

# Cote d'Ivoire

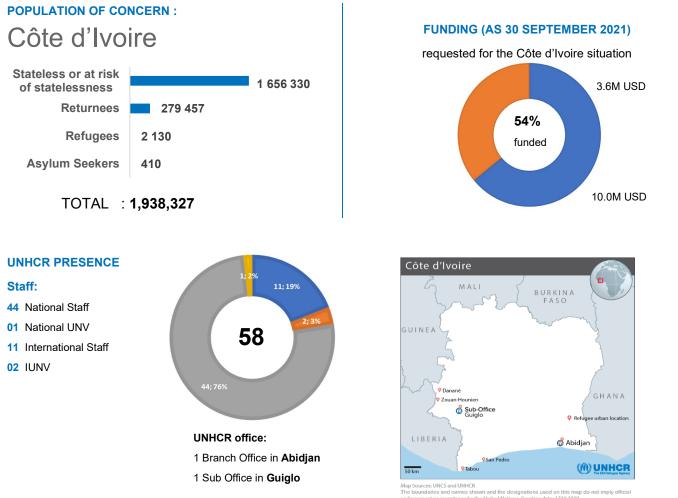
September 2021

In a context of COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR assisted with the **voluntary repatriation of 2,747 Ivorians** from Benin, Ghana, Mauritania, Liberia and Togo

Ministerial Regional Meeting in Abidjan: signature of a joint declaration leading to cessation of refugee status as of June 30, 2022

### Influx of over 3,000 people from Burkina

*Faso*, Government and UNHCR on the front line to provide emergency assistance



#### **WORKING WITH PARTNERS**

UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire works in close partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, *Caritas-CI*, *World Food Program* (*WFP*), the *United Nations Volunteers Programme* (*UNV*) and *Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire* (*AFJCI*).

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors to the Côte d'Ivoire operation: United States of America Germany| Private donors Australia | Canada | Private donors Germany| France | Japan | Luxembourg | Spain | Norway |Private donors|



## **Main Activities**

#### **Voluntary Repatriation of Ivorian Refugees**

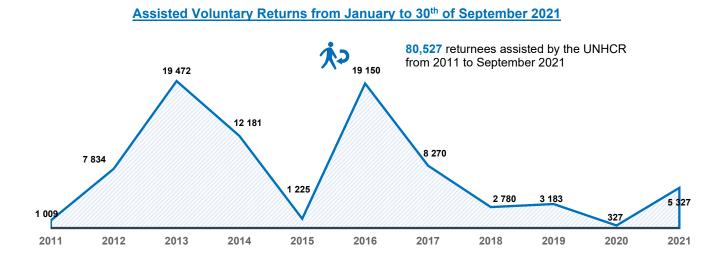
VolRep Recap – September 2021.

| Date                 | CoA        | Returnees | *Other Of<br>Concern | Household |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 01 September 2021    | Liberia    | 199       | 0                    | 60        |
| 02 September 2021    | Liberia    | 167       | 3                    | 38        |
| 03 September 2021    | Liberia    | 56        | 0                    | 16        |
| 04 September 2021    | Liberia    | 162       | 0                    | 35        |
| 06 September 2021    | Liberia    | 169       | 3                    | 51        |
| 07 September 2021    | Mauritania | 1         | 0                    | 1         |
| 08 September 2021    | Liberia    | 169       | 1                    | 45        |
| 08 September 2021    | Liberia    | 168       | 4                    | 48        |
| 08 September 2021    | Liberia    | 160       | 8                    | 42        |
| 09 September 2021    | Togo       | 2         | 0                    | 1         |
| 10 September 2021    | Ghana      | 178       | 0                    | 71        |
| 10 September 2021    | Benin      | 6         | 0                    | 4         |
| 10 September 2021    | Liberia    | 154       | 5                    | 40        |
| 10 September 2021    | Liberia    | 218       | 22                   | 73        |
| 15 September 2021    | Liberia    | 170       | 0                    | 58        |
| 17 September 2021    | Liberia    | 86        | 7                    | 20        |
| 17 September 2021    | Liberia    | 165       | 0                    | 53        |
| 20 September 2021    | Togo       | 65        | 0                    | 26        |
| 20 September 2021    | Liberia    | 99        | 3                    | 40        |
| 22 September 2021    | Liberia    | 56        | 2                    | 20        |
| 24 September 2021    | Liberia    | 31        | 0                    | 8         |
| 28 September 2021    | Liberia    | 247       | 0                    | 58        |
| 29 September 2021    | Liberia    | 19        | 0                    | 8         |
| TOTAL SEPTEMBER 2021 | 16         | 2747      | 58                   | 816       |

\* NoC (Not of Concern) refers to returnees relatives accompanying their Ivorian families



Since January 2021, a total of 5,327 Ivorian refugees have been repatriated with UNHCR assistance, 2560 of whom from Liberia.



#### Refugees

 As of August 31<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a total of 2,130 refugees and 410 asylum seekers are registered in Côte d'Ivoire.

#### Sahel situation and influx of asylum seekers from Burkina Faso

On September 8, 2021, some populations of the villages of Farango, Farakorosso, Kangodia, Mouroukoudougou, Nyangbo and Mouassikoro in the province of Comoé, region of the Cascades, in Burkina Fasso, crossed the border to seek asylum in northern Côte d'Ivoire following the presence of armed men and alleged assassinations in their areas. To assess the situation, a joint UNHCR and DAARA visited these populations in distress, in the Department of Tehini, in order to meet their basic needs. These populations expressed to the mission their willingness to settle in the host villages, and consequently, to submit asylum requests in order to benefit from international protection. As of September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the global figure, including people who arrived in May, is of 3,039 persons. To note that another joint UNHCR and DAARA mission is ongoing and might come up with even higher figures.

| Localités    | Nombre de Refugiés |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Moromoro     | 1058               |
| Tougbo       | 957                |
| Sessegbo     | 26                 |
| Farako       | 36                 |
| Bole         | 659                |
| Didassakoura | 161                |
| Lorogbo      | 28                 |
| Lekouedor    | 84                 |
| Total        | 3039               |



On September 30th 2021, a joint mission including 3 Ministers (solidarity, security, planning and development) and UNHCR Representative visited Tehini, to provide food and non-food assistance to meet the basic needs of about 3,000 people who found asylum in northern Côte d'Ivoire. The Government donation, of about USD 95,000 included essential medicines, 25 tons of rice, 5 tons of canned tomatoes, 2 tons of pasta, 7,200 pieces of soap, 453 mats, kettles and 2 million FCFA in cash. In addition, UNHCR also proceeded, in the Sub-prefecture of Tougbo, to the distribution of NFIs to 531 people (96 households) including kitchen kits, mats, soaps, blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, etc. It should be noted that prior to these assistances, UNHCR with its partners CARITAS, DAARA, along with UNICEF proceeded, on June, to the distribution of NFI for 427 people and 23 host families in the department of Tehini.



3 Ministers of Côte d'Ivoire Government and UNHCR Representative at Tehini for emergency assistance to asylum seekers from Burkina Faso

#### Ministerial Regional Meeting for Comprehensive Solutions to Ivorian Refugees

On September 07, 2021, the governments of Ivory Coast, the countries hosting large numbers of Ivoirian refugees and UNHCR signed a joint declaration leading to cessation of refugee status as of June 30, 2022. The agreement came after a two-day ministerial regional meeting held in Abidjan which also stressed the need to intensify voluntary repatriation of over 50,000 Ivorians refugees and support alternative legal status for those who opt to remain in their countries of asylum. Ministers and High-level Government Officials from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, and Togo attended the meeting with participation of UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, the Regional Bureau Director for West and Central Africa, Representatives and colleagues from asylum countries and Regional Bureau.





Abidjan - Official signature of the joint declaration leading to cessation of refugee status

#### **Statelessness**

- Over 10,000 children, unregistered at birth, are expected to receive late birth certificate by the end of 2022 in the district of Abidjan. As part of a campaign against statelessness, NGO RADDEF has launched the initiative, on September 20th, 2021, with technical participation of UNHCR. According to UNICEF, more than 28% of children under 5 are still not registered at birth in Côte d'Ivoire, that is about one million children.
- From September 29 to 30, 2021, UNHCR has organized a workshop in Guiglo to reinforce the capacity of 21 journalists, mostly from community radios, on its mandate and communication opportunities. The participants reiterated their willingness to strengthen collaboration with the UNHCR and to intensify communication, trough radio shows, to better protect the rights of refugees, returnees and people at risk of statelessness.

#### COVID-19

The repatriation of Ivorians refugees is ongoing in the strict respect of protection measures in all the UNHCR transit centers with disposal of hand washing kits, hydro hygienic gel, masks, etc.

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