

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## West Africa: Population movement preparedness and response

Emergency appeal n° MDR61007  
GLIDE n° OT-2010-000255-CIV  
Operations update n° 1  
06 January, 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 24  
December, 2010 to 03 January, 2011.

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,350,184;  
Appeal coverage: up to CHF 400,000;  
[<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 23 December, 2010 for CHF 1,350,184 for 6 months to assist some 45,000 beneficiaries and will be completed by the end of June 2011.
- CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the International Federation Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) as a loan to support the start-up of this operation.
- An information bulletin was issued on 22 December, 2010.
- The Swedish, Norwegian, Japanese and Canadian Red Cross Societies have so far pledged contributions to this appeal.



Identification and Registration of Refugees in Nimba County/LRCS

### Summary:

The political and security situation has deteriorated significantly in Côte d'Ivoire following the 28 November Presidential run-off election, which both the incumbent President Gbagbo and opposition candidate Ouattara claim to have won. The international community including the European Union, the United States, and the United Nations have urged Gbagbo to step down and have made clear statements in support of Ouattara, whom they consider the legitimate winner of the elections. In turn, Gbagbo has demanded the United Nations Operations in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), including 10,000 soldiers and police and the French LICORNE force to leave the country.

Clashes between supporters of Ouattara and state security forces have claimed the lives of many people. Because of increased insecurity, population movement has increased within and out of the country. According to the UN Human Right Commission (UNHRC) a total of 18,091 people have crossed the border into Liberia, 191

into Guinea, 21 Ghana and 17 into Mali since the crisis has begun. Liberia promotes a no-camp policy and many of the people from Western Côte d'Ivoire have families and relatives across the border in Liberia where they are staying. However, the increasing arrivals of refugees is putting pressure on the host communities to cope and it has been agreed that UNHCR will set up a special camp close to the town of Saclepea. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) the worst case scenario for the Contingency Plan foresees that more than 2 million people could be affected in Côte d'Ivoire, of which 1.5 million are women and children. The plan also estimates 450,000 as the number of displaced persons, of which 50,000 will be in camps. The plan envisages that 150,000 people will seek refuge in the neighbouring countries (50,000 in Liberia, 25,000 in Ghana, 35,000 in Burkina Faso, 20,000 in Guinea Conakry and 20,000 in Mali). According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Statistical Yearbook, during the civil war in 2002-2003, the highest number of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire at year end was recorded in 2003 at 33,637 people, 20,000 of which were in Liberia, over 9,500 in Guinea, and 1,500 in Mali. In case of major clashes in Abidjan, it is expected the population in and around the city will move towards Ghana because of proximity.

Before the current crisis, there were some 13,000 Ivorian refugees who fled the 2002 civil war in their country - including 6,000 in Liberia, 4,000 in Guinea and 2,000 in Mali. In Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR has been assisting some 25,000 refugees, mainly from Liberia, and 35,000 internally displaced Ivoirians. While most of preparedness and response plans are focused on the scenarios related to influxes of Ivorian refugees to Liberia, Guinea, Ghana and Mali, one should not exclude the possibility of spontaneous (or organized) repatriation of refugees from these neighbouring countries currently in Côte d'Ivoire. This means the response to the current crisis should include strategies to assist Ivorian refugees crossing the borders into neighbouring countries and strategies to receive and integrate former refugees in Côte d'Ivoire. The provision of support to host communities also constitutes a key element of the response strategy.

## The situation

The political stalemate in the West African nation of Côte d'Ivoire since the presidential election on 28 November 2010 is posing humanitarian concerns not only in Côte d'Ivoire but in the region as well. The country's Independent Electoral Commission had declared the opposition candidate Alassane Ouattara the winner of the run-off on 2 December, 2010 but the result was overturned by the country's Constitutional Council. The council has announced the incumbent President Gbagbo as the winner although the international community and the UN had recognized the victory of the opposition candidate. The two candidates took oaths of office in different locations on 4 December, 2010 and have formed parallel governments in Côte d'Ivoire. There have been protests in the country both before and after the presidential election run-off. This situation has led to cross border population movements in search of protection, shelter, and assistance in neighbouring countries. According to the local branches of the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, more than 3,000 people have been internally displaced mainly children and women. These displaced people are mostly concentrated in the western part of the country in Dioukoué and Bangolo near Man, about 900 km from Abidjan the capital. A total of 18,091 people have crossed the border into Liberia as of 30 December, 2010. Most of them live in inadequate shelters with poor sanitation which increases the risk of infectious diseases. Although the identified Ivorian refugees in Liberia and Guinea are currently accommodated in host communities and transit camps, there are growing concerns that further arrivals will stretch the coping mechanisms of these communities, particularly in the areas of food security, health, and water and sanitation. The International Federation launched a preliminary emergency appeal to support the National Societies of Liberia, Guinea-Conakry, Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso through the International Federation's Regional Offices to effectively and efficiently prepare for and respond to the needs of the affected population as the situation evolves. In addressing the emerging needs, the respective National Societies have developed updated plans of action complemented with pre-positioning of basic non-food relief items covering 4,500 families. National Societies will continue to update preparedness and response contingency plans, mobilize and build capacities of volunteers, monitor the movement of people along borders as well as engage in preventive health and care, water and sanitation, improvement on information and communication, identification and preparation of temporary shelter, monitoring and coordination and the deployment of regional personnel.

## Coordination and partnerships

Most humanitarian actors including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross, UN system agencies, International and local Non-governmental Organization (NGOs) are working towards ensuring a coordinated and complement approach for supporting the displaced population. Most institutions are reviewing their contingency plans and the revised planning figure for UNHCR (and the interagency contingency plan) is currently for a population of 150,000 refugees though this may rapidly change

depending on how the situation in Ivory Coast evolves. The activities in each country have been coordinated by the respective National Red Cross Societies, which link to the respective Federation regional office and country delegations. The overall coordination has been carried out by the Federation's regional delegation for west and central Africa in Dakar, Senegal, with support from the regional delegation in Abuja, Nigeria. Technical support has been provided in the areas of water and sanitation, disaster management, finance, communication and reporting. Meetings have been convened as needed, pooling the resources from the six countries and sharing of information and lessons learnt. The regional delegation is part of a consultation group in Dakar under the auspices of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and participates in the inter-agency coordination meetings. Regular communication is also maintained with the Office of UNHCR to ensure a coordinated response.

In Liberia, from the beginning of the crisis and based on its partnership with the Liberian Red Cross Society (LRCS), ICRC has increased its support to the National Society in providing emergency water to the refugees and their host communities by rehabilitating wells in Nimba County. In addition ICRC and LRCS are helping people separated from other members of their families to contact their loved ones by telephone and identifying unaccompanied children in order to search for their families. ICRC has pledged support to LRCS in the areas of first aid.

In Côte d'Ivoire itself, the Red Cross Society of Cote d'Ivoire (RCSCI) and ICRC have focused their joint response in providing first aid and evacuating the wounded to hospitals. So far, the RCSCI with ICRC's support has provided first aid to almost 600 wounded and evacuated about half of them to hospitals. Both organizations are also assisting internally displaced people. Finally, ICRC delegates are stepping up their visits to people held in places of detention. Finally, ICRC delegates are stepping up their visits to people held in places of detention.

The Movement coordination mechanism for Côte d'Ivoire is currently being further strengthened by RCSCI and ICRC in Abidjan. This is done in close consultation with the Federation.

#### **National Society Capacity Building:**

The National Societies in the Sahel and West Coast Regions have proven experience in managing population movement. However, the anticipated complexity of the current crisis may exceed the existing capacities of the National Societies. The International Federation staff and regional disaster response team members have been deployed therefore to support the affected National Societies in implementing the planned activities. The National Societies in countries neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire have deployed volunteers to the border areas to conduct surveillance, early warning and daily information updates. The Red Cross Society of Guinea and LRCS have sent assessment missions to Bossou and Nimba counties, areas bordering the Western side of Côte d'Ivoire where most of the refugees have fled to. With support of International Federation, the Liberian Red Cross Society has also mobilized NFIs and WatSan kit 5 for prepositioning in Monrovia. A number of 21 tracing volunteers have been trained and deployed by LRCS, 19 by the Red Cross Society of Guinea and 20 by Burkinabe Red Cross Society.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

### **Overview**

The International Federation has been supporting all National Societies involved through its regional offices in Dakar (Guinea, Mali, and Burkina Faso) and Abuja (Liberia, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire). A regional contingency plan has been elaborated. As a result, the International Federation is providing support to National Societies in the region to prepare for and respond to a caseload of 1,500 families in Liberia and in Guinea, and 500 families each in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Ghana, for a total of 4,500 families overall. Some stocks have been mobilized to start up the operation.

The LNRCS reactivated its border response teams and is planning to train more volunteers to provide first aid, tracing and assist the most vulnerable at the major crossing points in case of huge influx of refugees. A total of 10 border response teams (five members each) will be operational in the coming days, six in Grand Gedeh, and four in Nimba County. Besides, the LNRCS has put on alert its NDRT members throughout the country.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome: Up to 4,500 most vulnerable refugee affected households (some 22,500 people) benefit from the distribution of non-food items as required.**

Outputs	Activities planned
Capacity in place to provide 4,500 affected families with appropriate non-food items sets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire and transport 4,500 sets of non-food items (NFI); with each set comprised of 2 blankets and 2 sleeping mats and kitchen utensils.</li> <li>• Store non-food items and pre-position NFI sets in warehouses for maximum efficiency, in compliance with Red Cross policies and procedures.</li> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies as required and control supply movements from point of dispatching to end user.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Develop an exit strategy.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** A stock of NFIs has been deployed to Ghana Liberia, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Mali for 4,500 families including blankets, mosquito nets, shelter kits, jerry cans, bars of soap, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and watsan kits for 5,000 people.

**Challenge:** Refugees are spread over extensive areas and are staying with host families, which makes the assessment process time consuming. Uncertainties over the opening of camps and limited resources in host families make it difficult to define a targeting strategy that avoids duplication and minimizes conflict over resources.

### Emergency shelter

**Outcome: Up to 1,500 affected households in five countries neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire have safe and adequate shelter and settlement solutions through the provision of tents, shelter toolkits, and guidance on improved building techniques.**

Outputs	Activities planned
Capacity in place to provide up to 1,500 most vulnerable families with safe emergency shelters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the extent of the shelter needs and preferred shelter solutions.</li> <li>• Enable the provision of safe and adequate locally appropriate shelter solutions through appropriate programming methodologies.</li> <li>• Promote safe and durable shelter where possible through the provision of technical assistance and guidance to all involved in the shelter activities.</li> <li>• Ensure shelter and settlement programming includes access to required water and sanitation services and communal facilities including schools, health services, play areas for children and places of worship, etc.</li> <li>• Promote increased awareness and understanding of safe and adequate shelter response programming with the National Society and affected communities.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** At least 125 family and dispensary tents have been deployed in Liberia, Guinea, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali and more than 1,000 shelter kits are being constituted for Liberia and Ghana. About 2,000 tarpaulins have already been dispatched to these two countries while the other tools are being procured to complete the tool kits according to the culturally accepted standard.

**Challenges:** Uncertainties over the opening of camps have delayed the definition of a distribution strategy for shelter items. Consideration to security issues must be integrated into the definition of the standard kit to be distributed.

### Emergency health and care

**Outcome: The health risks to refugees and host population are reduced through the provision of preventive, community-based health services to 9,000 families (45,000 beneficiaries) in Liberia, Guinea, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali for 6 months.**

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Mortality and morbidity of 45,000 refugees are prevented through the provision of preventive health care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the basic mortality and morbidity in the population as a result of the population movement.</li> <li>• Assess the health risks of the affected population in terms of health services, prevention, health needs and risk of communicable diseases.</li> <li>• Provide First Aid and referral services for affected communities through 500 volunteers in the coming 6 months.</li> <li>• Distribute 9,000 mosquito nets to 4,500 families (22,500 beneficiaries) within six months accompanied by key health messages and follow up activities through trained volunteers.</li> <li>• Purchase, transport, store and distribute Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) for 9,000 families for three months.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** For prevention on health and care, the Regional Office has deployed in Liberia and Guinea mosquito nets for pregnant women, children under five, the elderly and the disabled. Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) are equally being purchased and will be distributed among most vulnerable refugees. An on-going assessment is in progress for the registration of beneficiaries in the targeted communities.

**Challenges:** There is a lack of or inadequate health facilities in most host communities; and a lack of drugs where health facilities exist. Some refugees have also specific health challenges and disabilities.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 9,000 families (45,000 beneficiaries) in Liberia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea for 6 months.**

Outputs	Activities planned
Safe water is provided to 9,000 families as damaged systems are restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dug 10 hand wells for refugees hosted in Liberia.</li> <li>• Distributing 4,500 Jerry Cans to 4,500 families.</li> <li>• Preposition of water and sanitation Kit 5 for the provision of clean water to affected population.</li> </ul>
The health status of the population is improved through behavioural change and hygiene promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train 450 community-based volunteers on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and the International Federation WatSan software in Liberia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea.</li> <li>• Initiate a hygiene promotion campaign within the affected population focusing on behavioural change and targeting 45,000 people in Liberia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea through the use of posters, flyers, manuals, educational materials, etc.</li> </ul>
The scope and quality of the Red Cross of Liberia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct 20 trainings on PHAST, water supply, sanitation, etc for 500 volunteers, coaches, staff, in the affected branches within the next 6 months.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** Wells with hand pumps exist in almost all communities with high concentration of refugees in Liberia. However, the majority of them need repair. The International Federation will support the National Societies in the rehabilitation of 15 more wells in 10 to 12 communities. As for the physical inspection of the wells, it is still in progress. LNRCs with support from the Federation has started social mobilization for hygiene promotion. The rehabilitation of four wells with hand pumps and one water source and the construction of 70 latrines in three host communities in Nimba County have also commenced. A detailed plan of action has been drafted to guide the implementation of activities under this sector for the next few weeks. The watsan activities are planned in coordination with ICRC.

## Logistics

<b>Outcome: The local logistics and transport capacity of the Red Cross Societies to respond with relief items is strengthened with the support of standardized items pre-positioned with also the technical support to effectively manage the supply chain from arrival of relief items including clearance, storage and forwarding to distribution.</b>	
Outputs	Activities planned
Coordinated mobilization of relief goods.  Coordinated reception of all incoming goods.  Coordinated warehousing centralized provision of standard vehicles as required; and coordinated and efficient dispatching of goods to the final distribution points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatching to end user.</li> <li>• Carry out reception of relief goods and arrange warehousing and transportation to distributions points following the International Federation logistics procedures.</li> <li>• Liaise and coordinate with other key actors to ensure best uses of all information.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** The Regional logistics unit in Dakar in close coordination with the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Dubai has dispatched stock of NFI in Liberia (expected to be available in the National Society on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Guinea, Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso to strengthen the response capacity of the respective National Societies. RLU will provide additional logistics capacity in each National Society if required. The Regional Logistics Unit has coordinated the procurement and mobilization of non-food items included in the emergency appeal. The following table is showing the types of items distributed in the five countries.

DESIGNATION	Jerry cans	Blankets	Sleeping mats	Mosquito nets	Buckets	Tents	Soap	Kitchen sets	Tarpaulins
<b>Countries</b>	<b>Quantities</b>								
<b>Guinea</b>	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,500	35	5,250	1,500	
<b>Mali</b>	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	20	1,750	500	
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	20	1,750	500	
<b>Ghana</b>	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	0	1,750	250	1,000
<b>Liberia</b>	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,500	35	5,250	1,000	1,000

## Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The International Federation, through its Regional Office in Dakar, has organized media briefings and interviews. It has also posted press releases on its website that have been picked up by several news agencies. News releases and fact sheets will continue to be developed. A field mission will be carried out in Liberia by an IFRC

communication officer together with his counterpart in the National Society to produce communication materials (video footage, articles, and photos). All these materials will be posted to the Federation public website and shared with other global humanitarian web portals and international media.

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Contact information

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