This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Côte d'Ivoire. It covers the period from 21 May to 26 May, 2011. The next report will be issued on or around 2 June, 2011.

I. Highlights/key priorities

- Inter-agency assessment shows serious incidence of gender-based violence in Abidjan in the context of the post-electoral crisis.
- As access to troubled districts of Abidjan improves, humanitarian needs in key sectors become more evident.
- Small levels of displacement continue.
- Humanitarian actors reiterate the importance of security and improved protection for return of the displaced.
- Yellow fever vaccination campaign achieves 90 per cent coverage in 23 districts.
- Construction work at the Nahibly IDP site in Duékoué to be completed by 4 June.

II. Situation Overview

The overall security situation in Abidjan is stable but security incidents continue to occur. Access to the more troubled districts in Abidjan of Yopougon and Abobo has improved overall, enabling more assessment of key areas which reveal gaps in humanitarian assistance and point to the need for more humanitarian actors to intervene in the area. While coverage of the internally displaced population in sites remains good, there are concerns over the coverage of the most vulnerable sections of the population elsewhere. MSF-Switzerland has brought attention to the high number of people suffering from malaria amongst those attending their clinics and the need for wider distribution of mosquito nets during the current rainy season. A very high number of mosquito nets have been transported to the Côte d’Ivoire, but remain inaccessible for administrative reasons. Consequently, agencies are purchasing additional nets for distribution. Protection, psycho-social support, nutrition, water, rehabilitation of shelter and disposal of human remains are also seen as priority intervention areas. Linking humanitarian assistance with recovery activities such as reinforcing social services, social integration and income generating activities is also seen as vital.

In Abidjan, as at 23 May, 56,804 IDPs spread across 43 sites and host families have been registered. Other new sites are reported to be springing up. In Abobo, Anyama and Yopougon, the return of an unconfirmed number of IDPs have been observed. The IDPs return is being ascribed to threats of eviction from owners of premises occupied by the IDPs. At the Lackman zone in Attiecoube neighbourhood of Abidjan, 995 IDPs comprised of more than 300 children and 70 pregnant women returned home after having been forced to quit the Base de la Marine site. They found their homes and properties burned down and currently live in deplorable situation near a waste disposal site.

A group of 11 NGOs and UN agencies conducted on 18-19 May a rapid assessment of gender-based violence in most districts of Abidjan. 82% of the GBV cases recorded were sexual assault (of which 34% were conducted by groups of assailants). 37% of the survivors of gender-based violence were minors and 45% of the sexual assaults were conducted by people carrying weapons. The assessment highlights the level of mainly sexual gender-based violence and the current inadequacy of psycho-social support for survivors of violence and for the community members having undergone critical incidents.

The protection cluster in the meantime continues to advocate for provision of security by state authorities to facilitate the return of IDPs to their habitual residence zones. This view is supported by Amnesty International’s report highlighting serious human rights violations in Côte d’Ivoire. The reported added that members of the Armed Forces committed war crimes and crimes against humanity during six months of violence following the disputed elections. The organization is urging the country’s new authorities to urgently re-establish the rule of law and the people's trust in impartial security forces.

In the West, field monitoring visits conducted by UNHCR and partners to IDP sites Zouan-Hounien, Guiglo and Bangolo in the Moyen Cavally and Dix-Huit Montagnes regions show that most IDPs continue to indicate their willingness to return home. Despite this, the protection cluster however raised security concerns related to political affiliation, extortion at military barricades and absence of documentation as major obstacles to returning home. In the Bas-Sassandra province of South Western Côte d’Ivoire, the situation of women and children is giving humanitarian actors concern according to a report published by UNICEF. Weeks of fighting near the town of Soubré...
has caused populations to flee the area and prevented humanitarian actors from providing lifesaving assistance to affected populations.

Within the last two weeks, the volatile security situation has disrupted twice, planned vaccination campaign against Polio by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. It is important to note that the detected case of Polio Virus type 2 in the province was last reported in Cote d’Ivoire en 2000. UNICEF remains concerned that the situation of displaced women and children cannot but deteriorate further if secured humanitarian access is not rapidly restored to enable field teams to evaluate needs and provide needed emergency assistance.

The presence of armed groups in intervention areas is now limiting the access of humanitarian workers in certain zones in the West. The perceived lack of security for example continues to hamper WASH-related assistance in several villages along the Zouan –Hounien - Toulepleu – Blolequin - Guiglo axis. Many IDPs and villagers are said to be reluctant in coming out of the forest and do so only at the sight of a NGO vehicle. The provision of appropriate and adequate levels of emergency assistance to affected populations is compromised by the difficulty in ascertaining the number of returnees and IDPs in host families.

While Ivorian refugees continue to arrive in Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland of Liberia, there are reports from Nimba County of refugee families returning into Cote d’Ivoire. So far, the total number of refugees who have returned home is expected to be confirmed in the coming days as the verification process by UNHCR has just been concluded.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

#### HEALTH

Between 13 and 23 May, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF organised a Yellow Fever vaccination campaign targeting around 5,343,790 children aged nine months and over in 23 districts. (West 8, Centre-West 7, Centre 5, and North 3). An average vaccination coverage of more than 90 percent was achieved while more than a dozen districts achieved vaccination coverage of more than 95 per cent.

In this context, it needs to be mentioned that the epidemiologic surveillance system in the West, reactivated by the government in collaboration with WHO, Save The Children, Caritas, COOPI and IRC recorded 3 suspected cases of yellow fever at Man and 1 case in Kouibly. Fifteen cases of feverish eruption have been treated in Duékoué and one case in Danané. One case of Meningitis has been detected in Zouan Hounien while samples are being analysed at the laboratory for confirmation of the diagnosis.

The evaluation of the impact of the post electoral crisis on access to health services by People Living With HIV (PLWA) was conducted from 16 to 17 May in the Yopougon and Abobo neighbourhoods of Abidjan by UNICEF and UNAIDS. Findings from the evaluation exercise show that:

- There is a progressive increase in care and support for PLWH after a short period of interruption during the crisis.

- The health facilities providing free medical care did not benefit from support measures such as drug supplies and running expenses subsidies.

- There has been a progressive depletion of drug supplies and difficulty in deploying non- governmental staff which overburdened available practising health practitioners.

A joint evaluation mission on HIV among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host community in Duekoue, Danane, Guiglo and Man started on 25 Mai. It would last through 2 June.

A rapid assessment of Gender Based Violence (GBV) was conducted in 10 neighbourhoods of Abidjan from 18 to 19 May by United Nations agencies, local and international NGOs. The assessment showed the prevalence of various forms of violence, with sexual violence accounting for 40 percent of documented cases. Majority of survivors are young girls aged between 10 and 17 years. None of the documented cases received needed support due to lack of trained medical personnel and low awareness level of the problem among the population.

#### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

On 23 May, different WASH activities started in Abidjan. Cholera prevention programmes by the Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire began in Attécoubé, Adjamé (Williamville), Abobo and Yopougon neighbourhoods. The needs assessment by Solidarités and other partners in Abobo and Yopougon districts has also commenced while, Save the Children in collaboration with SODECI has initiated the evaluation of drinking water supply facilities in Yopougon and Abobo.
In the West, the weekly morbidity rate at the Duekoue Catholic Mission camp has decreased sharply due to improved quality of water supply. During the reporting period, 2 deaths were observed as against 18 four weeks ago. Diarrhea is no longer seen as the principal health problem and has been overtaken by malaria which now accounts for 25% of 250 daily consultations at the Duekoue hospital.

In Man, ICRC, Oxfam, ASAPSU and other partners have scaled-up village hygiene promotion activities targeting families hosting IDPs and a small number of returnees. However, following the outcome of a Oxfam-led study of the impact of well chlorination in villages around Guiglo, this key WASH activity will now be progressively replaced or strengthened by point of use methodologies such as home chlorination with locally available bleach, use of Aquatabs®, filtering and solar disinfection to render water safe to drink. Additional needs assessments by Save the Children and Mercy Corps are ongoing to supplement WASH emergency response operation.

**FOOD SECURITY**

In Abidjan and neighbouring communities, WFP supplied 204 tons of food to 14,375 beneficiaries.

In the West, WFP between 1 and 15 May has assisted 66,337 beneficiaries with 545 tons of food while 22,250 beneficiaries in the North and Central Côte d’Ivoire received 371 tons of food. The beneficiaries are essentially IDPs on sites and within host families.

FAO started the distribution of agricultural kits comprised of seeds, fertilizer and farming implements during the second half of May to IDPs in Biankouma, Logoualé, Sangouiné, Nidro, Facobly. The distribution of the same agricultural assistance is currently in progress in Bangolo and Duékoué. In total, assistance during the rainy season targets 7,600 households in the West and 2,000 households in the North where the distribution will continue till the month of June.

From 5 to 7 May, a field mission to IDP sites took place with the aim of understanding the organisation, working modalities and actual needs of IDPs living on the sites. Between 12 and 17 May, a training session for 55 volunteers from 8 sites was organized to facilitate the implementation of nutrition and food distribution programmes.

*Save the Children* has targeted 540 households and host families in Zouan Hounien with cash transfer programmes focusing on nutrition and HIV. In this context and particularly in Aboisso and Noé, 1,100 IDPs and host families will soon be identified for participation in the three-month cash transfer for training programme focusing on nutrition and WASH related activities in the East.

**NUTRITION**

Child malnutrition continues to attract the attention of members of the cluster during the week. In the West and North West, *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF), CARITAS, ODAFEM, ASAPSU and *Save the Children* continue to screen and provide assistance to malnourished children.

Within its contingency plan for IDPs in Abidjan and adjoining neighbourhoods, *Helen Keller International* (HKI) in collaboration with the National Nutrition Programme plans to combat malnutrition and micronutrients deficiency through the food distribution component of its nutrition programme targeting 4,928 IDPs spread across eight sites in Bingerville, Jacqueville, Dabou, Aboisso and Aboisso.

The grassroots mobilization embarked upon by ASAPSU has enabled 137 children to be screened in Duekoue. 72 children among the screened children were found to be suffering from moderately acute malnutrition while 31 were found to be suffering from severe malnutrition. During the same period, 71 children were dewormed. In Guiglo, 145 children were screened while 13 among them were found to be suffering from moderately acute malnutrition and 35 from severe malnutrition.

In Danane and Zouan Hounien, ACF has taken charge of 540 children suffering from moderately acute malnutrition and plans to expand its therapeutic feeding programme to 15 sites in Toulepleu. The organisation’s three month food assistance programme has now been strengthened with the opening of 12 community canteens on sites in Mapleu and Danane. Under the programme, 7,000 beneficiaries comprised of children aged between 6 and 59 months, lactating and pregnant women are targeted.

Within the framework of its integrated programme in Zouan Hounien, CARITAS is expanding its services to include Deinneu, Ligaleu and Gbouagleu villages where 1,780 beneficiaries have received biscuits provided by UNICEF.

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1 While operating independently of the UN-led humanitarian effort, ICRC and MSF work in a collaborative manner, regularly exchanging information with the other humanitarian actors.
The organization continues to intervene in Biankouma, Man, Kuoiby and Bangolo districts where it has screened 4,586 children. Out of the children so far screened, 57 have been found to suffer from severe malnutrition while 286 cases of moderately acute malnutrition have been recorded.

In Toulepleu, the situation of malnourished children has been compounded by absence of medical personnel, and looting of medical equipment and medicines at the town’s hospital and other health centres. OIDSP: a local NGO, through its nutrition project in Guiglo, has screened 795 children and found 53 to be suffering from moderately acute malnutrition, while 8 children are reported to be suffering from severe malnutrition. 61 children in all have been referred to the therapeutic feeding unit of the hospital managed by ASAPSU and 53 children to the therapeutic unit being run by MSF.

In Worodougou (North West), ODAFEM has screened 2,301 children out of whom 25 have been found to be suffering from moderately acute malnutrition while six children are found to be suffering from severe malnutrition. In view of a large number of zones which remain uncovered by the organisation, a request is being made for additional partners to fill in the gap.

PROTECTION

UNHCR presented the draft Protection Strategies for Abidjan and the West to partners during the cluster meeting. It is expected that the two strategies will lead to the finalisation of a national Protection Strategy. Along the same line, UNHCR informed that IDPs at the Nazareth Catholic Mission site in Guiglo are being threatened and harassed by members of the Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI).

Following similar threats, 1,500 IDPs at the Catholic Mission site in Douekoue left and returned to Carrefour. The Advocacy Working Group of the Protection Cluster has sent a letter to the Humanitarian Coordinator asking him to strengthen the call on the Government of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire to protect civilians in the country.

UNHCR met with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and CARITAS to determine the dates by which their on-site projects will be completed at Nahibly. The construction of 8 blocks of 5 latrines, 8 blocks of 5 bathing areas and one 15 m3 water bladder at the Nahibly site is on-going and should be completed around 4 June to welcome the first batch of 7,212 IDPs to be relocated from the overcrowded Catholic Mission IDP camp in Duekoue.

The IRC plans to finish construction of latrines for the first block on 28 May while CARITAS intends to put finishing touches to the erection of the wood plank perimeter fence, eight kitchens, four guard posts and installation of 160 tents by 31 May.

The relocation of IDPs from the Catholic Mission to Nahibly site is projected to begin on 6 June. UNHCR’s implementing partner, ASA has been selected to manage the site.

The monitoring of child protection related issues in line with resolutions 1612/1882 is being strengthened nationwide by UNICEF and members of the sub-cluster. These resolutions allow for the monitoring of the six grave violations against children in armed conflict particularly recruitment of children under 18 years into armed groups, killing and maiming and grave sexual violence including rape. In Abidjan, International Rescue Committee (IRC), BICE, AVSI & Foundation Amigos Doume have identified cases of children which require special psychosocial care. The mapping exercise of child protection services in Montagnes and Moyen Cavally region will shortly be developed in Abidjan and serve as the basis for the referral system.

The monitored area is gradually being extended from IDP camps to include more systematically host localities, areas of return which present higher risks for children.

The counselling centres, supported by UNICEF, Save the Children, IRC, Care, Caritas and others, are providing psychological aid to children and parents. This week, 58 people have received psychosocial support from the local NGO ASAPSU which brings the total number of people benefitting to 154.

In order to increase this support, existing centres continue to receive needy children and parents while new ones have been set up in most of the camps in the Moyen Cavally and les Montagnes. IRC, Save the Children and UNOCI have all pledged to contribute to the rehabilitation of looted social centres in the west but actual work is yet to commence.

In anticipation of relocation of IDPs to the new Nahibly camp near Duekoue, messages on how to prevent the separation of children from their families are being disseminated to almost by 200 families by Save the Children, IRC, UNICEF and Association Secours Afrique (ASA).
In the South and in the West, coordinated efforts will now target host communities and villages where no systematic identification of separated children has been carried out. In the meantime, a telephone information system functioning 24 hours and seven days a week has been put in place to report cases of separated children.

In addition to the 117 cases of separated and unaccompanied children documented in the past, an additional total of 783 cases from the South, the Center and the West of the country have been reported. ICRC, UNICEF, Save the Children, IRC, DRC, Caritas and local NGOs continue to be responsible for the identification, documentation, tracing and/or family reunification of children in the different regions of the country.

**EDUCATION**

Since 11 May, the cluster, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, continued to collect data on the reopening of schools outside of the Centre, North and West (CNO) area. The cluster is also conducting an assessment to obtain information on which schools and education authorities were targeted during the conflict.

In this context, the Education Cluster has identified 25 schools located in Abidjan, Guiglo, San Pedro, Zouan Hounien and occupied by armed forces. Five of the identified schools located in Abidjan Bingerville, Cocody, Abobo, Yopougon were damaged or destroyed by mortar fire. The cluster has also notified ONUCI of 4 schools that reported having UXOs in their vicinity. On 25 May, Cluster Coordinators from UNICEF and Save the Children met with the Minister of Education and her Cabinet to discuss the issue of security in schools, the alleviation of indirect school fees for displaced students, school closure and alternative measures to resolve the problems related to teacher absence. The meeting led to the official nomination of a focal point within the Minister's Cabinet for the Education Cluster.

Following the training of approximately 50 volunteers last week, the education sub-cluster in the West supplemented the recreational activities being held by *Sports pour la Paix* at the Catholic Mission in Duekoue with educational activities which began on 23 May. These activities are benefitting 2,863 children at the site. In addition, 450 IDP children have also been integrated into the school located at the site.

In Guiglo, UNICEF, *Save the Children* and IRC are holding trainings for 44 additional volunteers; this will benefit 6,493 IDP children. In addition, *Save the Children* set up six temporary learning spaces on 4 sites in Guiglo and UNICEF distributed 61 mats to 563 young IDP children (3-5 years old).

In the East, the education sub-cluster continued to support the integration of IDP students into formal schools. On May 19th, UNICEF distributed 500 kits to IDP students in Abengourou.

In the South, the education sub-cluster conducted an assessment of educational needs on 24 May in two IDP sites in Yopougon: (St. Bernard Parish and St. Laurent Parish in Koute village). In anticipation of the relocation of IDPs from St Bernard Parish to Bingerville, UNICEF and *Save the Children* plan to visit Bingerville on 27 May with a view to establishing temporary learning activities for IDPs as well as advocate for the integration of primary-school aged IDP children into nearby schools.

Though recreational activities for 300 children are currently being run by the Scouts Catholiques at the St Laurent Parish, UNICEF is planning to establish a temporary learning space, train animators and distribute recreational as well as school-in-a-box kits at the site as from next week, depending on the outcome of the needs assessment exercise.

**EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS/LOGISTICS**

The deployment of Communication Centre (COMCEN) equipment to Bouake and Man is expected to be completed within three weeks. Internet services are now available in the WFP offices in Abidjan, Bouaké and Man.

Due to delays in equipment delivery, the implementation of Emergency Telecommunication activities in the field is affected and will impact on the duration of service provision and the budget.

An order for a second batch of ETC equipment is being placed and delivery is expected to last between one week and four weeks from the date of reception of the purchase order by the supplier.

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has replaced its Dash 8 aircraft by the Beechcraft 1900. The plane now operates out of Abidjan airport and made its first flight on 13 May.

**Neighbouring countries**

**LIBERIA**
A total of 182,581 Ivorian refugees have been registered in Liberia as of 19 May. There are now over 100,000 Ivorian refugee children going by the estimate of 59 per cent children from the initial individual registration.

Furthermore, WFP began the distribution of food to host families in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland counties on 19 May.

Food Distributions are on-going to cover a total of 80,000 people until 22 May. 34,670 refugees and members of host communities in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties received food and nutritional support. Under a supplementary feeding programme which started last week in Grand Gedeh, 160 moderately malnourished children in were provided with supplementary plumpy nuts.

FAO under its Agricultural Support Programme is distributing seeds to about 21,300 households in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties. The activity is being implemented together with 12 cooperating partners in the respective locations. About 70% of the host community and 30% of the refugee community with access to land are benefiting from this initiative. WFP is providing family rations as seed protection rations to 13,000 beneficiaries among the host population.

A recent joint assessment (findings were presented on 19 May) has revealed that in refugee affected areas of Nimba, Maryland and Grand Gedeh, dietary intake has further declined, which is likely to be made worse during the lean season. Both the residents and refugees are increasingly dependent on adverse coping strategies including reduced consumption, borrowing and skipping of a day’s meal.

Massive road works are on-going in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland in collaboration with WFP, UNHCR, DRC, UNOPS, GAA and Ministry of Public works. The Zorgowee Bridge in Nimba County, which had been temporarily repaired for light vehicles, still represents a bottleneck for larger commercial trucks. Mitigation measures are currently being implemented.

**GHANA**

Under its response to the refugee influx from Cote d’Ivoire, WFP is currently supporting 10,000 refugees hosted Brong Ahafo and Western regions. For May distributions, 233.1 MT of food for 7000 people in Brong Ahafo region, and 99 mt for 3000 in Western region for 60 days had been transported by WFP to the UNCHR warehouse for distribution to the refugees.

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<th>V. Funding of the EHAP 2011</th>
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As of 26 May, 2011, the Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) for Côte d’Ivoire and neighbouring countries affected by the crisis is funded at 21% with some $43million contributed against a total requirement of $209 million.

Since the Situation Report #7, an additional $2.7 million has been received for EHAP, while some $25.2 million in additional requirement were identified as reported above.

WFP has also indicated a forthcoming revision of its projects included in the EHAP, bringing its total unfunded funding requirements to.

According to WFP, this means that instead of viewing the food security sector as being overfunded, the food aid component should be seen as only 45 % funded.

The indicative levels of funding by sector are reflected in the table below.
All humanitarian partners and donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to notify the Financial Tracing System (FTS) any contribution by writing to: fts@un.org.

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