

*This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by the OCHA Regional Office for West and Central Africa. It covers the period from 12-20 March. The next report will be issued on or around 25 March.*

## I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Côte d'Ivoire emergency appeal faces a funding shortfall of \$25 million.
- Protection of civilians and humanitarian access are of increasing concern amid a sharp rise in attacks on civilians.
- Refugee population in Liberia tops 90,000; over 500,000 people could be displaced in Abidjan

## II. Situation Overview

An estimated 50,000 people have left Côte d'Ivoire for Liberia since 24 February due to deteriorating security conditions. There are now over 90,000 refugees in Liberia. This three-week influx outpaces the number of refugees who were registered in Liberia between December 2010 and mid-February.

Côte d'Ivoire's economic capital, Abidjan, has become volatile as armed fighting, killings and other human rights violations are now daily occurrences. Over the past week, fighting broke out in seven of Abidjan's 10 communes (Abidjan Abobo, Cocody, Yopougon, Attécoubé, Treichville, and Adjamé). On 17 March, elements loyal to Laurent Gbagbo shelled a neighborhood in Abobo, killing up to 30 people and injuring at least 40 others. Humanitarian Coordinator Ndolamb Ngokwey has expressed concern over the worsening situation, the increasingly constrained humanitarian access and the low funding for the humanitarian appeal. Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos has called on those involved in the violence to ensure full respect for the civilian population and allow rapid, safe and unimpeded access by humanitarian organizations to those in need.

According to UNHCR, as many as 700,000 people – half the population of the Abobo neighborhood – could be displaced in Abidjan following the deteriorating security and human rights situations. Aid organizations estimate that the vast majority of people are living with host families, which results in a much higher difficulty for the humanitarian actors to identify and access these IDPs as well as putting a strain on the host families. There are also protection concerns over the IDPs staying in shelters and taking refuge in religious sites (churches, mosques) as an increasing feeling of insecurity spreads among these local institutions who are concerned that they could be targeted in case of an open intercommunal conflict.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a report this week detailing human rights violations committed since the crisis began. The report, titled *Côte d'Ivoire: Crimes against humanity by Gbagbo forces* [[www.hrw.org/node/97358](http://www.hrw.org/node/97358)], states that soldiers and allied fighters have committed numerous gross human rights violations, with some amounting to crimes against humanity. HRW also accuses forces supporting Alassane Ouattara of rights violations, including summary executions and killing civilians. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights presented a report to the Human Rights Council on 14 March on human rights abuses and violations in Côte d'Ivoire. The Human Rights Council is now discussing a draft resolution on Côte d'Ivoire which may call for an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations in the country.

Thousands of households face fuel and drinking water shortages, along with a sharp rise in food prices. The banking sector is in crisis as the majority of banks remain closed, leading to cash shortages which are affecting vulnerable households.

The humanitarian actors are also affected by this volatility of the situation and the lack of a chain of command among the arms carriers, which are increasing insecurity and dramatically reducing their movements for assistance and their access to those who need aid the most, especially in Abobo (Abidjan).

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

#### CÔTE D'IVOIRE



##### PROTECTION

**US\$51 million:** Amount UNICEF requires for its activities in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia over the next three months.

Protection remains a key pillar of the humanitarian response due to the deteriorating security situation. According to the United Nations mission, as of 17 March an estimated 410 people had been killed since the crisis began. ONUCI reported that the shelling on 17 March of Abidjan's Abobo market killed up to 30 people and injured 40. According to UNICEF, 69 cases of sexual and gender-based violence have been reported since the beginning of the year, including 32 child victims and 24 cases committed by armed groups. UNICEF added that there are many more unreported cases.

In the southwest, IOM reported that the villages of Tinhou and Tuambly (Canton Bo) were attacked on the 14 and 16 of March by suspected Liberian armed groups (possibly with the support of local militias). The village of Tinhou was burnt down and the population fled in various directions, with 4,200 people, mainly women and children, taking refuge in the Beneyoa and Sekehou camps. IOM reports around 20,000 IDPs wandering in the forests of the region and exposed to the risk of harassment by armed groups.

ICRC has provided non-food items (NFIs) and medical supplies to victims of violence in Abidjan and in the west. It has provided two malaria-treatment kits and two kits containing basic medicines to four facilities around Abidjan. Each kit contains enough supplies to treat 1,000 people for three months. At the Catholic mission in Duékoué in the west, Ivorian Red Cross volunteers provided health care for more than 3,000 displaced people.

Over the past four weeks, first-aid workers have treated nearly 200 people wounded in the violence. They have also evacuated about 70 serious cases to medical facilities in Abidjan, Grand-Bassam (near Abidjan) and Toulepleu in the west. ICRC is providing water and raising hygiene awareness. It has conducted detainee-welfare activities.

There is growing concern that ECOWAS citizens who have lived in Côte d'Ivoire for several years are increasingly being victimized as a result of the crisis. Several Member States have requested support to protect their nationals on Ivorian soil. IOM is leading this effort with WHO and WFP. Upon a request from the Mauritanian embassy, IOM, with support from WHO and WFP, has evacuated more than 400 Mauritanian migrants who felt under threat.

Four gender-based violence (GBV) volunteer groups were created at the IDP camp in Duékoué. They have sensitized 1,341 people about the risks of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation for women and girls, and about the services available to GBV survivors. An awareness campaign was carried out at the UEESO Church IDP site in Daloa, where 43 people (33 women and 10 men) were sensitized on the abuse and exploitation of girls, particularly in IDP situations.



##### EDUCATION

Schools have been severely disrupted in the past three weeks, notably in Abidjan. Recent fighting in the city has forced numerous schools to close until further notice, as teachers and students are either unable to reach their school or do not want to take the risk. In the west and the north, the majority of schools have been closed since January. Access to education is a key concern at this juncture, with UNICEF estimating that about 800,000 children have been out of school since the crisis began. The majority of these children are in the centre, north and west.

The education sub-clusters for the west and the east are continuing the survey of effective teacher presence in the former rebel-held areas of the centre, north and west. Preliminary results show that about one third of teachers currently are not at their teaching posts.

The cluster is also coordinating a registration of all IDP children attending formal schools in the south. This is in order to lobby for the integration of the children into exam sessions despite the fact they were unable to register due to displacement. The Education sub-Cluster for the south held its first meeting. It is co-facilitated by UNICEF and Save the Children, and composed of nine local NGOs intervening in Abidjan and other southern localities. The national Education Cluster submitted a Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) project. It also prepared a consolidated Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan project and a proposal to the

Canadian Embassy to support the return to school of 800,000 children in the centre, north and west of the country.



## HEALTH

The monitoring of cholera epidemics (8 suspected cases) at the national level confirms the ongoing decrease of suspected cases witnessed since week 6. Regarding measles, the joint WHO-UNICEF vaccination campaign was completed in the IDPs sites of Abidjan and 654,534 children under 5 were vaccinated. New cases of measles have been reported in Bouaflé district (Centre) and a vaccination campaign is under preparation. No case of meningitis reported in the country.

Shortages of medicine have been reported in numerous areas of the country. In Abidjan, two areas currently witnessing an important presence of IDPs (Anyama and Yopougon) will very soon be “targeted” for medical support by WHO with the help of local NGOs.



## FOOD

WFP distributed 86 tons of emergency food supply (rice, oil, legume, salt) to 12,439 beneficiaries in Danané, Guiglo, Man and Duékoué (West). In Tiébissou (Centre), 21 tons were distributed to 1,300 people. In Abidjan, 12 tons were provided to 5,972 people. No emergency food supply is planned for next week. In Abidjan, WFP faces difficulties in accessing those who need aid the most.



## NUTRITION

The nutrition cluster has completed a screening of malnutrition cases in Le Moyen Cavally (West). Over 147 children, 12 cases of acute malnutrition (8%) were identified and 9 cases of critical malnutrition without medical complications were screened. In the region Les Montagnes (West), over 188 children 23 cases of acute malnutrition and 12 cases of critical malnutrition were identified.

## LIBERIA



## FOOD

WFP is undertaking a second distribution cycle (to be completed on 27 March 2011) which is expected to reach 76,956 refugees (including refugees located in Bahn camp, Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties). 37,217 beneficiaries of this cycle have arrived in Liberia before 24 February 11; distribution plans to assist the new arrivals (post 24 February 11) are being finalized; the food distribution started in Buutuo for 7,500 beneficiaries; in Zwedru 5,000 refugees received food.

FAO has started essential food-production activities in response to increasing food insecurity among refugees and vulnerable host families in Liberia. The organization has mobilized vegetable product inputs from its contingency stocks. Inputs consist of seeds, fertilizers and tools to support the food-production needs of 300 Ivorian refugees. Through a recently approved CERF project, FAO will intensify its support by providing seeds, tools and mechanical pest management supplies to 2,600 households (13,520 individuals). The intervention is expected to support rice production on more than 2,000 hectares, potentially producing almost 3,000 metric tons. Beneficiaries will also receive basic training in improved production and pest-management practices. Technical assistance on seed availability in affected areas will be provided to relevant partners. FAO's emergency response also includes coordination activities at local and national levels, along with joint food and nutrition assessments. Between 8 and 13 February, a joint rapid food-security needs assessment was carried out in Nimba County by the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO.

Between 14 and 15 March, 2,972 people in Buutuo and 1,438 people in Dinplay received a two-week food ration. Food distribution is ongoing in Buutuo and is now complete in Dinplay. Distribution started in Gblarley on 16 March. It is due to start in Nyor Display on 18 March. Due to low turn-out at the distribution site, the mass information campaign was stepped up. To expedite the food distribution, the Norwegian Refugee Council recruited an additional 20 trained food-distribution assistants.



## NUTRITION

During the first two weeks of March, 220 severely malnourished children (between 6 and 59 months) received treatment, with an additional 96 children receiving therapeutic care. This represents only 16% of the expected caseload of 1,375 severely malnourished children. To increase treatment coverage, the nutrition

sector will establish additional side and integrate nutrition screening into mobile clinics to identify more children and refer for treatment.

UNICEF and partner NGOs (ACD, IRC, and EQUIP) have completed distributing PlumpyDoz in 30 villages. 3,505 children were screened, 60% of whom were refugee children. Out of the screened children, 15 per cent were identified as moderately malnourished and were provided nutritional supplementation. 51 moderately malnourished children were admitted to supplementary feeding centres in Buutuo, Beo Yolar, Gbarlay and Bahn. Preparations to establish six additional six centers in Nimba are underway.



### **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

Oxfam has airlifted essential supplies to help provide clean water and safe sanitation to some 70,000 people living on the border with Côte d'Ivoire. More than 40 tons of supplies are being flown to Liberia, including a drilling rig, borehole materials, water tanks and water-testing kits.

A total of 1,200 people in New Yourpea and 400 people in Toe Town now have access to sanitation facilities thanks to the construction of trench latrines by Equip and ECREP, with support from UNICEF. In Toe Town, 3,000 refugees received NFI supplies (980 buckets, 720 jerry cans, 3,060 bars of soap). WASH items, such as basic water kits and tarpaulins, were transported to Buutuo and Toe Town to meet the sanitation needs of about 12,500 people.

With support from UNICEF and partners, small treated water supply systems were completed and emergency sanitation arrangements installed in the transit centres at Karnplay (Nimba) and Toe Town (Grand Gedeh). Construction of additional small water systems and emergency sanitation arrangements are underway in Zorgowee and New Yourpea in Nimba. Partner NGOs have continued work in 44 communities in Nimba and 13 communities in Grand Gedeh, including in the 15 designated host communities. Activities include development and improvement of water sources, emergency sanitation arrangements, hygiene promotion, and distribution of WASH supplies.



### **EDUCATION**

A primary school compound with six classrooms, an office, a kitchen and three classrooms for Early Childhood Development (ECD) has been completed at the refugee camp in Bahn. The school also includes child-friendly spaces for psychosocial and recreational activities. A total of 187 pre-primary and primary-school-age children are attending classes. Six refugee teachers and one Principal have been appointed to teach four hours a day. Two female teachers and three female caregivers have been identified at the camp to promote ECD. UNICEF provided 155 school kits, which have been distributed among children and teachers in the camp.

## **GHANA**

A total of 455 Ivorian asylum-seekers have been registered (including the 222 people who arrived between 11 and 13 March). There has been a significant increase in the number of new arrivals due to escalating violence in Côte d'Ivoire. Between 11 and 13 March, UNHCR registered 222 Ivorian asylum-seekers in the western region, including 11 unaccompanied minors.

## **GUINEA**

The Government now recognizes urban and rural refugees on a prima facie basis. A total of 971 Ivorian refugees have been registered (including 843 people from N'Zérékoré and 128 people from Conakry). There are 71 unaccompanied minors at the Kouankan II refugee camp. On 15 March, 41 Ivorian refugees were transferred from Bossou and N'Zérékoré to Kouankan II.

## **IV. Coordination**

### **COTE D'IVOIRE**

UNHCR has established an operations centre to monitor population movement. OCHA has offered to assist. WHO has deployed one international staff member to the west to strengthen Health Cluster coordination.

## V. Funding

The humanitarian community in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia are in the process of revising their emergency appeals, which were launched in January for \$55 million and \$32 million respectively. So far, both appeals are severely underfunded, with \$25 million received for Liberia and \$6.9 million for Côte d'Ivoire.

CERF has agreed to allocate over \$1.3 million to WFP and UNHCR to support their response. UNHCR will receive \$500,000 to provide NFIs to IDPs in camps. WFP will receive over \$814,000 for logistics and telecommunications.

UNICEF is appealing for \$51 million to finance its activities in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

[http://reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/EGUA-8EZSPH/\\$File/full\\_report.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/EGUA-8EZSPH/$File/full_report.pdf)

On 17 March, the European Commission (EC) announced it will disburse €25 million (\$35.4 million) to assist in the response. This will help provide shelter, food assistance, health care, water and sanitation, and protection activities to people in need inside the country. This support will also be given to refugees beyond the Ivorian borders, particularly Liberia, which hosts the largest group of refugees. This new funding raises the EC's contribution to €30 million (\$42.5 million) since December.

## VI. Contact

### OCHA Côte d'Ivoire

Salima (Laurette) Mokrani, Humanitarian Affairs Officer and Head of Office a.i.

Tel: +225 22 52 66 42 Mobile: +225 57 89 01 37 E-mail: [mokranis@un.org](mailto:mokranis@un.org)

OCHA Regional Office for West and Central Africa

Noel Tsekouras, Deputy Head of Office

Tel: +221 77 450 2132 E-mail: [Tsekouras@un.org](mailto:Tsekouras@un.org)

Yvon Edoumou, Public Information Officer

Tel: +221 77 569 9653 E-mail: [Edoumou@un.org](mailto:Edoumou@un.org)

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