

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by the OCHA Regional Office for West and Central Africa. It covers the period from 26 March – 8 April. The next report will be issued on or around 15 April.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Protection of civilians and provision of aid key priorities as UN's chief humanitarian official ends visits in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire
- Humanitarian crisis looms in Abidjan and western Côte d'Ivoire, with 800,000 IDPs across the country
- More than 125,000 refugees in Liberia, and numbers increasing in other neighbouring countries
- Aid agencies scale up response in the west and appeal for funds to support emergency relief
- Humanitarian appeal revised to reflect greatly increased needs
- UN human rights experts call on all parties to spare civilians and stop human rights violations

II. Situation Overview

On 5 March, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos, ended a 4-day visit to Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. She assessed the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and its impact on its neighbours, notably Liberia, which is now home to over 125,000 Ivorian refugees.

In Liberia, Ms. Amos stressed the importance of providing aid to the host communities, as well as to the refugees, as many are sharing their scarce resources with the refugees. She said the investment made in Liberia's peace and security could be jeopardized if the country does not receive the necessary support to address the refugee crisis. In Côte d'Ivoire, Ms. Amos traveled west to see the consequences of the recent violence, review living conditions for IDPs and assess the humanitarian response.

Ms. Amos visited Côte d'Ivoire as heavy fighting broke out in numerous cities between soldiers supporting Mr. Ouattara and those supporting Mr. Gbagbo. Cities taken over by pro-Ouattara forces included Daloa and Duékoué (west), the south-western port city of San Pedro, Abengourou and Bondoukou (east), Tiébissou and the capital Yamoussoukro (centre). Since 30 March, the economic capital, Abidjan, has also been transformed into a battle zone.

The humanitarian response is being scaled up in the west to assist tens of thousands of victims. ICRC deployed 12 tons of material to Man, and Action Contre la Faim is expected to dispatch 24 tons of aid by 10 April.

Humanitarian Coordinator Ndolamb Ngokwey has warned that Abidjan is facing a "humanitarian tragedy". Emergency relief is slow, as the continuing volatility and violence have hindered most access to the affected populations. Entire neighbourhoods have been without electricity and water. Abidjan, home to over 5 million people, is threatened by a shortage of water-treatment products that could lead to a shortage of clean water as early as 10 April. Food is difficult to access as the markets and shops are closed, and the few shops that are open have significantly raised the prices of goods. Many hospitals and health facilities have ceased their activities, The few that are not closed do not have enough doctors, medicines, oxygen and other basic equipment.

<http://ochaonline.un.org/rowca/Mediascommunication/tabid/5723/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Protection of civilians remains a priority as civilians have paid a heavy price. In the west, United Nations officials and humanitarian organizations are reporting that large-scale killings have taken place. In Abidjan, the death toll is not yet known but it is expected to be high considering the intensity of fighting. United Nations human rights experts warned about the serious human rights violations in Côte d'Ivoire, including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, killing and maiming of children and sexual violence. The Human Rights Council has established a commission of enquiry into human rights violations, including in the city of Duékoué where mass graves have been discovered.

The Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan for Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries for US\$32 million had received \$16 million as of 7 April. Agencies have reviewed their requirements to reflect the country's greatly increased humanitarian needs; the revised appeal is expected to be launched on 13 April.

International NGOs, including the International Federation of the Red Cross, Oxfam, ACF and Save the Children, have appealed for more funding in order to address the refugee crisis and related consequences.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

CÔTE D'IVOIRE



PROTECTION

At the height of the fighting, widespread human rights abuses and violence forced up to 1 million people to flee their homes in Abidjan.

UNHCR estimates that there are currently 800,000 IDPs in Côte d'Ivoire.¹ Over 125,000 Ivorians have also fled to Liberia since December 2010.

UNHCR and its partners have registered 130,000 people in IDP camps in Abidjan, but there are thought to be hundreds of thousands of others seeking shelter with host families within the city. The extremely volatile security situation currently makes it very difficult to reach the affected populations within Abidjan.

In Duékoué in western Côte d'Ivoire, details are starting to emerge about mass killings and widespread violence which have led tens of thousands of people to seek shelter at the Catholic Mission. UNHCR, IOM, WFP and Caritas are in the process of registering the IDPs at the Catholic Mission; more than 27,300 IDPs have been registered in the Catholic Mission, with around 980 people seeking shelter at the Protestant Mission.

The agencies are identifying and supporting those most in need of immediate humanitarian assistance, including vulnerable and traumatized women and children who escaped the mass killings in Duékoué. Distributions of food rations and non-food assistance, including medical supplies, malaria kits, shelter, cooking sets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, soap and blankets, began on 5 April in both IDP locations.²

IOM has been asked to evacuate more than 50,000 stranded migrants from Côte d'Ivoire to Mauritania, Guinea, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali.



HEALTH

The health situation is a major concern in Abidjan. People face enormous difficulties reaching hospitals and other medical centres amidst the insecurity. Few hospitals are functioning. On 3 April, in coordination with the Ivorian Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provided the Treichville University Hospital Center with materials to treat the wounded. However, the organization warned that needs are enormous and many public hospitals that have received MSF donations can no longer be resupplied because of the violence.

In western Côte d'Ivoire, many wounded people suffering from gunshot or machete wounds arrived in hospitals in the western towns of Danané, Man, and Bangolo. MSF is also supporting the hospital in Bangolo, in the west. Between 28 March and 3 April, MSF teams treated 431 wounded patients in Bangolo and Duékoué.³

International NGO Action Contre la Faim planned to dispatch 24 tons of aid for emergency relief by 8 April. The shipment of food and non-food items will target affected populations in the west.

¹ UNHCR update

² <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MUMA-8FM83F?OpenDocument&emid=ACOS-635PLK>

³ <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/SMDL-8FMC9D?OpenDocument&emid=ACOS-635PLK>

**FOOD**

Save the Children and WFP are distributing food to the 27,300 IDPs at the Catholic Mission in Duékoué. Save the Children started a feeding operation on 3 April, and WFP distributed 80 tonnes of food to the IDPs starting on 6 April.

Since the onset of the crisis, WFP has also provided food support through general food distributions to displaced people in the west, in Tiébissou (centre) and in Abidjan.

WFP is currently taking all measures to resume and increase the food pipeline into Côte d'Ivoire, including augmenting its air transport capacity. The organization is sending out a continuous appeal to donors, especially as stocks in Abidjan may have been partly looted.

**FOOD SECURITY**

FAO continues to prepare its emergency intervention to support 9,000 households in Côte d'Ivoire. The organization is also reinforcing its response capacity at central level (Abidjan) with the arrival of a Senior International Expert. Its field antenna of Korhogo is being reopened with a field-based manager for the project execution in the north.

LIBERIA

26%: Out of \$146.5 million appeal, Liberia has so far received \$37 million for its emergency action plan

**PROTECTION**

Some 125,000 refugees have been registered in Liberia since the Côte d'Ivoire post-election crisis started in late December. The number of Ivorian refugees continues to rise sharply in Liberia, particularly in Grand Gedeh County in the south-east, where 500 to 2,000 refugees arrived daily over the past days.

Eleven unaccompanied minors and 35 separated children have been documented and referred for relevant service provision by Save the Children in Bahn Refugee camp and Butuo in Nimba County.

In Nimba, the Red Cross restored contacts between refugees and their family members in Ivory Coast through 289 free satellite or mobile phone calls. Trained volunteers conducted 16 tracing-awareness sessions in various communities. In Grand Gedeh County, 104 phone calls were made to restore family contacts. A total of 125 tracing cases were referred to the ICRC by tracing volunteers or UNHCR, and 10 separated children were registered.

On 27 March, partners met to discuss sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), analyse existing prevention and response mechanisms, and identify and establish comprehensive prevention and response services in the camp and the selected host communities within the current emergency response. Issues discussed include review of the referral pathway in Nimba County, and data collection and reporting mechanisms.

**FOOD**

Since January, 466 million tonnes of food have been distributed to 30,120 refugees in Saclepea and Zwedru. Partners are implementing a strengthened information campaign to expedite the relocation into camps, as the presence of refugees in host villages is putting a strain on the resources of the host communities. The relocation effort is intended to increase the attendance of refugees at existing distribution sites.

A substantial price increase in food staples in host villages has been observed. WFP continues to take diversified measures to avert pipeline breaks; cereals are particularly needed at this stage.

**FOOD SECURITY**

FAO is distributing agricultural kits to support the food production needs of 86 refugee households in Bahn refugee camp. The distribution, which took place on 30 and 31 March, is expected to support the food needs of 300-400 refugees. The agricultural kits consist of assorted tools, fertilizers and seeds (corn, okra, collards and cabbage).

FAO and local NGO partner the Special Emergency Relief for Elders (SERE) will provide extensive training and guidance to beneficiaries to assure the most favourable outcome of the crops provided. Refugees are encouraged to team up in groups working on sites within and adjacent to the camp. Sites are being identified in cooperation with the Liberian Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission and international partners.



NUTRITION

Since the establishment of 10 outpatient treatment sites, over 800 children have been screened for acute malnutrition, while 265 children have been treated for severe acute malnutrition. A total of 51 moderately malnourished children were admitted to supplementary feeding centres in Buutuo, BeoYoolar, Gblarplay and Bahn. Preparations are ongoing to establish an additional six centres in Nimba County.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

WASH partners have been deployed in Tchien and Konobo districts in Grand Gedeh County to provide assistance to the new influx of refugees. Small treated water supply systems and emergency sanitation arrangements are operational in the transit camps at Karnplay in Nimba and Toe Town in Grand Gedeh. Construction work is underway to set up similar systems and arrangements in Zorgawee and New Yorpea in Nimba. At the Bahn refugee camp, treated water production is 63.5m³/day (equivalent to the needs of 4,200 people); 106 latrines have been completed (equivalent to the needs of 5,300 people), and 15 bathing points and 15 laundry facilities have been installed (equivalent to the needs of 1,500 people).

In Nimba County, the Red Cross water purification and distribution unit in Buutuo provided an average of 30,000 litres of water per day to up to 15,000 refugees and residents.



HEALTH

Between 25 and 30 March, the Government of Liberia conducted a national immunization campaign for polio. It targeted 900,925 children less than 5 years of age, including 12,250 refugee children.

UNFPA has received reproductive health kits to assist partners in response to sexual and reproductive health needs, and to address SGBV among refugees and host communities in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties.



EDUCATION

Over 300 children have been registered for the early childhood development programme and the primary school at the Bahn Refugee Camp. Classes continue to be conducted at the transit centre as the school building was damaged by a storm. Reconstruction work is ongoing.

In the Gborplay axis, classes have commenced in Garplay, Mahdiaplay and Gbeivonwee host communities. A total of 646 refugee children are attending school; 15 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and 45 caregivers have also been identified. In the north (Loguatuo axis), classes are being conducted in Karnplay, Larpea and Kialay for 238 refugee children in schools. A total of 22 teachers have been identified in these communities.

School kits were distributed to 243 host-community children and 200 refugee children in Buutuo, Karnplay and Gborplay. A total of 984 refugee children have started classes in these host communities. Negotiations are ongoing with Alliance Française, a French institution in Liberia, to help train refugee teachers.

GHANA

According to UNHCR, there are now more than 7,000 Ivorian refugees in Ghana. Some 1,300 Ivorians entered Ghana during the week of 28 March after fleeing fresh fighting in the west of Côte d'Ivoire (Duékoué), centre (Daloa) and north-east (Bondoukou).

Most refugees in Ghana are currently accommodated in host communities. Some 1,700 of these people are also staying in a new camp set up by UNHCR and the Ghanaian authorities in Ampain, 55 km from the Elubo border point.

In anticipation of further arrivals into Ghana, the Government has expressed readiness to allocate sites in the coastal and mid-western areas of the country to build further camps. UNHCR is providing food and non-food aid. It also plans to complete works on water, health and sanitation facilities.

GUINEA

The total number of Ivorian refugees registered is 1,141 individuals, or 427 households, including 994 individuals located in the N'Zérékoré Forest Region and 147 people in Conakry. In N'Zérékoré, the number of new arrivals increased by 89 people during the week of 28 March. The majority originated from the Abobo, Yopougon and Adjamé districts of Abidjan and went directly to N'Zérékoré centre. They are staying with host families or lodging at a hotel pending the availability of community tents in Kouankan II Refugee Camp.⁴

MALI

A total of 252 Ivorian refugees have been registered by CNCR to date. An additional 200 await registration. A joint field mission was conducted by UNHCR, IOM, WFP and UNICEF to Sikasso, Zégoua and Faragouaran from 23 to 26 March. They monitored the level of emergency infrastructure preparation, notably the development of the Zégoua Transit Center, work on the Faragouaran Camp and the extension of the Faragouaran site.

Work is progressing according to schedule. The transit site will be functional in the coming days with a 200-person capacity. Mali developed an emergency action plan to repatriate 20,000 Malians in Abidjan, as well as 60,000 more migrants in Côte d'Ivoire who registered with the Malian Embassy in hope of returning to Mali. The action plan has three objectives: 1) identify those who desire to return to Mali; 2) establish a reception centre to reorient those being repatriated; 3) establish psychological follow-up for those repatriated. The first 10 buses from Côte d'Ivoire to Mali, assisted by IOM, are expected to arrive with approximately 700 people on board.

IV. Coordination

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

An inter-agency mission was carried out on 1 April in Duékoué to assess the humanitarian situation.

V. Funding

- The Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan for Côte d'Ivoire +4 is currently being revised upwards to reflect the country's greatly increased humanitarian needs. The revised appeal is expected to be launched on 13 April. The original appeal (for \$32 million) had received \$22 million as of 8 April. On the Liberia side, the appeal for \$146.5 million had received \$37 million as of 8 April.
- WFP is appealing for urgent contributions in order to implement all activities at full scale and to avert pipeline breaks in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. A total of \$21.2 million is required for its emergency operations in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia (\$4.5 million for Côte d'Ivoire, and \$16.7 million for Liberia). In addition, the Regional Special Operation augmenting the logistics and telecommunications capacity is facing \$9.1 million shortfalls.
- FAO is appealing for urgent contributions in order to better respond to the increasing food insecurity among people affected by the crisis: \$8.56 million is still required for its emergency operations in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and at the regional level (\$1.2 million for Côte d'Ivoire and \$5.3 million for Liberia and \$2 million at regional level, including neighbouring countries).
- IFRC has revised its international appeal and is seeking \$4.3 million to support affected people in the areas of shelter, food and clean water.
- Save the Children has launched a \$40 million appeal to meet the needs of 650,000 affected people in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.
- Oxfam appealed for \$16 million on 6 April to respond to the refugee crisis.

⁴ UNHCR Update 7

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

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