol and drugs). In addition, according to the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 2004

report, the epidemic is spreading in circles where there is malnutrition and food insecurity, as in the case of Côte d'Ivoire. Unfortunately, recent statistics are not available, as the partition of the country and dysfunctional institutions have made data collection very difficult.

The impact of AIDS on the development capacity of the country will seriously jeopardise the chances of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, especially as regards poverty reduction, education, health, and care and support of orphans.”

United Nations, 23 June 2005

“The health system is unable to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, particularly in the north and west, with children under five, who are less and less protected following the interruption of routine immunisation programmes and the weakness of the epidemiological surveillance system. Meanwhile, according to World Health Organization (WHO), the global and moderate malnutrition rates among children under five remain high with 22% of chronic malnutrition and 7% of acute malnutrition. In addition, the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) prevalence rate has reached 7%, which may increase further as the deterioration of the situation causes an important displacement of the population.

Where the health facilities and staff are present, lack of water has serious implications on the functioning of the main hospital and on the treatment available to the local populations. Furthermore, the breakdown of the system has considerably slowed down the collection of medical information and data, including on epidemics, resulting in a slow response to such outbreaks.”

UN Security Council, 18 March 2005, para. 61

“In the health sector, vulnerable populations in the north and the west are still suffering because of a lack of medicines, medical equipment and professional health workers, despite tremendous efforts undertaken by medical non-governmental and other organizations. An increased prevalence of diseases such as cholera, yellow fever, meningitis, measles and poliomyelitis has been reported. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, jointly organized vaccination campaigns in 2004 to eradicate these diseases, especially poliomyelitis, and planned another five poliomyelitis vaccination campaigns for 2005.”

United Nations, 17 December 2004

“The lack of medical personnel and staff will continue to constitute a major obstacle to providing basic health care throughout the country. It is feared that redeployment efforts to the northern part of the country controlled by the FN will no longer be a priority for the Government. Populations living in the FN-controlled areas have had limited access to basic social services for over two years. Even with the redeployment of some medical staff, there was still a serious lack of personnel. During the heat of the crisis in Abidjan, over 2,000 wounded people were in need of emergency health care. The capacities of the hospitals in Abidjan were overstretched and there was an urgent need for medicines and first-aid material. The Ministry of Health had not developed a contingency plan and hospitals were not equipped and prepared for an emergency situation.”

WHO, 11 November 2004

“Three-and-a-half million vulnerable persons, including 500,000 IDPs, are affected by the crisis and ongoing insecurity. Host families of IDPs have completely depleted their resources and are no longer capable of providing for them, while government resources to respond to needs have greatly diminished.

Access to health services: Access to social services (health centres and education) is difficult for vulnerable groups in areas under control of the Forces Nouvelles (FN). There is a shortage of

medical care and facilities in the Northeastern region, where a single doctor serves a population of 200,000, making it difficult to address health needs. While only 110 health centres out of 350 are operational and are supplied with medicines, a lack of medical staff remains a true constraint.

Disease surveillance and control: World Bank data in 2002 listed the under-five mortality rate in Côte d'Ivoire as 191 deaths per 1,000 children. This is an alarming increase since 1995, when the mortality rate was of 142 deaths per 1,000 children. Only 49% of children have been vaccinated against measles but it is expected that the next vaccination campaign in December 2004 will reach many more. With regard to HIV/AIDS, the current prevalence rate (according to UNAIDS' annual report for 2004) is estimated at 7% as a direct consequence of the crisis."

Food

Food insecurity in the West is of particular concern for IDPs and returnees (September 2007)

- 47% of the population in Moyen Cavally is affected by food insecurity while 40% in the 18 Montagnes region is judged at risk
- Causes include disruption in the production systems and insecurity along with bad longstanding food practices
- Major activities on food security have been launched according to IDP return movements
- IDPs returning spontaneously to their areas of origin have not been taken into consideration in food aid programmes
- There is a risk of disruption with the delivery of food aid once humanitarian NGOs leave

UN OCHA/EU-Côte d'Ivoire, September 2007, p. 24

"La région du Moyen Cavally constitue une zone prioritaire d'action, où 47% de la population se trouve en situation d'insécurité alimentaire. La situation de la région des 18 Montagnes est également préoccupante, où 40% de la population est jugée à risque. La cause majeure est la destructuration des systèmes de production et l'insécurité qui cause l'inaccès aux champs. La région de l'Ouest connaît aussi des taux importants de malnutrition chronique, avoisinant les 30% de malnutrition modérée et les 15% de malnutrition sévère. Les causes principales identifiées de la malnutrition sont les pratiques alimentaires.

Les principales activités en faveur de la relance vivrière ont été menées en urgence selon les retours des population déplacées.

[...]

[A]u regard de la situation d'insécurité alimentaire qui prévaut à l'Ouest, l'appui reste encore très insuffisant. En cumulant les bénéficiaires des aides (y compris les cantines scolaires), un total d'environ 200.000 personnes a bénéficié d'un appui, contre 300.000 à 400.000 personnes en situation d'insécurité alimentaire. Enfin, la demande en semence de qualité reste très forte, ainsi qu'en équipements et noyaux d'élevage. Aussi, dans le cadre des retours organisés des PDI

dans le Moyen Cavally, les masses de PDI en situation de retour spontané dans la région ne sont pas prises en compte. Le ciblage induit des redistributions des aides entre bénéficiaires et une dilution de l'impact en sécurité alimentaire, au profit de la cohésion sociale. Il existe un risque de rupture de la prise en charge nutritionnelle après le départ des ONG d'urgence par la faible portée quantitative des projets pilotes de suivi et détection communautaire."

Difficult access to land leads to reduced agricultural production (January 2007)

- In IDPs' areas of origin access to seeds has been difficult
- Food insecurity is higher in landlocked areas and where roadblocks and checkpoints have been reported
- Where access to food is guaranteed the problem faced is the variety and its nutritional balance
- There is no direct link between hosting IDPs and food insecurity
- Displacement has prevented households from carrying out their farming activities thus leading to a decrease in crop production
- The North is particularly hard hit with cultivated lands diminishing

World Food Programme, 2 January 2007, pp. 25, 29

"Dans les zones où les récoltes 2005 ont été mauvaises et celles où les ménages déplacés se réinstallent chez eux, l'accès aux semences n'a pas été facile. Dans toutes les autres zones, si un accès est resté possible grâce aux réserves des récoltes précédentes, il se pose en revanche un problème de qualité des semences. La FAO et ses partenaires (CICR, ONG, gouvernement) ont distribué des semences (riz, maïs, cultures maraichères), du petit outillage et des engrais à plus de 25 000 ménages vulnérables. Seuls les ménages associés aux sociétés cotonnières, les ménages bénéficiaires des programmes d'assistance agricole et les ménages qui ont les moyens ont eu accès aux engrais. Malgré les difficultés rencontrées (accès à la terre, aux semences et/ou engrais, quelques aléas climatiques), l'évaluation des récoltes de l'année 2006 montre que les productions vivrières ont été globalement meilleures en 2006 qu'en 2005.

[...]

A l'échelle nationale, on peut affirmer que la disponibilité alimentaire reste assurée grâce aux productions locales, aux importations alimentaires (600 000 tonnes de riz) et à l'aide alimentaire (20 000 tonnes). De même, les marchés sont relativement bien approvisionnés. Cependant, dans les zones enclavées les flux de produits alimentaires restent limités. Par ailleurs, des entraves aux échanges commerciaux liées aux barrages militaires ou aux coupeurs de route ont été rapportées.

Par contre, l'accès à une alimentation suffisante et variée reste problématique pour les ménages vulnérables, Non seulement les capacités de production restent limitées, mais aussi, leurs revenus restent insuffisants pour l'achat du panier alimentaire de base. Avant la guerre, les sources de revenus reposaient essentiellement sur les cultures de rente, mais la crise cotonnière et les mauvaises récoltes d'anacarde au nord, l'insécurité à l'ouest qui empêche l'entretien des plantations de café et cacao, ont provoqué une baisse significative des ressources de nombreux ménages. Dans certains cas, les activités de rente ont été remplacées par la vente des produits vivriers.

En matière d'élevage, la relative stabilisation de la situation à l'ouest et le retour des déplacés chez eux permet la recapitalisation du petit bétail.

Mouvements de population

Le fait que les ménages ayant accueilli des déplacés se trouvent dans chaque classe tend à démontrer que cela n'a pas nécessairement affecté négativement leur sécurité alimentaire. Ainsi, dans certains ménages, ces déplacés ont au contraire fourni une main d'œuvre supplémentaire ou des actifs additionnels, contribuant aux revenus du ménage à travers des contrats journaliers, par exemple."

United Nations, 30 November 2006, p.15

" The continued incidences of insecurity have led to a substantial increase in the number of displacements from the West and Centre regions to towns in the South and prevented households directly affected by conflicts from carrying out their normal farming activities. As a result, the 2005 harvests were on the whole unequal. Access to land for displaced persons was generally difficult which led to reduced agricultural production, which meant a significant increase in agricultural and food support by relief agencies. For the 2006 season, access to selected seeds and fertilisers is very limited and according to preliminary estimates, harvests for the 2006 season in some regions is affected by ethnic tensions and irregular rainfall patterns. A stagnation and even reduction of the 2006/2007 farming season output is therefore expected.

In the South of the country, the production of the main cash crops, particularly coffee, cocoa and rubber, was satisfactory. In the North, on the other hand, the crisis facing the cotton sector deteriorated and cultivated areas continued to diminish. Production of cashew was very poor in the North and the price of grains, particularly rice, remained stable. Despite food being available at a national level, the flow of food products was limited in the landlocked zones,.

Although the situation of cattle breeding improved, epizooties and transhumance from the Sahel persisted, causing damages to crops and conflicts between cattle breeders and farmers. Cases of bird flu were detected and controlled by the Government, with the support of the UN agencies in Abidjan and San Pédro.

Access to adequate and varied food was still a problem for vulnerable households: the production capacities were limited and the bridging period started early, and their incomes were inadequate to purchase the basic food basket. In terms of vulnerability, between 4% and 13% of households in Man, Bouaké and Korhogo were facing food insecurity and needed support from humanitarian agencies WFP, Food Security Monitoring System, 2005-2006. An important proportion (20%-30%) of the populations of these Departments and other regions in the North could rapidly face food insecurity. The nutritional and food security situation is difficult to evaluate at the global level, pending the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) III surveys and the ongoing WFP/FAO in-depth evaluation."

Shelter

IDPs' housing characteristics (2006)

- Most of the IDPs in the five departments studied live in compounds or 'simple houses'
- An important number of IDPs have also found shelter in shacks or adjoining houses

ENSEA, March 2006, p. 28

"Sur l'ensemble des cinq départements, la majeure partie des ménages vivent dans des 'maisons simples' ou des concessions. En effet, quels que soit le département et le milieu, ces deux types de construction sont plus nombreux. Aussi enregistre-t-on trois ménages sur six dans les 'maisons simples' et deux ménages sur six dans les concessions.

Les maisons en bande et les baraques abritent également une partie relativement importante de ménages. Les autres types de construction, les immeubles et les villas modernes, abritent très peu de ménages (tableau 17).

Tableau 17 : Répartition des ménages selon le type de construction et le milieu (%)

Départements	Milieu	Type de construction						Effectifs
		Villa moderne	Maison simple	Maison en bande	Immeuble	Concession	Baraque, autres	
Abidjan	Urbain	1,7	48,2	14,8	8,3	30,8	1,8	523
	Rural	12,7	30,5	1,8	0,1	43,2	9,8	444
	Ensemble	3,4	40,4	14,0	7,7	33,7	2,4	967
Daloa	Urbain	8,5	22,1	18,5	0,0	52,1	2,6	425
	Rural	8,0	39,6	5,5	0,0	39,3	6,5	485
	Ensemble	8,1	35,8	7,8	0,0	43,5	5,8	913
Duoékoué	Urbain	3,3	42,1	18,8	0,4	35,0	6,3	345
	Rural	2,0	50,3	8,7	0,0	23,5	9,3	368
	Ensemble	2,5	44,3	13,1	0,1	27,5	8,3	913
Toulepteu	Urbain	8,2	87,3	28,9	0,0	11,4	0,6	421
	Rural	8,1	78,5	1,2	0,0	0,5	5,1	481
	Ensemble	8,1	72,4	5,5	0,0	2,4	4,3	902
Yamoussoukro	Urbain	10,5	58,1	50,2	8,5	1,1	0,3	471
	Rural	6,2	89,4	1,7	0,0	1,2	1,1	420
	Ensemble	7,3	73,8	14,2	2,2	1,2	0,8	891
Ensemble	Urbain	3,1	47,8	18,0	7,8	30,8	2,0	2385
	Rural	7,7	53,8	4,2	0,0	16,2	6,1	2201
	Ensemble	4,1	43,2	13,2	6,1	29,5	3,0	4586

* Le nombre total de ménages dans les cinq départements est estimé à 754 504. Le gap est imputable aux non-réponses.
Source : ENSEA – PDI 2005

Thousands remain homeless following the destruction of shanty towns in Abidjan (January 2003)

- A UN envoy to Côte d'Ivoire was shocked by the living conditions facing people who were forced from their slum homes when war broke out in September 2002
- The people's homes had been razed on the orders of President Laurent Gbagbo days after rebels rose up against his government
- The aid agency "Save the Children" has said that 16 out of Abidjan's 30 neighbourhoods have been razed since October. Some 25,000 people have been affected by the raids, and 3,000 left homeless

Agence France-Presse, 18 January 2003

"A UN envoy on a visit to west Africa said Saturday she was shocked by the living conditions facing people who were forced from their slum homes when war broke out in Ivory Coast four months ago.

"I had heard about the situation these people faced but to see how they really live was shocking," Carolyn McAskie told AFP after meeting with the slum dwellers, dubbed "evictees," in the Allakro neighbourhood of Abidjan.

McAskie, who arrived in Ivory Coast on Thursday for the start of a three-week visit to the region, visited a group of slum dwellers, most of them west African migrant workers, in the economic hub of the west African country.

The people's homes had been razed on the orders of President Laurent Gbagbo days after rebels rose up against his government on September 19, sparking the conflict that has ground on for four months.

The government announced on October 4 that it would destroy all shantytowns in the city within a month, claiming that foreign supporters of the rebels were living there.

Allakro was completely destroyed in the post-rebellion raids. McAskie urged Gbagbo's government "to treat the people who were chased from their homes in a humane manner and allow them to keep their personal belongings."

She said the UN would give "humanitarian aid to displaced persons who are in a difficult situation."

The aid agency "Save the Children" has said that 16 out of Abidjan's 30 neighbourhoods have been razed since October. Some 25,000 people have been affected by the raids, and 3,000 left homeless. ...

[...] The head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Besida Tonwe, has estimated that between 600,000 and a million people have been displaced by the Ivory Coast war."

Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation facilities remain precarious for IDPs and host communities (December 2007)

- Access to clean water is still poor for IDPs and other vulnerable populations, particularly in the west and in rebel-held areas and in peri-urban areas of large cities
- Limited access to potable water has resulted in the resurgence of endemic diseases and indirectly had a negative impact on education

UN, 10 December 2007, p.40

"The socio-political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has had a serious impact on water supply and sanitation services in the Centre, North and West due to the absence of qualified operational staff that fled the areas. This resulted in a high rate of breakdown of water infrastructures. The recent peace process may eventually contribute to a substantial improvement as some managers of the Hydrology Department (DHH) are being redeployed, but as this redeployment is still in the early stages large-scale or systemic improvements have yet to be seen.

The situation in urban areas in the mentioned regions remains precarious, with water quality affected by frequent power cuts, often the result of poor cost recovery on energy bills. ICRC continues its support of 115 water treatment plants in the Centre, North and West of the ex-ZOC.

A campaign of 500 new boreholes in the North East region is ongoing. Many displaced families have returned to their places of origin, in particular in the Western region. Nevertheless, a large number of IDPs have not moved yet and the sanitary situation of the peri-urban areas of large cities where the majority of them have settled remains precarious.

In rural areas, where people rely mostly on hand-pumps for their water supply, the number of broken-down pumps continues to decrease due to large-scale repair campaigns carried out both by DHH and international aid organisations. DHH is involved in the repair of 7,500 pumps throughout the country. Pump mechanics are also being trained and equipped, while spare-parts are made available in regional stores. Aid organisations have intensified their efforts in the Western regions, where the largest number of returnees have started to settle. The International Rescue Committee and CARE have water and sanitation projects in the Bangolo area (Diouzon and Zou) whilst *Solidarités*/UNICEF are active in Toulepleu. UNICEF, through Caritas, also runs a project further north in Odienné. CARE also has water projects in the Duékoué and Man departments, but their sustainability is uncertain as it relies on volunteers, who are members of water management committees which are being re-activated.

Sanitation and hygiene activities focused mostly on rural areas where promotion of latrines and better hygiene practices has been carried out. In urban areas, efforts concentrated on solid waste management with projects run by CARE in the Central and Northern cities of Bouaké and Korhogo. As a measure of the success of these projects, significant outbreaks of waterborne or excreta related diseases have not been observed in the last twelve months."

IRIN, 21 March 2007

"It hasn't rained since December in the region of Duekoué, about 400km west of the main city, Abidjan. The southwest is where much of the country's rice, yams and manioc are produced, as well as the leading cash crops: cocoa, coffee and rubber.

Rains should have begun falling in February, but instead the dry season only persisted.

As a result, agricultural production is down and at least half of all local households are suffering from water shortages. Residents are forced to trek hours from where they live to rivers and wells to find water.

Problem compounded

The water shortage in the southwest is exacerbated by an infrastructure that has deteriorated since a brief civil war erupted in 2002, leading to the division of the country between a rebel-held north and a government-run south. Residents wonder whether a new peace accord signed last month will provide better results than previous agreements that have faltered. The new accord makes no reference to the country's various humanitarian crises.

The problems in the southwest are so grave that the state-run Water Distribution Company of Cote d'Ivoire (SODECI) has to alternate its supply of water between neighbourhoods within Duekoué and Guiglo and can only sporadically truck in water to outer villages.

"The boreholes we have are not enough," said a SODECI water technician in Guiglo who asked not to be named. "Every day almost 600 cubic metres of water are required for Guiglo and the surrounding area but we cannot extract more than 300 cubic meters so we cannot satisfy everyone."

He said the water problems would likely worsen in the coming months. "We will just have to wait for the rainy season to solve the problem but in the meantime I am extremely doubtful we can stop the taps and wells from completely drying up," he said.

No water in schools

The lack of water increases the risk of disease, particularly among children. In all but one of the 20 schools in Duekoué and the surrounding area, children have no access to drinkable water.

“They have to drink something in the course of the day and so they look for what water they can get,” including from unsafe sources, said a teacher in Duekoué.

Children at school don't even have water to clean themselves, Pascal Niando, the assistant treasurer of one of the schools, told IRIN.”

UNICEF, 29 January 2007, p.213

“In the water and environmental sanitation sector, North, West and Central Côte d'Ivoire suffer from a chronic lack of drinking water: 50 per cent of rural populations do not have access to drinking water, and 40 per cent of rural pumps are out of order. In the cities that have received the most significant number of IDPs (Abidjan, Yamoussoukro, Daloa, Duékoué), the still functioning hydraulic infrastructures and sanitary facilities (68 per cent have broken down countrywide) are at the verge of collapsing due to over-exploitation.”

United Nations, 30 November 2006, pp. 15-16

“The **water and sanitation** is one of the most affected sectors, with strong pressure exerted on potable water resources of towns that received many displaced persons (Daloa, Duékoué, Yamoussoukro, Abidjan) resulting in the decline of the level and even shortages of water supply in some districts. Worse still, in towns in the interior a section of the population, which has increased with the crisis, has no access to any sanitation system or continue to use non-potable water wells and other sources. In both cases, the situation has serious health consequences. Water infrastructures and sanitation facilities, already marked by regional disparity and major breakdown rates (68%), are strained by overexploitation in zones with high concentrations of displaced persons. Contrary to towns in the interior, Abidjan has a sanitation system of public gutters of more than 990 km for evacuation of wastewater and matter, including the combined sewerage system. This main system covers nearly 70% of the city. However, only 45% of households are connected to the system (Sanitation Department, 2005). Until quite recently, it drained all wastewater and matter into the Ebrié Lagoon. Presently, many households (about 55%) have opted for an individual sanitation system (septic tanks in residential areas and latrines elsewhere). Despite these different types of sanitation, many families continue to discharge water from washing of plates and clothes into streets and gutters.

The Centre, North and West suffer from chronic shortages of potable water. Bouaké, the second largest city with a current estimated population of 400,000 inhabitants, was without water supply for more than one month (2 May-15 June 2006). During this period, humanitarian agencies assured emergency supplies following the breakdown of one of the two engines of the only water station that was still operational. The breakdown was caused by lack of maintenance. Thanks to the action of humanitarian agencies and organisations that supplied water to health centres, public social services and helped with the sanitation of water sources, a major humanitarian crisis was averted. In fact, continuing advocacy contributed to the repair of the pumps at the beginning of June 2006.

In Odienné and Danané, the population has, since the beginning of the first semester of 2006, been suffering from frequent power cuts and interruptions of water supply. SODECI provided a partial solution to these technical problems by repairing the water supply pumps. It is estimated that 50% of the rural population of these zones has no access to potable water Field evaluation by agencies of the UNS and humanitarian NGOs. and that 40% of the rural pumps remain out of service, which represent 3,000 pumps to be rehabilitated nationwide CI 2006, Mid-Year Review (MYR)/OCHA., after the rehabilitation of nearly 6,000 pumps in 2006.”

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

Lack of teachers in areas of return remains a serious concern (January 2008)

- The lack of teachers in areas of return remain a major constraint in guaranteeing access to education for children
- Teachers' strikes over improved conditions of service have also affected the academic year
- In the west, the concentration of IDPs in cities like Duékoué and Guiglo has saturated secondary schools
- Children associated with the armed forces, those separated from their parents, orphans and those lacking birth certificates have been marginalised within the school system

UN, 10 December 2007, p. 32

"The OPA [*Ouagadougou Peace Agreement*], which foresees the redeployment of the national administration in the Central, Northern and Western zones, also anticipates the return of displaced persons and the regular functioning of schools. 17 September 2007 was fixed as the start of the new academic. However, one of the main constraints in the zones of return remains the lack of teachers. According to available estimates, only 30% of the teachers that have been redeployed in the zones mentioned above have proper qualifications. Additionally, the poor state of the education infrastructure constitutes a hindrance to the education of children. Noting the infrastructural and maintenance problems, the Ministry of Education has formulated a plan intended to restore the school to its rightful place in society by rehabilitating school buildings and equipment, reinforcing the capacities of teachers and highlighting the need for them to return to their original schools. This plan has still to be implemented."

UN Security Council, 2 January 2008, para. 31

"Since the beginning of the school year in September, teachers in many parts of the country have been on strike to demand improved conditions of service. The action has generated widespread and frequent demonstrations by students protesting the continued absence of teachers from their schools. The situation might improve as a result of reopening in November of financial services in the north, in particular in Bouaké and Korhogo, which will facilitate the payment of salaries and pensions to current and retired civil servants in that part of the country."

In the West

UN OCHA/EU-Côte d'Ivoire, September 2007, p.86

"Le secteur de l'éducation est particulièrement sinistré par la guerre. Les conflits ont provoqué la fuite des enseignants titularisés en zone gouvernementale et des administrations (la DREN s'est délocalisée à Duékoué). Les infrastructures scolaires et les équipements ont été en partie pillés (toits, portes, tables/bancs) parfois détruits ou se sont simplement dégradés. Le pillage, l'occupation épisodique des structures par les combattants, l'abandon et le manque d'entretien n'ont fait qu'aggraver une situation qui n'était pas forcément brillante avant la crise. En 2004, jusqu'à 25 % des établissements primaires de la zone CNO n'étaient toujours pas fonctionnels.

Les déplacements de populations des zones de guerre vers dans les zones refuges telles que Duékoué et Guiglo ont saturé les capacités d'accueil et d'enseignement des établissements,

particulièrement les établissements secondaires. Les classes déjà saturées de certains établissements secondaires ont vu leurs effectifs d'élèves doubler.

Enfin, la crise a généré un groupe d'enfants marginalisés du système éducatif. On y trouve les enfants associés aux forces combattantes, les enfants qui ont dépassé l'âge requis, les enfants séparés de leurs parents, les orphelins ou ceux dont les parents sont sans revenu ou malades. Beaucoup d'enfants ne disposent pas de l'extrait de naissance nécessaire à l'inscription à l'école et au passage des examens. Ce groupe d'enfants encore jeunes ne peut pas de surcroît avoir accès à l'apprentissage d'un métier.

1.1 Activités d'urgences

En réponse au manque d'enseignants et de structures, il faut tout d'abord saluer la volonté des parents d'élève et des COGES de maintenir les activités d'enseignement, en recourant aux enseignants volontaires pour travailler dans des salles de classe fortement délabrées et sous équipées ou avec des écoles « communautaires » improvisées. Par ailleurs, les réponses des humanitaires ont été axées sur la réhabilitation d'infrastructures scolaires, la fourniture en équipements et en kits, ainsi que l'appui au corps enseignants, administratif et aux dynamiques villageoises. Des solutions intermédiaires de classes passerelles, d'écoles informelles et d'alphabétisation ont permis à environ 700 enfants exclus du système éducatif de retrouver un niveau leur permettant de réintégrer un cycle scolaire. Enfin, des campagnes ont été menées, visant à la scolarisation des filles et le maintien des enfants à l'école, ainsi que la relance des examens en 2005."

For an analysis of the link between lack of access to education and risks of trafficking, see UNICEF's "Child trafficking in Côte d'Ivoire: Efforts under way to reverse a tragic trend" (14 June 2007)

Small progress is made with the organization of two rounds of exams (2007)

- Shortage of full-time teachers and the deterioration of school infrastructures have impaired the education system
- An attempt to return to normality is made with the organization of exams after a three-year break
- Lack of means reduces IDP children's access to education

UNICEF, 29 January 2007, p. 213

"The education sector is particularly affected by the division of the country. In government-controlled areas the demand for enrolment exceeds the capacities of the educational institutions, while in the Forces Nouvelles-controlled zone, shortages of full-time teachers and the deterioration of school infrastructures have seriously impaired the education system. Exams had not been held in the north since 2003, leaving hundreds of thousands of children without final results and increasing the likelihood of children dropping out. The organization of two rounds of exams in March and September 2006 has partly addressed the situation."

United Nations, 30 November 2006, pp. 59-60

"The difficulties are generally the same, although they are more serious from one region of the zone to another. To problems of infrastructures to be rehabilitated, equipment, furniture, inadequate accredited teachers (88 secondary school teachers and 720 primary school teachers

needed in the Moyen Cavally), compelling the authorities to use unqualified voluntary teachers, is added the fact that a number of displaced children or from host families do not go to school as their parents do not have the necessary resources. UNICEF's "Reorientation Class" project, which is already catering for 210 children, could be a remedial teaching solution for these children. In the Bas Sassandra, the number of students in classrooms keeps reducing (fragility of families, the fact that the schools are far removed from the villages) and lack of school canteens. In Tabou, out of about 60 primary schools, the most remote one is at Nigré (210 km from Tabou), and the constituency has only 38 school canteens."

Summary of education data on IDPs (March 2006)

- IDPs living in urban areas have more access to education
- Less IDP girls are sent to school than boys
- Reasons for not attending school include lack of financial means and not having attended earlier for those aged under ten

ENSEA, March 2006

"Education

Les déplacés vivant en milieu urbain semblent plus scolarisés que ceux du milieu rural (70% en ville contre 60% en zone rurale). Les enfants et les jeunes dont les âges se situent entre 6 et 24 ans révolus sont en majorité encore inscrits à l'école (75%). Lorsque l'on s'intéresse aux enfants déplacés de moins de 15 ans, il ressort que 70% d'entre eux poursuivent leur scolarité.

Cependant, les filles déplacées sont moins scolarisées que les garçons. Ce sont en moyenne 59% d'entre elles qui sont encore à l'école entre 6 et 24 ans contre 69% de garçons. Cette configuration est peu satisfaisante, néanmoins, elle est appréciable comparativement à la situation à Duékoué où à peine trois filles sur dix ont la chance d'être scolarisée. Les départements ayant les taux de scolarisation les plus élevés sont Abidjan et Yamoussoukro avec des niveaux respectifs de 71% et 67%.

Les principales raisons évoquées par les déplacés qui ne fréquentent plus l'école sont le manque de moyens financiers surtout parmi ceux de 10-24 ans (34%) et le fait de n'avoir jamais été à l'école chez les moins de 10 ans (64%). En général, les frais de scolarité des déplacés scolarisés sont pris en charge par leurs parents biologiques. Ce qui est confirmé par les propos de plus de 70% d'entre eux."

After three years of limbo, promise of exams for thousands of students in rebel-held north (February 2006)

- In February 2006 the Ivorian government announced a plan to allow some 90,000 students in rebel-held territory to sit key exams
- Many schools in the north had been closed since the crisis began in 2002, with large numbers of teachers displaced in the south

IRIN, 16 February 2006

"After waiting more than three years to sit key exams because of Cote d'Ivoire's unrelenting civil war, more than 90,000 school students left in limbo in rebel-held territory could be able to take the tests as soon as this month.

In a statement issued after Wednesday's weekly cabinet meeting, the West African country's interim government announced a new plan to restore schooling in the northern half of Cote d'Ivoire, which has been split in two since a failed coup in September 2002.

Teachers, judges, nurses and a host of other civil servants left jobs in the north after the start of the civil war, heading for the government-held south where public administration and civil service pay have continued uninterrupted.

Since the conflict began, schools in the north - home to some six million people - have been operating with the help of volunteer teachers, while exams have been scrapped because they needed the approval of the education ministry.

'The proposed plan will enable the school year to begin on 1 March 2006 and to organise exams for the 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 school years according to a schedule running from 23 February to 29 March 2006,' the cabinet statement said.

In Cote d'Ivoire the school year generally begins in October with final exams set for June.

In 2004, exams for the 2003/2004 school session for 72,243 northern pupils were set for 10 November but had to be cancelled at the last minute when fighting flared up.

By 2005, the number of students from the north who had paid fees to sit the exams had swollen to 93,845, but Education Minister Michel Amani N'Guessan said at the time that it was too dangerous to send teachers to rebel territory to supervise the tests.

Of the total who have paid out the fees, 8,776 hope to sit their final secondary school leaving exam, the 'baccalaureat,' which is needed to advance to further study. Another 23,715 have applied to sit for the BEPC leaving certificate after four years of secondary school, and 60,140 for the CEPE exam certifying the end of the primary school cycle.

The fate of school children in northern Cote d'Ivoire has been a sticking point in peace talks, with the New Forces rebel movement slamming the government of President Laurent Gbagbo for failing to allow exams to take place. Rebels have called this 'cultural genocide.'

A new interim government was put in place in December, however, headed by Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny. He has been tasked by the international community with overseeing a UN peace blueprint for the country."

Education severely disrupted by the crisis (2005)

- In September 2005, school exams had not taken place in rebel-held areas for over 2 years for apparent reasons of security
- By December 2004, few teachers had returned to the rebel-controlled north, while schools in the south remained overcrowded with IDPs
- Due to massive levels of displacement and other conflict-related factors, an estimated 700,000 children have had their schooling interrupted since 2002
- During the November 2004 crisis in Abidjan, numerous schools were destroyed, affecting thousands of children

"In the zones under FN control, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has still not organised the 2003-2004 school examinations, stating that it was impossible to do so due to the prevailing insecurity

since the events of November 2004, and insisting on the beginning of disarmament as a precondition. However, there has been a slight shift in that position but it is unclear when the deployment of teachers and school administration will take place.” (UN, 23 Jun 05)

“Children’s education throughout the country has and will continue to be negatively affected by the deteriorating crisis. In Abidjan, numerous schools were destroyed from the 6 to 9 November, affecting thousands of children. Furthermore the Government has stated that final exams for children in the FN-controlled zone will be postponed until the country is reconciled, which could jeopardise the next academic year of hundreds of thousands of children.

It is feared that the education sector will also suffer greatly from the slow or non-redeployment of civil servants, including school administrative staff and school teachers. Few teachers have returned to their posts in the North as well as the insecure West. UNICEF estimates that there are currently 700,000 children who have left school since the start of the conflict in 2002. There is great concern that this figure will grow if teachers are not redeployed and exams ensured for the children in the North.” (UN, 17 Dec 04)

“The Ivorian school system continues to suffer as most teachers drawing government salaries in the South have refused to return to the FN-controlled North. In the meanwhile schools in the South remain overcrowded due to the large number of displaced children. The Ministry of Education estimates that almost half of the 533,000 children, who remained in the North have been deprived of education since the start of the crisis. Only 20% of the teachers in the North stayed at their post or returned once the fighting died down. Over 3,000 volunteers have supplemented these few to help fill the gap. The local NGO, Ecole pour Tous, report that 286,000 children now attend primary school and 55,000 attend secondary school. The Minister of Education, Michel Amani N’Guessan, admitted to IRIN, that he was reluctant to push for the return of teachers to the North before the FN disarm. In the meanwhile humanitarian organisations continue to maintain childrens interests including their right to go to school.” (UN OCHA, 10 September 2004)

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Self-reliance

Employment strategies used by IDPs (2008)

- Survival mechanisms vary according to gender
- A great number of IDPs are registered as students
- Those IDPs who are employed work in commerce, administration, craft industry and agriculture
- The ENSEA survey found two times less employed people among IDPs than the general population
- A good number of IDPs maintained government salaries during displacement

United Nations, 30 November 2006, p. 55

"The survival mechanisms developed in the rural areas vary according to gender. The men look for small contract jobs that are often scarce and poorly paid in the farms. But, once the work is completed, payment of salaries is often a source of misunderstanding. The women buy products on credit and resell them on the market to earn some profit, sell firewood (after asking for permission from the host), local materials used for roofing ("papos") and snails."

ENSEA, March 2006

Emploi

De manière générale, la structure de l'occupation dans la population des personnes déplacées indique une prépondérance des élèves (38%). Ce constat est nuancé dans les départements de Duékoué et de Toulépleu où la majorité des déplacés est occupée. Les actifs occupés (26%) viennent ensuite suivis des chômeurs et des personnes en quête de leur premier emploi (25%). Les personnes actives occupées travaillent essentiellement dans le commerce (34%), l'administration (31%), l'artisanat (19%) et l'agriculture (16%). La structure de l'occupation dans la population des non déplacées est quelque peu différente. En effet, les occupés sont dominants (42%) suivi des élèves (33%), des chômeurs et personnes en quête de leur premier emploi (14%). Dans l'ensemble, les populations déplacées renferment deux fois moins de personnes occupées que dans la population non déplacée."

US Department of State, 11 March 2008

"More than 90 percent of IDPs lived with host families, and almost 70 percent were located in Abidjan. However, other humanitarian organizations and donors noted that these statistics included IDPs who maintained access to their government salaries even after their displacement."

Income generating activities in the West suffer from displacement and little support by humanitarian actors (2007)

- Socio-economic infrastructures in rural areas in western Cote d'Ivoire have been heavily destroyed during the conflict
- The problem of income-generating activities are particularly brought forward by women and youth
- Inter-communal conflicts and consequent waves of displacement have had complex effects on the economy based on coffee and cacao
- Support for income-generating activities has been limited having humanitarian organisations focused on humanitarian assistance
- Humanitarian agencies and NGOs have developed agricultural activities aimed at IDP returnees in the departments of Toulepleu, Man and Bloléquin

UN OCHA/EU-Cote d'Ivoire, pp. 22, 96, 98

"Les infrastructures socio-économiques rurales ont été fortement endommagées. Les efforts menés par les agences humanitaires, ONG, entreprises agricoles et forestières et l'ONUCI pour maintenir fonctionnel un minimum de pistes et ponts sont encore insuffisants, de nombreuses pistes étant presque impraticables. Dans les villes, les marchés et les artères principales sont aussi délabrés.

S'il existe des potentiels d'insertion des jeunes et des femmes dans l'agriculture, tels que la cacao-culture, l'élevage, la pisciculture, l'hévéaculture, etc., les structures gouvernementales sont sous-équipées en matériel et personnel pour offrir un encadrement répondant aux besoins actuels (ANADER, Ministère de l'Agriculture).

Les problèmes des AGR sont particulièrement posés par les jeunes et les femmes. Les jeunes font prévaloir l'isolement et le manque d'opportunités de financement de leur projet, l'absence de soutien de l'Etat et des Conseils Généraux ainsi que le manque de terre, pour justifier leur présence dans les milices et leur récupération par les hommes politiques. Les coopératives de femmes dans le domaine du vivrier se sont désagrégées par suite aux déplacements de leurs membres et le manque de ressource à l'investissement demeure un frein majeur à la reprise d'AGR.

[...]

Des centaines de milliers d'exploitants agricoles, en particulier les étrangers et les Baoulés ont ouvert dans la région de nombreuses plantations sur la base de conventions foncières de teneur très variée avec les autochtones Guéré. Les rixes inter-communautaires ont eu des effets complexes sur l'économie du café et du cacao. Elles ont entraîné le départ massif des populations étrangères à la région et l'impossibilité pour celles-ci d'accéder à leur exploitation. Les autochtones parties prenantes à ces conflits n'ont pas pu exploiter ces plantations en raison du départ de la main d'œuvre étrangère. Aux effectifs importants de travailleurs déplacés, rendus au chômage ou à la sous activité, s'ajoute le nombre de jeunes urbains et ruraux sans emploi.

[...]

Le soutien aux AGR a été pratiquement inexistant, l'attention ayant été accordée en général aux secours d'urgence aux populations. Dans les zones de Zouan-Hounien, dans les départements de Man, Toulepleu et Bloléquin, les agences et les ONG ont développé des activités de relance agricole auprès des PDI retournées, notamment pour les cultures vivrières. Cette relance vise plus à pallier le déficit de vivres et le risque d'insécurité alimentaire qu'à produire des revenus. Quelques AGR ont bien été entreprises sous la forme de micro-projets communautaires. C'est

ainsi qu'ont été initiées des activités communautaires autour de projets ponctuels de pisciculture, d'élevage de porcs ou de moulin de manioc, etc."

Public participation

IDPs risk disenfranchisement in rushed elections (2005)

- Lack of information on numbers and locations of IDPs, as well as the risk of renewed displacement of Ivorian "settlers" and West African immigrants, are just some of the factors contributing to possible disenfranchisement of IDPs in elections scheduled for 30 October 2005
- By July 2005 practically none of the necessary preparations had been made for October elections, including electoral lists and voter education

Refugees International, 22 July 2005

"The electoral process in Cote d'Ivoire is facing severe constraints, with time running out. Senior United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) officials insist that elections will take place on schedule, even though a High Representative for elections has only just been appointed, there has been no agreement on voter rolls, and there has been little in the way of technical preparation and voter education. An electoral law was finally passed by presidential decree, but rebel forces are saying they will wait to see the fine print before accepting the conditions. Disarmament, a condition for elections, has not taken place yet, with deadlines on both sides repeatedly ignored.

According to an NGO specialist, the estimated 500,000 internally displaced persons in the country would risk disenfranchisement if elections were to take place this October because little thought has been given to ensuring how they would participate. Up until now, there has been little real information about the exact numbers, whereabouts, and needs of IDPs; the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has been tasked with launching an IDP survey, but the work has yet to begin. The political situation is also still so polarized and unstable that unrest in the run-up to elections is highly likely. With the recent massacres in the west of the country and the prevalence of anti-foreigner sentiment, disruptive forces can easily manipulate ethnic tensions with violent results. Potential targets of violence include the displaced Burkinabé who have been living in isolated camps for the past several years near Guiglo, as well as Liberian refugees. Because of the severely reduced timeline for election preparation in Cote d'Ivoire, an enormous investment by the international community, which heretofore has been reticent at lending support, is required."

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS AND CITIZENSHIP

General

The identification process aims at addressing the needs of the undocumented (2008)

- The new identification process started on 25th September 2007
- Mobile courts and tribunals can issue birth certificates or substitute judgments only to people born within their jurisdictions or based on birth registration for those outside
- Claimants need to have at least one witness to attest their birthplace
- The government is parallelly engaged in the reconstitution of civil registries lost or destroyed during the conflict
- Due to a failure to prepare the ground properly, the geographical coverage of the mobile courts has been limited and the turnout relatively low in the first few weeks of the process

Reuters, 17 September 2007

"Exclusion of any community is precisely what the identification process is aimed to fix, as Côte d'Ivoire fights its way back from five years of unrest and economic decline, triggered by a rebellion calling in part for an end to discrimination against northerners.

After several failed launches, the identification process is scheduled to start on 25 September. Teams of judges and legal experts will travel around the country to furnish those who do not have birth certificates with special documents that will serve for obtaining national ID and voter cards. A person seeking the documents must show up with at least one witness to attest to his or her birthplace.

The identification process is particularly important to residents of the northwestern Denguele region, who say they have long been cast as foreigners and discriminated against because they share names and ethnicities with communities of neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso.

Odiene acting mayor Kourouma said local authorities had not yet received a breakdown of how many teams will be in the region and in how many places they would set up shop. Given the lack of road access to so many areas he thought it would be best to hold tribunals in a few central towns rather than in a larger number of towns and villages."

Government of Burkina Faso, 14 January 2008

"Au titre du processus d'identification, le Comité [*d'évaluation et d'accompagnement*] a exprimé sa satisfaction quant à l'annonce du déploiement des équipes des audiences foraines. Il a noté les efforts déployés par le Gouvernement en vue de la reconstitution des registres d'état civil perdus ou détruits et de l'établissement des nouveaux titres d'identité en Côte d'Ivoire, sur la base d'un mode opératoire consensuellement établi. Le Comité a été informé de la préparation d'un programme humanitaire d'inscription à l'état civil des enfants de 0 à 13 ans de la part de la Communauté de Sant'Egidio."

[Click here to access the operating rules of the mobile courts](#)

UN Security Council, 2 January 2008, paras. 32-35

"A total of 111 mobile courts were planned to conduct the process of the identification of the Ivorian population, which started on 25 September. In all, 55 technical teams had been deployed as at 24 December, of which only 33 were operational. Also, as at that date, a total of 93,027 duplicate birth certificates had been granted by the mobile courts nationwide. With the noticeable exception of an incident in Bouaké on 18 December, in which judges serving in the mobile courts teams were attacked by Forces nouvelles elements who were protesting against the non-payment of their allowances, the mobile courts operations have progressed without any major security incidents.

The geographical coverage of the mobile teams, however, has been limited to 47 of the 727 communes of Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, turnout was relatively low in the first weeks of the process, partly owing to the failure by the Government to sensitize the population. Political parties have expressed concerns in that regard. Moreover, in some parts of the country, logistical and other difficulties hindered the timely payment of allowances to technical teams and security personnel deployed by the integrated command centre and contributed to the temporary suspension of some mobile courts operations.

On 14 November, the Prime Minister provided an explanation for the delays in the expansion of the number of mobile courts throughout the country, citing the lack of financial resources. He indicated that the Government was facing a shortfall of \$8 million to fund the identification process. On 19 November, the Government released \$2 million to support the deployment of additional teams for the conduct of the work of the mobile courts, which enabled the number of mobile courts deployed throughout the country to be increased by eight.

The third supplementary agreement also provided for the reconstitution of civil registers that had been lost or destroyed during the conflict to begin by the end of December 2007. A modus operandi has been proposed by the Minister for Justice and, consistent with an agreement reached by the two signatories to the third supplementary agreement, the reconstitution process is now scheduled to take place concomitantly with the mobile courts operations and the identification of the Ivorian population."

Overview of the documentation needs of IDPs in Abidjan and Grand Bassam (July 2007)

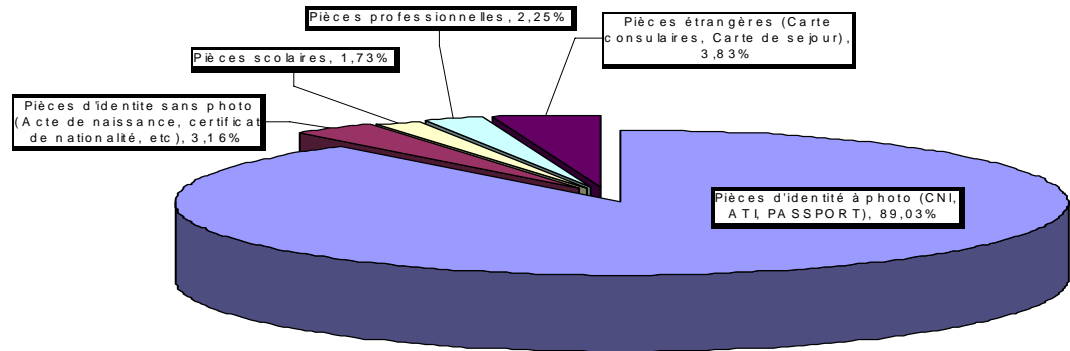
- Almost 8% of the heads of households interviewed declared not owning identity papers
- They come mainly from the regions of 18 Montagnes, Vallée du Bandama, Moyen Cavally, Lagunes and Savanes
- Conversely, around 10% of the members of the households do not have ID papers, for the majority children aged of less than 13 years

UNHCR/GoCdi, July 2007, pp. 12-13

"a) Chefs de ménages

10,478 (soit 92%) chefs de ménages possèdent divers documents d'identification, à savoir la carte nationale d'identité pour les nationaux ou des passeports, les cartes de séjour ou de résidence pour les étrangers ou bien les actes d'état civil tels que : actes de naissance, jugements supplétifs, certificat de nationalité, etc. 892 chefs de ménages, soit 7,8%, ne disposent pas de pièces d'état civil ou d'identité. Ils proviennent des zones centre, nord et ouest, notamment les 18 Montagnes, la Vallée du Bandama, le Moyen Cavally, les Lagunes et les Savanes. Tableau (g) en Annexe A donne un résumé par nationalité des chefs de ménages.

Graphique 13 : Répartition des ménages selon le type de pièce d'identité du chef de ménage



b) Les membres du ménage

Il ressort du résultat de la collecte d'informations que 7,322 (10.2%) personnes ne possèdent pas de document ; la situation se présente comme suit :

- Enfants de moins de 13 ans : 3,391 (18,2% des PDIs dans cette catégorie d'âge)
 - Enfants de 13 à 17 ans : 1,270 (12,4% des PDIs dans cette catégorie d'âge)
 - Adultes de plus de 18 ans : 2,661 (6,2% des PDIs dans cette catégorie d'âge)
- TOTAL : 7,322 (10,2% de la population total des PDIs)"

Renewal of national identity cards made difficult because of religious or ethnic affiliation (2007)

US Department of State, 6 March 2007, para. 2.c

"Some Muslims believed that their religious or ethnic affiliation made them targets of discrimination by the government with regard to both employment and the renewal of national identity cards. As northern Muslims shared names, style of dress, and customs with several predominantly Muslim neighboring countries, they sometimes were accused wrongly of attempting to obtain nationality cards illegally to vote or otherwise take advantage of citizenship."

Life for the undocumented is difficult (2007)

- Addressing documentation needs will contribute to addressing the root causes of the conflict
- Customary marriages and lack of birth certificates have contributed to create between three and five million undocumented people
- Lack of documentation prevents formal employment and access to education and fosters harassment by security forces

Refugees International, 15 February 2007

“The government’s wish to issue new identity documents to the entire population is unquestionably an administrative challenge but the effort is essential to resolve the critical questions facing this country with large migrant populations. Who is a citizen of the country and who rightfully should be? Who should own land? One international worker told RI, “People have been living for decades without documents; now it is even harder to get them. Everyone understands the problem cannot be solved in six months, but it is important to advance the operation.” Residents are expected to return to their place of birth, which is difficult while the conflict is unresolved.

Some government officials claim there are over three million undocumented (some estimates are as high as five million) West African immigrants (about half from Burkina Faso) living in the country with questionable eligibility for citizenship. Birth on Ivorian soil does not automatically confer citizenship, but only one parent must be a citizen for the child to become one. Blurring the issue further are family ties and intermarriage that stretch across borders. Most marriages in the country are customary and unregistered with the state, and many lack birth records, thus proving an Ivorian parent may be difficult. There may also be some migrants in Côte d’Ivoire who do not wish citizenship. The pilot program on documentation found that approximately 16 percent of those seeking nationality documentation were ineligible and thus at high risk of statelessness.

Life for the undocumented is difficult. Some displaced lost their documents during flight, others have had them confiscated. Still others lost their proof of citizenship when government buildings were destroyed during the conflict. Northerners complain they’ve been marginalized, denied jobs, citizenship and identity cards, and harassed because of their northern names. RI was told that the police and military personnel routinely abuse and harass those they deem non-citizens or to be northerners. One humanitarian worker reported, “Checkpoints make life almost impossible. Every couple of kilometers travelers assumed to be foreign have to get down from the vehicles and pay.” Another source said, “Individuals are harassed, sometimes taken to jail, and if they can’t pay, their documents may be taken away. They become stateless.” Lack of documentation prevents formal employment not only for individuals who were born in Côte d’Ivoire but also for those who are citizens of member countries of the Economic Community of West Africa, even though they have the right to live and work in any ECOWAS member country.”

United Nations, 30 November 2006, para. 42

“[T]he lack of identity papers limits displaced persons’ access to social and educational services. For example, mothers describe how difficult it is to enrol their children in school without a birth certificate. Their lack of identity papers also makes them particularly vulnerable to racketeering and corruption.”

PROPERTY ISSUES

General

The 1998 Rural Land Act is difficult to apply in the context of IDPs’ return (2007)

- The legal framework regulating land issues in Cote d'Ivoire is composed of the 1998 Rural Land Act, promulgated in January 1999 and three decrees and fifteen implementation order adopted between 200 and 2002
- The law reserves land ownership to Ivorian nationals
- The 1998 law foresees a period of 10 years since its entry into force (January 2009) during which all land-rights holders (excluding tenant farming methods) have to have their rights recognized through a land certificate, be it either individual or collective
- Passed this deadline, the land is registered in the name of the State and the farmer becomes a tenant on the land. After a second period of three years, all Ivorians holding land certificates must apply for individual land registration resulting in the issuing of definitive private land titles
- The 1998 Rural Land Act is largely not known and not applied in the West
- Since 2002, pilot projects to delimitate villages' land and to establish land certificates were launched but the full implementation of the law will require several more years
- The implementation of the 1998 land reform suffers from a lack of human and material resources
- The peace protocols established in the context of IDPs' return largely ignore the 1998 law and risk conflicting with it once this will be applied
- The modalities for the issuing of land certificates are not adapted to the situation of returning IDPs

UN OCHA/EU-Cote d'Ivoire, September 2007, pp. 26, 122

"Les problèmes de la question foncière se déclinent sous plusieurs formes. Le cadre juridique est encore méconnu et non appliqué. Aujourd'hui quelques avancées ont été réalisées, mais la mise à disposition des titres fonciers réclame encore plusieurs années. Depuis 2002, la mise en place du dispositif opérationnel et des opérations tests de délimitation des terroirs villageois et d'établissement de certificat foncier ont été initiées. Des comités sous-préfectoraux et villageois ont été constitués seulement dans une vingtaine de départements et une centaine de délimitations de terroirs ont été réalisées. La mise en application de la loi est encore quasi-inexistante et souffre d'une insuffisance en moyen humain et équipement et de l'absence de plan cadastral.

La loi foncière et les procédures d'obtention du Certificat Foncier ne sont pas connues, tant au niveau des services techniques comme l'ANADER, qu'au niveau des collectivités territoriales et locales et des paysans. Les agents de terrain des ONG impliqués dans la gestion des conflits et la cohésion sociale ignorent également le contenu de la loi. Les protocoles de paix établis entre les autochtones et les «étrangers» dans le cadre des retours des PDI ignorent tout de la loi foncière. Ils risquent d'être confligènes à moyen terme lors de l'application de la loi.

Les modalités d'établissement de Certificats Fonciers sont inadaptées à la situation de retour actuel des PDI. Elles souffrent de manque de personnel, de lourdeur administrative, de l'absence de relevé et de plan cadastral. Les délais de mise en oeuvre ne répondent pas aux priorités d'apaisement et de stabilisation de la gestion foncière à l'ouest.

[...]

Le cadre réglementaire et juridique du foncier rural existe à travers la loi relative au Domaine Foncier Rural votée en 1998 et promulguée en janvier 1999. En application à cette loi, trois décrets ont été pris en 1999 et quinze arrêtés d'application entre 2000 et 2002.

«La loi réserve la propriété foncière rurale aux Ivoiriens. Elle prévoit une première phase de dix ans (après sa promulgation, soit la limite de janvier 2009) durant laquelle tout détenteur de droits fonciers impliquant une appropriation de la terre (à l'exclusion des modes de faire-valoir indirects) doit faire reconnaître ses droits pour obtenir un certificat foncier (individuel ou collectif). Passé ce délai, la terre est immatriculée au nom de l'Etat et l'exploitant en devient le locataire. Au terme d'une seconde période de trois ans, les certificats fonciers détenus par des Ivoiriens doivent donner lieu à une immatriculation individuelle et aboutir à la délivrance d'un titre de propriété privée définitif. Les exploitants non-ivoiriens ne peuvent aspirer qu'à une promesse de bail emphytéotique, soit auprès des titulaires autochtones de certificats fonciers, au cas où ceux-ci les auraient fait figurer parmi les « occupants de bonne foi », soit auprès de l'Etat si la terre est immatriculée au nom de celui-ci.»

La loi et décrets prévoient que l'établissement du Certificat Foncier passe par une enquête impliquant les autorités sous-préfectorales et coutumières, le comité de gestion du foncier rural sous-préfectoral, le comité villageois de gestion du foncier rural, et autres agents administratifs, tels qu'un commissaire enquêteur. Son établissement requiert également un relevé des parcelles, le levé de plan du bien foncier et la pose de délimitation physique par layonnage en accord avec les membres de l'équipe d'enquête.

[Click here to access the Rural Land Act, law n.98-750 of 23 December 1998](#)

[Click here to access the decrees regarding the implementation of the 1998 land reform](#)

Aujourd'hui, quelques avancées ont été réalisées, mais la mise à disposition des titres fonciers réclame encore plusieurs années. Depuis 2002, la mise en place du dispositif opérationnel et des opérations-tests de délimitation des terroirs villageois et d'établissement de certificat foncier ont été initiées. Des comités sous-préfectoraux et villageois ont seulement été constitués dans une vingtaine de départements et une centaine de délimitations de terroirs ont été réalisées. La mise en application de la loi est encore quasi inexistante et souffre d'une insuffisance en moyen humain et équipement et de l'absence de plan cadastral.

Le Plan Foncier Rural a tenté des expériences de recensement du parcellaire, mais ce plan ne couvre pas encore le territoire. Des projets de délimitation des parcelles et de terroirs soutenus par l'UE sont en cours sur les axes Tabou- San Pedro- Sassandra et Daloa."

Property restitution poses problems in the North (2007)

- The conflict has engendered different types of damage including to property
- Most of the damage concerns property and/or goods in the areas of origin or habitual residence of the IDPs
- Property restitution is particularly difficult in northern Cote d'Ivoire where rebels occupy the houses of the IDPs

UNHCR/GoCdi, July 2007

"La crise a occasionné des dommages physiques, moraux, psychologiques et matériels. Les principaux dommages subis sont le traumatisme et les violences physiques (les agressions physiques, et les tortures), ainsi que la destruction des biens, notamment les maisons d'habitation. Des biens ont été confisqués, notamment les maisons, ateliers et voitures principalement aux ressortissants togolais, ivoiriens, béninois et nigériens (Tableau (h) dans Annexe A).

Il est important de reconnaître que la plupart de ces actes ont été commis dans les zones d'origine ou de résidence habituelle des déplacés. En comparaison, les dommages subis dans les zones d'accueil ont été négligeables, ce qui amène à penser que les déplacés y ont rencontré beaucoup moins de problèmes de protection."

IASC, 15 August 2007

"The North is characterised by marginalisation, an 80% unemployment rate and tensions in the population. Groups or whole communities that fled during the crisis are now coming back, and in particular women have reported cases of assaults by returnees. Property restitution poses another problem, as many rebels have occupied the houses of the fled IDPs, who do not dare claim their property back upon their return. The Ministry of Reconciliation, which is in charge of IDP related issues, has set up an antenna, and with the current redeployment of the administration in the North things are expected to move forward."

The case of the protected forests in the West (2007)

- Parts of reserved forests in the West were sold to migrant workers with the complicity of traditional chiefs and local authorities
- Tensions between local groups and migrant workers started arising in 1998 and with the war in 2002 people were forced to abandon their plantations and displaced
- In turn, IDPs from the Zou settled on the plantations previously vacated

OECD, February 2007, p. 41

"The colonial State had made forest exports an economic priority. The forest decree of 1912 confined indigenous farming activities and reserved most of the forest for colonial exploitation. The protection of reserved forests (6,915,000 ha in 1949) was the principal means of expropriating customary lands. Until the 1950s, indigenous entrepreneurs were excluded from the sector by colonists. They consequently invested in plantation farming, thereby contributing to deforestation. Protecting the development of indigenous family plantation farming was a far more important political challenge for african political elites. From independence onwards, a large part of the reserved forest was returned to farming purposes.

State permanent property includes 202 reserved forests, 8 national parks and 3 reserves. The only land open for exploitation is the forest found south of the eighth parallel (34% of the area of the country). Although forest exploitation provides a few direct jobs, a certain number of young people are nevertheless used as "coxers" to mark the valuable trees situated in cultivated areas. Obtaining concessions, permits and preferential favours encourages corruption, while "cleaning" reserved forests of their illegal farmers gives rise to targeted blitz operations on small farmers. The implementation of a participative "farmers-forest" co-management policy for progressively managing the scattering of illegal farmers has not yielded conclusive results.

[...]

The war economy [...] encourages mining-type exploitation of forest resources. On the government side, the search for a rapid means of financing the war effort has led the para-State

company responsible for the exploitation of the forests to remove protection from reserved forests since 2003. In the far west, war chiefs and also young militiamen have turned to forest exploitation, especially in the Guiglo region. Intercommunity violence seems to be fuelled by the pillaging of a few reserved forests and parks, with the complicity of forest companies and certain officials of the army (the reserved forests of Scio and Goin Dédé in the Guiglo department, the Mount Peko national park in the Bangolo department). The Forces Nouvelles fighters are also exploiting resources in the protected northern area, with the complicity of forest companies established in the area under government control."

In the Moyen Cavally region, migrant workers coming from centre-west Cote d'Ivoire and West African countries (in particular Burkina Faso) were sold parcels of land in the reserved forests that they quickly transformed in coffee or cocoa plantations. The majority of IDPs state that it is since 1998 that problems arose. With the eruption of the conflict in 2002, more and more people were displaced and forced to abandon their plantations in the reserved forests. IDPs from the Zou, however, settled in turn on these plantations vacated by their owners.

UN OCHA/EU-Cote d'Ivoire, September 2007, pp. 124-125

"Avant la guerre, des populations « étrangères » ont occupé les forêts classées, comme la forêt d'IFA au Sud de Bloléquin, pour y ouvrir de grandes plantations. Elles y sont demeurées jusqu'à ce que la guerre les conduise à les quitter. Ces plantations ont été reprises par des autochtones PDI venant du Zou. L'expulsion de ces PDI du Zou par les autorités préfectorales - expulsion qui s'inscrit dans le cadre des retours actuels – restent incomprises par les jeunes autochtones, qui n'admettent pas pourquoi l'administration expulse leurs « frères » pour y faire retourner les «étrangers». Pour eux, l'interdiction d'occupation doit être égale pour tous."

Land issues are at the heart of the displacement situation (2007)

- The complexity of land ownership is linked to both economic and demographic reasons and political manipulation
- A key to the economic development of the country between 1960 and 1980 was the availability of foreign labour, which was further encouraged by introducing liberal land ownership laws in this period, under which the land belonged to those cultivating it
- The economic recession at the end of the 1980s not only had an impact on general standards of living but also exacerbated tensions between locals, West African workers and internal economic migrants
- Several types of conflicts are linked to the land: conflicts among autochtones, intergenerational conflicts, conflicts between autochtones and migrant workers
- The 1998 Rural Land Act as amended in 2004 currently regulates land rights
- The authorities are responsible for recovering property illegally occupied and where possible provide compensation in consultation with IDPs

UN OCHA/EU-Cote d'Ivoire, September 2007, pp. 123, 25-26, 121-122

"Les conflits récents entre communautés d'origines différentes sont les manifestations d'enjeux fonciers aussi anciens que les mouvements de colonisation agricole en Côte d'Ivoire.

Dans les années 50, suite aux mouvements massifs migratoires spontanés ou encouragés par une politique de développement de la culture du café-cacao, les mécontentements autochtones durent déjà être régulés par l'administration coloniale. A partir de l'indépendance, la systématisation de la mise en valeur des forêts au profit des agricultures pérennes s'est accompagnée d'appel à la main d'œuvre étrangère et de l'établissement massif de colons agricoles, baoulés ou voltaïques. Les conflits récurrents se manifestaient alors sur les droits fonciers et sur les modes de cohabitation entre les différentes communautés. Ces conflits fonciers évoluaient dans un contexte de « négociation conflictuelle permanente qui impliquait des groupes diversifiés et des coalitions variées, parties prenantes de ce processus : les autochtones cédants (...) de terre, les 'étrangers' accédant à celle-ci sous la protection (...) de l'administration, les agents locaux de l'Etat en relation de patronage (...) avec les migrants, (...), les 'cadres' et les politiciens (...) ».

Lors des années 60, l'interventionnisme de l'Etat dans la mise en valeur rationnelle et accélérée des terres s'est manifesté par le mot d'ordre lancé par Houphouët-Boigny en 1963 « La terre appartient à celui qui la met en valeur », qui a pris force de loi. Les colons agricoles purent bénéficier d'une protection administrative efficace pour accéder à la terre. Face à la pression administrative, les autochtones s'efforçaient de maintenir un minimum de maîtrise foncière sur les terres cédées aux étrangers « en préservant la fiction du tutorat traditionnel ». L'institution du tutorat est une convention qui donne à tout bénéficiaire d'une délégation de droits fonciers un devoir de reconnaissance à son « tuteur », se manifestant par des contres-prestations, telles que le reversement d'une partie de la production ou la participation aux dépenses exceptionnelles du tuteur, etc.

Dans un contexte d'imprécision des délimitations des terroirs, les autochtones pouvaient marquer leur maîtrise foncière vis-à-vis des villages voisins par ce processus d'aliénation de terres aux étrangers. Au cours des années 70, la pression foncière et le changement de génération ont transformé la relation de tutorat en une « entreprise de négociation permanente ». A partir des années 90, le tutorat a perdu de sa légitimité sous l'effet des revendications des jeunes, des citadins de retour au village et des cadres citadins.

• Les conflits entre autochtones

Les conflits entre les familles autochtones portent principalement sur les limites de leur domaine foncier. Ces problèmes sont particulièrement sérieux, car compte tenu de l'abondance de la ressource foncière aucune des familles n'a une idée précise des limites de l'étendue des terres. Ces problèmes de limite se posent presque toujours après contractualisation des terres pour leur exploitation par des « étrangers ». Le conflit s'étend alors aux exploitants et vise à déterminer les droits de tutorat et de rente des allogènes.

• Les conflits intergénérationnels au sein des familles autochtones

Ces conflits sont relatifs aux modalités d'association ou de prise en compte des jeunes dans le partage ou la réservation des ressources. Les jeunes se plaignent que leurs parents vendent ou donnent la terre aux étrangers sans les concerter ou qu'ils n'ont plus de terre parce que tout a été vendu.

• Les conflits entre autochtones et étrangers

L'ambiguïté des conventions passées entre tuteur et étranger entretient une situation conflictuelle permanente réglée à l'amiable par des compromis. La remise en question entre générations, les positions politiques et discours extrêmes de certains cadres, les revendications d'appropriation de terres et le clivage ethnique de la logique de guerre ont exacerbé les tensions conduisant à des règlements violents, meurtres et déplacements de populations.

[...]

Les conflits autour du foncier sont de nature inter et intra-communautaires. Ils sont entretenus par l'ambiguïté des conventions coutumières, la remise en question de légitimité entre générations, les positions politiques et les discours extrêmes de certains cadres, les revendications d'appropriation de terres et les clivages ethniques exacerbés par la logique de guerre. Les structures de médiation et de gestion des crises tant coutumières qu'administratives sont insuffisantes.

[...]

Le foncier est régulièrement cité comme cause de la crise dans la région Ouest. D'aucuns considèrent que les conflits ne sont pas fonciers mais participent plutôt d'un banditisme de spoliation des terres et des récoltes. Certains préfets et sous-préfets en charge de suivre les règlements des conflits à l'Ouest concluent néanmoins que 90% des conflits sont d'origine foncière, mais concernent en majorité les familles autochtones et ne sont pas intercommunautaires. Enfin, d'autres estiment que ce ne sont que des problèmes de cohabitation, sur lesquels viennent se greffer secondairement le foncier. Néanmoins, lors de l'étude, les évaluations d'IRC et CARE menées dans les départements de Bangolo et Duékoué n'étaient pas encore dépouillées de façon à définir une typologie des conflits ou d'attribuer la part du foncier.

Une étude récente sur le foncier [[Modes d'accès à la terre, marchés fonciers, gouvernance et politiques foncières en Afrique de l'Ouest](#). J.-P. Chauveau et al. Avril 2006, IIED - CLAIMS Africa] estime qu'«en Côte d'Ivoire, la dimension foncière de la crise en milieu rural est évidente. La crise de l'économie de plantation accentue les tensions entre exploitants, les planteurs burkinabés ayant souvent de meilleures performances, du fait de leur accès à une main-d'œuvre peu coûteuse, parfois de leur contrôle des filières. Rentrant au village en échec d'insertion urbaine, les jeunes autochtones de la zone forestière ont trouvé des terroirs saturés et remettent en cause les droits accordés aux 'étrangers' par leurs pères.(...) Les situations sur le terrain sont en pratique très contrastées. Aux situations 'd'arrachage ' de terre s'opposent des cas où les migrants n'ont pas été inquiétés. Par ailleurs, les migrants ivoiriens (Baoulés en particulier) sont fréquemment plus mal considérés que les Burkinabés, qui respectent davantage les normes locales et le devoir d'assistance à leur tuteur » (p.75)

En tout état de cause, les problèmes fonciers sont récurrents dans les régions et se posent en termes très diversifiés. Ils restent associés à des dynamiques conflictuelles qui débouchent régulièrement sur des morts d'homme et des rixes inter- communautaires suivies de déplacements de population et de la déstabilisation des systèmes de production. Par ailleurs, la méconnaissance des acteurs de terrain gouvernementaux ou des ONG du cadre foncier d'une part et le décalage entre le cadre légal foncier et les pratiques informelles de régulation locale d'autre part ne font qu'amplifier la confusion des situations conflictuelles."

IRIN, 13 November 2006

"Authorities this year completed a pilot programme to record rights to land after lengthy consultations with villagers, elders, chiefs and local officials. The consultations include reviewing existing territorial agreements between individuals, families and communities.

Competition for land and the lack of official identity documents are partly behind the political impasse that has divided Cote d'Ivoire since a failed coup in September 2002 triggered a brief civil war. The conflict resulted in the exodus of millions of West Africans who for years had considered Cote d'Ivoire their home after they or their parents immigrated to work the country's fertile land.

The government effort has aimed to clarify land tenure and safeguard it through formal registration. The boundaries of 105 villages in the southwestern cocoa belt and the southeast were mapped out and at least 20 land disputes have been resolved since 2004, analysts said.

"People were very happy. All the operations went well," said one analyst, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of land issues in Cote d'Ivoire. "Villagers and farmers are hungry for official documents and contracts. They need concrete and visible marks accepted by everyone because sometimes they simply don't know that this is not their parcel of land but the neighbour's one."

Door closes

Founding president Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who ruled Cote d'Ivoire for 33 years after independence from France, had decreed that "land belongs to the person who cultivates it" and encouraged West Africans from Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and other neighbouring countries to farm in the fertile west and southwest of Cote d'Ivoire to help develop the country's economy.

As the population grew, swathes of virgin rainforest were slashed and burned to create more land to grow coffee, fruit and cocoa. The immigrants helped transform Cote d'Ivoire into the world's largest cocoa exporter and the most successful economy in West Africa.

But falling world prices for cocoa led to an economic downturn in the 1980s. Many Ivorian youths left the economic hub of Abidjan on the coast and returned to their villages only to find there was not enough farmland to go around.

Politicians, including former president Henri Konan Bedie, began talking of "Ivoirite" or "Ivorianness" after Houphouet-Boigny's death in 1993. Then a 1998 law recognising customary land rights in Cote d'Ivoire effectively ended the country's open-door immigration policy by preventing migrants and their offspring from having land rights.

The introduction of nationalism, coupled with the country's economic problems and competition for land, triggered attacks on West African migrants. "The Ivorian political context favours the explosion of [land] conflicts, feeds them and prevents their resolution," one Abidjan-based analyst said."

UN Human Rights Council, 18 October 2006, paras. 58-60

“The problems related to land in rural areas are one of the major challenges facing the Ivorian authorities. This is a complex issue and raises questions about the scarcity of arable land, demographic pressures, the economic crisis that dates from the beginning of the 1980s following the collapse of coffee and cocoa process on the world market, and the exploitation of the issue for political ends.

Rural land is governed by the 1998 Rural Land Act, the prime purpose of which was to clarify land rights by providing a legal framework for them and to modernize customary land rights. Under article 1 of the Act, only the State, public authorities and individual Côte d'Ivoire nationals can own rural land. This provision represents a break with the past policy of President Houphouët-Boigny, under which the land belonged to the person cultivating it. Against a background of political tension linked to the power struggle, the Act aroused a sense of injustice in many non-Ivorian owners, some of whom had been cultivating the land for several generations. They were especially worried that their non-Ivorian descendants would not be able to become owners of the land. In response to their fears, and in implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, the 1998 Act was modified by a law dated 14 August 2004, under which rights to rural land ownership acquired before 2004 can be transmitted to descendants. The owners concerned by this derogation must be on a list drawn up by the Council of Ministers. At a time when the question of identifying Ivorian citizens is at the heart of the discussions, the Representative of the Secretary-General is concerned about the risks that the law will either not be applied or will be applied in a discriminatory fashion.

The authorities have a responsibility to help displaced persons recover their property and possessions and, where possible, to provide appropriate compensation or another form of just reparation (Principle 29). The process of adopting legislation to provide a framework for the provision of such compensation should be speeded up. In cases where the property of displaced persons is occupied by unauthorized individuals- especially in the north- the necessary steps should be taken to enable the property to be returned to them. In this connection, the Representative of the Secretary-General has taken note of the communiqué from the secretary-general of the Forces Nouvelles announcing the establishment of a special committee to address this question in territory under the control of the Forces Nouvelles. All these matters, like every other issue related to the situation of displaced people, should be addressed in consultation with the people most affected- displaced persons themselves.”

PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

General

Overview of returns (February 2008)

- In the course of 2007, the spontaneous return of IDPs intensified besides some 50,000 returnees part of the humanitarian caseload
- As many as 7580 people have spontaneously returned on the axis Guiglo - Toulepleu
- To allow IDPs from the Centre d'Accueil et de Transit des Déplacés (CATD) to return, the IDPs from the Zou occupying their plantations were displaced again and were waiting to return
- Given the important number of spontaneous returns, follow-up on social cohesion in the areas of return is not always included in the plans of the humanitarian agencies

UN Security Council, 2 January 2008, para. 50

"During the reporting period, the spontaneous return of displaced persons intensified, particularly in the west and north of the country. Of the humanitarian caseload of 120,000 persons, approximately 50,000 have returned. Together with relevant Government ministries, local authorities and non-governmental organizations, the United Nations humanitarian agencies developed a common strategy for providing mid- to long-term assistance to returnees. A total of \$2.5 million allocated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator from the Central Emergency Response Fund for humanitarian activities in Côte d'Ivoire will be channelled towards activities that assist in the return process."

UN OCHA/EU-Cote d'Ivoire, September 2007, pp. 28-30

"Les principales cibles d'attention sur les PDI sont celles en provenance des régions de l'axe Guiglo-Bloléquin-Toulepleu du Moyen-Cavally et de l'ex-zone de confiance (Zou, Diéouzon et Guéyéby).

2.7.1 Les retours des PDI du Moyen-Cavally (axe Guiglo-Toulepleu) : Il s'agit de populations allogènes et étrangères. À partir de la réinstallation d'un climat de paix à l'issue des accords de Ouagadougou, l'option a été prise par le IAHCC de sécuriser les PDI dans le CATD et d'encourager leur retour. Après avoir respecté les précautions préalables (visites « Go & See », processus de rapprochement communautaire, établissement de comité de paix), les retours se sont amorcés. Fin juin 2007, six cantons des départements de Bloléquin et Toulepleu ont déjà accueilli 1359 personnes. OIM a organisé de nouveaux retours vers d'autres cantons dans la perspective de la fermeture du CATD programmée en juillet 2007. En juin 2007, ces actions de retour rencontraient les contraintes et limites principales suivantes.

- **D'importants retours spontanés sur l'axe Guiglo-Toulepleu:** Des effectifs de l'ordre de 7580 personnes étaient retournées spontanément dans le sillage des retours organisés du CATD. Elles provenaient de groupes en attente dans les villes de la région ou de retournés du Burkina Faso. Ces populations n'étaient pas prises en compte dans les estimations des besoins par les acteurs humanitaires.

- **De nouvelles populations en phase de transit:** Pour permettre aux PDI du CATD de réintégrer leurs plantations, l'administration militaire a poussé à la libération de plantations

occupées par les déplacés du Zou, avec l'accord de leurs frères d'accueil guérés. Ces expulsions engendrent de nouvelles populations déplacées en attente de retour et installées en familles d'accueil sur l'axe Guiglo-Blolequin. Ces PDI ne bénéficiaient ni d'un appui sur place, ni d'un programme de retour. Elles étaient estimées fin juin 2007 à 700 personnes et pourront voir leur effectif s'accroître au gré des expulsions des plantations.

- **Le manque de suivi et d'encadrement de la phase post-retour:** Du fait du nombre important de retours spontanés, le suivi de la cohésion sociale en situation de post-retour échappe à l'encadrement prévu pour les effectifs d'OIM. Les renforts attendus des agences en termes d'appui à la cohésion sociale, de suivi de la fonctionnalité des infrastructures socio-collectives dans les zones d'accueil font encore défaut hormis les appuis combinés FAO/PAM et les activités «Vivres contre Travail » du PAM.

- **L'établissement de protocoles de paix ou de protocoles conligènes ?** : Des protocoles de paix contraires aux droits humains selon les Principes Directeurs Relatifs aux PDI ont été signés par les autochtones et les PDI étrangères comme manifestes de paix. Ces protocoles ne prennent pas en compte la loi foncière nationale. Ils sont en réalité une nouvelle convention foncière et du travail qui autorise les autochtones guérés à s'accaparer les biens et le travail des retournés.

2.7.2 Les retours dans l'ex-zone de confiance (Zou, Diéouzon, Guéyibly)

Au mois de Décembre 2006, on dénombrait environ 78.000 déplacés de la zone de confiance à Duékoué, Guiglo et Blolequin. Ces PDI autochtones proviennent notamment du Zou, Diéouzon et Guéyibly. Ces populations souhaitent retourner chez elles tout en exigeant le retour à la sécurité, la réhabilitation des infrastructures collectives et individuelles, la récupération de leurs forêts et de leurs plantations accaparées par les résidents et les nouveaux «étrangers».

Les programmes des ONG IRC et CARE, en charge de la préparation au retour des PDI ont été amorcés. En juin 2007, si les diagnostics des conflits sociaux et des besoins en réhabilitation des infrastructures ainsi que la mise en place des comités de paix étaient en partie achevées, acteurs humanitaires et populations s'accordaient pour conclure que l'insécurité et l'absence des autorités, de l'administration, de la police ne permettaient pas d'encourager les populations au retour. Ces activités présentaient certaines limites:

- Le rapprochement entre communautés n'incluait pas les PDI en attente dans le Moyen-Cavally, dont les moyens sont limités pour s'engager à explorer leurs villages. Les comités de paix risquent de devoir être reconstitués au retour de ces PDI dans leurs villages d'origine.
- Les délais nécessaires de traitement des résultats des diagnostics sociaux qui risquent de rendre caduques des informations dans une situation très labile.
- L'absence de plan de contingence des humanitaires d'accompagnement au retour en cas de restauration subite des autorités et de la sécurité dans le Zou (définition des besoins, dénombrement, apport de vivres, transport, appuis sanitaires, apport de kits, etc.)
- Le manque de concertation sur le terrain entre tous les acteurs, y compris sur les PDI et les autorités préfectorales, pour définir les conditions au retour cadrant avec les Principes Directeurs."

[Click here for detailed statistics compiled by OCHA on numbers of returns in the Zou as of February 2008](#)

[Click here for a compilation of statistics on returns in the Moyen Cavally and ex-zone of confidence as of January 2008](#)

Peace process promotes return but obstacles remain (2007)

- Land and property rights are among some of the main challenges faced by returnees
- Returns were recorded throughout 2006 but because of lack of land access secondary displacement has also taken place
- There are no reliable figures with regard to returnees
- Insecurity remains the major obstacle to return

IRIN, 5 April 2007

“The new peace deal may bring a new set of problems. “Now they say we are going to return but will we have the right to our plantations?” asks Kouassi.

Michel Tia, head of the regional IOM bureau in Duekoué, said the agency was trying to accelerate the return process to further help people like Kouassi and his family who do not receive the same assistance as those in the displaced camp in Guiglo.

Humanitarian organisations held negotiations with landowners to help ease people back into their communities but many challenges remain.

“Houses are nonexistent in the villages they are returning to,” said Tia. “Everything was destroyed. We have thought of putting up tents. The displaced [at the Guiglo center] are used to that and afterwards we will think about rehabilitating the houses to settle them definitively.”

Amadou Malgré Ouédraogo, 60, is one of the leaders of the Burkinabe community at the Guiglo camp. He said his garden of peppers, beans and eggplant is embarrassing compared to the hectares he once farmed. But he is resolved to restart his life once he returns to his village.

“I lost everything and now in the name of peace we are obliged to accept the situation,” he said. “But that will not be easy if they do not guaranty us a minimum of land to cultivate.”

IOM, 23 March 2007

“IOM has assisted a first group of some 178 internally displaced persons (IDPs) return to and resettle in their areas of residence in Western Cote d'Ivoire.

The group, made up mostly of West African migrant workers who had fled ethnic strife in 2002 and 2003, left the IOM-run Centre for Assistance to Temporary Displaced Persons (CATD) in Guiglo on Wednesday for three villages in the prefecture of Toulepleu, on the Liberia border.

Upon arrival in Péhé, Taibly and Diali, the returnees and vulnerable families in the host community received food and non food items such as tarpaulins, blankets and kitchen kits, which had been pre-positioned ahead of time by IOM. More food assistance, seeds and tools will be distributed next week by WFP and FAO.

This first return and reintegration operation follows extensive efforts deployed by IOM over the past year to promote reconciliation between communities of displaced West African migrant workers and host communities over complex land issues.”

UNHCR, 23 March 2007, p. 6

“There are no reliable figures on the return movement, which has already started on a small scale. One figure, which was collected by IOM and the NGO Cap Anamur in June 2006, concerned 300 IDPs who returned to their places of origin from Duékoué and Yamoussoukro.

Some of these returnees have, however, recently moved again following insecurity in Blody and Fengolo in the *Zone de Confiance*.”

US Department of State, 6 March 2007, para. 2.d

“During the year an estimated 40,000 IDPs returned to their areas of origin, some without external assistance. UN agencies and local authorities also facilitated the small-scale return of IDPs to several locations in the west of the country with varying degrees of success. The displacement patterns often complicated the return of IDPs. For example, the displaced Burkinabe and other settlers living in the Guiglo IDP camp said that their plantations around the western town of Blolequin, south of the Zone of Confidence, were being occupied by indigenous Guere populations, who themselves had been displaced from their land in the Zone of Confidence at the beginning of the crisis. The government had not addressed this situation by year's end.

[...]

In late 2005 the government attempted to forcibly expel approximately 200 IDPs from a Catholic mission in the western town of Duekoue to compel them to return to their villages. Some of the IDPs cited security concerns and refused to return. The subprefect of Guehieby, located in the Zone of Confidence, used limited local funds to rent private homes for the IDP families, and families were forced to share overcrowded houses or take up residence in abandoned houses. The Catholic Mission permitted a number of IDPs to remain until alternative arrangements were made.”

UN Human Rights Council, 18 October 2006, para. 53

“Everyone who spoke to the Representative of the Secretary-General, particularly displaced persons themselves, stressed that all displaced persons would like to return to their region of origin. The Representative of the Secretary-General was unable, however, to collect reliable information on the number of people who had already returned to their place of origin. In most cases, displaced persons believe that the conditions for their return are not in place, especially with regard to security. Many of the individuals questioned spoke of material problems related to their possible return – basically their increasing poverty and problems related to the destruction or occupation of their homes in their place of origin. The total absence of State organizations in the zone of confidence and the absence of the government administration in the north of the country are also obstacles to return.”

Summary of data on IDPs' wishes to return or resettle (March 2006)

- Almost 80% of IDPs have not returned to their areas of origin since the start of the crisis
- The majority of the IDPs plan on going back to their homes once the situation will be normalized
- Wishes to return change according to area of origin with only a minority of men from the north wanting to return
- Support in material resources constitutes an extra incitement for IDPs to return

ENSEA, March 2006

“Volonté de retour des PDI vers leurs lieux d'origine et les raisons de leur sédentarisation dans leur lieu de résidence actuelle.

En règle générale, les déplacés ne sont pas retournés dans leur zone de résidence d'avant la crise pendant toute la durée de celle-ci. C'est le cas de 8 personnes déplacées sur 10. Aussi,

83% des déplacés qui ont refusé de faire un tel voyage ont avancé la raison de l'insécurité qui règne toujours dans le pays.

La majorité des PDIs (72%) font le projet de quitter les ménages d'accueil et de retourner dans leur zone de provenance à la fin de la crise, après que la situation se soit complètement normalisée. Cependant, cette situation d'ensemble n'est pas uniforme et change parfois considérablement selon la zone de provenance du déplacé. Ainsi, les hommes déplacés venus de la zone nord qui souhaitent y retourner ne sont que 17 % alors que, la proportion de femmes venant de cette zone et ayant manifesté le même désir s'élève à 43 %. Ce sont les proportions les plus faibles des volontés de retour exprimées. Les réfugiés en provenance de la Vallée du Bandama manifestent également une assez forte réticence à retourner dans leur zone de départ : 46 % des hommes et 57 % des femmes seulement ont exprimé le désir de retour. En revanche, plus de 4 personnes sur 5 souhaitent retourner lorsqu'elles proviennent du Haut Sassandra ou de l'Ouest (82 % et 77 % respectivement au niveau des hommes, 74 % et 77 % respectivement pour les femmes).

Une proportion significative de 13 % des déplacés interrogés (autant chez les hommes qu'au niveau des femmes) refuse obstinément le retour dans leur ancienne localité de résidence quelle que soit l'incitation.

Des attentes matérielles ont été avancées comme incitation pour le retour dans leurs localités d'origine par certaines PDIs. Elles souhaitent une aide au retour et d'autres pensent que la réhabilitation des logements endommagés et leur évacuation seraient les conditions préalables. Les premiers constituent 14 % de l'ensemble et les seconds 10%."

Tensions high between returning IDPs and local communities in western Cote d'Ivoire (2004)

- In western Cote d'Ivoire, many local communities are frightened by the return of IDPs due to continuing ethnic tensions and violence, and this has itself caused further displacement
- In some cases IDPs are unwilling to return before armed elements are disarmed
- Serious efforts for conflict resolution and reconciliation are needed in the villages

UN OCHA, 10 September 2004

"There has been limited movement of IDPs, the majority of which are living with host families in the South of the country. It has been estimated that there are at least a quarter of a million IDPs living in Abidjan. Some movement has been noted in the western part of the country, however this mostly concerns farmers who have returned to cultivate their crops. The environment in the west remains very hostile towards IDPs. There has been virtually no return of civil servants to the Northern part of the country, and they remain reluctant to return before the DDR process.

On the 13th of August a group of Baoulé, including men and women attempting to return to their homes in and around Bolequin, was held up in the village of Kaadé, where they were physically aggressed, stripped of their belongings and denied the possibility to pass through the area. They were also prevented access the following day even though they had received passes from the local authorities and were escorted by gendarmes. The problem of denied access has also been encountered by humanitarian agencies, which have been denied access to vulnerable populations including IDPs North of Bolequin."

UN OCHA, 26 April 2004

"In the western Côte d'Ivoire tensions are heightened due to the premature return of IDPs to their areas of residence. Humanitarian organisations are receiving mixed reports from IDPs and host villages regarding their return. It is clear that while some communities and IDPs may be ready to be reunited others are not.

In the classified Forest Scio, situated northwest of Guiglo, the return of IDPs to the campement of CIB in the forest of Scio led to violent clashes and the death of one Guéré, who was decapitated in early April. Due to this incidence and a general feeling of insecurity among the local inhabitants, many have chosen to leave the village. It is estimated that since the 2nd April 2004 a total of 321 IDPs have returned to CIB. OCHA and IOM will conduct a mission to this area to further investigate the situation.

The conflict between the of Dozos from Duoekpé and the Guéré from Diéouzon (26km northeast of Bangolo), on the 20th April has led to the displacement of 357 villagers of the Guéré ethnic group from Diéouzon and 158 from Duoekpé, who have fled to Bangolo.

LICORNE has been prevented from conducting its routine patrols in the Bolequin. On the 19th April, LICORNE was held back by a barrage set-up by groups of young men, accusing LICORNE of facilitating and organising the " clandestine" return of Burkinabé. Also in Bolequin, between Guiglo and Toulepleu, it has been reported that, the local population are alarmed and frightened by the return of IDPs and have sought shelter on the main road. Many villagers are still against the return of immigrants and intercommunity tensions are still very high. It is clear that serious efforts for conflict resolution and reconciliation are needed and that villagers are unable to initiate this process themselves. On the 23rd April the Minister of National Reconciliation, Professor Danon Djedje, visited Bolequin and Toulepleu in order to start the process of peace and reconciliation by establishing the local reconciliation committees.

Tuteurs (land owners) are coming to the camps in Nicla, Guiglo to encourage the return of IDPs as they urgently need the labour force for the start of the agricultural season. However, as mentioned earlier, many local communities are not yet ready for their return, likewise not all IDPs are not willing to return before the disarmament of armed elements begins.

In Man 1486 IDPs (173 families) have registered with the committee for IDPs to facilitate their return to their areas of residence, which include Danané, Bin-Houye, Zouan-Houien and Mahapleu. Many of these families expressed a wish to return to their homes in order to commence this year's agricultural season. The humanitarian community have been contacted to provide support for their return.

Number of IDPs Wanting to Leave Man and Return to Areas of Residence:

Area of residence	No. IDPs	Families
Danané	472	58
Bin-Houye	259	26
Zouan-Houien	594	70
Mahapleu	161	19
Total	1486	173

Source: Committee for IDPs in Man

There are some humanitarian support mechanisms (WFP food-aid) in place for IDPs who have returned to their areas of residence. Between the 14th-20th April, WFP in partnership with ICRC WFP provided 5,515 returnees with rations and commenced food for work programmes in Zouan Houien, Bin Houye and Man.

The general council of Danané has presented a project for peace and reconciliation in the department of Danané. During the crisis many fled from this area, particularly from Bin Houye and Zouan Hounien. The project is comprised of various different stages including 1) facilitating inter-community dialogue and building social cohesion, 2) sensitisation of local authorities (formal and informal) and 3) addressing the specific cases of IDPs in the prospect of their return.”

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

General

Roadblocks impede humanitarian access (2007)

- Roadblocks mounted after inter-community clashes prevent access to UN agencies and NGOs
- The tensions erupted around Guiglo in February 2007 calmed down after a few days allowing the international community to resume their operations

UN OCHA, 4 March 2007

"Le 25 février 2007 à Glopaoudi, à 15 km nord de Guiglo, des individus armés non identifiés auraient attaqué un autochtone Guéré, le blessant grièvement à la mâchoire. A la suite de cet incident, la situation est restée très tendue entre populations autochtones et allogènes sur l'axe Guiglo-Bloléquin. Plusieurs barrages ont été érigés à Glopaoudy, Zouan, Domobly et Mona. Le 26 février 2007, une équipe du HCR se rendant à Toulepleu procéder au rapatriement des réfugiés Libériens a été bloquée à Zouan. Une autre équipe UNICEF en mission à Toulepleu a été obligée de rebrousser chemin sur Guiglo. Des patrouilles militaires des Forces Impartiales (FI) ont été également refusées d'entrer tant à Domobly qu'à Glopaoudy. Dans l'après-midi du 27 février, la situation s'est davantage dégradée lorsque des instituteurs venant de Bloléquin pour Guiglo, accompagnés d'une escorte militaire, ont été bloqué par des jeunes de Glopaoudy qui ont par ailleurs désarmer les militaires. Les FDS de Bloléquin sont venus en renfort à ceux de Guiglo pour rétablir l'ordre et récupérer les armes auprès des jeunes. La situation sur l'axe est redevenue calme le 1er mars 2007, le HCR a pu organiser le rapatriement de 124 réfugiés Libériens dont 17 venus du camp Peace Town de Nicla, et le reste est venu de Toulepleu et environs."

Assistance for IDPs threatened by anti-UN riots (January 2006)

- More than 6,000 IDPs and 8,000 refugees in camps in western Cote d'Ivoire were left without assistance after UN agencies were forced to evacuate in January 2006 by violence and looting directed at them
- Several hundred UN peacekeepers also left their base in the western town of Guiglo
- Humanitarian assistance in the area had to be suspended for several weeks until sufficient security was restored to allow operations to be resumed

IRIN, 23 January 2006

"The gutting of UN facilities and evacuation of staff in western Cote d'Ivoire last week could deprive thousands of refugees and displaced of food aid and other humanitarian assistance, officials warned on Monday.

About 14,000 refugees and displaced persons live in camps near the western town of Guiglo, where anti-UN protesters loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo went on the rampage last week,

torching the offices of 10 UN agencies and other aid groups and driving out all UN personnel and most other aid workers.

'The situation is extremely serious,' Abdou Dieng, UN World Food Programme country director, told IRIN. "We don't know what's going to happen to these people."

Angry youths damaged or stole at least 20 UN vehicles and looted a WFP warehouse of just under 700 tonnes of rice destined for vulnerable populations, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). They also made off with laptops, cameras, scanners, generators and satellite phones.

Total damages for the UN could amount to US \$1.8 million, UN humanitarian coordinator Abdoulaye Mar Dieye said in a statement, condemning what he called a 'flagrant violation of human rights and humanitarian law.'

[...]

Currently, UN agencies feed and provide humanitarian assistance to almost one million people faced by food insecurity, and about one out of five of the country's 17 million people receives humanitarian assistance of some kind, UN officials told IRIN.

Last week's riots, which lasted four days and brought the economic capital Abidjan to a standstill, targeted UN-sponsored attempts to bring peace to Cote d'Ivoire, split between a rebel-held north and government-controlled south for more than three years.

While calm has returned to Abidjan, the head of the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI), Pierre Schori, told reporters at the weekend that the situation in the west is 'very worrying...because it can lead to a humanitarian disaster.'

Staff from the medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres-France are among the few humanitarian agents left behind in the region, according to head of mission Hiam Elzein, who said MSF-France's health and nutritional centres were continuing to function.

'We're trying to maintain a humanitarian presence,' she said.

The densely forested region around Guiglo is home to a refugee camp for 8,000 Liberians and a camp sheltering some 6,000 Burkinabe farmers, driven off their plantations in Cote d'Ivoire during three years of conflict.

Nearly all aid workers were forced out of the region last week when mobs began to burn and loot UN facilities following the death of five youths when peacekeepers opened fire following an attack on a UN military compound.

Following the clashes several hundred Bangladeshi peacekeepers left their bases in Guiglo and the nearby town of Duekoue, retreating to the buffer zone that separates the rebel and government zones.

For the refugees and displaced persons stranded in the west, WFP's Dieng says the priority must be to resume aid to those who need it. 'We must return there. We cannot just abandon them.' "

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

National response

Overview: National response (2008)

Since the start of Côte d'Ivoire's civil conflict in September 2002, the government's policy and operational response to the internal displacement in the country has been hampered by its lack of experience in tackling humanitarian crises. While several government ministries – including the Ministry of Solidarity and War Victims, the Ministry of National Reconciliation and Institutional Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Reconstruction and Reintegration – have worked to varying degrees on issues related to displaced people, the lack of a government focal point greatly constrained efforts led by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) to put in place a coordinated IDP response structure. However, in mid-2006, the Ministry of Solidarity and War Victims officially took the lead role on IDP issues. The government has also set up a number of bodies, including an inter-ministerial committee, in charge of coordinating the protection of and assistance to the country's internally displaced people (IDMC, 8 February 2007; GoCdl, 20 March 2007), but the broad lack of high-level political representation has limited their effectiveness.

The proclaimed overarching goal of the government's IDP plan is the return of all displaced people to their original homes. The Ouagadougou Accord focuses on the drafting of a national strategy document to facilitate the return of IDPs, and remains silent on the right to voluntary resettlement in another part of the country, as prescribed in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The government formulated in August 2006 a programme of assistance for the voluntary return of people displaced by the conflict (GoCdl, August 2006), in collaboration with a number of UN agencies and international NGOs; the programme aimed to provide psychological, medical and administrative assistance to returning IDPs while guaranteeing their reintegration in areas of origin. Initially to be developed in two phases, with a pilot phase benefiting 5,000 IDPs, the programme could not be launched in November 2006 as planned due to a lack of funding. Elements of a national legal framework upholding the rights of IDPs, including draft bills for the protection of internally displaced people and the compensation of war victims including IDPs, were being prepared as of March 2008. Finally, training sessions on the rights of IDPs and on the responsibilities of government towards them were organised throughout 2007, for both government officials and members of the *Forces Nouvelles* (UN OCHA, 7 October 2007; 6 September 2007; 30 July 2007).

Government sets up committee for IDP protection (2007)

IDMC, 8 February 2007

"The Ivorian government [set up](#) an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate the protection of and assistance to the country's estimated 750,000 IDPs, at the end of January in Abidjan. This followed the recommendations of the First Conference on Internal Displacement in West Africa, held in Abuja in 2006. With the country's economic, social, humanitarian and security situation [deteriorating](#), the consultative committee is charged with proposing strategies and drafting a national action plan on IDP protection. While the Ivorian government and the rebels [hold](#) talks in Burkina Faso, IDPs are in an increasingly precarious situation. Insecurity, impunity and lingering tensions based on nationality and voting issues have prevented large-scale returns. The most

challenging areas are government-controlled parts of the west and the Zone of Confidence patrolled by UN and French forces, whose mandate was [extended](#) until the end of June 2007. Human rights violations, including killings, disappearances and death threats, are a common occurrence, [according](#) to Refugees International."

[Click here to access the text of the decree creating the inter-ministerial committee](#)

[Click here to access the minutes of the meetings \(January to May 2007\) of the committee](#)

International response

Overview: International response (2008)

Funding constraints have generally affected both the national and the international response to the internal displacement situation in Côte d'Ivoire. After his visit in June 2007, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Walter Kälin, noted that overall the humanitarian response had improved since his last visit in 2006, even though the lack of resources visibly hampered implementation efforts at all levels (IASC, 15 August 2007; UNOCI, 2 July 2007). A number of missions to the west, where the humanitarian needs are most pressing, were organised with donor and aid representatives in an effort to increase the support for protection and monitoring activities (UN SC, 2 January 2008; IRIN, 24 July 2007). By 2008, various protection forums existed within the Protection Cluster under UNHCR's leadership, which intends to bring greater accountability and predictability to the protection of civilians, including IDPs. Regional clusters in Tabou, Guiglo and Bouaké were also operational. While the efforts of these forums have been praised, concerns have been voiced over their effectiveness in moving from the analytical to the operational and implementation stages.

The UN response to the humanitarian crisis in Côte d'Ivoire is headed by the Humanitarian Coordinator, Georg Charpentier, who is also the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, supported by UN OCHA in Abidjan and other strategic locations. He leads the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Coordination Committee (IAHCC), which includes UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, the International Organisation for Migration and international NGOs. With the situation in Côte d'Ivoire being characterised more and more by early recovery and long-term development challenges, it is likely, however, that several UN humanitarian agencies will start scaling down during 2008 and 2009. In line with this trend, organisations like UNDP, the European Union and the World Bank are conversely scaling up their interventions to bridge the gap between the humanitarian and the early recovery phases with varied success. The level of humanitarian intervention provided will depend to some extent on the continuation of the Humanitarian Coordinator role through this period. In this context, a CAP exercise for 2009 looks unlikely.

References to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

Known references to the Guiding Principles

- References to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation

- Other references to the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)
- Availability of the Guiding Principles in local languages
- Training on the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)

References to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation

None

Other references to the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)

As of April 2008, a draft bill on IDP protection with references to the Guiding Principles remained in draft form.

Strategy for the Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, developed by UN OCHA in Cote d'Ivoire in 2007, sets out immediate and mid-term priorities for ensuring durable solutions along the lines of the Guiding Principles.

Source: UN OCHA

Date: 20 December 2007 (draft awaiting input from the relevant ministries)

Document: [Les PDI en Côte d'Ivoire - priorités immédiates et à moyen terme](#)

Strategy for the Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, developed by UN OCHA's IDP Adviser in Cote d'Ivoire at the beginning of 2004, sets out objectives along the lines of the Guiding Principles, e.g. the need for durable solutions for returning IDPs.

Source: UN OCHA

Date: 17 January 2004

Document: [Proposition de stratégie d'assistance et de protection des personnes déplacées](#) (endorsed)

Availability of the Guiding Principles in local languages

Guiding Principles in [French](#)

Training on the Guiding Principles

OCHA and UNICEF-CI training workshop: OCHA and UNICEF-CI jointly organised a workshop in Abidjan on 14 and 15 May to develop a Code of Conduct for all humanitarian workers in Cote d'Ivoire, as well as a strategy to improve assistance and protection of vulnerable groups, including refugees, the sick and wounded, minorities, the elderly, handicapped individuals, women and children, and particularly IDPs. The workshop which was part of the effort to increase complementarity between humanitarian and military initiatives, was attended by Government Ministries, UN agencies and local and international NGOs as well as the FANCI (Ivorian national armed forces), ECOMICI and French Operation Licorne representatives.

Sources: UN OCHA; UNICEF

Date: 14-15 May 2003

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“On the basis of the consensus reached during the seminar, humanitarian actors will soon finalise a Code of Conduct for all humanitarian workers in Cote d'Ivoire and will revise their strategies for assistance to and the protection of vulnerable populations, particularly internally displaced populations (IDPs)” (UN OCHA, 16 May 2003).

OCHA and UNICEF-CI training workshop: OCHA and UNICEF-CI jointly organised a workshop in Abidjan on 16 May directed to the impartial forces ECOMICI and the French Operation Lincorne Forces to the sensitise them on humanitarian intervention.

Sources: UN OCHA; UNICEF

Date: 16 May 2003

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"On the basis of the consensus reached during the seminar, humanitarian actors will soon finalise a Code of Conduct for all humanitarian workers in Cote d'Ivoire and will revise their strategies for assistance to and the protection of vulnerable populations, particularly internally displaced populations (IDPs)" (UN OCHA, 16 May 2003).

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