

*This report was issued by OCHA Regional Office for West and Central Africa.*

## **I. HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Over 34,000 refugees registered**
- **Second aid airlift for Ivorian refugees in Liberia**
- **Over 28,000 IDPs registered, bringing the number of IDPs in western CdI to over 30,000**
- **UNICEF launches a measles vaccination campaign in Nimba (Liberia)**
- **AU mediation team landed in Côte d'Ivoire**

## **II. Situation Overview**

On 28 January, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union decided to put in place a team of experts panel to support an AU high level Panel comprised of African Head of States tasked with continuing the mediation and finding a solution to the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire in one month's time. This high level expert group is composed of experts and presidents Ould Abdel Aziz (Mauritania), Idriss Deby (Chad), Blaise Compaoré (Burkina Faso), Jacob Zuma (South Africa) and Jakaya Kiwete (Tanzania). The team of experts arrived in Abidjan on 6 February for a four-day visit. In addition, the Security Council has condemned the abuses and violations of human rights, threats and acts of intimidation, as well as acts of obstruction against the activities of UNOCI.

On 5 February, Blé Goudé leader of the young patriots mobilized President Gbagbo supporters on the 'place de la République du Plateau' to protest against the presence of the President of Burkina Faso in the panel.

The United Nations envoy on sexual violence in conflict, Margot Wallström, called on authorities in Côte d'Ivoire to swiftly investigate reports of rapes that have occurred during this crisis and to ensure better protection for women and girls. She said that the security situation for women and girls has "deteriorated" in particular in the western parts of the country. Ms. Wallström also called for "urgent steps to be taken to avert the risk of increased sexual violence and to ensure the protection of civilians, especially women and girls."

## **III. Humanitarian Needs and Response**

### **Refugees:**

As of 7 February, the estimated number of refugees has increased and is estimated to be over 34,000. UNHCR registered 32,750 refugees in Liberia, 640 in Guinea, 208 in Togo, 127 in Mali, 78 in Ghana, 21 in Benin, 16 in Burkina Faso and 11 in Niger.

The IFRC is supporting National Societies throughout the region to increase national and local preparedness and response capacities to a caseload of 1,500 families in Liberia and in Guinea, and 500 families each in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Ghana, for a total of 4,500 families overall. Stocks have been pre-positioned in the five neighboring countries.

### **Liberia**

Refugees are located in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties which are among the poorest regions in the country. UNHCR work to establish the refugee camp in Bahn continues. The camp is expected to host approximately 18,000 refugees within the next three weeks. A second UNHCR airlift for Ivorian refugees arrived on 30 January in Liberia with 83 metric tones of aid including 17,000 blankets, 11,400 mats, 11,400 jerrycans, 5,700 kitchen sets, and 5,700 tarpaulins. Food, Nutrition, Shelter, Water Sanitation and Hygiene remain major needs. Humanitarian actors continue to face challenges in reaching affected communities, particularly those in host villages due to poor road conditions.

### ***Food***

WFP will approve an emergency operation (EMOP) for six months (1 February to 31 July) that will cover rations for 180 days of general food distribution for an estimated 50,000 refugees and 10,000 persons from the host population, as well as 90 days of supplementary feeding for 2,000 children under-5 (1,000 children every quarter). The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that it will provide additional food assistance to Liberia for Ivorian refugees. USAID is allocating US\$3 million to WFP to help feed more than 30,000 refugees already in Liberia. The additional funding will provide an estimated 2,100 tons of food aid to help meet the needs of new refugees. In response to the unrest that followed the disputed elections in Côte d'Ivoire, USAID's Office of Food for Peace authorized the use of food commodities already in Liberia for emergency food assistance for the first Ivorian refugees who crossed the border.

### ***Nutrition***

UNICEF has provided therapeutic food (plumpy nut) for 100 severely malnourished children in addition to supplementary feeding supplies already provided to 200 children. To prevent further deterioration in nutritional status, UNICEF will also distribute high energy micronutrient ready-to-use complementary food (Plumpy doz) to 2,700 children.

### ***Health***

As of the end of January, five Liberian children between one and five years old had died of measles, two cases have been confirmed by WHO, and just over 100 suspected cases reported. On 2 February, UNICEF launched a seven-day measles vaccination campaign targeting 30,000 children in Nimba County between six months and 15 years old, this will include Vitamin A supplements, which can reduce deaths associated with measles by up to 50 percent, as well as de-worming for children under-5. Women of child-bearing age will be vaccinated against tetanus. In selected communities with large refugee populations, the campaign will also include nutrition screening, counseling and referrals. Severely malnourished children will be referred to outpatient treatment centers, and moderately malnourished children will be referred to supplementary feeding programs.

### ***WASH***

The IFRC and ICRC supported the Liberia Red Cross in direct assistance to refugees and host communities with household water treatment, water jerry-cans, buckets, bars of soap, water guard and hand washing dispenser. These items were provided to 1,145 beneficiaries (782 refugees and 367 hosts). As a rapid response to the crucial need for safe drinking water and sanitation, eight water wells and eight hand pumps have been rehabilitated in Dulay, Kentorkporglay, Goagotuo, Kpolay and Zualay towns.

The Red Cross and communities collaborated to dig 70 pits for household latrines in six communities, in addition, local materials were procured and 10 construction teams deployed in these communities. Since early December 2010, UNICEF has improved access to safe water through repairs and improvement of water sources for 5,500 people. It has also improved sanitation with the construction of 96 latrines for 4,800 people in 13 communities. UNICEF provided household WASH NFIs (200,000 water purification tablets, 12,000 bars of soap, and 1,200 jerrycans) for 10,000 people which are being distributed in the border districts of Gbehlageh and Zoegeh, which have the largest numbers of refugees. The organization has also pre-positioned WASH supplies for 10,000 people in Ganta, close to the Bahn camp site.

### ***Protection/Education***

In Northern Nimba County, there are already an estimated 1,000 refugee children attending classes, in Liberian schools, after the school day. UNICEF is working with partners to scale up, standardize and harmonize these learning opportunities for refugee children through existing schools. Over the next two weeks, UNICEF will be working with Save the Children, Plan and the International Red Cross (IRC), in collaboration with the Minister of Education, to distribute education supplies to 30,000 children.

## **Ghana**

The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) has reported the arrival of Ghanaian returnees into coastal communities in the central Region. NADMO sources also estimated that there were 4,000 Ghanaian returnees. Reports of arrivals to coastal communities throughout the Western Region which in some cases included new Ivorian arrivals and mixed populations, prompted an assessment mission by UNHCR to the central region from 26 to 29 January. This assessment mission reveals a relatively normal situation and local population able to cope with the current circumstances; as new arrivals appear to have integrated/settled into their communities. NADMO in coordination with UNHCR will profile new arrivals in such a way as to be able to identify other categories of persons such as refugees and third country nationals especially if the situation in CDI deteriorates.

## **Cote d'Ivoire Internal displacement:**

Following the Humanitarian Country Team meeting on 4 February and the completion of the IDP and host community registration in Duékoué, a significant increase in the number of IDPs has been reported. There are now 28,122 registered IDPs, including 8,000 IDPs in the Catholic mission, in Duékoué. Although the registration process in Man and Danane are ongoing, from the displaced population already identified, the number of displaced people in western Côte d'Ivoire and in some pockets in central areas is estimated to be over 30,000.

Humanitarian actors continue to provide assistance to IDPs in terms of food, water and sanitation, shelter, health, protection and education. There is a tendency for IDPs on sites to move to host families and more data will be available once the registration is completed.

## **Health**

On 6 February, local Ivorian media reported that WHO had issued a warning regarding the deterioration of the health system in north and northwest Côte d'Ivoire. According to the report, in Duékoué only 20 per cent of qualified health personnel are in place in health facilities and five health centers in the county (30 per cent) are closed. In Man, displacement of qualified health personnel has already disrupted epidemiological surveillance.

Supported by WHO and UNICEF, the response led by the national Red Cross, is under way and patients have been re-routed to Treichville hospital which has a dedicated cholera ward. Two cholera kits have been provided to treat up to 1,000 people and 250,000 soaps are being distributed along with 3,000 sensitization posters.

Yellow fever vaccination has been completed in four north western districts. The vaccination campaign covered over 700,000 people (> 88%) and WHO validated the success of the campaign. IFRC has released an amount of CHF 68,777 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire's participation in the Yellow fever vaccination campaign. The Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross has carried out sensitization and social mobilization activities in the affected districts in partnership with WHO, UNICEF and other partners.

The cholera epidemic has been officially declared by health authorities in the Adjame neighborhood of Abidjan. Although the outbreak has spread to Atecoube, the number of new cases has decreased over the last five days. So far over 65 cases and eight fatalities have been reported in the country, bringing the case fatality rate down to 13 per cent. Due to enhanced case management, there was only one death during the past week.

On 26 January, one suspected case of meningitis and one death was reported in Duékoué. Health authorities and partners are preparing a mass vaccination campaign.

### **Protection / Education**

Save the Children has been using local radio to communicate messages preventing family separation for several weeks and is addressing psycho-social needs of displaced children in Man and Duékoué, providing recreational kits to children with games. In coordination with UNICEF and other education partners, Save the Children started local and national level advocacy to encourage teachers and children to return to school where possible. Save the Children has also provided 1,200 child-sized blankets for displaced children in Western Côte d'Ivoire.

## **IV. Coordination**

### **Liberia**

The inter-agency assessment mission (OCHA, Humanitarian Coordinator's office, LRRRC, UNHCR) that assessed the humanitarian response and the coordination mechanism on the ground completed its 10 day assessment. Twenty villages in the counties of Nimba and Grand Gedeh were assessed. The preliminary results highlight the complexity of this humanitarian operation and the need to expedite the delivery of humanitarian assistance and improve the coordination mechanism. The Humanitarian Country Team is currently working on a CERF request to fund the most urgent life-saving activities in the country.

The UN Gender Theme Group which includes UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP and UNMIL conducted an assessment on 13 to 21 January to identify critical gender-related issues that require immediate attention. The priority areas assessed included registration system and processes, food, protection and security, shelter and Sexual Gender Based violence.

### **Ghana**

A joint technical mission to the Brong Ahafo region in relation to the situation in Cote d'Ivoire has been completed. The multi agency team was composed of UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, NADMO, and Ghana Refugee Board. The mission covered border monitoring, site identification/planning, and meetings were conducted with the regional administration.

### **Côte d'Ivoire**

On 28 January, the Humanitarian Country Team adopted 10 concrete recommendations to be implemented by different organizations the following days. Clusters meeting are taking place on a weekly schedule.







On 30 January, a meeting including UNICEF, WFP and OCHA with the 18 Montagnes Prefect discussed access, right to education and coordination of humanitarian activities among other topics.

Logistics cluster is working on the LOG response plan and two main bases have been identified (Odienne and Koghor) within Côte d'Ivoire. The Humanitarian Country Team is also working on a CERF request to respond to the most urgent life-saving needs.

## **V. Funding**

Over US\$87.7 million are required to cover humanitarian needs in Côte d'Ivoire and its five neighboring countries. Pledges, commitments and contributions received so far are recapitulated below.

	<b>Côte d'Ivoire+4</b>	<b>Liberia</b>
<b>Canada</b>		✚ \$ 1,500,501
<b>ECHO</b>	✚ €3,000,000	✚ €2,000,000

<b>USAID</b>		 \$100,000 Call for proposals for NFI needs for host communities FFP to provide substantial contribution for food aid
<b>Australia Aid</b>	Pledge for staff secondment to humanitarian agencies	 AU\$ 2,000,000
<b>Switzerland</b>	Pledge for staff secondment to humanitarian agencies	 \$ 1,369,085 Pledge for staff secondment to humanitarian agencies
<b>Sweden</b>		 \$492,768
<b>Italy</b>	 \$ 407,068	
<b>Luxembourg</b>	 \$ 85,079	
<b>CERF</b>	Will consider proposals for life saving / priority needs. Based on latest assessments, proposal under preparation by HCT.	Will consider proposals for life saving / priority needs. Based on latest assessments, proposal under preparation by HCT.

France, Germany, UK and Ireland have also pledged contribution for humanitarian assistance in Côte d'Ivoire and/or Liberia.

## VI. Contact

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