

Update No. 34

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

26 September 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Regional meeting in Abidjan announces Tripartite Agreements on voluntary repatriation with the Governments of Ghana, Guinea, Mali and Togo, and a Memorandum of Understanding with countries hosting less than one thousand Ivorian refugees.**
- **UN Peace Building Fund grants three million US dollars to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to support the restoration of peace and security.**
- **Joint mission to Tai region in Western Cote d'Ivoire assesses the needs of 300 persons newly displaced due to the recent attack on the village of Ziriglo.**
- **Road conditions in refugee hosting counties in Liberia continue to deteriorate, hampering the delivery of assistance.**
- **2,079 metric tonnes of food commodities distributed to 125,100 beneficiaries in Liberia, since 1 September.**



Charcoal distribution in refugee camp, Ghana (UNHCR/Buckenmeyer/2011)

60
YEARS



Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/ Asylum seekers	2,477	118	972	17,985	4,761	708	96	130	58	76	94	62
Liberia	The total number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia stands at 178,035.											

Financial Information

UNHCR's financial requirements for West Africa	
Executive Committee approved budget (with adjustments)	\$ 100,313,854
Regional supplementary budget	\$ 125,993,829
TOTAL revised requirements	\$ 226,307,683

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa at 29 September 2011	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
African Development Bank	630,000
African Union	125,000
Australia	4,167,435
Belgium	1,430,615
Canada	2,335,363
CERF	3,970,007
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	1,080,778
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 (*)	65,415,564
(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 towards UNHCR's initial response in Côte d'Ivoire in December 2010.	



Girl in Ampain refugee camp, Ghana (UNHCR/ 2011)

Country Operations

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Between 26 and 27 September, the Governments of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, and UNHCR held a meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to discuss the implementation of modalities for the voluntary repatriation of the Ivorian refugees. The meeting which adopted a number of recommendations, also reaffirmed a commitment to the voluntary character of the repatriation of refugees in safety and with dignity, and committed to the signing of Tripartite Agreements among the Governments of Ghana, Guinea, Mali and Togo before the end of 2011.

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding will be developed between UNHCR and Côte d'Ivoire for the voluntary repatriation of refugees from countries that host less than one thousand Ivorian refugees.

In a separate development, the UN Peace Building Fund has granted USD three million to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to support the restoration of peace and security, state authority and social cohesion in the country. The fund is expected to assist important initiatives that are already in place, and designed to improve the consolidation of peace across the country.

Meanwhile, the security situation in Abidjan remains calm although the number of reported thefts and

armed robberies is on the rise. A joint visit to several IDP sites in Abidjan by the Ministry of Solidarity, Family and Social Affairs and UNHCR found that insecurity and poverty are the major factors impeding the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their areas of origin.

On 14 September, the Ivorian Government launched a national workshop for the Côte d'Ivoire 2012 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), which was attended by UN agencies, humanitarian actors, and several key donors.

• Protection

Following the 15 September attack on Ziriglo (in the Tai region of Western Cote d'Ivoire) in which 23 persons were killed, a joint assessment mission composed of UNHCR, OCHA, WFP, IOM, and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) visited the Tai region on 22 September, to assess the situation and needs of the newly displaced persons in the area. The team met with IDPs and held discussions with the sub-Prefect and different agencies based in Tai.

As a result of the attack, the inhabitants of the villages of Ziriglo, Nigré and Sioblohouloua have fled to Tai and into Liberia. A group of 120 households consisting of 300 people, around 90% of whom are women and children, are currently sheltered with host families in Tai. The IDPs stated that all their belongings, including their identity documents, had been destroyed. They also expressed apprehension to return citing the fear of reprisals. The displaced persons are in need of food and non-food items (NFIs) while staying with host families. The mission recommended that the IDPs in Tai be closely followed up by DRC Monitors to further assess their specific needs.

At the border area of Pehekan Barrage, twelve Ivorian returnees from Liberia were received by the team of monitors.

• Humanitarian Assistance

At the Catholic Mission in Duékoué, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster held a series of meetings with IDPs, local authorities, NGOs and other agencies to discuss the relocation of 1,500 IDPs to the Nahibly site. The movement is planned to take place between 26 and 29 September. By 26 September, ninety households consisting of 404 IDPs had been registered. The Cluster also facilitated the return convoy of 20 households consisting of 68 IDPs from the Nazareth Catholic Mission to Toulepleu.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) assessed 30 villages on the Duékoué-Guiglo-Bloulequin, Duékoué-Bagohouo, and Duékoué-Diehiba axes. Seven villages were selected for a rehabilitation project encompassing some 450 houses. Awareness raising sessions for the inhabitants regarding the rehabilitation work is underway.

LIBERIA

The general security situation in Liberia remained calm in the wake of politicking for the Presidential and Legislative elections on 11 October 2011.

Deteriorating road conditions in the refugee hosting counties continue to hamper humanitarian operations in the area. Meanwhile, the relocation of refugees from host communities to the refugee camps is ongoing. During the reporting period, a total of 813 Ivorian refugees moved to PTP camp (588 individuals), Little Wlebo camp (194) and Bahn camp (31).

• Protection

On 20 September, the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB), the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), and UNHCR Ghana and Liberia, signed a joint communiqué. The Ghanaian delegation had been in Liberia between 16 and 20 September, on a fact finding mission related to the Liberian experience with the establishment of an internment camp for ex-combatants, and to familiarize themselves with Liberia's local integration programme. The parties reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of voluntary repatriation and to a self-reliance strategy which would ultimately facilitate local integration for refugees who will opt to stay in Ghana and Liberia respectively.

As part of UNHCR's protection and legal assistance, 22 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) were provided with psychosocial support in Grand Gedeh County.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Since the beginning of September, UNHCR and partners have facilitated the distribution of 2,079 metric tonnes of WFP-provided assorted food commodities to 125,100 beneficiaries, including 93,226 refugees in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland counties. The deterioration of roads and bridges, however, is hampering the timely delivery of food to beneficiaries. A WFP led inter-agency mission in Nimba County is assessing the current status and situation of refugees in the villages near the border.

The distribution of mosquito nets continues in Bahn camp, with 104 families served during the reporting period. Twenty refugees have benefited from the fistula campaign in Grand Gedeh County and are now in aftercare. In Little Wlebo camp, Oxfam distributed 3,679 pieces of soap and 780 plastic cups.

In Dougee camp, three test wells have been completed. Discussions with drilling companies are ongoing to further explore available water resources. In Bahn camp, water trucking from the

river has stopped, as bore holes in the camp are now in use.

The rehabilitation of the Bahn-Buutuo axis, funded by UNHCR and implemented by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), is ongoing. One of the detour bridges was swept away as a result of heavy rains during the reporting week.

GHANA

The security situation remains tense after the security incidents in the Western Region in which three Ivorians were killed in two separate incidents by yet unknown assailants during the week of 12 – 18 September. Investigation of the crimes is ongoing.

• Protection

Following the decision, on 16 September, to relocate all people of concern from Eagle Star reception centre to the camps, two movements to Ampain camp and one movement to Egyekrom camp took place. The number of persons remaining in Eagle Star reception centre is 176.

In the mean time, the number of new arrivals from Côte d'Ivoire continued to decrease, with less than 30 individuals throughout the reporting period. The total number of asylum seekers in Ghana is 17,985. 7,227 of them are staying in camps, and 10,758 in host communities and the capital Accra.

In Ampain camp, on 22 September, a meeting was held for 39 persons with specific needs. The general concerns expressed were related to food, sanitation, health, education and security, and participants presented some cases requiring immediate attention. A total of 362 persons with special needs are registered in the camp.

• Humanitarian Assistance

The food distribution in Ampain camp took place between 19 and 21 September. Some 4,496 individuals received their food rations for the month of August. According to WFP, the September ration is on its way to the camp and will be distributed as soon as it arrives. In Egyekrom camp, 1,211 persons received food and non food items (NFIs).

UNHCR is following up with WFP and other partners on complaints raised by the beneficiaries about the poor quality of food items. With the latest distribution, the food distribution is completed in all three camps.

In Egyekrom camp, the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) organised a one-day peer training for school teachers. Teachers from Ampain camp shared their experience with colleagues in the camp to enable the CCG to harmonize the education activities at

both camps. The CCG is planning to open nursery and primary school in early October.

On 22 September, the Deputy Minister of Energy visited Ampain refugee camp.

TOGO

The total number of refugees registered by UNHCR stands unchanged at 4,761 individuals. 2,917 are living in the Avépozo site, and 2,144 in Lomé. The number of new arrivals reported by the Coordination Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), the government refugee agency, remains between 15 and 20 arrivals per day.

• Humanitarian Assistance

On 21 September, UNHCR held a meeting with all partners operating in the Avépozo refugee site, including the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ATBEF), a Togolese non-governmental organisation, as well as gendarmerie, police and fire fighters, to ensure information exchange and coordinate activities. This meeting will continue to take place on a weekly basis.

During the reporting period, 364 patients received treatment at the Avépozo site. Malaria remains the most frequent disease, and UNHCR has reinforced the prevention measures by distributing impregnated mosquito nets to all households on the site. Other items distributed included cooking kits, soap, blankets, jerry cans and mats.

UNHCR held discussions with four Togolese secondary schools in the area of the Avépozo site. Refugee children will be enrolled in their classes for the next school year. Those without academic documentation will undergo a test to establish their class level.

Twenty new accommodation units were finalized in the reporting period and allocated to vulnerable refugee families. Ten more will be ready shortly.

GUINEA

The total number of registered Ivorian refugees in Guinea is unchanged at 2,477.

Between 19 and 23 September, UNFPA, the Association Guinéenne pour le Bien Etre Familial (AGBEF), a Guinean non-governmental organization, and the Guinean Red Cross (CRG) conducted an awareness campaign in Kouankan. The different meetings and sensitization activities on health and reproduction, HIV/AIDS, and female genital mutilation (FGM) issues were targeting refugees in Kouankan 2 camp, as well as the local population, partners and authorities.

MALI

The number of registered Ivorian refugees in Mali is unchanged at 972.

BENIN

During the reporting period, the Commission Nationale d'Assistance aux Réfugiés (CNAR), the government refugee agency, registered ten new Ivorian asylum seekers, bringing the total number to 708 individuals.

For a map of operations in the West Africa region with updated statistics, please visit:
<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4d831f586.html>

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