

# Cote d'Ivoire Situation

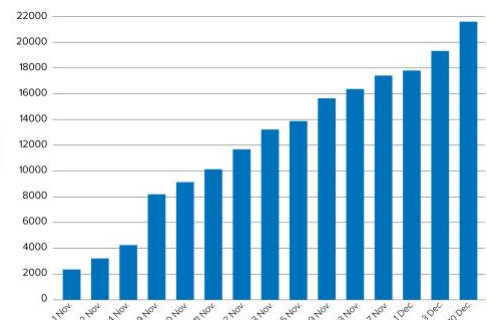
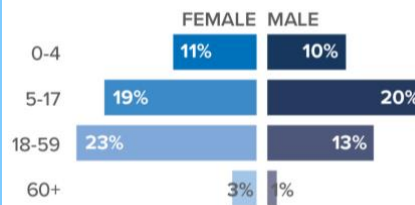
11 December 2020

As of 10 December, a total of **21,818 Ivorians have fled Cote d'Ivoire**. Close 8,000 of the new arrivals have been formally registered in Liberia and Ghana.

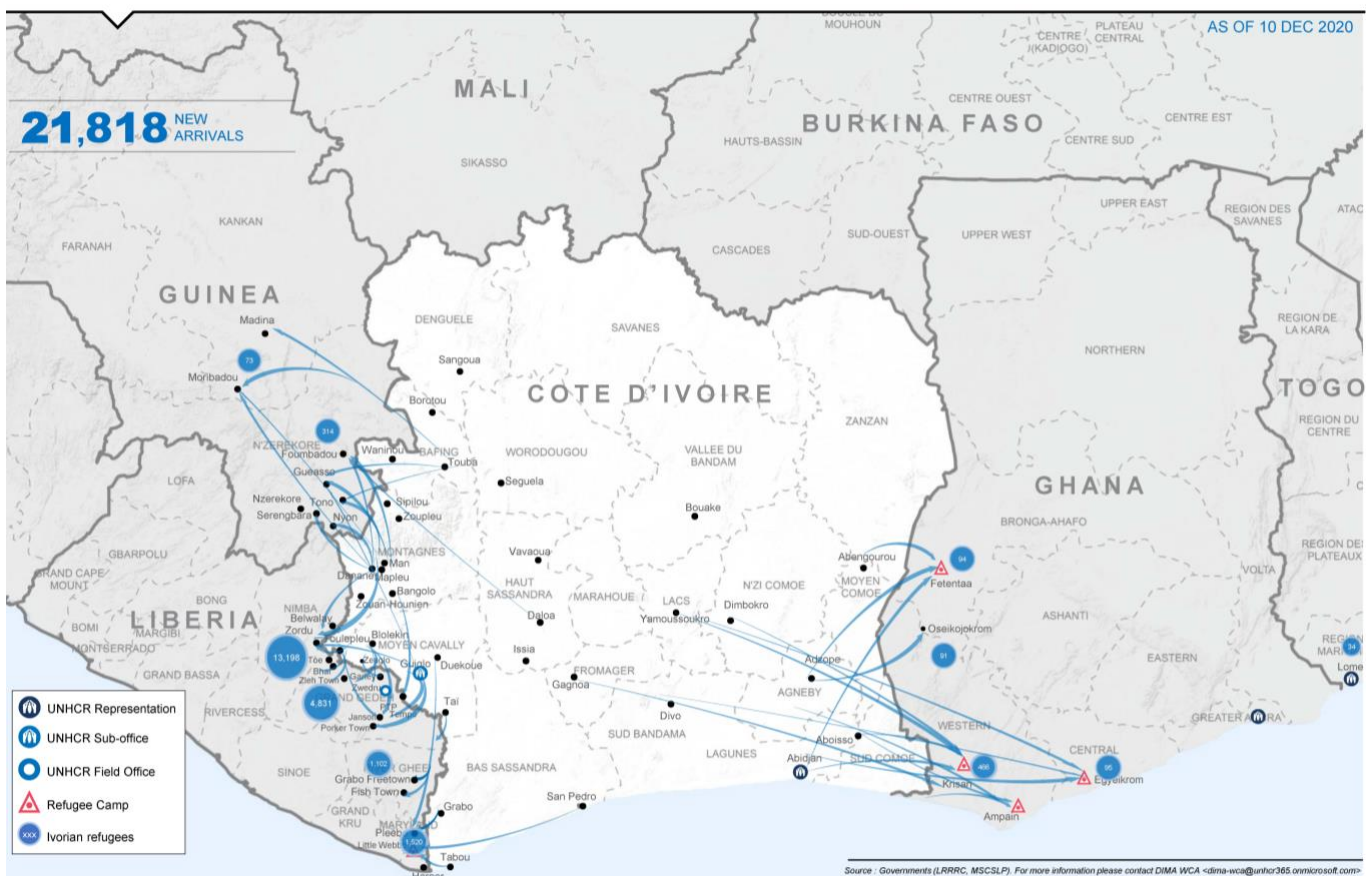
**UNHCR is distributing NFIs to all displaced Ivorians, internally as well as those who fled** throughout the region, including supplies for COVID-19 prevention such as face masks, hand sanitizers and soap.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN\*

Host Countries	New arrivals
Liberia	20,651
Ghana	746
Guinea	387
Togo	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,818</b>



\*Data as of 10 December as reported by UNHCR Operations.



# Operational Context

## Population movements

- As of 10 December, there are 21,818 Ivorian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- A survey conducted among new arrivals in Liberia indicated that 70% of respondents hoped to return to Cote d'Ivoire in the coming months if the situation there further improves.

# UNHCR Emergency Response

## Liberia



### PROTECTION

- As of 10 December a total of 20,651 new arrivals have been recorded by the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), 36% of whom (7,411) have been formally registered.
- Nimba County is hosting 64% of Ivorian new arrivals in Liberia. In Nimba, many new arrivals are single women who fled, but whose partners remained in Cote d'Ivoire.
- More than 750 of the new arrivals are categorized as persons with specific needs (PWSN), including almost 50 unaccompanied or separated children and more than 60 persons with disabilities.
- A recent survey indicated that 70% of new arrivals hope to return to Cote d'Ivoire in the coming months if the situation improves.



### HEALTH

- Government officials, UN agencies and local medical teams continue to conduct health assessments for new arrivals in the areas of nutrition, immunization, sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention. One of the outcomes of these joint assessments is the rapid order UNFPA placed for essential reproductive health supplies for distribution in the affected areas (Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland). UNHCR and UNFPA are coordinating for the procurement and donation to the health facilities of additional sexual and reproductive emergency supplies to cover gaps and avoid duplications.
- New arrivals continue to receive health screenings during registration, and refugees with medical needs are referred for treatment. Assessments indicate that there are 28 refugees with serious medical conditions.
- Assessment findings indicate that additional trained staff as well as supplies and specialized equipment – such as cooling storage for immunizations – remain critical gaps in the response to the medical needs of the growing populations.



### WASH

- UNHCR continues to collaborate with and support refugee hosting communities with water, sanitation and hygiene interventions. Based on technical assessments, these include repairing boreholes, providing materials and training to excavate and build latrines, mapping of additional public toilet locations, increasing water supply and improving access to latrines and sanitation facilities.
- Based on previous assessments, WASH interventions in Toe's Town include repairing of three boreholes, one block of latrines and two blocks of bathing shelters, as well as constructing four blocks of latrines, two of which will be disability-friendly. In Little Wlebo, two 8-room block latrines and two 8-room bathing shelters have been constructed.
- Rapid WASH assessments have been conducted in Little Wlebo, Pleebo City and Kronken Village to evaluate WASH needs.

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

- During community consultations and assessments in River Gee and Maryland counties, refugees and community members expressed the need for better access to dignified shelter for new arrivals as many refugees are in temporary housing situations in family homes or schools. UNHCR is working with communities to find more sustainable solutions, and to dispatch CRIs to meet shelter needs.
- Leaders from both asylum-seeker and host communities in Nimba County have requested support for local integration, and the host community has offered land to new arrivals for settlement and cultivation. UNHCR will support these initiatives with NFIs and construction materials.
- Additional NFIs were dispatched to the field including 2,200 buckets with lids and 2,500 bucket faucets and 9,000 pieces of soap for COVID-19 prevention, as well as 50 tents, 875 sleeping mats, 4,131 blankets, 1,217 kitchen sets, 13,853 sheets of plastic tarpaulin, 3,600 sanitary napkins, and over 22,000 pieces of laundry soap donated by ZOA Liberia.

## Ghana

**PROTECTION**

- As of 11 December, a total of 746 people (317 families) have arrived in Ghana, and registration is ongoing. In total, 466 new arrivals are hosted in Ampain camp, 95 in Egyeikrom camp, 94 in Fetentaa camp, and 91 are hosted within local communities along the Oseikojokrom border.
- Registration and ongoing, and 72% (536) of the new arrivals have been registered in ProGres as of 11 December.
- UNHCR and its partners continue to provide warm meals to all new arrivals in the camps, and new arrivals with health conditions continue to be referred to the camp clinic for treatment.

**SHELTER AND NFIS**

- In Ampain and Fetentaa the clearing of land to accommodate new arrivals has been completed and the land is set to be levelled, and in Fetentaa the electrical connections have been completed. In Ampain, work continues to demarcate land, extend electrical connections, mount family tents, establish child-friendly space and construct water fetching points.
- Sowodadzim reception center has been operationalized and on 9 December a total of 33 refugees (18 families) were moved from Ampain refugee camp to the reception centre and provided with CRIs. On 10 December, the UNHCR registration team was able to register 18 individuals (6 families) at the reception center. An additional 21 new arrivals (6 families) will be moved on 11 December.
- Delivery of NFIs for 2,500 people is underway, and the distribution of face masks and hand sanitizer for COVID-19 prevention is ongoing in all locations through UNHCR's partner ADRA.

## Guinea

- As of 10 December, there are 387 Ivorian new arrivals in Guinea, all of whom arrived using irregular routes.
- Following the Guinean Government's greenlight on 10 December, CNISR (Commission National pour l'Intégration et le suivi des Réfugiés) and UNHCR are planning a joint registration and humanitarian assistance mission from 19 to 27 December to the Nzerekore Administrative region, where Ivorian asylum seekers are settled.
- There is an ongoing epidemic of acute diarrhea in the Guinean-Ivorian border area, especially in Lola Prefecture, where the majority of Ivorian refugees are hosted. Reports indicate the outbreak is due to the consumption of river water in the absence of clean drinking water.

- Data shows that 50% of the registered new arrivals come from areas close to the border with Guinea, however, some 18% come from Abidjan.

## Togo

- As of 10 December, there are 34 Ivorian refugees in Togo. They have been received by the National Commission for Assistance to Refugees (CNAR) and are being hosted in local communities.

## Burkina Faso

- As of 10 December, no new arrivals from Cote d'Ivoire have been recorded, but protection monitoring in border areas is ongoing, and returns of Burkinabe nationals have been noted.
- UNHCR, through its partner DRC, has provided soap, masks, hand sanitizers and hand washing equipment to support COVID-19 prevention preparation at the transit centre in case of new arrivals to Burkina Faso.

## Cote d'Ivoire

- A helpline for GBV survivors has been launched by the national GBV working group, which is chaired by the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and Children and UNFPA with the support of IRC. UNFPA has also established a Sexual and Reproductive Health Working Group.
- UNHCR is providing IDPs with shelter, blankets, clothing, soap and other necessities distributed through CARITAS. UNHCR leads the protection cluster and co-leads the shelter/CRI cluster with CARITAS.
- UNHCR also provided NFIs such as blankets, mattresses, mosquito nets and soap from existing stock to benefit more than 200 IDP families.
- Ivorian authorities informed UNHCR that half of the 5,530 IDPs have returned to home.