

Cote d'Ivoire

December 2018

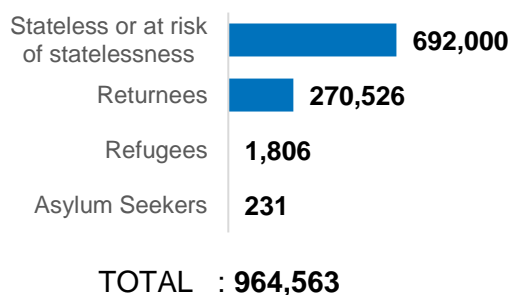
Regional meeting: Côte d'Ivoire and countries of asylum adopt a **road map for the repatriation of 11,000 Ivorian refugees over 18 months.**

UNHCR assisted with the **Voluntary Repatriation of 183 households of 611 Ivorian** from November to December 2018.

For the **first time ever**, a judge grants **nationality certificate to 6 foundlings**

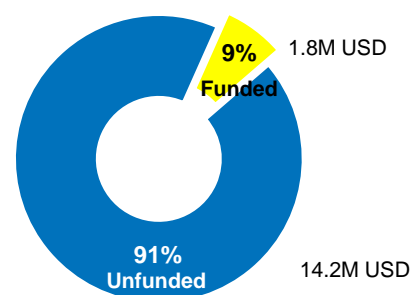
POPULATION OF CONCERN :

Côte d'Ivoire



FUNDING (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018)

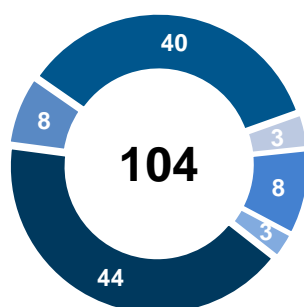
requested for the Côte d'Ivoire situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 42 National Staff
- 40 National UNV
- 08 International Staff
- 03 IUNV
- 03 Interns
- 08 Consultant



UNHCR office:

- 1 Branch Office in **Abidjan**
- 1 Sub Office in **Guiglo**



Map Sources: UNCS and UNHCR
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 17.10.2018.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire works in close partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry Justice and Human Rights, *Association de Soutien à l'Auto-promotion Sanitaire Urbaine (ASAPSU)*, *Caritas-CI*, *Développement Rural et Agricole à l'Ouest (DRAO)*, *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: [Denmark](#) | [Private donors in Japan](#) | [Peacebuilding Fund](#), as well as donors of unrestricted and regional funds: [United States of America](#) | [Sweden](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [Italy](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Norway](#) | [Private donors in Spain](#) | [Australia](#) | [Japan](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [France](#) | [Canada](#) | [Private donors in Italy](#).



Foundlings receiving late birth certificates in Soubre @UNHCR/Archives and in Korhogo @UNHCR/A. Aka

Main Activities

Security

In a context of persistent rumors of potential insecurity, the Coordinator for the United Nations System has instructed to minimize the presence of field staff in the West during the holiday season. Therefore, only essential staff remained in the field during the period.

Regional meeting

A regional meeting ([press piece](#)) on durable solutions for Ivorian refugees took place from 28 to 29 November 2018 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire with the participation of authorities from Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali and Togo, the main host countries for Ivorian refugees. The main outcome of the meeting is the adoption of a roadmap for the promotion of the repatriation with return of 11,000 Ivorian refugees over 18 months starting in January 2019. Among other major recommendations are:

- The harmonization and increase in cash grant: CFA 200,000 per person regardless of age.
- Ensure access to housing for all returnees: 1 household =1 shelter in rural areas and rental, for six months, in urban areas (Abidjan).
- Provide assistance through cash modality, including food and school kits, by prioritizing mobile money transfers.

Voluntary Repatriation of Ivorian Refugees

- VolRep Recap – December 2018.

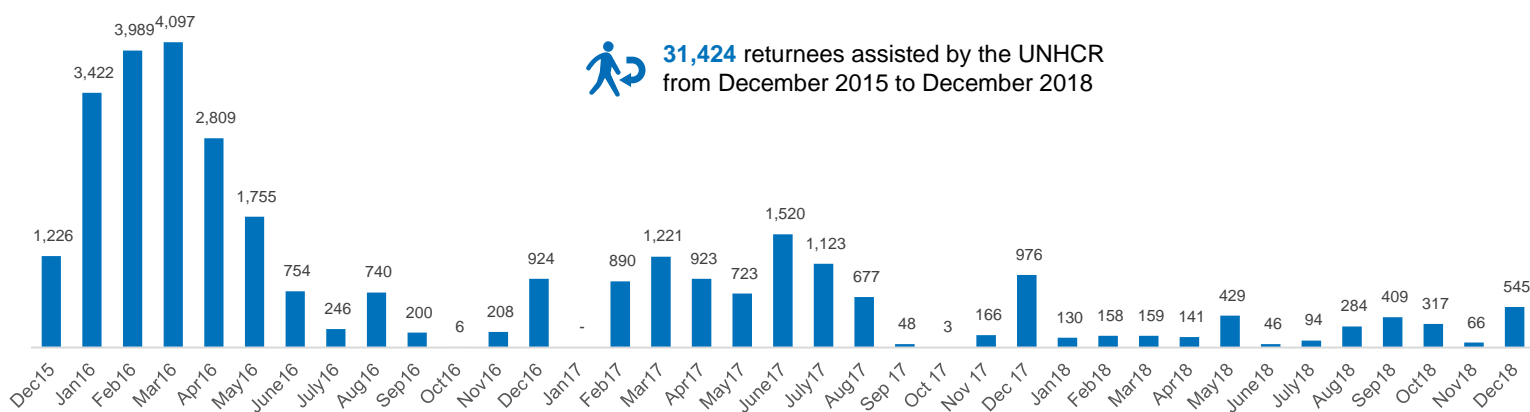
Date	CoA	Returns	Household	NoC*
Thursday, December 06, 2018	Ghana	35	10	0
Thursday, December 06, 2018	Liberia	45	18	1
Wednesday, December 12, 2018	Liberia	37	9	0
Thursday, December 13, 2018	Ghana	1	1	0
Thursday, December 27, 2018	Togo	34	16	0
Friday, December 28, 2018	Ghana	10	4	0
Friday, December 28, 2018	Liberia	15	2	0
Saturday, December 29, 2018	Liberia	361	95	0
Monday, December 31, 2018	Liberia	7	1	0

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

Among the returnees in December 2018 is Charles Dosso Rodel, the former Secretary of State for War Victims in the last government of former President of Cote d'Ivoire Laurent Gbagbo ([press piece](#))

- 01 January-31 December 2018, a total of **2,778** Ivorian refugees have been repatriated to Cote d'Ivoire with UNHCR support.
- Since 2015, a total of **31,424** Ivorian refugees have been repatriated, **28,745** of whom from Liberia and **2,679** from other countries (As of December 31st, 2018).

Assisted Voluntary Returns from December 2015 to 31st December 2018



Refugees

- As of December 31st, 2018, a total of **1,806** refugees and **231** asylum seekers are registered in Cote d'Ivoire.

Reintegration

■ Shelter/Latrines

- 198/198 shelters have been completed.
- 198/198 latrines have been completed.

■ Community Empowerment and Self-reliance

- On 27/12/2018 took place the closing workshop ([press piece](#)) for the pilot phase of the 'Community Connectivity Project'. Among other outcomes of the workshop, the National Office of Identification and UNHCR have agreed to prospect the temporary use of Voluntary Repatriation Form (VRF), to allow returnees to subscribe to mobile identification number in order to benefit assistance through mobile cash transfer modality. WFP, which has a sound experience and all the necessary accreditations, will be in charge to implement the mobile transfer solution.

Prior to the closure of the pilot phase, the project team met with Ivorians refugees in Liberia, Guinea and Ghana to present the project and advantages of the mobile transfer solutions: security, safety, dignity, flexibility, etc. Funded by UNHCR innovation funds (25 000 USD), the pilot phase started on October 2019 for three months and involved refugees, Government structures, UN agencies, mobile operators and media.

- Two sessions have been organized in Daloa and San Pedro to reinforce capacity of security agents, economic operators and bank agents on refugees' international protection and recognition of refugees' ID cards. About 140 participants attended the sessions.
- Two unaccompanied children, previously refugees in Ghana, have been reunited with their families in Abidjan.

■ Health

- In December 2018, 32 refugees have benefited from medical care in Guiglo area.
- A death of a man refugee from San Pedro has been registered on 26th of December 2018 after his medical evacuation in Abidjan for further treatment. UNHCR and local authorities offered their condolences.
- 50 peer educators have been trained in Bin-Houyé and Zouan-Hounien on transmission methods and prevention techniques for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as communication methods.

■ Sexual Gender-Based Violence

- UNHCR has participated to the launch of the 16 days of activism at Tai, from 05 to 06 December 2018. The official ceremony took place at the Lycée Moderne, followed by a film screening which brought together about 350 participants. Overall, GBV statistics recorded in 2018 reveal: 96 cases including 19 rapes against minors and 22 cases of violence against students.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and DAARA have trained 33 refugees on GBV in Guiglo.

■ Donors visit

- Health Mr. Tomáš Urubek, Head of Unit for Foreign and European Affairs, Department of Asylum and Migration Policy, Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic and Mr. Lukáš Kindl, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Accra have visited UNHCR operations ([press piece](#)) in the field in Guiglo: meetings with local authorities, people at risk of statelessness, returnees, school and medical center rehabilitated, cassava processing and fishery, etc. For their first visit to the field, the Czech donors were extremely impressed by results of the operation within a short time and especially for 'the smile the project has put on children face' as they said.

Statelessness

■ Mapping operation

- The quantitative aspect of the mapping operation is now ended. In December, specialists from National Institute of Statistics, UNHCR and others partners met several times to evaluate the different variables from the data collected from over 9,000 households across the country. Preliminary results show that areas with populations of high risk of statelessness are Danane, Man, Boundiali, Agboville and Bondoukou. The qualitative aspect of the mapping operation is expected to be finalized soon.

■ Identification

- In the localities of Danane, Meagui, Zouan-Hounien, Tabou, Seguela, Sassandra and Soubre, 396 people at risk of statelessness have been identified and registered on UNHCR Kobo server.

■ Prevention

- During this reporting period, UNHCR Field Protection Assistants have carried awareness campaign on statelessness, the importance of birth registration and on procedures to get late birth certificate. Overall, 2,081 people have been reached in Daloa, Aboisso, Tanda, Bouna, Korhogo, Sinematiali, Zenoula, Bouafle, Danane, Meagui, San Pedro, and Soubre.

■ Reduction

- Few weeks after getting their late birth certificates, 6 foundlings have got their nationality certificates as results of joint efforts by UNHCR, DAARA and Association des Femmes Juristes in Soubre. The judge has agreed to grant nationality to the foundlings on the basis of the 1961 Convention, ratified by Cote d'Ivoire in 2013. This ever first time remarkable achievement, creates a precedent and paves the way for judges to grant further nationality certificates.

■ Protection

- In December, 442 late birth certificates have been delivered in Mayo, Soubré, Seguela, Sassandra, Danané and Zaouan Hounien.
- On the 11th of December, the Ministry of Justice has introduced, to the Committee on General and Institutional Affairs of the Parliament, the amnesty decree issued by the President of the Republic on August 6, 2018 in favor of 800 prisoners of the post-electoral crisis. This marks a step further towards its transformation into law by the Parliament in the future. Many refugees, especially in Ghana, has requested the decree be transformed into law.

■ Communication

- 5/12/2018 “friends of the stateless” met at residency of the USA Chargé d’Affaires to share latest information on statelessness. UNHCR Representative has brief participants on key activities and especially on the mapping operation. The “friends of the stateless” includes donors, embassies, UN agencies and other partners and aims to advocate for issues related to statelessness.
- UNHCR participated to the Traditional Dance Festival (FESTIBO) in the Bounkani through stand display ([press piece](#)) and mass outreach on issue of statelessness, which reached approximately 6,500 people, including traditional, political, administrative, and religious authorities.
- On 17th of December 2018, UNHCR, in collaboration with DAARA, has launched the 2nd edition ([video piece](#)) of the contest to award to best journalist for the fight against statelessness. More than 40 journalists participated to the 1st edition of the contest with great media interest and coverage on the issue of statelessness.



Abidjan - Participants to the regional meeting on durable solutions for Ivorian refugees from Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Liberia, Togo and UNHCR staff from Regional Bureau and HQ - @UNHCR/D. Guirou

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

United States of America | UN Peacebuilding Fund

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Denmark | Private donors in Japan| Peacebuilding Fund, as well as donors of unrestricted and regional funds: [United States of America](#) | [Sweden](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [Italy](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Norway](#) | Private donors in Spain | [Australia](#) | [Japan](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [France](#) | [Canada](#) | [UN Program HIV/AIDS](#) | Private donors in Italy.

CONTACTS

Daouda Guirou, Associate PI/Communications Officer

guirou@unhcr.org, Tel: +225 45 72 01 56

Jean-Charles KIZIMA, Associate Information Management Officer,

kizima@unhcr.org, Tel: +225 74 80 89 81

LINKS

[Country Portal](#) - [Ivorian Returnee Situation](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [YouTube](#) - [LuQuLuQu Campaign](#)