

# Cote d'Ivoire Situation

20 November 2020

As of 19 November 2020, a total of **15,684 Ivorians have fled Cote d'Ivoire** mainly to Liberia and the numbers continue to rise amid persistent tensions despite validation of the election results by the Constitutional Court.

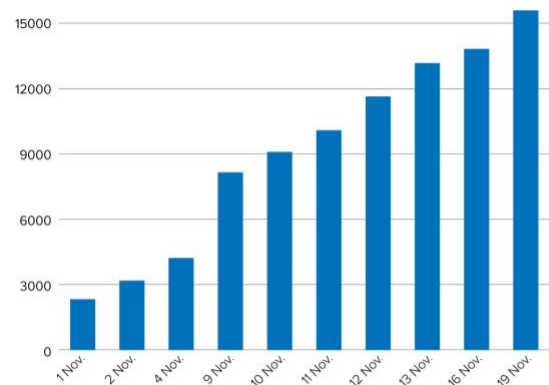
**Health, food, shelter and core relief items** are among the most pressing needs for the new arrivals, many of whom are vulnerable such as pregnant women, the elderly and unaccompanied children.

**Thousands of people are 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	14,627
Ghana	665
Guinea	367
Togo	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,684</b>

\* Data as of 19 November 2020 as reported by UNHCR Operations.



For more information please contact DIMA WCA <dima-wca@unhcr365.onmicrosoft.com>

# Operational Context

## Political and security situation in Cote d'Ivoire

### Aftermath of the election

- UN Secretary General António Guterres congratulated President Alassane Ouattara for his re-election. In the letter dated 18 November, the Secretary General also welcomed the political dialogue the Ivorian President initiated with the opposition on 11 November.
- On 19 November at the end of their permanent council, The Catholic church called, for an 'independent investigation commission' following the violence that occurred during the presidential election of 31 October 2020.
- According to the Government 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 casualties and injuries.

### Fear of violence as the main cause of flight

- As of 19 November there were 15,684 Ivorian refugees across four neighbouring countries with arrivals steadily increasing. Estimates indicate that there are also thousands of IDPs within Cote d'Ivoire.
- Fear of violence remains the driver of displacement for both refugees and IDPs. Many arriving refugees were previously 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

- An increasing number of Ivorian refugees are entering Liberia via unofficial border crossing points and settling in villages that can only be accessed by foot or by motorcycle. For example, our team of monitors had to cut bushes to reach 306 Ivorian refugees who reported having fled from Tai District in southwestern Cote d'Ivoire, due to fear following an unknown source of fire incident at the house of a local official.
- There are unconfirmed reports of new arrivals in inaccessible areas of River Gee County such as in Yougbor, a location facing the Ivorian town of Grabo across the Cavalla River. UNHCR is planning to provide logistical support the Liberian Refugee Resettlement and Reintegration Commission monitors to facilitate their access to difficult areas to ensure the timely verification, reception and registration of new arrivals.

# UNHCR Emergency Response

## Liberia



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

- As of 19 November, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) recorded a total of 14,627 Ivorian refugees, and a total of A total of 3,314 refugees have been registered.
- 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. This is also reflected in reports from new arrivals that many of the men stayed behind to work or guard property.
- Protection monitoring is being enhanced to identify persons with special needs and women and girls at risk.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Reports indicate that many of the children were coughing at registration. The weather gets chilly at night and they urgently need blankets, beddings and warm clothing.
- There are increased reports of grandparent-headed households and child-headed households, and a high rate of adolescent pregnancy.
- Registration updates by staff are limited by infrequent access to internet.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- A nurse in Nimba County treated 22 cases including refugees with malaria, cough, fever and anaemia.
- A newly arrived woman was rushed to a hospital in Nimba and then transferred to Monrovia due to the severity of her condition.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Many refugees report being ill, and there is an urgent need for qualified healthcare staff to provide treatment.
- Urgent medical supply needs include clean kits for baby deliveries, dewormers, malaria drugs, medicines to counter anaemia (such as folic acid) and nutritional supplements for the many malnourished children.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Achievements and Impact**

- Construction is ongoing in the three transit centres, with Little Wlebo closest to completion.

**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****Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- With a rapid population increase that is outpacing projections, sourcing for more CRIs and food assistance is needed. Plans to deliver more supplies to Liberia are being revised upwards. This include an airlift to arrive 22 November, as well as shipments by land, and by sea from Accra.

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

- UNICEF has indicated plans to support WASH efforts in some of the Transit/Overflow Centres, and WFP conducted a food security survey.

## Burkina Faso

- As of 19 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.

## Ghana

**PROTECTION****Achievements and Impact**

- As of 19 November 2020, a total of 665 people (270 families) have arrived in Ghana. In total, 404 are settled in Ampain camp, 82 are in Egeyikrom camp, 88 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**

- At “Sowodadiemu” the mounting of 50 tents is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of the week, and additional land has been acquired at Ampain for the mounting of tents to shelter new arrivals.

**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 to new arrivals in all locations for COVID-19 prevention.
- Planning and coordination for dry food distribution is underway.

## Guinea

**PROTECTION****Achievements and Impact**

- As of 19 November, a total of 367 Ivorians are reported to have entered Guinea, and all have been identified as being in need of international protection.
- Border protection and surveillance visits are being implemented, and new arrivals are now received at entry points by government partners and local authorities and placed with host families.
- While there have not been accounts of refoulement, advocacy is ongoing for the establishment of a humanitarian corridor to ensure access to territory.

## Togo

- As of 19 November, a total of 25 persons have fled to Togo. 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.

## Cote d'Ivoire

- There are thousands of IDPs within Cote d'Ivoire, mostly in the western region of the country. The figure is in the process of validation by the government and local authorities who endorsed and are registering the initial 5,530 Internally Displaced Persons assessed by the UN agencies.
- UNHCR is providing IDPs with shelter, blankets, clothing, soap and other basic necessities distributed through CARITAS.
- UNHCR leads the protection cluster and the shelter/CRI cluster co-lead by CARITAS.