

# Cote d'Ivoire Situation

24 November 2020

**UNHCR airlifted 95 tons emergency supplies to Liberia** to meet the pressing needs of Ivorian refugees along the border, where there is a high proportion of women, elderly people, and unaccompanied children.

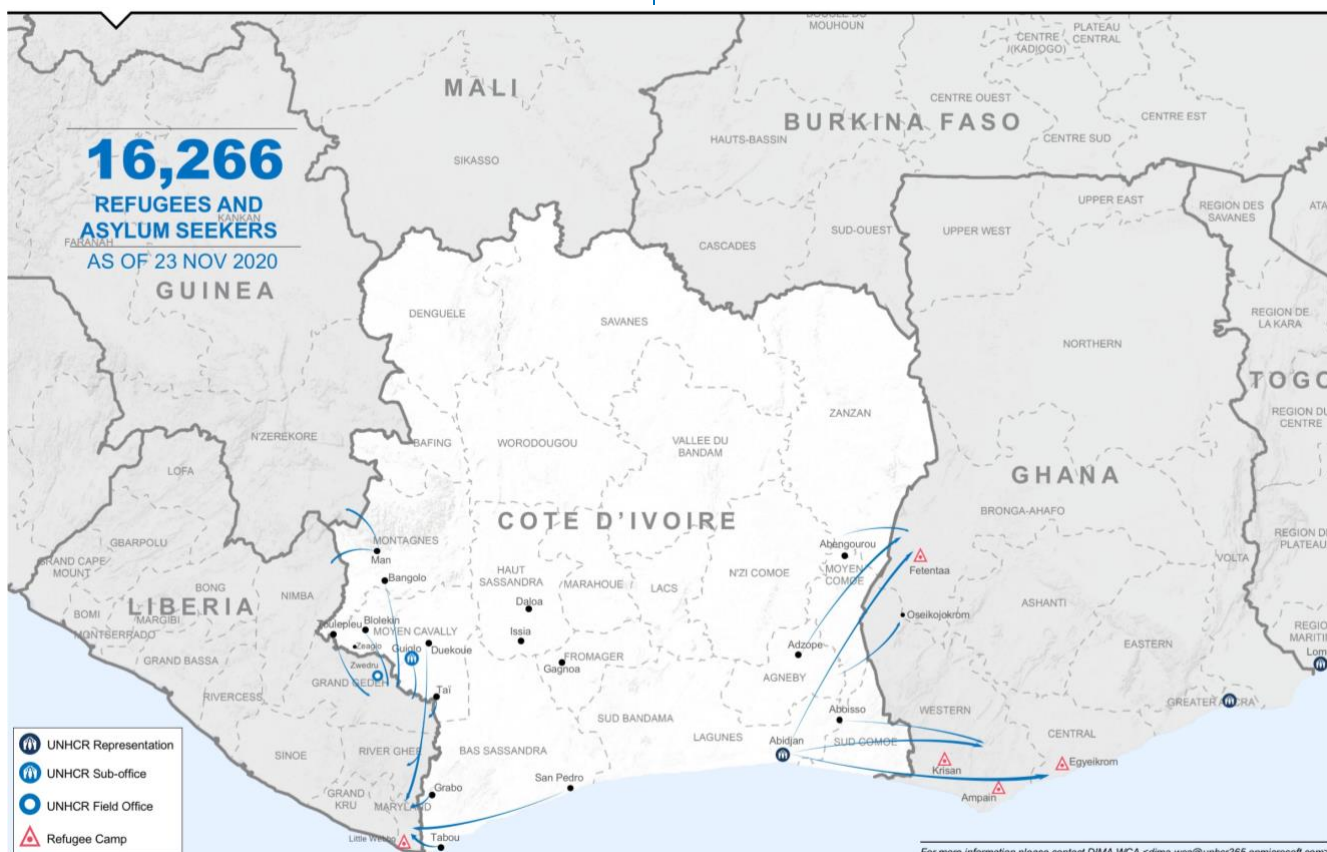
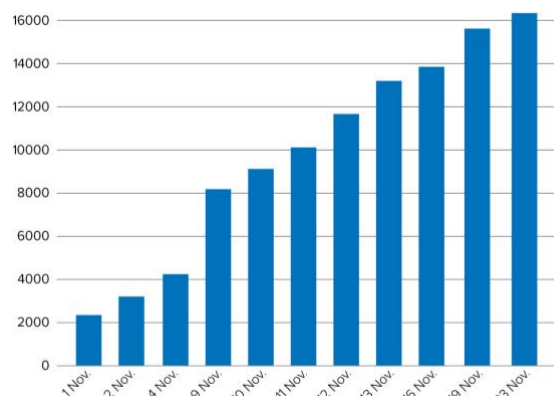
As of 23 November 2020, a total of **16,266 Ivorians have fled Cote d'Ivoire**. More than 93% of the refugees are in neighbouring Liberia, and the number of new arrivals continues to rise amid persistent tensions.

An increasing number of Ivorian refugees are entering Liberia via unofficial border crossing points by foot or by motorcycle, **with most reaching the border the same day they depart**.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN\*

Host Countries	New arrivals
Liberia	15,208
Ghana	666
Guinea	367
Togo	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,266</b>

\*Data as of 23 November 2020 as reported by UNHCR Operations.



# Operational Context

## Political and security situation in Cote d'Ivoire

- As of 23 November, there were 16,266 Ivorian refugees across four neighbouring countries with arrivals steadily increasing. Estimates indicate that there are also thousands of IDPs within Cote d'Ivoire.
- Many arriving refugees had already sought protection and asylum in neighbouring countries in the past and subsequently returned to Cote d'Ivoire. However, the current new arrivals includes increasingly young women with children who are fleeing the country for the first time. Fear of violence is still the main driver of displacement, and many arrivals are reporting being afraid of an imminent outbreak of violence due to the ongoing political tensions and the trauma of the of 2011 post electoral conflict.

## Population movements and border monitoring

- An increasing number of Ivorian refugees are entering Liberia via unofficial border crossing points by foot or by motorcycle, with most reaching the border the same day they depart. The frequency and location of arrivals remain unpredictable, and varies from day to day.
- UNHCR is coordinating with the Liberian Refugee Resettlement and Reintegration Commission to arrange registration for Ivorian asylum-seekers in inaccessible areas of River Gee County. Access of registration teams to some new arrivals is equally challenging in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties where teams had to cut through the bush to reach remote villages.

# UNHCR Emergency Response

## Liberia



### PROTECTION

- The Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) recorded a total of 15,208 Ivorian refugees as of 23 November, and a total of 4,361 refugees have been formally registered.
- Overall demographic trends remain consistent: 60% of the new arrivals are children, and 55% of the overall population are women. Most male new arrivals are children.
- UNHCR, LRRRC and Samaritan's Purse conducted a joint rapid assessment of on emergency needs in the areas of protection, as well as health, WASH and livelihoods.
- There is a need for educational activities and community-based structures or recreational facilities for children. Reports indicate that some students in grades 6 and 10 have returned to Cote d'Ivoire to take their exams where schools have re-opened.
- There is a high instance of pregnant teenagers, many of whom already have multiple children.
- More WASH facilities are needed as many individuals resort to using bushes for latrines.
- Children in the many female-headed or grandparent-headed households are more susceptible to negative coping mechanisms, which can involve substance abuse, illicit gold mining, GBV, teenage pregnancies, STIs and other diseases. UNHCR is conducting protection and needs assessments for these populations.



### HEALTH

- COVID-19 prevention efforts include the distribution of 20,000 face masks and hand sanitisers, as well as the implementation of handwashing protocols at border crossing points.
- New arrivals are expressing the need for medical attention, and refugee community leaders have requested further support for increasing health needs.

- Pregnant women and the elderly have difficulty accessing local health care due to road conditions and transport costs.

**SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)**

- Construction of communal shelters, kitchens, canteen, toilets, warehouse and distribution centre have been completed at Little Wlebo. Rehabilitation and construction work at Saclapea and Toe's Town is ongoing.
- More than 800 sleeping mats and 2,000 blankets have been distributed to new arrivals, many of whom are staying among the host community in crowded conditions, sleeping on floors and sharing rooms.
- While a major airlift of 95 tons of emergency relief items for 10,000 refugees landed in Monrovia on 23 November and will be distributed along border communities, more NFIs and food assistance are still needed.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE AND CASH-BASED INTERVENTION**

- As of 23 November, more than 6,000 bags of 25 kg of dry food and 9,000 liters of cooking oil in total have been distributed to refugees in Liberia.
- In Maryland County, 100 food assistance tokens and 1,150 bags of rice were distributed to new arrivals. In River Gee County, a one month supply of food (10 kg) was distributed to 400 people.

## Burkina Faso

- Border monitoring is ongoing. As of 23 November, no new arrivals from Cote d'Ivoire have been recorded.

## Ghana

**PROTECTION**

- As of 23 November 2020, a total of 666 people (271 families) have arrived in Ghana. In total, 405 are hosted in Ampain camp, 82 in Egyeikrom camp, 88 in Fetentaa camp, and 91 are in local communities along the Oseikojokrom border.

**SHELTER AND NFIS**

- The 50 tents at "Sowodadiemu" Camp have been mounted, and multiple WASH activities are underway, including water distribution points, bathing facilities and toilets.
- In Fetentaa additional land has been identified to host new arrivals, and an abandoned school has been designated as a quarantine centre.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE AND CASH-BASED INTERVENTION**

- The distribution of hand sanitizers and face masks for COVID-19 prevention is ongoing at all locations by UNHCR's partner, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and wet food distribution for new arrivals is ongoing.

## Guinea

- As of 23 November, the number of Ivorian refugees in Guinea has remained constant at 367. Protection monitoring in border areas is ongoing. Government partners and local authorities are ready to receive new arrivals at entry points and to find them host families.

## Togo

- As of 23 November, the number of Ivorian refugees in Togo has remained constant at 25.

## Cote d'Ivoire

- There are thousands of IDPs within Cote d'Ivoire, mostly in the western region of the country. According to the government, there are 5,530 IDPs. The government is conducting registration.
- UNHCR is leading the protection cluster and is co-leading the shelter/NFIs cluster with CARITAS, who is distributing shelter, blankets, clothing, soap and other basic necessities to IDPs on behalf of UNHCR.