

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Côte d'Ivoire. It covers the period from 30 April to 3 May 2011. The next report will be issued on or around 6 May 2011.

I. Highlights/key priorities.

- Insecurity delays the return of Ivorian refugees from Liberia and IDPs in Western Cote d'Ivoire.
- Trial of Former President Laurent Gbagbo and 200 others to begin during the week.
- High level Technical Assessment Mission arrives in Abidjan to assess UNOCI's configuration and role beyond June 2011.

II. Situation & Security Overview

Despite persistent pockets of instability in certain areas of Abidjan, the global security situation seems to be improving. In most neighbourhoods of Abidjan with the exception of Yopougon, economic activities are slowly regaining momentum with more shops opening their doors to clients. Though socio-economic activities have started, many banks remain closed while the cost of basic commodities has doubled. At Koumassy and Port Bouet, markets over the short holiday period remained open with an increased movement of populations being observed.

On 29 April, there was a ceremony in which about fifty pro-Gbagbo militia men surrendered their arms in presence of Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) and UNOCI peacekeepers. A handful of Kalashnikov guns, a rocket launcher and unexploded grenades were collected. This ceremony was expected to mark the end of the pocket of resistance in Yopougon but it never did. Separate incidents such as the assassination of two persons at the "Toits Rouge" mosque after Friday prayers and the ensuing combat between FRCI and militiamen men on along the Abobo –Doume in Yopougon were reported.

On 3 May, the Baptist Church where 2500 Internally Displaced Persons have sought refuge in Yopougon neighbourhood was attacked by armed men. 54 persons were said to have been taken away toward the Shell petrol station not far from Institute of the Blind in Yopougon. The offices including emergency medicines supplied to MSF were looted.

Amid the announced trial of former President Laurent Gbagbo and two hundred others, scheduled to begin on 4 May, reconciliation efforts during the period received a boost with the 48-hour visit to Abidjan by a three-man delegation of Kofi Anan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland. The delegation which arrived in Abidjan on 01 May had discussions with President Ouattara with a view to supporting reconciliation and post-crisis reconstruction efforts in Cote d'Ivoire.

Freedom of movement is being hampered with the erection of several barricades or checkpoints in Abidjan by the Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI). While the number of barricades in Abidjan has reduced over the course of the week, concerted appeals will have to be made to the authorities to facilitate easier movement of persons.

In the West, violence related incidents continue to be reported. On 02 May, *Dozos* were reported to have held the population of Bahe-Be village hostage. Morbatt (UNOCI) responded to the distress call by the village chief. On arrival, the Moroccans found that the villagers have been already herded into a spot while the attackers fled. The increase in the number of women and girls being sexually assaulted, beaten and harassed by armed men either in their homes or as they flee to safety has been reported by IRC. This situation emphasises once more the need to enhance the protection of the civilian population as well as stepping up efforts to quickly restore law and order.

In actualization of Security Council's recommendation to determine UNOCI's future configuration and role in Cote d'Ivoire beyond June 2011, a high level mission arrived in Abidjan on 01 May to hold consultations with both political and government stakeholders. The thirteen-day mission will end on 13 May. The European Commission which has increased its humanitarian assistance for victims of the conflict in Cote d'Ivoire to a total of EUR 60 million sent a team from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) to Cote d'Ivoire working with the European Commission Humanitarian partners to assess the needs. The team consists of experts in the areas of health, protection, water, sanitation and food. They primarily analysed the situation in the West of the country and in Abidjan which are the areas most affected by the conflict.

Despite the perception of improved conditions in the west, Ivorian refugees and IDPs are not returning home in great numbers because of the security situation. While International Committee of the Red Cross ICRC said on Tuesday that tens of thousands of displaced persons in Western Côte d'Ivoire and most of the refugees in neighbouring Liberia may have their return home delayed by tension and risks, government representatives are reaching out to the refugees in Liberia and the IDPs in Cote d'Ivoire with the aim of encouraging them to return home.

Over the last weekend, the Minister of Youth, Sports and Hygiene, Mr. Dagobert Banzio recently led a delegation to visit Ivorian refugees in the Grand Gedeh County in Monrovia, Liberia encouraging them to return home. In Toulepleu, the Prefet of Toulepleu *Diarra Karim* on 3 May met with residents of Toulepleu during a reconciliation awareness campaign and encouraged them to return home and contribute to the ongoing reconciliation efforts..

III. Key Figures

150,000	IDPs in the western part of Cote d'Ivoire
54,000	IDPs in the Bandama region (Central Cote d'Ivoire)
20,000	IDPs in the Savane region (Northern d'Ivoire)
14,000	IDPs in Abidjan spread over sites. Unknown numbers of IDPs in host families.
100,000	migrants and third-country nationals left Cote d'Ivoire
157, 978	Registered refugees in Liberia according to UNHCR
19,154	Refugees in Togo, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Benin Republic and Nigeria.

IV. Humanitarian Capacity

Humanitarian organisations currently working in Cote d'Ivoire include 12 United Nations agencies namely: the World Health Organisation (WHO) United Nations AIDS, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agricultural Organisation, (FAO), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and around 20 international NGOs including CAP Anamur, SCF UK, IRC, ASAPSU, ACF, AIBF, CARITAS, NRC, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), MDM, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are in the country. In terms of national capacity, Croix Rouge Cote d'Ivoire and other civil society organisations equally work in the humanitarian sector.

While most agencies are headquartered in Abidjan, their presence in the regions is limited. Only a few new organization have opened offices in the West and other regions where there are felt humanitarian needs. Nevertheless, new humanitarian actors have arrived in the country, and this will boost the response capacity.

V. Response

WFP is presently scaling up its operations to respond to increased needs in Cote d'Ivoire. On 02 May, general food distributions were carried out in Duekoue for 27,000 people. The last distribution of one week rations was in mid-April. WFP in collaboration with ACF started distributions for supplementary feeding programmes targeting children aged less than five years in Duekoue.

On top of supplies to 20,000 households, (130,000 persons) who are already being assisted by FAO, ACF, ICRC and UNDP, the Danish Refugee Council is planning the distribution of agricultural kits (irrigated rice seeds, maize, fertilisers and other farming implements to returnees and host families. More than 500 kits out of the required 1500 kits of irrigated rice and maize will be distributed to IDPs in Toulepleu. This first phase of the distribution exercise is expected to cover a three-month need along the Zouan Hounien-Bin Houyé-Toulepleu.

The overcrowding at the Catholic Mission in Duekoue is receiving attention by the OIM and the Camp Management Committee. In response to OIM's request, Father Cyprien has allocated on 03 May a piece of land at the nearby primary school premises for the construction of sixty tents by the UNHCR as a palliative measure. OIM and the Camp Management Committee have completed the identification of the neediest families who will be moved into the newly erected tents.

The IDPs currently staying at the UEESO Church in Duékoué have not received a food since the end of March but while waiting for WFP's food distribution, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) distributed 750 kg of rice, 10 cartons of sardines, 68 litres of cooking oil, and 5 kg of salt to 895 IDPs staying in the church.

2500 IDPs currently sheltered at the Baptist Church in Yopougon are being assisted by MSF CH and UNICEF with medical treatment, medicines, child delivery kits, antibiotics and water treatment tablets kits, emergency medicines, antibiotics and water treatment tablets.

On 02 May, a team of experts from WHO and a national epidemiologist were dispatched from Abidjan to Man to strengthen the epidemiological surveillance system in Duékoué, Moyen Cavally and Montagnes regions in the western part of the country. More than 700 000 children aged less than five years are scheduled to be vaccinated against Polio between 6 and 9 May, 2011 in the Lower Sassandra, Tabou and San- Pedro health districts (South-West of Cote d'Ivoire). The vaccination campaign is organised in response to the detection of three cases of wild polio virus type-3 in the Soubré. Supplementary rounds of vaccination are also planned towards the end of May 2011. The present campaign is organised with the financial assistance of WHO and UNICEF.

World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), Medecins Sans Frontieres (France, Belgium, Holland and Swiss), Save the Children Fund (SCF), Medecins du Monde (MDM), and CAP Anamur are currently providing health support services in the neighbourhoods of Abobo, Yopougon, Williamsville and Attécoubé in Abidjan and in the west.

Also in the western part of the country, International Rescue Committee (IRC), COPII, Save the Children Fund (SCF) and Caritas collaborated to analyse the possibilities of covering zones that are yet to have access to health care. Tasks were shared by geographical zones and specialties principally in the Moyen Cavally region. The NGOs equally put in place mechanisms for the early warning system in this part of the country.

On 27 April, UNICEF in cooperation with the Ivorien Ministry of Health launched a measles vaccination campaign targeting 1.5 million children in the Western, Central and Northern parts of the country (Children being vaccinated are also being dewormed and receive Vitamin A)

The emergency telecommunications cluster partially delivered 4 tons of ICT equipment to different sites in Man and Bouaké. While maintenance operations to increase the connectivity range of the common radio rooms in the two locations were also carried out. This measure is expected to greatly facilitate the work of humanitarian agencies in the west.

In Abidjan, partners in the WASH cluster continue evaluations while Solidarites started its cash for work projects for urban sanitation, waste collection, roads and drainage cleaning in Abobo neighbourhood of Abidjan. ICRC and the Ivorien Red Cross rehabilitated water taps, installed a water bladder, constructed four showers and emptied latrines at the St. Augustin site in Bingerville. In the North, ICRC delivered water disinfection chemicals to SODECI in Korhogo. 3,000 kits of rapid water testing kits were distributed by UNICEF to Oxfam GB, DRC and Solidarity. -

VI. Displacement

The return of Ivorien refugees from Liberia and the plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) continue to be an issue of concern to both humanitarian actors and the government. The situation remains very fluid and it is hard to know determine the actual number of people returning to Cote d'Ivoire.

On 27 April, the Minister of Youth, Sports and Hygiene, *Mr. Dagobert Banzio* led a delegation to visit Ivorien refugees in the Grand Gedeh County in Monrovia, Liberia. The purpose of the visit was to reassure thousands of refugees in the B'hai camp and encourage them to return to Cote d'Ivoire. The Minister then announced that a sum of 20 million CFA is being provided to alleviate the current problems being faced by the refugees in Liberia.

Between 29 and 30 April, UNHCR identified 14,000 Internally Displaced Persons spread over 31 sites in 12 localities of Abidjan.

Internally displaced persons at the Anono Public Primary School in Cocody Riviera neighbourhood of Abidjan and the St. Bernard's Church face eviction this week. UNHCR has requested a stay order to enable it to arrange the transportation of 336 people to Grand Bassam by bus

VII. Coordination Mechanisms

In Abidjan and western part of the country, the clusters, the Inter Cluster Coordination Meeting (ICCM), the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the recently inaugurated consultation Framework are mechanisms put in place to coordinate the activities of humanitarian actors in Cote d'Ivoire

- The Consultation Framework is a platform which brings together the HCT and the Government in discussing problems confronting humanitarian actors with a view to finding mutually agreed solutions – meetings will be organized every ten days.
- The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is comprised of heads of UN agencies under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator. Key decisions on humanitarian action plans are made at this level
- The Inter Cluster Coordination Meeting (ICCM), is comprised of all cluster coordinators and meet on a weekly basis to prepare and discuss actions plan to respond to the needs.

The existing clusters in Cote d'Ivoire are: the protections, logistics, WASH Health, Nutrition, Food Security, Education, Camp Management, Early Recovery and Shelter. Clusters have scheduled weekly meetings in which information relative to activities within each cluster is shared by members

Contacts

Niels Scott, Head of Office, OCHA Côte d'Ivoire - Mob: (+225) 44 320 375; email: scott2@un.org

Carlos Geha, DHO/Field Coordinator, OCHA Côte d'Ivoire-Mob (+225) 44 90 33 22; email: gehac@un.org

Kayode Egbeleye, Public Information Officer, OCHA Côte d'Ivoire - Mob: (+225) 44 32 03 61; email: egbeleye@un.org