

# 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° 2  
19 January, 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 4 to 12 January, 2011.

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,350,184;

Appeal coverage: 19%; [<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) to support this operation.
- An information bulletin was issued on 22 December, 2010.
- Operations Update no. 1 covering the period 24 December 2010 to 03 January 2011 was issued and noted the regional coordination mechanism in place.



### Summary:

Côte d'Ivoire has been in turmoil since early December, 2010 when outgoing president Laurent Gbagbo refused to leave office despite opposition leader Alassane Ouattara's UN-certified and internationally-recognized victory in November run-off election. Since then the political and security situation has significantly deteriorated in Côte d'Ivoire. Clashes continue to be reported. The most recent episodes of violence were reported on 11 January in Abobo, a neighborhood in Abidjan, between supporters of Ouattara and the police. According to some media outlets, four people were killed. The ethnic clashes between pro-Ouattara and pro-Gbagbo supporters in Duékoué last week have claimed several deaths and led to a significant increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the town, now estimated at 12,000. The fear of violence has also led to movement of people into neighbouring countries. The number of people that have fled to Liberia has increased, a total of 25,088 people were registered on 14 January. In Guinea 334 displaced people were registered; 80 in Mali and 6 in Burkina Faso. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), around 600 people cross the border each day.

Meanwhile, talks continue with former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo the latest regional figure to attempt mediation. He left Côte d'Ivoire on 10 January after two days of trying to convince Gbagbo to cede power. An offer from Alassane Ouattara to form a unity cabinet to end the political crisis in return for Gbagbo standing down was also refused. The African Union envoy and Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga will return to Côte d'Ivoire within the coming days in attempt to mediate an end to the crisis.

Furthermore a yellow fever outbreak has been recorded with 29 cases and 11 deaths. The World Health Organization (WHO) has planned to send a mission to the field for a clinical and entomological assessment. A preventive yellow fever vaccination campaign was planned for the end of November 2010 but was postponed due to the political situation.

## The situation

The political crisis is far from resolved and continued movement of population across the border of Côte d'Ivoire to neighboring countries is anticipated. The latest official figure of Ivorian refugees in Liberia as registered by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees is now 25,088, mostly in Nimba County, although this is probably an underestimation as registration continues. Other sources raise the estimate to 30,000-32,000. In comparison with Liberia, the number of refugees in the other neighboring countries is small. A total of 334 refugees have been registered in Guinea and 80 in Mali.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire is still highly unstable with any potential outbreak of conflict likely to trigger movement of population within and across borders. In Côte d'Ivoire, violence in the western city of Duékoué has resulted in a significant increase in the number of IDPs in the town, now estimated at 12,000. The National Society (NS) has drafted a plan to respond and is being supported by ICRC. There has also been a reported outbreak of yellow fever in the department of Seguela (Worodougou region, in the Northwest). There are unconfirmed rumors that people may be prevented from fleeing to Liberia in the southern part of Côte d'Ivoire.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Movement coordination is well established through regular coordination meetings, joint assessments and planning, sharing of resources. ICRC and Federation are developing a draft Movement Joint Statement on Côte d'Ivoire. In Dakar, a crisis committee comprising all UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations has been set up under the coordination of OCHA. Regular Movement coordination meetings involving also UNHCR are also taking place in Liberia. There are current plans to launch a Côte d'Ivoire +5 Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP), to which the NS plans would be annexed.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

The International Federation has been supporting all National Societies involved 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; a total of 4,500 families. The International Federation has deployed an Operation Coordinator in Liberia and three experienced regional resource persons to support the Liberian Red Cross Society (LRCS) to carry out a needs assessment and provide assistance to the refugees in the areas assigned to the Red Cross by the national disaster response coordination body. With this technical support, LRCS has commenced the rehabilitation of water points including wells and pumps, the construction of latrines, as well as good hygiene and sanitation sensitization in 18 target communities. The Liberian Red Cross Society is also carrying out restoring family links (RFL) activities and is supporting border monitoring and response teams in all affected border counties. ICRC is supporting the National Society on tracing or RFL. This is being carried out by telephone or Red Cross message. To date 100 messages have been collected and sent to Côte d'Ivoire for distribution; between 10 and 20 unaccompanied refugee minors have been identified and registered for follow up; and 21 Liberian volunteers in the affected communities have received refresher training in tracing and are supporting this work at grassroots' level.

The Liberian Red Cross Society is also reinforcing 12 border monitoring and response teams, which will support border monitoring, first aid, tracing and assistance from a community base in all four border counties. A number of 40 volunteers from community first-aid response teams have been identified and will receive further training for the border monitoring role.

## Progress towards outcomes

### 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	Activities planned
Mortality and morbidity of 45,000 refugees are avoided 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 population movement.</li> <li>Assess the health risks of the affected population in terms of prevention, health services, 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 6 months along with key health messages and follow up activities through trained volunteers.</li> <li>Purchase, transport, store and distribute ORS for 9,000 families for three months.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** Based on its experience and capacity, the Liberian Red Cross Society (LRCS) is supporting first aid with trained volunteers at grassroots' level in each of the communities. Around 28 first-aid volunteers have been mobilized in the communities. This is important as the refugee population is currently spread out over a number of dispersed communities and local volunteers with basic first-aid skills provide first line support. A refresher training of trainers for community health volunteers and chapter staff has been organized. A further training of new volunteers is planned. Through relationships with other organizations, the National Society will also seek to refer people to other medical support as necessary. ICRC has been supplying first-aid materials.

### 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 and 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 in Liberia.</li> <li>Distribute 4,500 jerry cans to 4,500 families.</li> <li>Pre-position 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 PHAST methods and the International Federation Watsan software in Liberia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea.</li> <li>Conduct 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 training sessions on PHAST, water supply, sanitation, etc. for 500 volunteers, coaches, and staff in the affected branches within the next 6 months.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** The LRCS has been providing water and sanitation the district of Gbellageh North (the Gulay axis) in northern Nimba county and 18 target communities within that district. Based on assessments, it is providing support in 17 of these communities (there are no refugees in one community at the moment). The communities

are located in: Guoguatuo, Dulay, Zulay, Kissiplay, Kentorkpoglay, Yolowee, Geipa, Youhnplay, Kporlay, Nyatuo, Sertontuo, Yeaplay, Younlay and Zar-Tarpa. All communities will receive support in hygiene promotion and household chlorination, but the following seven communities (with two more planned) — Guoguatuo, Dulay, Zulay, Kentorkpoglay, Nyatuo, Sertontuo and Zar-Tarpa — will receive hardware support for water point construction and rehabilitation (wells and hand pumps), water catchment and latrine construction. The National Society is currently conducting training of volunteers and chapter staff in hygiene promotion and social mobilization with support from the International Federation. The following table gives more details about the completed activities and the planned ones:

Completed activities	Planned activities
With support from the International Federation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 pits for household latrines have been completed, local materials procured and 10 construction teams identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The construction of 70 household latrines in 6 communities.</li> <li>12 two-pit latrines in Sehtontuo town.</li> <li>31 wells and hand pumps to be rehabilitated (19 in Nimba county and 12 at border crossing points (with support from IFRC)</li> </ul>
With support from ICRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four two-pit latrines are under construction in Sehtontuo.</li> <li>The repair and rehabilitation of four wells has been achieved (two wells in Dulay town, one in Kentorkpoglay town and another one in Zualay town).</li> <li>Four hand pumps have been repaired in the same towns.</li> <li>60 jerry cans and 200 soaps have been distributed.</li> <li>Two hygiene promotion sessions have been led.</li> <li>Four meters of water column have been procured.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rehabilitation of 6 wells and the repair of hand pumps (with support from ICRC).</li> <li>5 hygiene promotion sessions to be led.</li> <li>The distribution of 5 water guard (distribution of 2,000 bottles).</li> </ul>

## Logistics

**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.**

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 distribution 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 dispatching of stocks has been completed for 500 families in Mali, 500 in Ghana and 500 in Burkina Faso. It is still ongoing for 1,500 families in Liberia and Guinea. Each family will receive: 2 blankets; 2 sleeping mats; 2 mosquito nets; 1 bucket of 15 litres; 1 jerry can of 20 litres; 1 kitchen set; 2 tarpaulins and shelter toolkits.

With support from ICRC, a warehouse space has been made available in Monrovia and Zwedru. Four pick-ups or trucks have also been made available through the collaboration between LRCS and ICRC. The International

Federation has provided support with two containers of non-food items expected at the National Society in the following days for use in affected communities and pre-positioning. The goods include: one watsan kit for 5,000 people; 1,500 jerry cans; 1,500 buckets; 3,000 mats; 3,000 mosquito nets; 1,000 tarpaulins; 1,500 blankets; 1,000 kitchen sets; 5,250 pieces of soap, and 35 tents.

## 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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