BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Côte d'Ivoire – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 April 8, 2011

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Humanitarian conditions in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire's economic hub and a city of 5 million people, are growing increasingly serious as the current conflict continues, while humanitarian needs persist in western Côte d'Ivoire. Although forces loyal to U.N.-recognized president Alassane Ouattara had isolated former president Laurent Gbagbo at his residence as of April 8, and pro-Ouattara forces had taken control of most of the city, insecurity in Abidjan continues to result in deteriorating humanitarian conditions and extremely limited access to populations in need. Humanitarian access in western Côte d'Ivoire has improved since pro-Ouattara forces took control of the area in early April.
- Critical humanitarian needs in Abidjan include access to food, water, and medical services, with conditions compounded by lack of electricity, insufficient access to cash and markets, and residents' inability to move outside their homes due to insecurity. Conflict in Abidjan has forced many relief agency staff to shelter in place or evacuate, and roadblocks and ongoing militia presence are impeding needs assessments and aid deliveries.
- In the west, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are increasingly able to conduct assessments, deliver emergency relief commodities, and provide humanitarian assistance. According to an April 1 U.N. interagency assessment mission to the western town of Duékoué, humanitarian needs include food, medicine, programs to assist victims of violence, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as ensuring physical security and alleviating overcrowded displacement sites.
- Refugees continue to flow into Liberia, with Nimba County hosting the majority of the refugees, most of whom are staying with host communities near the border rather than move into refugee camps. While U.N. agencies and NGOs are reaching refugees and host communities with significant quantities of aid, the hosting situation is straining local resources, and poor roads impede humanitarian access to remote villages.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Côte d'Ivoire	More than 1 million	OCHA[1] – April 8, 2011
People Displaced from Côte d'Ivoire to Liberia	131,862	UNHCR[2] – April 8, 2011
People Displaced from Côte d'Ivoire to Other Countries	10,948	UNHCR – April 8, 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia..... $3,734,633
USAID/FFP[3] Assistance to Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia $15,400,000
State/PRM[4] Assistance to Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia $12,600,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia..... $31,734,633

CONTEXT

- Following the disputed presidential election in November 2010 in Côte d'Ivoire between Alassane Ouattara—recognized by the U.N. as the winner—and then-incumbent Laurent Gbagbo, increasingly intense fighting between forces loyal to the two sides has resulted in extensive displacement throughout Côte d'Ivoire and into neighboring countries, primarily Liberia. While the majority of displacement has occurred within or from Abidjan, OCHA estimates that 82,000 people are also currently displaced in the west.
- Despite ongoing talks to resolve the conflict, the U.N. reports that some supporters loyal to former president Laurent Gbagbo may refuse to accept a negotiated ceasefire. As a result, retaliation by forces loyal to either side may still occur in Abidjan and elsewhere in Côte d'Ivoire, and a solution to the political impasse may not necessarily lead to a quick end to the humanitarian emergency.
- On January 4, 2011, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Linda Thomas-Greenfield issued a disaster declaration in Liberia due to the increasing humanitarian needs of communities hosting Ivorian refugees and citizens of other countries also fleeing Côte d'Ivoire. On March 13, U.S. Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire Phillip Carter III issued a disaster declaration in Côte d'Ivoire due to the humanitarian impact of the increasing violence and extensive displacement.

[1] U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
[2] Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
[3] USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)
[4] U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Abidjan: Humanitarian Needs

- Relief agencies and international media report that water and electricity in Abidjan have been permanently or intermittently unavailable in many neighborhoods in recent days, that food prices have risen by 200 to 400 percent, and that most medical facilities are either closed or unable to treat wounded patients for lack of supplies. Residents are unable to access cash, stores are mostly closed, and supplies are dwindling. Some residents are walking several miles in search of food and water despite the danger and the noon curfew, and some are collecting water from Abidjan's polluted lagoon.
- While humanitarian access in Abidjan continues to be extremely limited, some humanitarian assistance is resuming, and USAID, U.N. agencies, and NGOs will conduct needs assessments and resume delivery of additional humanitarian assistance as soon as security conditions permit.

Côte d'Ivoire: Food Security

- On April 5, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported having reached 4,000 displaced people in Abidjan with emergency food distributions before the fighting reached the city; however, WFP has suspended operations in Abidjan and will only be able to continue food distributions when the security situation stabilizes. In recent days, WFP has delivered 85 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance to Duékoué in the west.
- USAID/FFP is currently providing approximately 2,620 MT of food commodities, valued at approximately $4.5 million, to WFP's emergency operation (EMOP) in Côte d'Ivoire. The EMOP is designed to provide food assistance to address the 180-day food needs of 125,000 IDPs and other affected Ivorians. USAID/FFP also authorized an immediate loan of 133 MT of food commodities from a longer-term WFP program—supported by USAID/FFP—to the WFP EMOP in Côte d'Ivoire.

Côte d'Ivoire: Health and WASH

- On April 7, OCHA reported that a shortage of water treatment chemicals in Abidjan could lead to a further decrease in the supply of clean water in coming days. Before intense fighting reached the city, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had been able to facilitate transport of chemicals to a water treatment plant.
- During the past weeks, intermittent electricity supply in western, northern, and eastern Côte d'Ivoire has threatened access to water—since electricity is needed for water treatment—and thus raised the risk of increased disease incidence. However, electricity and water in areas outside Abidjan appeared to be restored to normal levels as of April 1.
- Lack of medicine, supplies, equipment, and staff continues to hinder provision of medical care to displaced people and victims of violence. In the west in recent days, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) has delivered medicine and malaria kits, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has begun WASH interventions and distributed medicine, and ICRC has delivered 12 MT of medical equipment.
- In response to health and WASH concerns, USAID/OFDA has committed $1 million to UNICEF for health interventions and WASH activities to benefit approximately 277,000 IDPs and other conflict-affected Ivorians.

Côte d'Ivoire: Other Humanitarian Assistance

- USAID/OFDA has provided $500,000 to OCHA to support humanitarian coordination in Côte d'Ivoire. State/PRM has provided $700,000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support IDP camp coordination programs and transportation of individuals fleeing Côte d'Ivoire. State/PRM has also provided $2.5 million to UNHCR for protection and camp coordination programs in Côte d'Ivoire and contingency planning in neighboring countries hosting Ivorian refugees.

Liberia: Assistance to Host Communities and Refugees

- According to UNHCR, approximately 93,000 refugees are currently in Nimba County, 31,000 are in Grand Gedeh County, and increasing numbers are arriving in Maryland County. Current WFP food aid distributions, Liberia National Red Cross relief commodity deliveries, and assistance provided at UNHCR refugee camps and transit centers are benefiting refugees in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, and Maryland counties.
- As a large majority of refugees in Liberia are staying with host families, USAID/OFDA has provided more than $1 million to UNICEF, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and EQUIP Liberia to support health and nutrition activities for more than 220,000 people in Liberian communities that are hosting refugees. USAID/OFDA has also provided more than $1.2 million to relief agencies for WASH interventions to reduce the risk of waterborne disease, shelter support to ease the overcrowded living conditions of host communities, and humanitarian protection programs to assist victims of violence.
- USAID/FFP has approved funding for approximately 7,590 MT of food, valued at approximately $10.9 million, to WFP's Liberia EMOP to address the food needs of Ivorian refugees and affected Liberians in Nimba, Grand

Gedeh, and Maryland counties. USAID/FFP's contribution anticipates an expected expansion of the EMOP to accommodate the increasing number of refugees in need of food assistance.

- State/PRM has provided $7.8 million to UNHCR for a multi-sector response for Ivorian refugees, $600,000 to WFP to augment logistical capacity of humanitarian agencies working in the country, and $1 million to various non-governmental organizations to support relief efforts.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND LIBERIA

FY 2011			
Implementing Partner	***Activity***	***Location***	***Amount***
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE[1]			
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Côte d'Ivoire: Affected Areas	$500,000
UNICEF	Health, WASH	Côte d'Ivoire: Affected Areas	$1,000,000
Subtotal of USAID/OFDA Assistance to Côte d'Ivoire			*$1,500,000*
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Shelter and Settlements	Nimba County, Liberia	$339,956
EQUIP Liberia	Health, Protection, WASH	Nimba County, Liberia	$646,290
IRC	Health, Protection, WASH	Nimba County, Liberia	$448,387
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Nimba County, Liberia	$800,000
Subtotal of USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia			*$2,234,633*
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			**$3,734,633**
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE[2]			
WFP	2,620 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Côte d'Ivoire: Affected Areas	$4,500,000
Subtotal of USAID/FFP Assistance to Côte d'Ivoire			*$4,500,000*
WFP	7,590 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Liberia: Affected Areas	$10,900,000
Subtotal of USAID/FFP Assistance to Liberia			*$10,900,000*
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			**$15,400,000**
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IOM	Camp Coordination	Côte d'Ivoire: Affected Areas	$700,000
UNHCR	Protection, Camp Coordination	Côte d'Ivoire: Affected Areas	$2,500,000
Subtotal of State/PRM Assistance to Côte d'Ivoire			*$3,200,000*
UNHCR	Protection, Refugee Assistance	Liberia: Affected Areas	$7,800,000
WFP	Logistics	Liberia: Affected Areas	$600,000
Various	Refugee Assistance	Liberia: Affected Areas	$1,000,000
Subtotal of State/PRM Assistance to Liberia			*$9,400,000*
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			**$12,600,000**
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND LIBERIA IN FY 2011			**$31,734,633**

[1] USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 8, 2011.
[2] Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for earthquake and tsunami response efforts in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
  Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int