

In Côte d'Ivoire, concerted efforts by the Government and other relevant actors to achieve national reconciliation, political stability and social cohesion offer a prospect for solutions for all Ivorian refugees and asylum-seekers who have found international protection in the West Africa region and beyond.

In light of the fundamental and durable changes in Côte d'Ivoire, an Updated Regional Roadmap for Comprehensive Solutions for Ivorian Refugees has been adopted by the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Togo and Mauritania to find a durable solution for every Ivorian refugee and bring closure to the situation by the end of 2022.



Gbohoun, a refugee from Côte d'Ivoire, receives a warm welcome from his aunt as he returns to his village in Tabou. © UNHCR/David Azia

278,000 voluntary returns since 2011 –
92% of all refugees from Côte d'Ivoire

51,200 refugees and asylum-seekers from Côte d'Ivoire in the region

\$58M in needs for 2022

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

2002-2007: First wave of Ivorian displacement (50,000 refugees)

2010-2011: Second wave of Ivorian displacement (290,000 refugees)

2011: Voluntary repatriation begins

(More than 278,000 Ivorian refugees have repatriated since 2011 – 92% of the refugee population)

2021: Voluntary repatriation activities scaled up

(Intention surveys showed 60% of the 51,200 remaining refugees in the region plan to return)

Exemption procedures

31 July 2022: Voluntary repatriation ends

2011-2012: Tripartite Agreements signed

KEY
■ Situation
■ Repatriation
■ Exemption

2018: First roadmap adopted and promoted

2020: 34,000 Ivorians flee anticipating potential violence

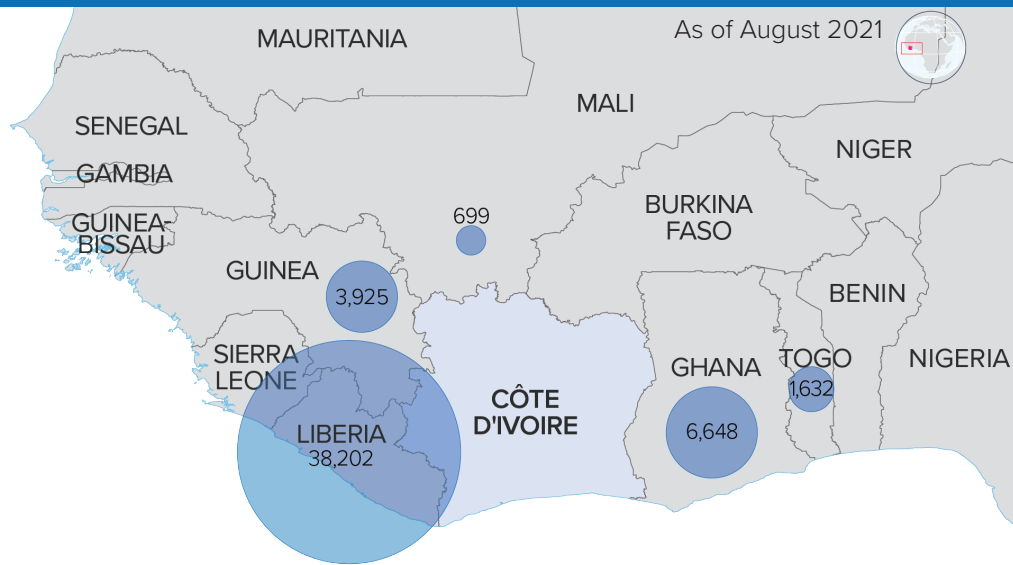
Sept. 2021: Roadmap endorsed at regional ministerial meeting

Oct. 2021: Cessation recommendation

1 Jan. 2022: Country-level cessation recommendation

1 June 2022: Cessation effective

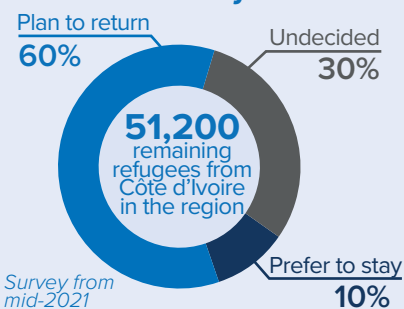
End of 2022: Situation Closed



Comprehensive Solutions

Of the more than 370,000 refugees and asylum-seekers who fled Côte d'Ivoire since 2002, more than 278,000 have voluntarily returned over the past decade – more than 80,000 with the support of UNHCR. Intention surveys carried out in mid-2021 indicate that approximately 60% of the remaining Ivorian refugees and asylum-seekers in West Africa are willing to return home, whereas 10% would prefer to stay in their host countries as residents, and 30% remain undecided.

Intention survey results



Adopted during a ministerial meeting convened by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and UNHCR in September 2021, the Updated Regional Roadmap for Ivorian refugees follows a three-pronged approach: (1) promoting voluntary repatriation and effective reintegration in Côte d'Ivoire; (2) advocating for permanent residency status or facilitation of naturalization for Ivorians opting to stay in their host countries; and (3) recommending the cessation of refugee status, while continuing to meet the needs of those unable to return to their country of origin for protection-related reasons. Cessation of refugee status for Ivorians is expected to take effect by 30 June 2022.

Comprehensive Support from UNHCR

UNHCR will continue to stand with Ivorians and strengthen our support to States in the region as they implement the solutions strategy and cessation clauses including helping them ensure the required documentation is made available. UNHCR encourages donors, including development actors, to actively support those countries as they implement this important strategy.

INFORMATION



Community engagement initiatives in asylum countries to promote repatriation and ensure populations are well informed about their options

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION



For the majority of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire in the region, voluntary repatriation will be the best solution. UNHCR will provide comprehensive assistance to ensure safe returns and support successful reintegration.



Travel documents



COVID-19 testing



Travel to Côte d'Ivoire



UNHCR REINTEGRATION PACKAGE

As refugees tend to require more support the longer they're away from their country, there are two different packages:

\$600 for those who left Côte d'Ivoire before 2020

\$150 for those who left Côte d'Ivoire 2020 or later

INCLUDES CASH FOR:



Local transport in Côte d'Ivoire



Shelter and core relief items



Three month food supply



Medical care



Documentation



School registration and credential transfer



Ongoing protection monitoring

EXEMPTION



Exemption procedures will allow for the identification of refugees who are still in need of international protection

RESIDENCY OR NATURALIZATION



Support for access to permanent residency status for those who wish to stay in host countries due to strong economic, cultural and/or family ties

Funding Requirements

\$14.9 million funding gap for 2021

\$58 million needed for 2022

To support solutions for Ivorian refugees and returnees in 2021, UNHCR's operations in Côte d'Ivoire and the neighboring countries of Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, Togo and Mali still require a total of \$14.9 million as of October.

In 2022, UNHCR will require \$58 million to complete the implementation of the Updated Regional Roadmap and find a solution for every Ivorian refugee.



Brice Kouewon, 34, and his family just crossed the Ivorian border after repatriating from Liberia. ©UNHCR/Selim Meddeb

Happy to be home after more than a decade in exile

After spending more than 11 years as a refugee in Liberia, Brice Kouewon, 34, is finally able to return to his home country of Côte d'Ivoire with the support of UNHCR.

"I'm truly so happy to be returning home," Brice said. "I honestly don't have the words."

He took the journey back across the border with his wife and four small children, the youngest of whom was born as a refugee in Liberia. Now they will get to grow up in their family's village near their grandparents.

Brice and his wife look forward to enrolling the children in school and restarting their lives in peace on the family's cacao farm.