

Côte d'Ivoire Emergency: Key Locations



U.S. Committee for Refugees, Dec. 2002

COTE D'IVOIRE: KEY LOCATIONS EXPLAINED

(Situation as of December 17, 2002. Listed in alphabetical order)

ABIDJAN

Commercial capital. Hundreds of refugees and thousands of foreign residents of Abidjan have been forced from their homes because of anti-foreigner violence and government policies since September.

BLOLEQUIN

Western town seized by rebels in early December.

BOUAKE

Country's second-largest town, with 600,000 people, controlled by rebels since first days of the insurgency. Aid workers warn of impending food shortage and "gradually deteriorating" humanitarian conditions in Bouake. WFP reportedly is delivering food to Bouake in recent days. Bouke is about 220 miles (350 km) from Abidjan.

BOUNA

Town was reportedly bracing for potential attack by nearby insurgents in mid-December. Bouna is less than 15 miles (about 20 km) from the border with Burkina Faso, and about 25 miles (40 km) from the Ghana border.

DALOA

Provincial capital briefly seized by rebels before government army regained control. Daloa is about 250 miles (400 km) from Abidjan and 75 miles (120 km) from Yamoussoukro.

DANANE

Home to tens of thousands of Liberian refugees since 1990. Insurgent attacks near Danane in early December reportedly pushed as many as 10,000 to 20,000 Liberian refugees and Ivoirien citizens into neighboring Liberia. Thousands of others might have fled to other areas of Cote d'Ivoire. Danane is about 15 miles (30 km) from the Liberian border.

GUIGLO

Residents reportedly fled Guiglo town in mid-December in anticipation of rebel attack. Until recent events, Guiglo served as base of operations for international relief workers providing assistance to Liberian refugees at nearby Nicla camp. Guiglo is 30 miles (50 km) from the Liberian border.

KORHOGO

Country's most important northern town, controlled by insurgents since September. Humanitarian conditions are reportedly decent. Korhogo is about 390 miles (630 km) from Abidjan.

KORO

Town in northwest that reportedly fell to new rebel group — Movement for Peace and Justice — in early December.

MAN

Key administrative town in country's western border region, and host to significant numbers of Liberian refugees. New rebel groups captured town at least temporarily in late November. Fighting for control of Man continued in early December. WFP is attempting to deliver food to displaced persons in the Man area.

MONOKO-ZOHI

Site of mass grave discovered in December containing some 120 bodies. Rebels contend that mass grave contains African immigrants massacred by government troops. Rebels briefly controlled town, but some reports indicate that government forces have retaken it.

NICLA

Camp in western Côte d'Ivoire that normally shelters some 15,000 Liberian refugees. Additional Liberian refugees reportedly are fleeing to Nicla in search of safety from other areas of Côte d'Ivoire.

ODIENNE

Provincial capital in northwest corner of country, controlled by rebels since September.

SAN PEDRO

Coastal town and trading center currently under consideration by UN High Commissioner for Refugees as evacuation transit center for Liberian refugees seeking to escape Cote d'Ivoire. San Pedro is about 200 miles (about 320 km) from Abidjan, about 35 miles (60 km) from the refugee area of Tabou, and about 80 miles (130 km) from the Guiglo area that also shelters thousands of Liberian refugees.

SEGUELA

Provincial capital in north central Côte d'Ivoire controlled by rebel forces.

TABOU

Tens of thousands of Liberian refugees have lived in the Tabou area in southwest Côte d'Ivoire since the early 1990s. UNHCR's plans to evacuate Liberian refugees from Tabou suffered a setback in early December when rebels deliberately damaged a Tabou ferry needed by Liberian refugees to cross the river forming the Liberia-Cote d'Ivoire border.

TOUBA

Western town reportedly controlled by new rebel groups since late November.

TOULEPLEU

New rebel groups reportedly attacked and captured Toulepleu, near the Liberian border, in early December. Government forces have counterattacked the town in recent days. The condition of thousands of Liberian refugees as well as local residents in the Toulepleu area is unknown.

YAMOUSSOUKRO

Official national capital, still under government control. Insurgents have reportedly advanced within 30 miles (50 km) of Yamoussoukro.