

Cote d'Ivoire Situation

27 November 2020

Thousands are internally displaced within Cote d'Ivoire, but government reports indicate that some IDPs may have started to return home.

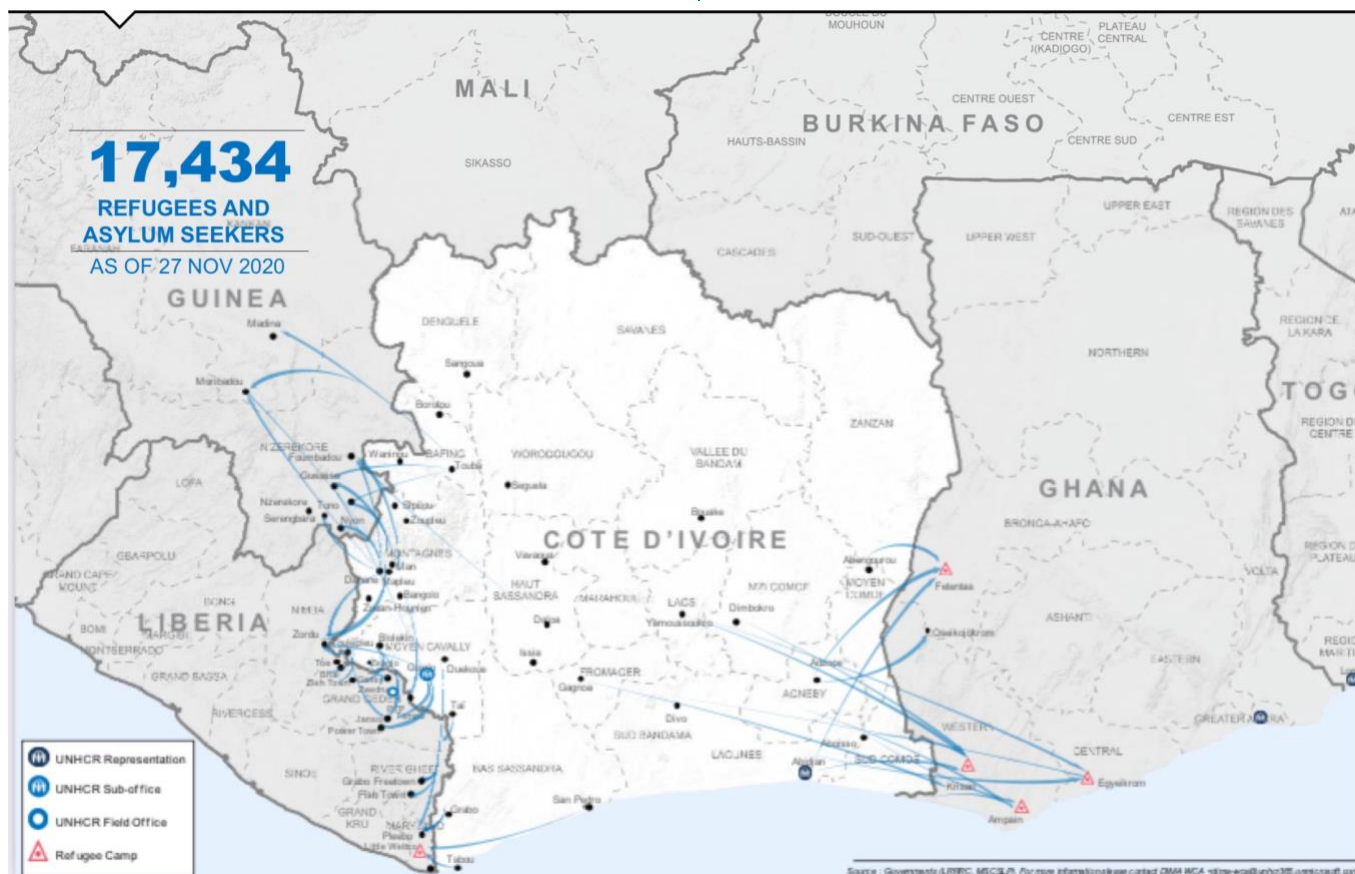
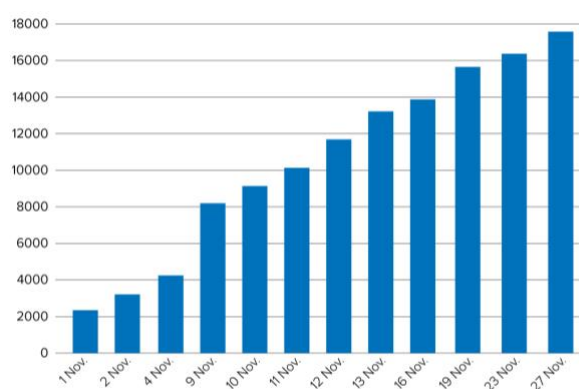
Special protection initiatives are underway for vulnerable populations such as **unaccompanied children, pregnant women and the elderly**, but more support is needed.

As of 27 November, a total of **17,434 Ivorians have fled Cote d'Ivoire**. More than 93% of the refugees are in neighbouring Liberia.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Host Countries	New arrivals
Liberia	16,357
Ghana	683
Guinea	367
Togo	27
Total	17,434

*Data as of 27 November as reported by UNHCR Operations.



Operational Context

Population movements

- The number of Ivorian refugees across four neighbouring countries has reached 17,434.
- Most new arrivals indicate that the reason why they fled was fear of potential violence, but many are prepared to return to Cote d'Ivoire as soon as they feel the risk for escalation has subsided. In Cote d'Ivoire the government is registering IDPs and is reporting a significant number of IDP returns.

UNHCR Emergency Response

Liberia



PROTECTION

- As of 25 November, a total of 16,357 new arrivals have been recorded by the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC). A total of 5,235 refugees have been formally registered.
- New arrivals continue to include unaccompanied children, pregnant women, elderly, and persons with disabilities. Protection monitoring has identified multiple persons with specific needs, who will be prioritized for assistance and distribution. Further needs assessment is ongoing.
- Protection needs assessments were conducted for 135 households of new arrivals in Nimba County.



HEALTH

- COVID-19 awareness-raising efforts are underway in Little Wlebo Camp, including through messaging during interviews, focus group discussions, and distribution of printed materials. Ongoing COVID-19 prevention efforts include distribution of face masks and hand sanitisers to refugees and their host communities, and the implementation of handwashing protocols at border crossing points.
- UNHCR is coordinating with UNFPA to mobilize and procure dignity kits and reproductive health kits to benefit almost 13,000 refugee women and girls. UNHCR is also procuring interagency health kits for 30,000 persons to benefit refugees and their host communities.
- UNHCR is working closely with WHO and IOM to coordinate COVID-19 mitigation measures and provide joint support to the Ministry of Health of Liberia.
- UNHCR, WHO and IOM and UNAIDS are working at the regional level to support national health authorities and ensure that HIV and AIDS are adequately taken into account throughout the emergency response.



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

- NFIs that were airlifted to Monrovia on 24 November are now en route to Zwedru for distribution to new arrivals who are mainly being hosted by local communities across the stretch of villages along the Liberia-Cote d'Ivoire border, including hard to reach places.

Burkina Faso

- Protection monitoring in border areas is ongoing. As of 27 November, no new arrivals from Cote d'Ivoire have been recorded.

Ghana



PROTECTION

- As of 27 November, a total of 670 people (274 families) have arrived in Ghana. In total, 406 are hosted in Ampain camp, 82 in Egyeikrom camp, 91 in Fetentaa camp, and 91 are hosted within local communities along the Oseikojokrom border. UNHCR and its partners are providing warm meals to all new arrivals in the camps.
- Survivors of previous cases of GBV and sexual violence have been referred to Ghana Health Services (GHS) and are being monitored.
- Caretakers have been identified for unaccompanied minors, and their cases have been referred to social welfare officials for further psychosocial support.



SHELTER AND NFIS

- The “Sowodadem” camp is expected to be completed by 30 November, and planning is underway to relocate new arrivals to “Sowodadem” from Ampain Camp.
- COVID-19 prevention activities continue with the distribution of face masks and hand sanitizers to new arrivals.

Guinea

- As of 25 November, the number of Ivorian refugees in Guinea has remained constant at 367. More than half of the new arrivals came to Guinea before the election on 31 October.
- Though the border remains closed, all new arrivals reported entering through irregular routes without significant difficulty.

Togo

- As of 27 November, there are 27 Ivorian refugees in Togo. They have been received by the National Commission for Assistance to Refugees (CNAR) and are being hosted in local communities.

Cote d'Ivoire

- Cote d'Ivoire's Government has registered 5,530 IDPs, mostly in the western region of the country. Their reports further indicate that some IDPs may already be returning home.
- In the department of Issia, west-central Cote d'Ivoire, over 1,600 IDPs received 30-day food rations and 500 families received WASH kits in Saioua and Boguedia in partnership with local authorities (prefects, sub-prefects, social centre managers, etc.).
- UNHCR is leading the protection group and is co-leading the shelter/NFI group with CARITAS, which has also contributed cooking sets as well as clothing for IDPs.