Côte d’Ivoire
JUNE 2022

The symbolic official announcement for the cessation of refugee status for Ivorians as of 30 June was announced on World Refugee Day at a ceremony in Abidjan hosted by the President of Côte d’Ivoire.

The High Commissioner for Refugees hailed Côte d’Ivoire’s transition from conflict to peace and stability and urged other countries to follow such good example.

The Ivorian government took a significant first step in adopting a bill on refugee status in accordance with the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Côte d’Ivoire

Stateless or at risk of statelessness 931,166
Returnees 112,756
Refugees 6,216
Asylum Seekers 174
Total: 1,050,312

FUNDING (AS OF 30 MAY)

$21.1 million requested for the Côte d’Ivoire situation

$1.9 million funded 9%
$19.2 million unfunded 91%

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:
International: 12
National: 44
International UNV: 02
National UNV: 01

Offices:
1 Branch Office in Abidjan
1 Sub Office in Guiglo
Main Activities

Cessation Clause for Ivorian Refugees

- The symbolic official announcement for the cessation of refugee status for Ivorians as of 30 June was made on World Refugee Day (20 June) at a ceremony in Abidjan hosted by the President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire and which was attended by the Vice President, senior government officials, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as ambassadors and former refugees.

- From January to June this year, 15,344 Ivorian refugees have returned home. Repatriation of Ivorian refugees, who have registered to return home, continues.

High Commissioner’s visit

- During his visit from 16-20 June, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees accompanied 245 Ivorian refugees from Liberia to Côte d’Ivoire on 18 June and visited some reintegration projects. During his visit, the High Commissioner held meetings with the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, of African Integration and the Diaspora, local authorities, and the UN Country Team during which he hailed Côte d’Ivoire’s transition from conflict to peace and stability and urged other countries and governments “to follow the good example of Côte d’Ivoire”.

Ivorian returnees being welcomed by local authorities, UNHCR and partners at the Toulepleu Transit Centre
Statelessness

- Six awareness sessions and two focus group discussions brought together 377 people in Abidjan, Doropo, Bouna, Boundiali, Agboville and Abengourou. After the campaigns, 34 people received legal consultation for an in-depth examination of their situations. This resulted in the identification of 20 people with a migrant profile at high risk of statelessness who are undergoing legal assistance by AFJCI (L'Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire, AFJCI) for confirmation of their nationality or referral to the CNESA (La Commission nationale d’éligibilité au statut d’apatride).

- In the continued campaign against statelessness, a plea allowed the Bouna Section of the Court of First Instance to issue a certificate of Ivorian nationality to a student whose parents had died. Also, five supplementary judgments were issued by the Court of First Instance of Abidjan for the benefit of children found in the Marie Thérèse boarding school in Adjamé.

- The UNHCR held a meeting in Abidjan with the Ambassador of Mali to advocate for the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees in Mali who have opted to return home. The Ambassador clarified that the UNHCR should further discuss the issue with ECOWAS in view of sanctions that had been imposed on Mali.

- The Ivorian government on 8 June adopted a bill on refugee status in accordance with the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees. According to the government spokesman, the move by the Council of Ministers fills the void that existed in Côte d’Ivoire in relation to the protection of refugees and other persons of concern. This bill will also promote the establishment of an effective national asylum system. The next stages of the bill include a review by lawmakers in Parliament, the Senate, and finally to the President for signature.
Two awareness campaigns on the prevention of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons were held on 1 June in Abengourou and 3 June in Doropo, with the participation of 106 people, including 17 with special needs who were received in legal consultation for an in-depth analysis for legal assistance.

*Burkinabé refugees in northern Côte d’Ivoire*

4,042 Burkinabés have been registered in Côte d’Ivoire since May 2022. The new arrivals are fleeing a surge in violent extremism in Burkina Faso and have been fleeing in waves to the Northeast of Côte d’Ivoire.
Working with Partners

UNHCR Côte d’Ivoire works in close partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Diaspora, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire (AFJCI), and Caritas-CI.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD
United States of America 14.5 million | Private donors Australia 3.7 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD
Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Spain 32.7 million | Germany 27 million | Private donors Japan 21.8 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 16.4 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million

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LINKS
Regional West and Central Africa portal - UNHCR in Cote d’Ivoire page - Twitter - Facebook