Cote d'Ivoire Situation

17 November 2020

As of 16 November 2020, a total of **13,809 Ivorians have fled Cote d'Ivoire**, and the numbers continue to rise amid persistent tensions despite validation of the election results by the Constitutional Court.
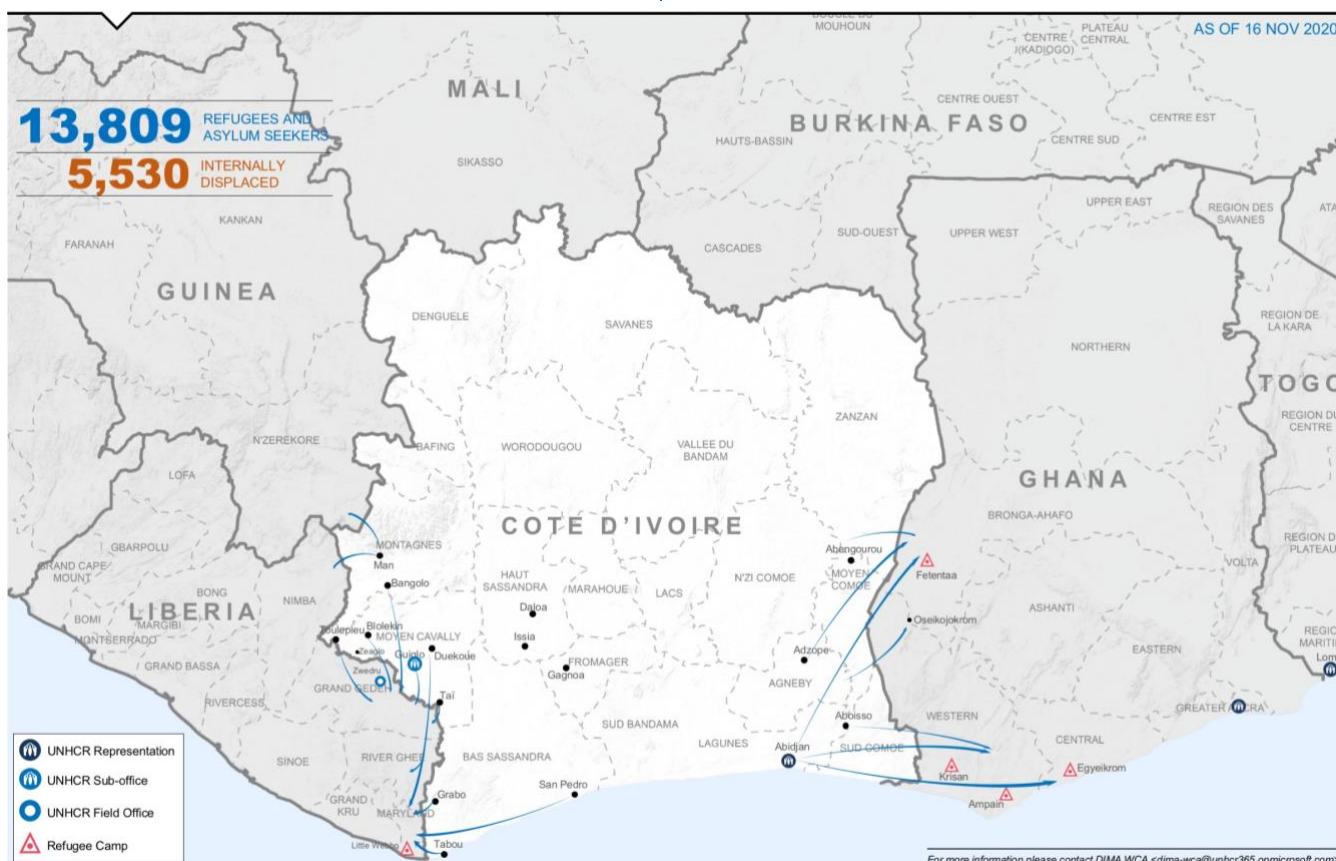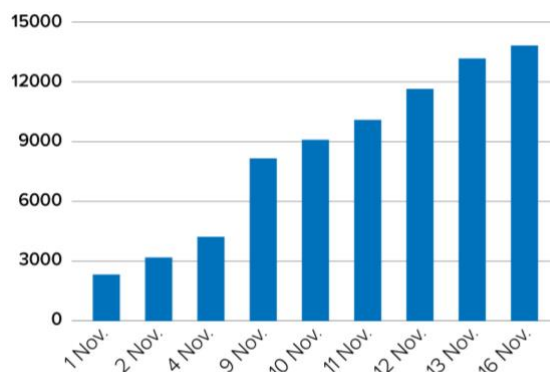
With the rapid population increase, sourcing for **more CRIs and food assistance is needed in Liberia** where more than 93% of the new arrivals from Cote d'Ivoire have fled.

According to UN estimates, there are **5,530 people internally displaced within Cote d'Ivoire** An interagency response has been activated and the Ivorian government is registering IDPs.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries	New arrivals
Liberia	12,940
Ghana	595
Guinea	251
Togo	23
Cote d'Ivoire (IDPs)	5,530
Total	**19,339**

* Data as of 16 November 2020 as reported by UNHCR Operations.

13,809 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS
5,530 INTERNALLY DISPLACED

AS OF 16 NOV 2020

- Ⓦ UNHCR Representation
- Ⓦ UNHCR Sub-office
- Ⓞ UNHCR Field Office
- ⚠ Refugee Camp

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Operational Context

Political and security situation in Cote d'Ivoire

Aftermath of the election

- Following the validations of the election of President Ouattara, a Government spokesperson declared that a total of 85 people were killed, including 34 before the election, 20 on polling day, 31 after the election. An additional 484 people were injured and 225 were arrested.

- Inter-communal clashes involving opposition and pro-government supporters continue to be reported in Central and West-central regions of Cote d'Ivoire resulting in causalities, several injured people, and destruction of property.

Fear of violence as the main cause of flight

- As of 16 November, the total number Ivorian refugees recorded by the governments of asylum countries stands at 13,809, with arrivals steadily increasing.

- According to UN estimates validated by the Ivorian government, there are 5,530 IDPs within Cote d'Ivoire.

- Fear of violence remains the driver of the Ivorian refugee influx, and many of the new arrivals were refugees who have previously been forced to flee Cote d'Ivoire. Many arrivals are reporting that they heard indication that there would be an imminent outbreak of war after the election, which prompted them to flee.

Population movements and border monitoring

- More than 93% of the new Ivorian refugees fled to Liberia and it is expected that this country will continue receive the majority of the new arrivals.

- Ivorian arrivals to Liberia report that they have not had issues entering through both official and non-official crossings. However, the majority of new arrivals have entered through unofficial bush paths.

- At least one person is reported to have drowned attempting to cross the Cavalla River into Liberia.

UNHCR Emergency Response

Liberia

PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- As of 16 November 2020, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) recorded a total of 12,940 Ivorian refugees, including 1,525 who arrived on 13 November alone.

- As of 14 November, 1,898 people have been registered across 3 registration centres, and 435 new arrivals have been biometrically enrolled. While registration rates are anticipated to increase with the arrival of additional equipment, lack of internet access and lack of data entry staff are still challenges.

- Around 60% of the new arrivals are children, and 55% of the overall population are women. However, the male population skews young – 45% of the overall population but only 35% of the adult population.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNICEF reports indicate that of every 10 children tested, 8 were malnourished, and 2 of those 8 were severely malnourished.

- There are increased reports of grandparent-headed households and child-headed households.

■ It appears that many children were never enrolled in school in Cote d'Ivoire, which may present challenges in providing access to education for Ivorian refugee children in Liberia.

SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

■ The number of new arrivals sheltered in settlements continues to grow, and as of 16 November there were 525 people in PTP settlement and 650 people in Little Wlebo.

■ Transit centre preparations are ongoing. Toe Town Transit Centre is nearly 80% prepared, while Little Wlebo and Saclapea Transit Centres are around 60% ready.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

■ While most refugees continue to settle with local communities near the border, as arrivals increase and shelter and resources become more scarce, some refugees in Grand Gedeh are now asking to be moved to camps. They were previously refugees in Liberia.

CORE RELIEF ITEMS, FOOD ASSISTANCE AND CASH-BASED INTERVENTION

Achievements and Impact

■ Between 14-16 November, 2,800 bags of rice departed Monrovia to be distributed in Scalpea, Nimba County.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

■ With a rapid population increase that is outpacing projections, sourcing for more CRIs and food assistance is needed. Hence plans to deliver more supplies to Liberia are being revised upwards. This include an airlift as well as shipments by land, and by sea from Accra.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT (INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION, PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION)

■ UNICEF plans to support WASH efforts in some of the Transit/Overflow Centres by drilling and installing new hand pumps and setting up bathrooms and latrines.

Burkina Faso

■ As of 16 November, no arrivals from Cote d'Ivoire have been recorded. However, some Burkinabe nationals, mainly women and children, have returned to reunite with their families.

■ UNHCR has established a transit centre in case of new arrivals, which can also serve as storage for CRIs.

Ghana

PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

■ As of 16 November 2020, a total of 595 people (236 families) have arrived in Ghana, a majority of whom came from the town of Niable in the eastern part of Cote d'Ivoire, while a smaller number fled from Abidjan. In total, 341 are settled in Ampain camp, 79 are in Egyeikrom camp, 84 are in Fetentaa camp, and 91 are in host communities along the Oseikojokrom border area.

■ Registration exercises for new arrivals by the Ghana Refugee Board and UNHCR are ongoing.

SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- Land for the "Sowodadiemu" camp is being fumigated for the construction of a reception centre and the planned mounting of 50 tents.

 CORE RELIEF ITEMS, FOOD ASSISTANCE AND CASH-BASED INTERVENTION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's partner, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), continues to distribute hand sanitizer and face masks in all locations for COVID-19 prevention.

Guinea

 PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- As of 16 November, a total of 251 Ivorians are reported to have entered Guinea, and all have been identified as being in need of international protection. The refugees are arriving mostly from the regions of Abidjan, Man, Touba, Danané, Bouake and Soubre, and the majority are currently residing in Lola Prefecture.

- In line with the contingency plan, UNHCR is stepping up its border monitoring activities and established a network of local authorities and communities were equipped with phone to alert UNHCR in case of influx. The Office is also preparing to extend its registration capacity should it have to be deployed at the border.

- While there have not been accounts of refoulement, advocacy is ongoing for the establishment of a humanitarian corridor to ensure access to territory.

Togo

- A total of 23 persons have fled to Togo so far. All have been received by the National Commission for Assistance to Refugees (CNAR), UNHCR's government partner, and most refugees are staying in existing households.

- The contingency plan for Togo is currently being finalized.

Cote d'Ivoire

- According to UN estimates, 5,530 people are internally displaced within Cote d'Ivoire as of 16 November. This figure has been endorsed by the government, and the government has registered 2,739 of the IDPs. Nearly 44% of the estimated IDPs are in the Issia Department, and 26% are in the Gagnoa Department.

- UNHCR is organizing the distribution of core relief items for 1,000 families (5,000 people), including tarpaulin, cooking sets, blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, and hygiene items.

- An inter-agency response has been activated for the IDP situation. UNHCR is leading the protection cluster, and will lead the shelter/CRI cluster once it is established.