

Update No. 10

Côte d'Ivoire Situation

21 April 2011



Highlights

- Following the arrest of Laurent Gbagbo on 11 April, reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire is high on the agenda for the new regime, the President of the Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI), Pascal Affi N'Guessan and the United Nations Security Council.
- The new President Alassane Ouattara requested all civil servants to return to duty on 18 April. The Chancellor Youssouf Kone, the President of the Supreme Court, Tia Kone and of the Economic and Social Council Laurent Dona Fologo have pledged allegiance to the new regime. Prime Minister, Ake Ngbo, announced his resignation on 16 April.
- The Minister of Justice, Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio, is requesting an investigation into the actions of members of the former regime as well as others including journalists working for Radio Television Ivoirienne (RTI).
- Fighting between the FRCI continues on two fronts. In the districts of Abobo and Anyama against Ibrahima Coulibaly's "invisible commandos" and in Yopougon against Gbagbo's residual militia. The aftermath of violence and devastation is visible in Duekoue. IDPs in the Catholic Mission fear reprisals and the presence of militia. With the continued volatility in the country, discussions on repatriation of Ivorian refugees are put on hold.
- Laurent Gbagbo has been placed under house arrest in the north of the country while his wife remains at the Golf Hotel. Subsequent to the arrest of 130 people in an around the Gbagbo residence on 11 April, 70 individuals have been set free with 50 remaining in government custody. A key military figure of the Gbagbo camp, General Bruno Dogbo Blé, was arrested on Friday and led to the Golf Hotel where he remains.



Women and children were among the most touched by the conflict, (UNHCR Abidjan/staff/2011)

Population Movement

Country	Guinea	Burkina Faso	Mali	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Guinea Bissau	Gambia	Sierra Leone
Refugees/Asylum seekers	2,629	94	704	10,877	2,954	153	38	102	41	38	35	10
Liberia	44,624 Ivorian refugees individually registered and 112,800 through the rapid emergency registration											

In view of the volatile situation in Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR is not yet in a position to provide exact figures. Some explanations are provided below.

Financial Information

2011 Contributions Towards UNHCR's Activities in West Africa	
Donor	Contribution (USD)
Australia	2,028,398
Canada	2,335,362
CERF	3,155,737
Denmark	1,843,658
EC/ECHO	2,747,253
ECOWAS	500,000
Finland	1,690,913
France	549,451
Germany	1,027,413
Ireland	544,959
Norway	1,431,127
Private donors	210,046
Republic of Korea	300,000
Switzerland	637,767
UN Population Fund	119,840
United Kingdom	7,211,538
USA	10,300,000
TOTAL(*)	36,633,462

(*) In addition, Luxembourg donated USD 87,015 towards UNHCR's initial response in Côte d'Ivoire in December 2010.

COTE D'IVOIRE

The nationwide curfew imposed on March 31 has been lifted. Abidjan moves towards a slow recovery despite the pockets of armed resistance in Yopougon, Abobo and Anyama districts and the continued insecurity with ongoing pillaging. Some civil servants have taken up their functions, the port facilities and Abidjan airport have been re-activated. Ivorian press has renewed its presence and newspapers are available on the market. Commercial activity remains non-existent aside from a small businesses opening for trade. Senior members of the Gbagbo camp have been relocated to the Pergola Hotel under the protection of UNOCI.

Fear of reprisals is prevalent in Western Côte d'Ivoire. A conservative estimate of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the West of the country is **150,000**. This includes 28,000 at the Catholic Mission in Duékoué, 10,000 in four sites in Guiglo, 649 at the "Site d'accueil temporaire des déplacés" (SATD 1) in Danane and transfers are underway for SATD 2 with a capacity of 605. The number of IDPs around Bolequin and Toulepleu are unknown.

The Abidjan Office officially re-opened on 21 April. UNHCR workforce in the west of the country has been increased and will be operating from Man and Tabou offices. The Guiglo office has been looted and is no longer safe. All UN agencies have been called to

Country Operations



Mr. Eric P. Somah, Registered Nurse, supervised the birth of four (4) babies of Liberian refugees in the UNHCR Abidjan compound during the height of the conflict. (UNHCR/S. Perham/ 2011)

resume activities. Other UN agencies and NGOs such as WFP, UNICEF, IRC, NRC, STC, MSF, ACF, and OXFAM are also planning to establish offices in Man.

• Protection

The number of refugees (Liberian and other) in the UNHCR Abidjan office compound fluctuates between 300 and 400. During the period of combat, four births were recorded. Two refugees hit by stray bullets have been properly treated and are safe. UNHCR, concerned for the safety of the refugees, will contact the FRCI to position guards at the Abidjan office to enhance the security of Liberian refugees.

The security of refugees in Abidjan may be compromised with the search for Liberian mercenaries involved in the conflict. The facilitation of voluntary repatriation for Liberians is a priority. Land transport is envisaged from Cote d'Ivoire to Liberia.

The Government is requesting assistance for the return of IDPs. UNHCR further anticipates a massive return of Ivorian refugees from Liberia when the security conditions in the country allow for it, and will be planning for effective return and reintegration for both refugee returnees and IDPs. An estimated 40,000 to 50,000 returnees have spontaneously returned from Liberia to locations around Danane and Toulepleu.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Camp sites in and around Duékoué will be developed to accommodate IDPs and refugee returnees. A site planner and Shelter Cluster lead is expected in the coming days. Non-food items for 50,000 households were transported across the Liberian border into Man, Cote d'Ivoire on 21 April. Non-food items from the Accra stockpile are being requested to support IDPs in Abidjan. Returning IDPs are already visible, especially in the Abobo district.

FRCI soldiers appear under different commanders and cannot be categorized as a single group. Many are unable to differentiate between UNOCI, UN agencies and NGOs. Sensitization of FRCI combatants is required for them to distinguish between humanitarian personnel and organizations. With the change in national leadership and upon invitation by President Ouattara, humanitarian agencies are requested to become more visible (logo/flag on vehicles).

LIBERIA

An additional **23,188** Ivorian refugees have arrived this week principally through Grand Gedeh County. The total number accounted for through rapid emergency registration has moved to **112, 800** with **44,624** registered individually. The new arrivals are mainly from Duekoue, Bolequin and Gebouke. Those among them of Guere ethnic origin claimed to have fled after hearing of reprisal attacks against Gbagbo supporters. Border movement into Nimba and Maryland have significantly decreased.

The main challenge four months into the emergency is the maintenance of refugee security, the prevention of gender based violence, the protection of children and food distribution.

• Protection

Many of the refugee populations have requested enhanced security measures in transit centers in both Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties, including fencing and more visible police force. UNHCR Liberia is investigating security concerns in each instance. Rumours of refugee women in Toe Town in Grand Gedeh country resorting to prostitution have emerged and are being verified. The protection of children both in terms of their security and nutrition remains a concern throughout Liberia. Several incidents of malnourished women and children have been recorded in Grand Gedeh and Nimba counties.

Border Immigration and Naturalization (BIN) officers closed off the Tempo border in Grand Gedeh on 13 April to prevent elements of Ouattara's forces from entering into Liberia. Armed groups are also rumoured to have entered Liberia through Toe town although confirmation is pending.

On 18 April, 1, 057 students in Bahn refugee camp began primary school classes on English, French, Mathematics and Physical Education taught by nine

teachers hired by Save the Children. There are at present 3,399 refugees in Bahn camp.



Parents prepare meals for the children in Liberia. (UNHCR/staff/2011)

• Humanitarian Assistance

Clearing of the new Ziah refugee camp site in Grand Gedeh is in progress. On 13 April UNHCR arranged the first convoy of 108 refugees to the site. In Maryland 71 light weight tents were distributed to 104 families, including 16 vulnerable families at the Bishop Ferguson Transit Center. DRC is developing two additional transit shelters at Little Wlebo camp site of which one of the centers is almost complete.

DRC fitted latrines with doors to increase privacy at the Zorgowee Transit Center. The construction of additional latrines showers and work on new water treatment system is ongoing. UNICEF has provided 70, 520 bars of soap and 1500 jerry cans to partners working in Toe Town. OXFAM and UNICEF guarantee 80,000 litres of water a day at the Bishop Ferguson TC.

WHO has donated two interagency health kits to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to assist refugees in Grand Gedeh county. At the Ministry of Agriculture transit center an MSF team vaccinated 65 children between 6 months and 15 years of age against measles on 15 April and conducted additional consultations for 59 individuals. OXFAM conducted a hygiene awareness raising campaign on the site.

Bad road conditions around Beoyoolar due to heavy rains and poor quality of a bridge in Zorgowee has resulted in delays in the delivery of food. WFP has distributed 650 metric tonnes of food since January 2011 to a total of 30, 120 beneficiaries. 17, 022 have received food in April. The agency anticipated three airlifts of rice from Niger to Monrovia between 18-20 April.

During the reporting period the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf visited Ivorian refugees in five locations in Grand Gedeh County assuring them of their safety and security in Liberia. The Special Representative of the Secretary General, Ellen Margrethe Loj and the Ambassador of the United States to Liberia, Linda Thomas-Greenfield visited Janzon in Grand Gedeh County to meet with UN

peacekeeping troops and assess how the Ivorian influx will impact security in Liberia.

GHANA

The reporting period has seen an increase in **1,161** additional Ivorian asylum seekers. The numbers have trebled since the arrest of former President Laurent Gbagbo on 11 April. The total number of Ivorians registered in Ghana is at **10,877** with an additional 3,000 estimated to be in the Brong Ahafo region and pending registration. In the Western Region, the population at Eagle Star Transit Center has reached its maximum capacity at **600** individuals. The population of Ampain Refugee Camp has reached **3,030**. In Brong Ahafo, the population in Berekum camp is of **717** with an additional **301** in Oseikodjukrom. The residual population remains scattered amongst host communities.

• Protection

The majority of new arrivals into the Western Region are young men in sharp contrast to the women and children arriving into the Western region earlier in the conflict. Former members of the Young Patriots may be among the new arrivals. The Government of Ghana and UNHCR are working together to develop screening mechanisms for the presence of armed elements. UNHCR maintains heightened vigilance at the Brong Ahafo border region where armed elements have also been recorded. Upon the request of UNHCR six Ghana policemen are now stationed in Oseikojokrom.

A systematic programme for border monitoring and registration of refugees remaining in the villages along the borders is being developed in the Brong Ahafo region and will begin on 26 April.

• Humanitarian Assistance

In Ampain refugee camp, all grades for primary school are offered four days a week in an ad hoc site with little materials. A site for a temporary school has been identified. UNICEF will be conducting a forthcoming mission to record training needs. Teachers will need specific information on how to manage trauma in children.

Additional land in Ampain refugee camp is being cleared to increase absorption capacity. Two additional new refugee camp sites have been identified and are being developed: Elmina in the West and Fatentaa in Brong Ahafo.

Discussions are underway with NCS to develop an effective distribution system with lists of camp population and households having been finalized. WFP is expected to preposition food distribution in Takoradi in the coming days. A general food distribution by WFP will take place on 21 April in Berekum and in Oseikojokrom the week after. In Berekum wet feeding arrangement will cease after this date. Charcoal burners have been received and charcoal procured for distribution on 20 April.

A USAID/UNAIDS mission visited both Berekum and Oseikojokrom on 17 and 18 April to review HIV/AIDS in conjunction with Regional Health Authorities and the Holy Catholic Family Hospital which continues to provide the daily clinic in the camp. Meetings were also held with the Ghana Health Services (GHS) in Essam concerning screening and medical treatment. The GHS has been admitting and treating the refugees in a small clinic in Oseikojokrom at no cost to the asylum seekers and has agreed to continue this care. Patients who cannot be treated in Oseikojokrom will be referred to Essam.

On 18 April UNICEF visited Ampain to discuss child protection. The ECOBANK Office for International Organization Relations has expressed interest in supporting the Ivorian refugee relief effort by donating an undisclosed number of latrines, as well as mosquito nets for 100 families. The Deputy of the Energy Department and Ghana/Spain Off Grid Solar Project assessed Ampain camp for lighting needs. ECOWAS and World Vision also visited Ampain camp.

GUINEA

The total number of Ivorian refugees registered in Guinea now stands at **2,629** with **2405** present in the N'Zerekore Forest Region and **224** in Conakry. The increase in arrivals is recorded at 90 individuals per day in N'Zerekore, the majority of whom are from Abobo, Yopougon districts in Abidjan as well as some from Douekoue in the west of Cote d'Ivoire.

A total of **1105** individuals have been transferred to Kouankan I and II. The total population of both camps is at **1,753** individuals as of 18 April, with an additional **675** individuals in the N'Zerekore transit centre awaiting transfer to Kouankan and **632** individuals have chosen to remain in host communities within the Lola and Beyla prefectures.

• Protection

While Ivorians fleeing the post electoral conflict are recognised as refugees prima facie in Guinea, the National Eligibility Commission is now giving priority to applications for asylum of sur place claims.

• Humanitarian Assistance

There remain **76** UAMs in Kouankan II. A joint mission UNHCR/UNFPA distributed hygiene kits and birth kits for pregnant women. A professional aid kit for deliveries was provided to the midwife in the Health Centre as well as one PEP kit to the doctor in Kouankan I.

Basic essential needs and services for refugees in the camps continue to be ensured by UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP.

BURKINA FASO

94 Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered to date by the 'Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés' (CONAREF). During the reporting period an additional 16 asylum seekers arrived onto the territory. **91** individuals are in the capital Ouagadougou, and three others are located in neighbouring towns of Koudougou, Zabre and Tenkodogo. They are all of varying ethnicity. Registration activities have been disturbed by the recent events of social unrest.

On 18 April the Habitat and Urbanism Minister submitted plans on the development of refugee camps as well as an estimate of the related costs.

The First Secretary and Head of Cooperation of the German Embassy, Ms Ute Mohring, met with UNHCR to seek more information on the assistance to Ivorian asylum seekers in urban environment.

TOGO

With **297** new arrivals reported this week, the total number of Ivorian refugees is at **2,954**. The Tropicana Refugee Camp site (15km away from Lome) was officially inaugurated on 15 April. The Minister of Territorial Administration and the Minister of Security and Civil Protection as well as the UNHCR representative and staff attended the inauguration ceremony. The first convoy of **271** refugees being transferred to the refugee camp from Lome arrived on 14 April and an additional **127** on 16 April. The current number of refugees in Tropicana camp as of 20 April is **467**.

• Protection

Discussions on the issuance of refugee identity cards for Ivorian are ongoing. The government counterpart, CNAR obtained the permission from the Minister of Education to enable Ivorian refugees to sit primary and secondary school exams. On the refugee camp site, refugees will be enrolled into local schools in the vicinity. A nursery as well as recreational center is forthcoming in the camp.

• Humanitarian Assistance

Drinking water and electricity is available in the refugee camp. In addition to the 20 showers and 20 latrines constructed so far, a health centre has been established and is operational since 15 April. Shelter is guaranteed for all refugees on camp. NFIs have been distributed by UNHCR and ATBEF on 14 April and the refugees receive 3 meals a day until 20 April where food distribution is planned in order to allow family cooking.

At the new health centre, one medical assistant, one midwife and two nurses have been deployed by ATBEF. 47 patients (among whom 12 children) have been attended to. 24 cases of malaria, five cases of

ulcers, one case of sickle cell anaemia and three cases of hypertension have been reported.

MALI

The number of arrivals has reduced this week with **172** reported new asylum seekers. There are **704** registered Ivorian asylum seekers in Mali as of 18 April. A review of a sample set of 80 Ivorians crossing at the Zegoua border was conducted to get a sense of their reasons for crossing. Of these, 53 were visiting family, 11 were crossing for security reasons, 8 for trade and the remaining 8 for other diverse reasons not related to the conflict. The asylum seekers were informed of the Zegoua Transit Center and have been given CNCR and UNHCR's addresses. They indicated their desire to register in order to benefit from eventual repatriation support when the security conditions allow.

UNHCR office received oil and beans from the WFP for 20 families for one month. These were been requested for a few families willing to be transferred to Faragouaran Camp. Following new developments in Cote d'Ivoire, these families have indicated a desire to return to Côte d'Ivoire.

NIGERIA

There are **102** registered Ivorian asylum-seekers in Nigeria as of 18 April with a single additional arrival during the reporting period.

UNHCR provided **14** individuals (2 households) with NFIs (mats, blankets, cooking stoves, cooking sets and mosquito nets). A family of four members was deemed vulnerable and referred to the IP for subsistence allowance for three months.

BENIN

There are **153** Ivorian asylum-seekers (95 households) in Benin thereby indicating an increase in 59 new cases in the reporting week.

SIERRA LEONE

No new arrivals were reported this week. The number of Ivorian asylum seekers remains at **10** individuals.

GUINEA BISSAU

With 3 new arrivals this week, there are in total **38** Ivorian asylum seekers in Guinea Bissau. Thus far nine have been recognised as refugees with 29 pending adjudication.



Ivorian refugee girl in a camp in Liberia. (UNHCR/staff/2011)

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