



HIGHLIGHTS

12,173

Ivoirian refugees repatriated with UNHCR assistance since January 2014

171

Biometric passports provided to Liberia refugees during the reporting period

75

Tons of food delivered to particularly vulnerable people in the areas of return during the reporting period

226

People trained in vocational and revenue-generating activities during the reporting period

Population of concern

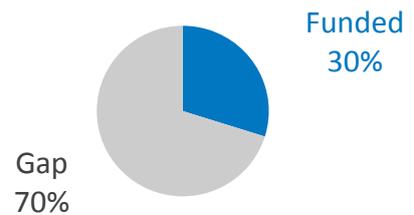
A total of **1,532,000** people of concern

By country of origin

Country	Type of PoC	Total #
Cote d'Ivoire	Returnees	239,602
Cote d'Ivoire	IDPs	24,000 (est.)
Cote d'Ivoire	Stateless	700,000 (est.)
Liberia	Refugees	2,133

Funding

USD 27,387,841 million requested



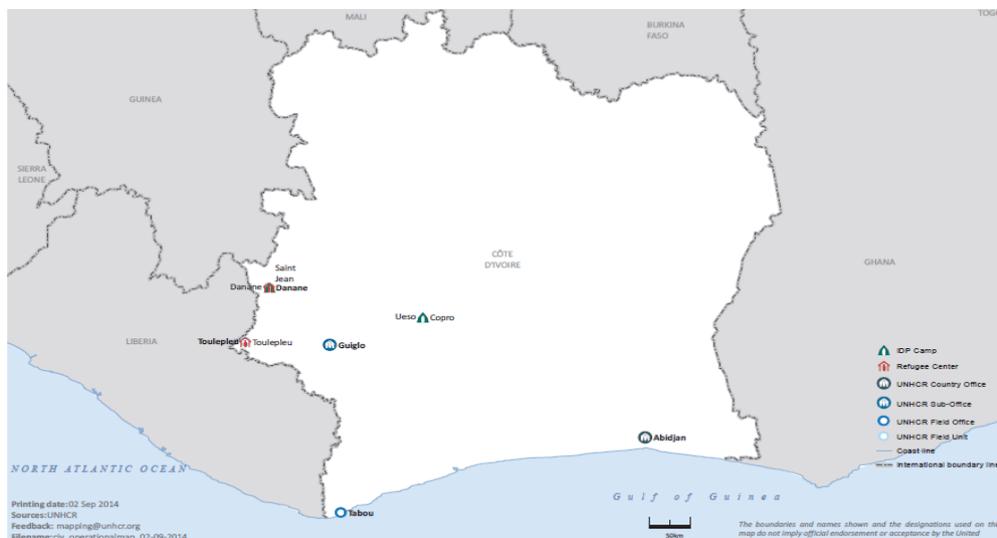
UNHCR Presence

Staff:

49 national staff
12 international staff

Offices:

03 offices located in:
Abidjan, Guiglo and Tabou



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Although UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire's repatriation activities are currently on hold as a preventive measure against the spread of the Ebola virus from neighboring Guinea and Liberia, the office continues to provide assistance for the durable reintegration of recent returnees. Implementing and operational partners in this regard include the Ivorian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Justice, Human Rights and Public Liberties; the *Association de Soutien à l'Auto-promotion Sanitaire Urbaine*; Caritas; the Norwegian Refugee Council; the Danish Refugee Council; Search for Common Ground; the International Organization for Migration; the World Food Program; UNWOMEN; and the UN Office for Project Services.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Repatriation

- Since the official closure of the border between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire in late July, there have been no repatriation activities. Since January, 12169 Ivoirian refugees have returned home under the auspices of UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire.
- Both the Ivoirian and Liberian authorities have reiterated on several occasions that the resumption of repatriation activities is not an option at the moment because the risk of the disease spreading is significant. Resuming massive repatriation would indeed be a risky operation and even with a system of quarantine, there is no guarantee that prevention will be foolproof.

Reintegration

- Despite the current hold on repatriation activities, UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire continued to help Ivorian returnees reintegrate into their host communities. In mid-September, thanks to the Agency's partnership with the World Food Program, 75 tons of food (rice, corn-soya blend, oil, salt, etc.), which had been reserved for returning refugees upon their re-entry to Côte d'Ivoire, were distributed to vulnerable members who came before the suspension was put into place (particularly the elderly, the chronically ill, single female heads of household, and others with specific needs).
- In the south-west area of Tabou, UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire provided construction materials to 46 repatriated families or households, thereby enabling them to begin rehabilitating or rebuilding their homes, many of which were severely damaged or destroyed during the crisis. The hydraulic system in this area was negatively affected by the post-electoral violence, and UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire facilitated the reconstruction of three wells that serve the host community at large. The team also rehabilitated a primary school and two buildings that serve as temporary homes for the teachers so that they can live close to their students.
- The professional training center that UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire constructed in Tabou to help returnees, refugees and members of the host community develop marketable skills celebrated the graduation of 226 students; they are now equipped with the necessary skills to work in Information Technology, Hairdressing, Sewing, Carpentry and Cooperative Management. 20 of these students received start-up kits and an additional 70 started taking classes in the management of microcredits.

Local Integration

- In order to assist the Liberian refugees who have opted for local integration, UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire distributed 171 biometric passports in the past two months. This measure will enable the beneficiaries to enjoy, *inter alia*, full freedom of movement within Côte d'Ivoire, the right to depart and re-enter the country, the right to work in the formal and informal economies, access to education and health services on the same terms as Ivoirian citizens, and protection against expulsion. This activity was principally conducted in the south of the country (in the region of Tabou); the western areas of operation being too close to the border with Liberia to safely convene large groups of people. Once the epidemic is contained in these border areas, the Office will continue its distribution in the zones of Danané and Zouan-Hounien. In addition, the Office provided financial and in-kind assistance to 10 Liberian refugee
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children living in Guiglo, western Côte d'Ivoire, so that they could attend school once classes resumed in early September.

Statelessness

- On 3 October UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire celebrated the first anniversary of the country's adherence to the two International conventions relating to statelessness. This historic date was publicly commemorated in the media, with interviews conducted by the Representation and op-eds published in mainstream national and international press, including, for instance, *BBC*, *Global Post*, *Jeune Afrique*, *Radio France International*, and *Voice of America* among others.
- Over the course of the past two months, the Office also led several identification and public information missions to the center of the country (specifically in the outskirts of Bouafle) to meet with individuals and families affected by statelessness or at risk thereof, and raise awareness about the ways such a status can be prevented. The Protection team placed a particularly strong emphasis on the importance of registering one's child at birth as an easy and affordable way of preventing statelessness among at risk communities, and led information sessions on the process of applying for Ivorian citizenship through declaration, which is a program launched by the Ivorian Government to enable eligible individuals to acquire Ivorian nationality.

Ebola

- In terms of assisting in the response to the Ebola outbreak in the sub-region, UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire's approach these past two months was mainly focused on prevention, as there have not yet been any confirmed cases here. The Office continued to work closely with other UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and the governmental authorities to raise awareness among local communities (especially, but not exclusively, those situated along the border with Liberia and Guinea) on how to prevent contracting the disease and what measures to take if exposure is suspected.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire completed in mid-October a large-scale profiling exercise throughout the western, southern and south-western territories of the country. The objective of this operation, which polled more than 20,000 individuals, is to acquire information about the needs, priorities and living conditions of displaced populations in these areas of return. The data, currently under analysis, will inform the Ivorian Government's Strategy of Durable Solutions, which UNDP and UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire are advising. Côte d'Ivoire opted to be a pilot country along with Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan to implement the UN Secretary General's initiative on a Durable Solutions Strategy aimed at protecting the rights and well-being of returnees and IDPs and facilitating their sustainable reintegration.

Social Cohesion

From 12 September to 10 October, UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire led an investigatory mission in the western region of Fetai, which had been the site of terrible attacks in February April and May 2014 that left, *in toto*, 20 people dead and many badly injured. These incidents provoked the flight of around 5,500 individuals, most of whom sought refuge in the youth center of Grabo, a nearby town. The purpose of the mission was to determine the scale and nature of the needs faced by these internally displaced people, especially in terms of water and sanitation, food, shelter, means of subsistence, health, security, education and documentation. The general conclusion of this investigation is that the humanitarian situation of the affected population is evolving positively but there are still significant needs that to be addressed, such as the lack of healthcare facilities and schools, lingering trauma, and serious documentation problems. These findings will inform the next steps the Agency will take in providing much-needed assistance.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked or broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation:

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