

# Cote d'Ivoire

March 2019

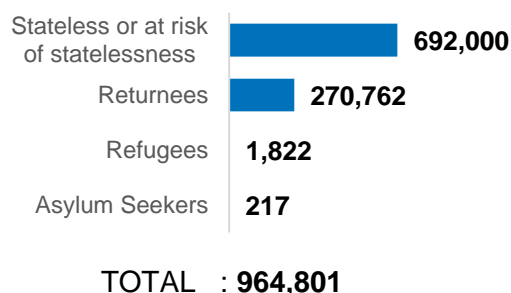
UNHCR assisted with the **Voluntary Repatriation of 234 Ivorians** from Ghana, Togo, Liberia and Gambia.

The refugee **biometric Identity Cards enrollment process** was conducted in Abidjan, Guiglo, San Pedro and Danané

**A giant marionettes show** as an innovative way of raising awareness on statelessness among children

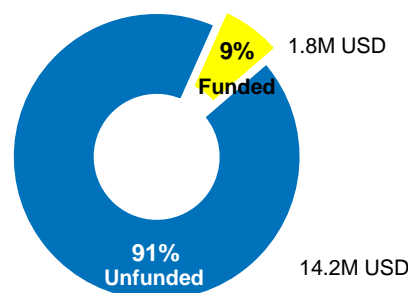
## POPULATION OF CONCERN :

### Côte d'Ivoire



## FUNDING (AS OF 31 MARCH 2019)

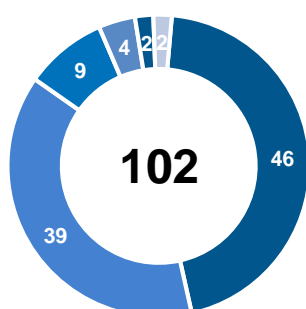
requested for the Côte d'Ivoire situation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 46 National Staff
- 39 National UNV
- 09 International Staff
- 04 IUNV
- 02 Interns
- 02 Consultant



### UNHCR office:

- 1 Branch Office in **Abidjan**
- 1 Sub Office in **Guiglo**



Map Sources: UNCS and UNHCR  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 17.10.2018.

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire works in close partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, *Caritas-CI*, *World Food Program (WFP)*, the *United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV)* and *Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire (AFJCI)*.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors to the Côte d'Ivoire operation: [Denmark](#) | [Private donors in Japan](#) | [Peacebuilding Fund](#), as well as donors of unrestricted and regional funds: [United States of America](#) | [Sweden](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [Italy](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Norway](#) | [Private donors in Spain](#) | [Australia](#) | [Japan](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [France](#) | [Canada](#) | [Private donors in Italy](#).

# Main Activities

## Voluntary Repatriation of Ivorian Refugees

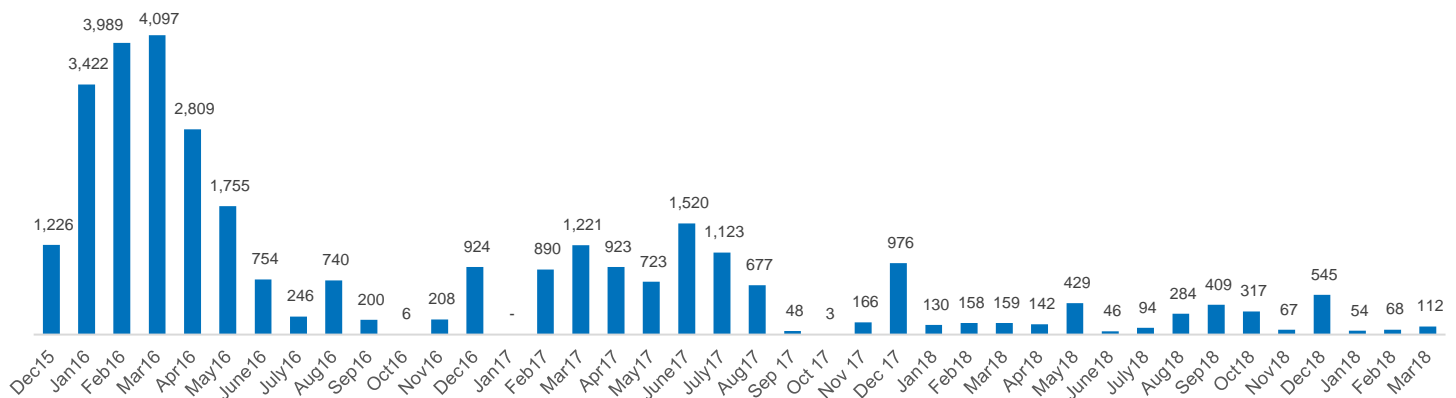
- VolRep Recap – March 2019.

Date	CoA	Returns	Household	NoC*
Friday, March 08, 2019	Ghana	40	20	0
Monday, March 11, 2019	Togo	13	09	1
Wednesday, March 20, 2019	Liberia	57	24	3
Thursday, March 21, 2019	Gambia	1	1	0

\* NoC (Not of Concern) refers to returnees relatives accompanying their Ivorian families

- Between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, a total of **234** Ivorian refugees were repatriated to Cote d'Ivoire with the support of UNHCR. Among the returnees are former ministers and other high-profile officials of the regime of Ex-President Laurent Gbagbo ([TV coverage](#)).
- Since 2015, a total of **31,660** Ivorian refugees were repatriated with UNHCR assistance, **28,507** of whom from Liberia and **3,153** from other countries (As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019).

### Assisted Voluntary Returns from December 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019



## Refugees

- As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, a total of **1,822** refugees and **217** asylum seekers are registered in Cote d'Ivoire.
- UNHCR celebrated International Women's Day in Tabou, Danane and Abidjan in collaboration with DAARA. The Institute for Women Education (state institution), a number of women's organisations and Citibank also provided in-kind and other forms of support to shed light on the celebrations ([press article](#)). Echoing this year's theme, 'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change', UNHCR highlighted women's achievements, the ongoing struggle for justice and equality, and the urgency to empower women and girls, advance their rights, guarantee their access to public services, etc.



International Women's Day celebration in Danane. © Courtesy of DAARA Guiglo

- Thanks to the efforts deployed by the Direction for assistance to refugees and stateless persons (DAARA), the National Identification Office and UNHCR, refugees in Cote d'Ivoire can now possess a biometric identity card ([National TV coverage](#)) . This new identity document, which meets all international requirements and is valid for 5 years, allows refugees to move freely in the country and to perform all acts of civil life such as working, opening bank accounts, sending and receiving money, etc. The enrollment operation targeted more than 1,000 refugees aged 14 years old and above and took place from 25 to 29 of March 2019 in Abidjan, Guiglo, San Pedro and Danané.



Official launching ceremony of the refugee biometric ID card enrollment process . ©UNHCR/D. Guirou

## Reintegration

- UNHCR donated ([press article](#)) 300 chairs, a TV set and digital decoder to equip the Toulepleu community multifunctional hall. This donation is expected to further contribute to reinforcing social cohesion in this village hosting a transit center for repatriated persons.
- The pilot phase of the 'Community Connectivity Project' ended on 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2019. Funded by the UNHCR's Innovation Fund (25 000 USD), this pilot project aimed at to reducing the risks linked to the handling of cash in aid operations and to improve the security and conditions of UNHCR's return and reintegration activities via beneficiary financial and digital inclusion, notably by allowing returnees to receive their return package through mobile transfer. Due to the processing times of the signing of

the partnership agreements between the Mobile Telephony Operator and UNHCR and the validation of standard operating procedures, the mobile transfer solution to returnees could not be made available before the end of the pilot project. Constraints and lessons learnt have been documented to guide future related interventions.

### Statelessness

- Both quantitative and qualitative aspects of the mapping operation for people at risk of statelessness are now finalised. It is expected that national authorities will endorse the final results highlighting statistics on persons at risk of statelessness and their areas of concentration by the end of April.
- In March 2019, UNHCR Field Protection Assistants carried out an awareness campaign on statelessness, the importance of birth registration and the procedures for obtaining late birth certificates, citizenship certificates and national identity cards. These awareness campaigns targeted in priority traditional chiefs, community leaders and community members. Overall, 2,135 people were sensitised in various localities across the country and 209 persons at risk of statelessness were identified.
- On 2 March 2019 in Abidjan, several hundred children were sensitised on statelessness through a theatrical presentation of 'The invisible child and statelessness' performed by giant marionettes ([press article](#)). This innovative way of raising awareness on statelessness was made possible thanks to the Company Ivoire Marionette, together with the support of the DAARA, the Embassy of Switzerland and UNHCR. Ahead of the performance, puppeteers were briefed on the statelessness issues by UNHCR and DAARA.



Giant marionettes performing a show on stateless at the Institut des Marionettes in Abidjan. ©UNHCR/D. Guirou

- UNHCR participated in a press conference at Goethe Institute of Abidjan to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the international slam festival, to take place from 10 to 14 of April 2019. Participants hailing from 12 countries will reflect upon this year's theme, "statelessness, myth or reality?" ([press article](#))
- UNHCR and DAARA trained 20 press correspondents and local radio presenters of Abengourou on statelessness ([press article](#)). This training session aimed to build their capacity and involve them in raising awareness on statelessness through the media.

- The Network of Media Professionals for the Fight against Statelessness (REPMA), with the support of the UNHCR, organized a panel titled "New law on civil status, what impact in the fight against statelessness? " ([National TV coverage](#)). Some thirty media professionals attended the panel and were briefed on some of the positive developments brought about by the new legislation, including bringing centres for Civil Status closer to populations, control reinforcement, compliance with statistical data and technological developments and harmonisation with international conventions.

-

### Country Operations Plan

- The Country Operations Plan Workshop took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2019 in Abidjan, enabling UNHCR Cote d'Ivoire to validate the goals, objectives and priorities of its 2020/2021 operations. UNHCR's main strategic vision is to prevent and reduce significantly the cases of statelessness and to contribute to making refugees and returnees self-reliant ([press article](#)).

### CONTACTS

**Daouda Guirou**, Associate PI/Communications Officer  
[guirou@unhcr.org](mailto:guirou@unhcr.org), Tel: +225 45 72 01 56

**Jean-Charles KIZIMA**, Associate Information Management Officer,  
[kizima@unhcr.org](mailto:kizima@unhcr.org), Tel: +225 74 80 89 81

### LINKS

[Country Portal](#) - [Ivorian Returnee Situation](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [YouTube](#) - [LuQuLuQu Campaign](#)