



Contents

Education & Protection p.1

Populations Movements p.3

Food Security p.4

Humanitarian Coordination p.5

Portrait of NGO ARK p.5

HIGHLIGHTS

- A quarter of Ivorian primary school children has no birth certificate
- More than 12,000 Ivorian refugees have returned from exile since January 2013
- In the Center west region, the inhabitants of Angovia need food assistance
- The focal points of the Ivorian Government have been sensitized to the concept and the methodology of the UN inter-agency contingency plan.

KEY FIGURES

Total Population	21 M
HDI Ranking (UNDP) (out of 187)	168
Pop. without access to safe drinking water	8 % (Urban) 33% (Rural)
No. of Ivorian refugees in West Africa	78 038
No. of refugees repatriated since Jan 2013 (UNHCR)	12 852

Education & Protection

Another 11 months to regularize the situation of elementary school children without birth certificates

Education authorities in Côte d'Ivoire launched an urgent appeal to make most of the next 11 months by helping regularize the situation of undocumented primary school children before the law expires on 31 July 2014. Law- No. 2013-35 of 25 January 2013 was enacted to make the registration of births and deaths during the post-electoral crisis easier.

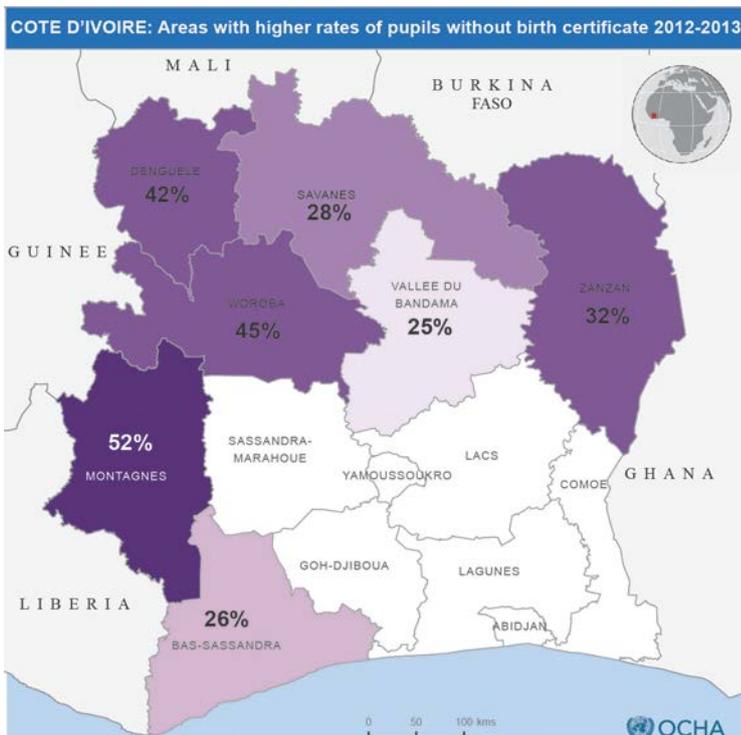
One out of four pupils (24.9%) of primary schools in Côte d'Ivoire has no birth certificate, according to the statistics of the Ministry of National Education and Technical Education (MENET). Among the over 3 million students enrolled in primary schools in Côte d'Ivoire, nearly 750,000 were thus in this case, at the end of the last school year.

The issue of children without birth certificate goes beyond the case of school children.

UNICEF estimates that 2,800,000 minors (under-18) have not been registered at the registry office. As a result, the number of unregistered children who still do not have access to school remain very high.

To reduce the exclusion of children from school for lack of birth certificate, the Ministry of Education has issued a ministerial order authorizing the enrollment in public schools of children without birth certificate. This is a positive development in itself, because it means that fewer and fewer children are excluded from school because of their inability to present a birth certificate.

But the situation remains very alarming as this transitional measure was taken to allow these children to go to school until their civil status situation is regularized.



The current difficulties of the civil registry system to find a comprehensive solution to the situation of children without birth certificate has thus become a concern for the country's educational system, which receives a growing number of children without documentation therefore almost certainly at risk of exclusion from the system at the end of primary school.

The Ministry of National Education therefore wants to help facilitate the civil status registration of undeclared pupils. "The advantage with pupils is that we know where they are because they are enrolled in our schools," says Jeanne Kopieu, Assistant Director of Education for All at the MENET.

Parents still have enough time to register births

The failure to report childbirth is a recurrent issue exacerbated by the different crises in Côte d'Ivoire. Therefore, to prevent children from being doubly disadvantaged, the Ivorian government had initially eased the conditions for the declaration of births by allowing that births between 20 September 2002 and 31 July 2011, in the former Center-North-West regions, and between 30 November 2010 and 31 July 2011, in the rest of the country, can be reported directly in the civil registration centers without going through the legal process of establishing declaratory judgments. Parents had until 31 July 2012 to do so.

Operations of sensitization and direct support for the registration of children benefiting from the special measure were carried out by humanitarian organizations with the support of UNICEF and UNHCR, in collaboration with education authorities and the decentralized administration of the registry office.

In the commune of Man (West), for example, these operations had helped to register

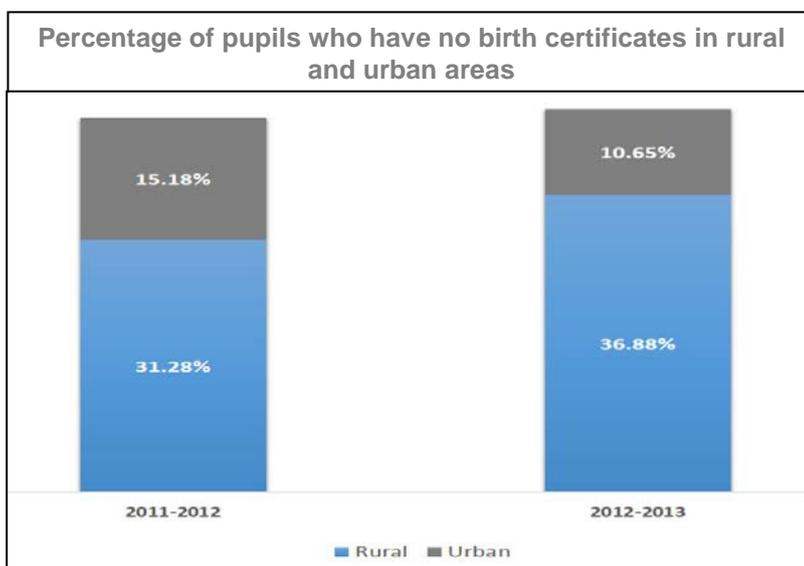
over 6,000 children including girls for more than half and over 57,600 children in the central and northern regions of the country (through direct support from UNICEF to local organizations). Meanwhile, 7,400 other children in the areas of Danané and Zouan Hounien had also been registered during the same period.

UNHCR works particularly to help Ivorian returnees who also need to obtain birth certificates. In Goya village (West), the organization has helped more than 80 people to obtain their identification documents since the beginning of 2013. "We hold community meetings and we show a film to sensitize the population on the importance of identity documents," says Joseph Djitro, UNHCR staff on the field. "We explain that children need identity papers for enrollment in school and for examinations. We also inform that adults need documents as well to get a driver's license or to open a bank account."

Although encouraging, these results however remain very limited given the scope of the issue. Therefore, an additional period of 24 months, beginning 1 August 2012, has been granted by the Ivorian Government. There are only 11 months left, and the Ministry of Education thinks that actions must be taken without delay.

A pupil without documents would not go to high school

"All relevant parties: parents, local administrative authorities, etc. ... are not always informed," says Jeanne Kopieu. "Look at the proportion of pupils without birth certificate. It has increased overall by 8.7% in the school year 2011-2012 while the total number of primary school pupils has increased by only 3.1%. This is a sign that the Ministry receives



more and more unregistered children as a direct result of the implementation of measures to facilitate access to school. "

Indeed, along with the additional period granted for registration, the Government has also ensured that access to primary education is not denied to any child without birth certificate. A communiqué of the MENET dated 26 August 2013, incorporating the spirit of the Circular Note No. 2135/MEN/DEL/mk of 14 August 2012, has expressly stated that "children aged 3 to 5 years for kindergarten and 6-9 years for the 1st and 2nd years of primary education (CP) with or without birth certificate" could be enrolled in public schools.

While admission to primary school becomes easier for some, the problem will arise later at the end of primary school when they get to high school because the absence of birth certificate will prevent the child from having the administrative file to take the exam of the Certificate of Primary Education (CEPE) and the secondary school entrance examination. This situation also deprives them of their rights and exposes them to all kinds of abuses.

There is little time to act

The education authorities want to get things moving by organizing a registration campaign between October 2013 and March 2014. At the Directorate of Schools and High Schools, and specifically the Sub directorate of Education For All, it is estimated that, to make the best of the 11 months, humanitarian organizations, national and local government authorities, parents must come together to "inform, inform, inform ... sensitize parents, tell them that the law permits them to go and register births. Sensitize sub-prefects and mayors also, so that they will receive the declarations, this is what is needed now ", admits Mrs. Kopieu.

Populations Movments:

More than 12,000 Ivorian refugees have returned from exile since the beginning of the year

The return to Côte d'Ivoire of 1,135 refugees in September carries to more than 12,000, the number of registered returnees since the beginning of 2013, half of which have returned during the first quarter of the year (5,938 returnees). The trend has slowed down this quarter with a monthly average of 1,300 returnees. While the total number of returnees registered in August rose to more than 1,400, the previous month was only 854 (July) - the first time in 2013 where the number dropped below 1,000 people, mainly due to rains that made transport difficult.

Nearly half of the 12,000 returnees in 2013 have been recorded between January and March.



Since 2011, the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and their partners have organized and assisted the return of more than 21,000 people out of a total of 220,000 repatriates. The vast majority of these returns have been spontaneous and more than 95% to the District des Montagnes in the West of the country. UNHCR not only facilitates the transportation and registration of repatriates, but develops many other activities intended for their immediate and future protection:

Today, the number of Ivorian refugees still living abroad is estimated to more than 77,000, with more than two thirds in neighboring Liberia (55,000), followed by Ghana (8,400) in Guinea (6,500) of Togo (5,000) and Mali (1,300).

Food Security :

The population of Angovia needs food

The locality of Angovia remains calm since the tragic events of July 10. Almost all the villagers who had to flee for their lives gradually returned to the village. But because of the destruction of goods, food reserves and more than a hundred houses occurred during the deadly clashes of July, these people became "displaced" in their own village

Their dietary conditions is still very precarious as recognized by a joint mission of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which went there on 17 September 2013.

The majority of returnees live in host families whose food reserves are almost exhausted. Likewise, the closure of the gold mines and the traditional gold washing sites having deprived them of their main source of income, these people are struggling to feed themselves.

The mission recommended a general food distribution for a period of two to three months, a period required for the return of the security and then to wait for the next harvest.

The mission also recommends the continued support through non-food items (NFI kits: buckets, mats, kitchen utensils, tarpaulins, etc...) to the affected populations and the support for the rehabilitation of destroyed homes.

The population of Angovia is estimated at about 3,000 inhabitants, of which 2/3 practice gold washing as their main activity. The locality is 50 km away from Bouaflé in the center-west of Côte d'Ivoire.

On 10 and 11 July 2013, three people were killed and hundreds of homes were destroyed during the clashes between the indigenous inhabitants and foreign gold washers from the surrounding villages.

Today, calm is back, but tension remains noticeable. A reinforcement of the security of all areas linked to the mining area and the disarmament of civilians who are still armed remains essential to reassure the population.

Humanitarian coordination :

The humanitarian contingency plan introduced to government partners

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has conducted on 10 September 2013, an interactive working session to present the different components of an inter-agency contingency plan to government partners. The presentation also discussed the methodologies as well as humanitarian coordination related to the humanitarian reform based on a sectorial approach and the role of OCHA and the Humanitarian Coordinator during humanitarian emergencies.

Formal ban on gold mining has deprived the villagers of an essential part of their income.



Participants were also briefed on the ongoing preparation of local plans for emergency response to be used by the prefectural authorities and partners on the ground in the West.

National experts, focal points of government institutions and public and private structures that are associated with the interdepartmental platform for the implementation of the national strategy for disaster risk management, have participated in this meeting. This generated a lot of interest and concern especially on the relevance of components at the national level, the challenges and opportunities with the prospect of consultation on the national contingency plan, in February 2014.

"I have noted the need to work more on prevention than on expected responses" revealed Dr. Koffi of the Prefecture of Abidjan "I have also realized that we must work to reduce the risks. The ORSEC Plan that we had put more emphasis on the response. Now I know there is also a need for prevention."

This meeting that was held at the Ministry of Environment in Abidjan follows the recommendations of the meeting of the Expanded Coordination Committee of July 17. It was intended to sensitize and to share with these national experts the methodology of inter-agency contingency plan to define the expected work, in the preparation of the national contingency plan in 2014 and inspire existing contingency plans or plans currently under development from ministries and state services.

"Having a contingency plan is important but it must be updated periodically so that it will not be a useless plan, that's the important thing I learned the most and I think it would greatly benefit the government platform" says Professor Ochou Delfin, the focal point of the national platform for disaster and risk reduction.

In this period of transition to development, OCHA is available to provide to government partners technical support for the development of any type of emergency preparedness plans, general or specific (e.g., bird flu, health and industrial hazards, etc...). This transfer of skills will thus allow these government partners to be prepared and equipped to prevent and manage themselves the crises and humanitarian emergencies that may arise in the future.

Portrait of the National NGO ARK

ARK (Animation Rurale de Korhogo) was established in 1972 by Catholic nuns and the National Institute for Economic and Social Development (INADES)-Training, to meet a need for supervision of farmers who cultivated rice.

Over the years the ARK has built its vocation in supporting the rural world. Today it is totally secular NGOs, and obtained his license as NGO under Ivorian law in 1993. Since 2011, the ARK has become ARK-IRADEL (Institute of Building Human Capital and Supporting Local Development), with a pole for local development and a pole for culture, language and traditions.

For ARK, it is important to give the most vulnerable in society and farmers' organizations the means to support themselves, and being able to "stand up and walk towards meeting fellow men and God." Hence, training civil society is at the core of its strategies. Thus, ARK targets people in the villages of the intervention area through the implementation

"Having a contingency plan is important but it must be updated periodically so that it will not be a useless plan, that's the important thing I learned the most and I think it would greatly benefit the government platform"

Professor D. Ochou,
Focal Point of National
Platform.



September 2013, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: Humanitarian phase transition, OCHA works with local authorities to build their capacity in the preparation and management of crises and natural disasters. A Kats (standing) of OCHA Côte d'Ivoire presents to the focal points of the Ivorian Government the preparation inter-agency contingency plan. © OCHA/F. Kuwouu

of its various programs, especially health and development, professionalization of agriculture, alternative education and child protection, entrepreneurship of rural women, the post-crisis assistance, capacity building of civil society.

ARK operates mainly in the North (regions of Poro, Bounkani, Hambol) and in the west of Côte d'Ivoire. It is headquartered in Korhogo, and has offices in Bouna and Guiglo and a representative office in Abidjan.

ARK deals in particular with training of village health workers and traditional birth attendants, the care and treatment of malnutrition, the sensitization on HIV-AIDS and malaria, the fight against gender based violence, the training in sustainable land management, support and assistance to agricultural cooperatives and mutual funds, support to food production and the promotion and professional integration of young people, the functional literacy, supporting the construction of shelters classes and income-generating activities for women.



2013, Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire. ARK and FIRCA join forces to guide peasants in the multiplication of seeds in the North. © ARK

ARK employs nearly fifty people. Its main technical and financial partners are the World Bank, EU, UN agencies, international NGOs, the French Cooperation, the British Embassy, the Embassy of Canada, local authorities and several national donors. These interventions directly affect around 3,000 women and over 1,200 men and indirectly the whole population of the villages of the intervention area.

As an example of high-impact project, we can note the community response to maternal and child malnutrition, in terms of promotion of local products to meet the malnutrition, mass sensitization, cooking demonstrations, weight monitoring, birth registration. Likewise alternative education for child herders by building community schools can provide opportunities of education for children that families do not intend to school. Some of these children are now holding the BEPC degree. Another very positive result is the increase in enrollment in the villages benefiting from this project. Finally, the total sanitation project led by the communities (ATPC) has helped end defecation outdoors in some of the targeted villages. This has significantly reduced the extent of waterborne diseases in these villages.

Contact: vsorho@yahoo.fr; or sorogaoussouroger@yahoo.fr

For more information, please contact:

Mrs. Ute Kollies, Head of Office - OCHA Côte d'Ivoire, Tel. (+225) 22 48 44 00

Mr. Franck Kuwonu, Information Officer - OCHA Côte d'Ivoire, kuwonu@un.org, Tel. (+225) 46 00 50 49

Mr. Michel Ayokoin, Reporting Officer - OCHA Côte d'Ivoire, ayokoin@un.org, Tel. (+225) 46 01 91 28

OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin are available at www.unocha.org/cotedivoire | www.reliefweb.int