Cote d'Ivoire Situation

22 January 2021

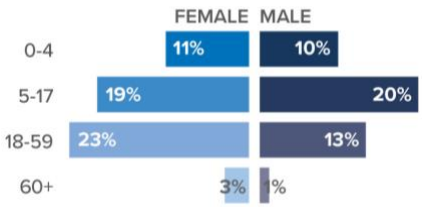
As of 19 January, **25,597 Ivorians who fled Cote d'Ivoire** have been pre-registered in Liberia, Ghana, Guinea and Togo. Liberia currently hosts 95 per cent of them.

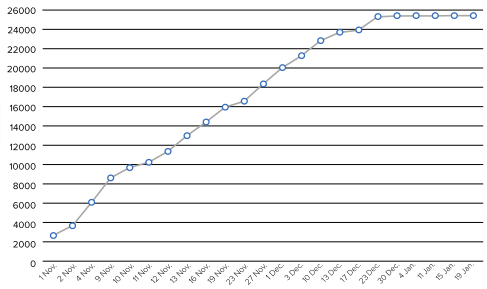
As UNHCR and partners work to reach remote areas, **more than 99 per cent of the apparent population increase in Liberia in 2021 is due to back-dated pre-registrations** of refugees who arrived in 2020.

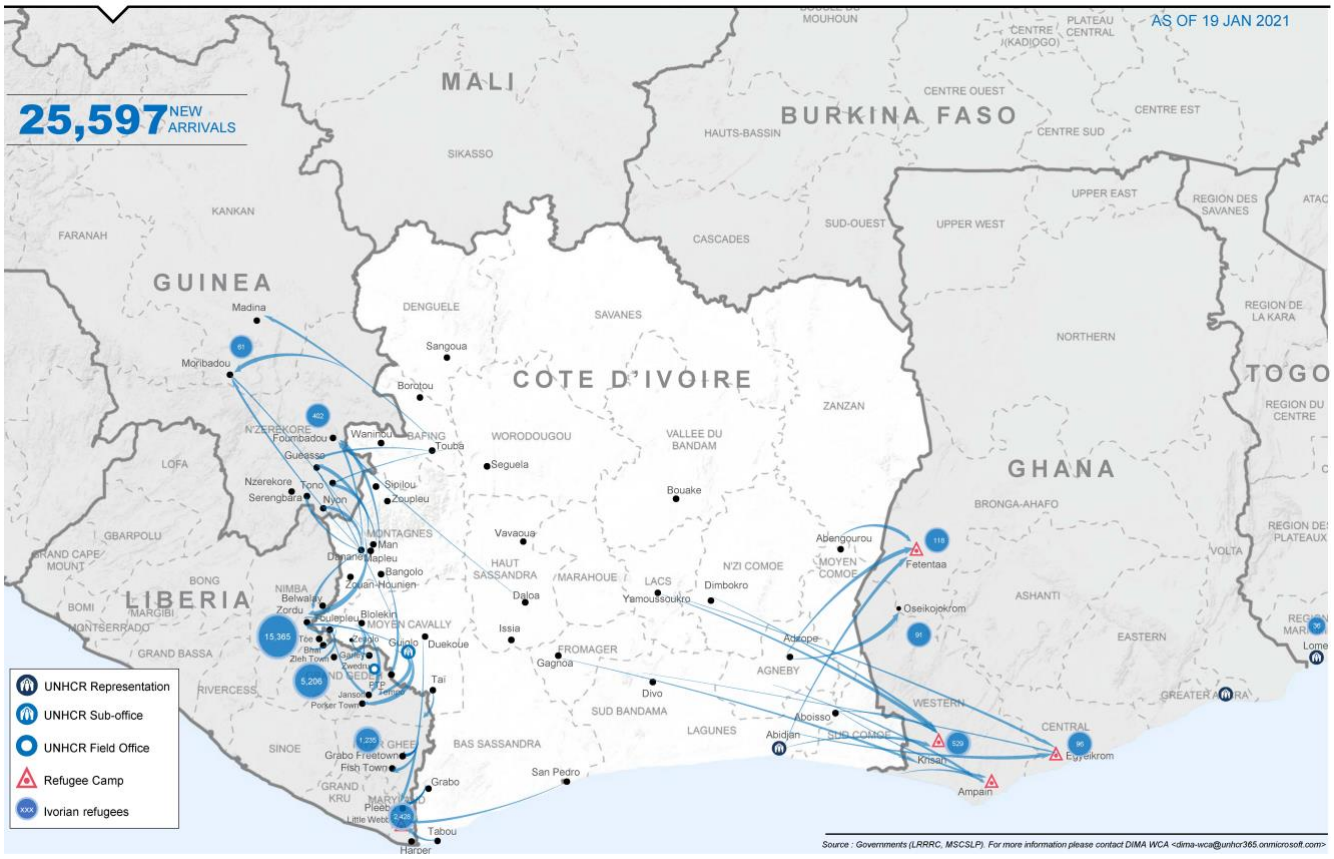
POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Host Countries	Refugees
Liberia	24,234
Ghana	834
Guinea	493
Togo	36
Total	**25,597**

*Data as of 19 January as reported by UNHCR Operations.







KEY UNHCR ASSISTANCE TO DATE:

16,000+ NEW ARRIVALS REGISTERED	35,000+ FACE MASKS	10,000 PIECES OF SOAP	9,500+ BAGS OF RICE	6,000+ BLANKETS	3,000+ SLEEPING MATS	3,500+ BUCKETS

UNHCR Emergency Response

Liberia

PROTECTION

- As of 19 January 2021, a total of 24,234 Ivorian refugees have crossed into Liberia, 66 per cent of whom (15,873) have been formally registered. While the overall figures indicate a population increase, more than 99 per cent of those newly pre-registered arrived in October and November of 2020, but were located in remote areas near the border. Their registrations are back-dated accordingly. UNHCR continues to work with partners to conduct pre-registration exercises and expand coverage in hard to reach areas.
- During the period under review, UNHCR identified more than 150 persons with special needs (PWSNs), provided them with assistance, and will conduct follow-up to monitor ongoing protection needs. As of 16 January, there were 1,036 .
- Protection assessments have revealed concerns regarding the effect of living conditions in local communities on other PWSNs, such as unaccompanied children and the elderly. Restricted living space, food scarcity and limited WaSH resources and healthcare capacity were highlighted.
- During a registration exercise in Grand Gedeh it was found that 872 refugees may have relocated within the county due to scarcity of food, shelter, livelihoods opportunities or other resources.
- Protection assessments conducted in Maryland County with LRRRC with more than 600 refugees indicated the need for food assistance and CRIs, as well as their intention to return to CIV only when there is sustained stability.
- During registration in Grand Gedeh county, 15 children (7 girls and 8 boys) were reported to be out of school in Cote d'Ivoire due to financial restrictions. In Toe's Town Axis, UNHCR is reviewing capacity in public schools and within the refugee community to support education efforts for children while working closely with local Education Officers to find solutions.
- The inaugural Protection Working Group (PWG) meeting was held on 6 January. The meeting was chaired by UNHCR and attended by UNICE, UNFP and UN Women.
- UNHCR and LRRRC conducted a joint border monitoring mission in Maryland County on 5 January, where protection assessments raised concerns for a number risks associated with unofficial crossing points, such as GBV, due to the absence of law enforcement agencies. The visit also included a protection training with Liberian Immigration Services (LIS) at the Kablakeh official crossing point, and an affirmation to continue information sharing regarding developments at the border.

HEALTH

- During the reporting period, 53 refugees were treated for cough and fever during registration, in the past week 13 of the 14 were children. Additionally, three children were referred to a local health clinic for malnutrition, and three refugees were referred to a health clinic for vision-related issues.
- In Buuto Axis, a woman passed away after giving birth to twins. Her husband and nine children returned to Côte d'Ivoire to bury her.
- In Grand Gedeh County, the woman who was reported to have suffered a miscarriage earlier in the year has been re-admitted to the hospital for severe anaemia and is receiving treatment, and treatment options are being explored for a child with mental health issues.
- In Nimba County, the more than 1,574 individuals registered during the reporting period received three face masks each and information about COVID-19 prevention, and more than 100 households received hand sanitizers. An additional 400 face masks were distributed to refugees in Grand Gedeh County.

- Reports indicate that some refugees may be resorting to alternative medical treatment due to scarcity of medicine and difficulty accessing healthcare. UNHCR continues to coordinate with government public health entities on the county level to ensure refugee access to local health services.

SHELTER AND WaSH

- Eleven water pumps were repaired in Little Wlebo (6) and in B'hai village (5) to improve water access for refugees and the host community. UNHCR conducted WaSH assessments in Nimba County in coordination with LRRRC, local officials and a contractor. In Kaylay town the assessment found four broken water pumps and one non-functioning borehole for a population of more than 1,800. The team planned recommendations for repairs and construction projects to meet the needs of the local community.
- In B'hai border village, local leaders have started providing plots of land for refugees, and supporting their use of wood from surrounding areas to construct emergency shelters. UNHCR and LRRRC are assessing land and working to provide construction materials such as tarpaulin and nails.
- An expansion of the Toe's Town facility is underway, including the construction of a communal kitchen, four latrine structures and four bathroom structures. In Saclepea, a warehouse has been partitioned into nine shelters for refugees, a solar powered charging facility has been built, and construction of a communal kitchen is underway.
- Construction inspections were conducted at Toe's Town and Little Wlebo reception centres by UNHCR, AIRD and LRRRC. Recommendations were shared regarding possible improvements to WaSH facilities and shelter structures.

FOOD AND CRIS

- In PTP settlement, soap and sanitary napkins were distributed to more than 180 women and girls. In Nimba County, UNHCR distributed dignity kits to 90 young mothers on behalf of UN Women, and in River Gee County, UNHCR distributed 20 dignity kits and contraception on behalf of UNFPA.
- In Nimba County, CRIs such as kitchen sets, sleeping mats, blankets, underwear and baby clothes were distributed. In January more than 950 refugees also received food assistance.

Ghana

PROTECTION

- As of 19 December, there are a total of 834 Ivorian refugees (366 families) in Ghana. Through a joint exercise, the Ghana Refugee Board and UNHCR have registered 74 per cent of the population.

HEALTH

- In Sowodadzim Reception and Quarantine Center, Ghana Health Service (GHS) continues to screen and treat refugees with medical needs. Most of the treatments provided are for malaria or body pain, and those with more serious medical conditions are referred to Elubo clinic.

SHELTER AND CRIs

- A total of 92 new arrivals completed their mandatory 14-day quarantine period at Sowodadzim Reception and Quarantine Center, and were subsequently moved back to Ampain Camp. There are 18 individuals still completing their quarantine period at Sowodadzim who will also be moved back to Ampain Camp through the joint relocation procedure organized by UNHCR and Ghana Refugee Board (GRB). UNHCR partner ADRA continues to distribute hot meals to all refugees throughout their quarantine period.
- In Fetentaa Camp, GRB coordinated with GHS and Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) to provide shelter to 90 refugees. Three individuals are currently undergoing their mandatory quarantine in a designated area.

- To facilitate CBI distribution for refugees who have completed their quarantine period, UNHCR has made an arrangement with mobile provider MTN Ghana to allow asylum-seekers to enrol using their proof of registration as identification.
- In the Ampain Camp extension the water and electricity connections are done, a borehole has been completed to provide a constant supply of water, and 20 bio-digestor toilets and 12 out of 15 washrooms have been completed.
- UNHCR continues to distribute CRI kits to refugees, which include COVID-19 prevention supplies such as face masks and hand sanitizer.

Guinea

- As of 19 January, there are 493 Ivorian asylum-seekers (144 families) in Guinea. Registration is ongoing, as is the screening and referral of cases in need of medical treatment. A joint mission between UNHCR and CNISR (Commission National pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés) is also underway to assess protection needs.

Togo

- As of 19 January, the number of Ivorian refugees in Togo stands at 36. They have been registered by the National Commission for Assistance to Refugees (CNAR) and are being hosted in local communities.

Burkina Faso

- As of 19 January, no new arrivals from Cote d'Ivoire have been recorded, but protection monitoring in border areas is ongoing.