

Update No. 37

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

15 November 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf declared president-elect after run-off election in Liberia on 8 November, boycotted by her opponent.**
- **Opposition supporters clash with police in Monrovia leaving at least one dead, on 7 November.**
- **New Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) in Côte d'Ivoire assumes office.**
- **Tripartite Agreement on the Voluntary Repatriation of Ivorian refugees signed between Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and UNHCR.**
- **Two convoys facilitate the voluntary return of 307 Ivorian refugees from Liberia.**



Loading of the voluntary repatriation convoy at Bahn refugee camp, Liberia (UNHCR/2011)

60
YEARS



Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/ Asylum seekers	2,480	120	972	15,825	5,066	370	96	114	58	78	94	62
Liberia	The total number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 138,164 .											

Financial Information

UNHCR's financial requirements for West Africa	
Executive Committee approved budget (with adjustments)	\$ 101,081,351
Regional supplementary budget	\$ 125,993,835
TOTAL revised requirements	\$ 227,075,186

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa at 29 September 2011	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
African Development Bank	630,000
African Union	225,000
Australia	4,167,435
Belgium	1,430,615
Canada	2,335,363
CERF	5,080,281
Denmark	3,828,572
EC/ ECHO	5,365,624
ECOWAS	500,000
Finland	1,808,808
France	549,452
Germany	1,027,413
Ireland	544,959
Japan	1,231,072
Liechtenstein	108,460
Netherlands	2,500,000
New Zealand	872,500
Norway	1,431,127
OPEC Fund for Intl. Dev.	339,234
Private donors	1,081,573
Rep. of Korea	300,000
Switzerland	637,767
UN Population Fund	119,840
United Kingdom	7,211,538
United States of America	23,300,000
TOTAL (*)	66,626,633
(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 towards UNHCR's initial response in Côte d'Ivoire in December 2010.	



Medical screening before repatriation, Bahn camp (UNHCR/ 2011)

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Arrival of SRSRG: On 24 October, the new Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSRG) in Côte d'Ivoire, Albert Gerard Koenders, assumed office. He met with the President of Côte d'Ivoire on 08 November to exchange views on the mandate of the UNOCI and the upcoming legislative elections in December 2011. Following this meeting, the SRSRG emphasised the importance of transparent and free elections for the reconstruction of the economy and

the security of the country. The preparation for the elections set for 11 December is underway.

Meanwhile, an African Union delegation visited Côte d'Ivoire, between 2nd and 6th November, to assess the state of living of the refugees and IDPs and devise ways of supporting the Government in its reconstruction endeavours. The delegation met with Government officials, UN agencies as well as officials from the ICRC, and visited refugees and IDPs in Abidjan and the western part of the country. The AU delegation donated US\$100,000 to UNHCR

to demonstrate their solidarity with the Ivorian people.

Security: The security situation in Abidjan remains generally calm although incidents of crime, robberies and human rights violations continue to be reported in residential areas. In the Man region, the presence of groups of Dozos (Ivorian traditional hunters) remains a cause for concern. The Dozos are reportedly responsible for abuse, harassment and violence against civilians.

In Tabou, the situation remains calm with no major incidents reported in November. Ivorian Army (FRCI) and UNOCI forces continue to regularly patrol the area.

• Refugee Protection

Repatriation: Between 01 and 04 November, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 307 Ivorian refugees from Liberia.

UNHCR is also monitoring spontaneous returns at both official and unofficial border crossings by facilitating movements from official border posts, while stepping up monitoring at the unofficial posts since September 2011. Indeed by 2 November, 6,346 spontaneous returns had been recorded by UNHCR mainly at the official border points.

A new site for the construction of a transit center for returnees is being identified in Toulepleu. In addition, the temporary IDP sites in Danane will be used as transit centers.

In Tabou, UNHCR has been monitoring spontaneous returns from Liberia in different localities. Returnees in Prolo and Boubré localities regularly return to Liberia during scheduled food distribution periods to receive food assistance, mostly because of food shortages in their areas of return.

• Internally Displaced People

IDPs Returns: Following the decision of the Government to close all IDP sites by 31 December 2011, a humanitarian task force, constituting UNHCR, IOM, WFP, OCHA, and UNFPA, was set-up to assist IDPs to voluntarily return to their areas of origin in safety and with dignity.

In Man, the task force developed a plan of action including the rapid decongestion of IDP sites by organizing voluntary returns; the transfer to a temporary site of IDPs who are not ready to return to their areas of origin for security or protection reasons; and to accelerate the closing of IDP sites in Duékoué (two), Guiglo (four) and Danané (one). UNHCR has since the beginning of November assisted some 450 IDPs to return to Issia from Koffikro in Man. These IDPs fled their homes on 13 October, following a security incident between farmers and security forces.

In Nahibly, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF/IRC, the local partner Afrique Secours et Assistance (ASA), and CARITAS are making preparations for the eventual relocation of 2,408 IDPs from the Catholic Mission in Duékoué to a new site.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that 60 - 70% of the IDPs in the Bas Sassandra region have returned to their areas of origin. Indeed, while the general situation in the region and in Côte d'Ivoire at large has improved, a number of challenges remain, including reports of abuse and harassment by armed elements, the lack of identity documents, and the acute need for shelter.

Profiling of Abidjan IDPs: Following the recommendation of the Protection Cluster, UNHCR and its implementing partners conducted a profiling exercise for IDPs living with families within Abidjan particularly in the Abobo, Bingerville, Cocody, Dabou, Port-Bouet, Songon, and Yopougon neighbourhoods which collectively host 5,056 IDPs.

IDP Assessment Mission: On 2 November, an assessment mission composed of UNHCR, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), FRCI, UNPOL and the Prefect of Bangolo visited the village of Taobly-Gae. The village had been attacked on 1 November by armed men, resulting in the displacement of 300 persons and the destruction of 30 houses, grain storages and other valuable items. It was recommended that vulnerable individuals and groups be identified and assisted with food and non food items.

New Displacement: On 29 October, a violent incident in Ouandia Seria, on the Daloa-Issia axis, resulted in the displacement of 300 persons to surrounding forests. One man was reportedly killed in the incident and 29 houses destroyed. UNOCI has deployed armoured vehicles to patrol the area.

LIBERIA

On 15 November, Liberia's National Elections Commission officially declared Ellen Johnson Sirleaf the winner of the 08 November election run-off. Voter turnout was low, following an announcement by the rival Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) opposition leader, Winston Tubman, that he would not participate in the elections. Violence had marred the process and at least one person was killed in Monrovia the day before the run-off when CDC supporters clashed with security forces.

• Protection

Population Statistics: By 10 November, the number of registered Ivorian refugees in Liberia stood at 138,164.

New Arrivals: Field monitors of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) have reported over 30 families to have recently arrived in Manjoe Town in Grand Gedeh. The arrivals cited persistent

harassment by armed men as the major reason for their flight from Côte d'Ivoire.

Voluntary Repatriation: UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 307 refugees from Bahn Refugee Camp in Nimba County. The first convoy with 172 refugees crossed over to the Toulepleu Transit Centre in Côte d'Ivoire on 1 November, while the second convoy with 135 refugees took place on 4 November. Since UNHCR commenced the facilitation of voluntary repatriation of refugees in October 2011, some 422 refugees have returned to Côte d'Ivoire.

Relocation: Between 1 and 3 November, 672 refugees were relocated to PTP Camp from the Bawaydee - Janzon Axis, bringing the total population of PTP camp to 3,911.

Maryland Verification Exercise: The verification exercise for Ivorian refugees in Maryland County completed, and resulted in a downward revision of the refugee population statistics for the county by 21,003. UNHCR is currently conducting protection screening for refugees who missed the verification exercise. Many Ivorians are crossing the border by canoes to have their cards validated.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian Access: Poor road conditions in Nimba county and northern Liberia continue to hamper effective humanitarian actions. Indeed two UNHCR trucks transporting food items for refugees living among host communities were stuck for more than a week due to the poor road conditions.

NRC Visit: The Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition in Norway, visited refugee camps as part of the visit to Liberia. The objective of their visit was to assess the overall refugee response strategy as well as the impact of the Government of Norway assistance.

Cash for Work: In Bahn camp, the Cash-for-Work initiative organised by IRC is ongoing, and improving refugee livelihoods. Accordingly, 119 youths are participating in de-stumping, building of market sheds and developing the football field.

Meanwhile, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has commenced Focus/Community group discussions with refugees on a one year income generating scheme.

GHANA

The total population of Ivorian asylum seekers in Ghana is 15,825. Some 7,376 are registered in camps, while 8,449 remain among host communities. These figures do not reflect the recent Level II registration of asylum seekers residing

among Western and Central Region host communities.

• Protection

Sensitization: UNHCR is strengthening its sensitization efforts in the camps aligned to humanitarian principles, the civilian character of the camps, and the need to refrain from political organization.

Registration: On 8 November, level II registration of asylum seekers started in Egeykrom. The exercise includes the capturing of individual information and photos and the issuing of attestations by the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB).

• Humanitarian Assistance

Education: On 10-11 November, the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG), UNHCR's Education implementing partner, distributed school uniforms to students in schools in Ampain and Egeykrom camps. While the total enrolment rate in Ampain and Egeykrom camps remains above 90%, Fetentaa Camp continues to lag behind at a 65% rate. UNHCR will continue its efforts to increase the enrolment rate through awareness creation and information campaigns.

Discussions with UNICEF and WFP are also underway to explore the feasibility of a school-feeding program in camp schools. Asylum seekers continue to express their wish for more assistance in the area of secondary and tertiary education.

Basic Services: UNHCR is working with partners to improve basic infrastructure and basic services within Egeykrom camp including water and sanitation services. In Fetentaa Camp, 23 tents affected by mould and leakage have been replaced.

Food Distribution: Between 10 November and 14 November, 4,550 individuals in Ampain camp received rations. Some 190 individuals were absent during the distribution. In Fetentaa Camp, supplementary feeding was provided for children aged 0-2, pregnant women and the chronically ill.

Health: Immunization against polio and vitamin A deficiency was conducted on 28 October in Fetentaa camp. In addition, a two-day HIV/AIDS workshop for asylum seekers was organized by OXFAM.

Skills Training: Asylum seekers in Ghana continue to request for assistance in skills-training and income-generation initiatives. In Egeykrom, UNHCR has encouraged the asylum seeker leadership to identify potential areas of interest and the responses shared with the Assemblies of God Relief and Development Services (AGREDS), who are implementing on behalf of UNHCR in this sector. These initiatives will be incorporated into the planning of livelihood activities in 2012.

TOGO

On 15 November, the Governments of Togo and Côte d'Ivoire and UNHCR signed a Tripartite Agreement on the Voluntary Repatriation of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire.

Currently, Togo hosts 5,066 refugees, with some 2,791 on the Avépozo refugee site and 2,275 urban refugees in Lomé.

• Protection

Government Capacity Building: The Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), Togo's national refugee agency, has recruited six lawyers to reinforce its capacity in Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and the processing of the backlog cases for pending asylum seeker cases.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Livelihoods: The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has held information meetings and individual counselling sessions with refugees on income generating activities and micro-projects. Refugees in turn have responded by submitting some 550 project proposals.

Education: UNHCR and its implementing partner, the local NGO Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ATBEF), met with school directors at Avépozo site and in secondary schools receiving refugee students to assess unmet needs including teaching material, desks and stationery. UNHCR and the CNAR are looking into the timely issuance of identity documentation for secondary school students which will allow them to register for the national exams.

Shelter: The rehabilitation of damaged shelters on the Avépozo site is ongoing. So far, 40 shelters have been repaired. Ten new shelters for accommodation are being finalized.

Food Distribution: Food distribution took place in Avépozo in the first week of November, with all refugees present at the site receiving a food ration composed of rice, beans, corn soya blend (CSB) and vegetable oil.

Health: In the three weeks covered by this report, 1,220 patients received treatment at the clinic in Avépozo. The psychological service received 77 patients.

GUINEA

Refugee Population: Guinea currently host 2,480 refugees all of Ivorian origin having arrived in the immediate aftermath of the November 2010 post election violence.

Voluntary Repatriation: UNHCR continues to register individual requests for voluntary repatriation to Côte d'Ivoire, particularly to Man, and is currently studying modalities and logistics of the repatriation.

Food Distribution: Between 1 and 5 November, general food distribution took place in Kouankan 2 camp. Hygiene kits were distributed to 1,768 Ivorian refugee women between 26 October and 1 November.

BENIN

Registration: In a registration exercise conducted between 3 and 10 November, UNHCR verified the number of Ivorian asylum seekers and refugees in Benin. The total number now stands at 370 individuals (136 refugees and 234 asylum seekers). The registration also served to gather necessary information for the facilitation of voluntary returns to Côte d'Ivoire.

West Africa - Côte d'Ivoire Emergency

Number of refugees and IDPs

As of 17th November 2011



FIGSS
Field Information and
Coordination Support Section

Sources:
UNHCR, Global insight digital mapping
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The boundaries and names shown
and the designations used on this
map do not imply official endorsement
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- Capital
 - UNHCR Country Office / National Office / Liaison Office
 - UNHCR Sub-Office
 - UNHCR Field Office
 - UNHCR Field Unit
 - UNHCR Planned Office
 - ▲ IDP camp
 - ▲ Refugee settlement
 - ▲ Refugee camp
 - ▲ Refugee centre
 - ▲ Refugee location
 - ▲ Urban refugee location
 - Main town or village
 - International boundary
 - Main road
- Elevation**
(Above mean sea level)
- 3,250 to 4,000 metres
 - 2,500 to 3,250 metres
 - 1,750 to 2,500 metres
 - 1,000 to 1,750 metres
 - 750 to 1,000 metres
 - 500 to 750 metres
 - 250 to 500 metres
 - 0 to 250 metres
 - Below mean sea level



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