

MIGRATIONS IN CONTEXTS OF CRISIS

INTRODUCTION

Migration generally is the movement of people from a place to another specific place, from one country (emigration) to another one (immigration), for political, social, economic or personal reasons.

After experiencing an increase of slightly more than 500,000 persons in migrant rates, from 16.3 to 16.9 million migrants between 2000 and 2005, Africa is the region which has experienced the lowest growth in the number of international migrants. The continent also has the lowest recorded numbers in relation to population, or 2% of the total population. With respect to the share of migrants worldwide who are originally from Africa, the number has remained stable at 9%.

Migrants are spread-out across the entire continent, with disproportionate numbers in the sub-Saharan countries. In absolute numbers, the larger countries in West Africa and Southern Africa have welcomed the largest number of migrants; however the smallest countries were the ones to receive the largest share relative to their population size.

Most of the migrations recorded in Africa occurred within the regional confines of their origins: out of a total number of 14 million migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, 10 million of them (or 69%) did not leave their own region.

The greatest concentration of internally displaced persons is located in Africa. In 2006 there were 11.8 million of them, distributed across 21 countries (IDMC, 2007), a much higher number than for refugees, whose number dropped to approximately 3 million in 2005, from 6 million in 1995 (UNHCR, 1995 and 2007b). The number of refugees expressed as a percentage of international migrants dropped by four percentage points, now accounting for 18% of the current migrant population.

Côte d'Ivoire underwent a double-fold dynamic of this phenomenon:

On the one hand, it accepted a large number of migrants on its territory after achieving independence and in the wake of the economic expansion of the 1960s and 1970s. In addition to this category of migrant, Côte d'Ivoire also took in refugees from various states, among which were Guinea, Nigeria (Biafra), Cambodia, Vietnam, Congo (DRC and Brazzaville) and Rwanda. These refugees came in small groups or as isolated individuals following waves of persecution, human rights violations or upheavals in their country of origin, and they obtained refugee status on an individual basis.

It was not until the 1990s that Côte d'Ivoire recorded its highest refugee influx, from the 400,000 Liberian and approximately 45,000 Sierra Leonean refugees arriving in the aftermath of the civil war in those countries. Faced with such a large number of refugees and challenged with the impossibility of granting the refugee status on an individual basis, given the state of urgency the Ivorian authorities had recourse to exceptional procedures for determining refugee status, establishing a definition based on Prima Facie determination, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

On the other hand, in another dynamic occurring in response to the crises that Côte d'Ivoire underwent in the period between 2002 and 2010, thousands of Ivorians went into exile. Thus, the sub-region accepted about 300,000 Ivorian refugees. Following the progressive restoration of normalization, about 240,000 Ivorian refugees returned voluntarily to Côte d'Ivoire, of whom two thirds returned spontaneously and one third in organised convoys. There are now less than 60,000 of the original number remaining in the asylum countries.

At the same time, these crises also displaced millions of Ivoirians within their own country, who made their way to the capital, or found private housing. Following the return of peace, the transit centres were closed.

✚ Statistics on refugees and returnees in Côte d'Ivoire

- a. Disaggregated data on Ivorian returnees who voluntarily joined organised convoys between 01 January 2013 and 31 December 2013.

0 - 04 years		05- 11 years		12 - 17 years		18 - 59 years		60 +		AGGREGATE FIGURES			
F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	Total	
1,987	1,903	2,213	2,447	858	1,060	3,866	2,482	333	205	9,328	8,147	19,473	

- b. Disaggregated statistics of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire as of 31 March 2014.

ZONE	LIBERIANS			OTHER NATIONALITIES	TOTAL
	Total	Exemption	Local integration		
Abidjan	301	48	253	663	964
Guiglo	646	147	499	0	646
Tabou	1,561	735	826	0	1,561
TOTAL	2,508	930	1,578	663	3,171

- c. IDP statistics from 01 January 2013 to 31 December 2013.

TOTAL	16,785
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I) IMPACT OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE CRISES ON POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Following the crises that lasted from 2002 to 2012 about 300,000 Ivoirians ended up outside Côte d'Ivoire. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was estimated at 247,000 persons throughout the entire country (OCHA, September 2011). The western zone on its own registered 170,000 IDPs (69% of the total number) of whom 13% were on site. Women and children represented 70% of the total number of displaced persons. Following the relative lull and return to normality in socio-political life, to the closing of the camps in the west and the recent governmental actions encouraging displaced persons and refugees to return home, many displaced persons and refugees (65,000 of them, including 25% repatriated in November 2011) returned to their respective zones. As of 31 December 2013 Côte d'Ivoire had 16,785 IDPs.

II) THE LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

As soon as it achieved independence, through the generous spirit of its founding fathers Côte d'Ivoire affirmed its purpose as a country that would stand as a land of asylum, which is eloquently attested to in the first verses of the national anthem. And truly, in the first half-century of independence, this humanist generosity never wavered.

This sense of purpose translated into the signing of several international agreements for the regulation of migration, or which favoured the return of Ivoirians, in a policy of open and favourable acceptance to foreigners.

A) THE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

As of its accession to independence, Côte d'Ivoire ratified the following documents:

- ✚ The Geneva Convention of 1951 relating to the status of refugees and the 1967 Protocol (ratified on 8 December 1961).
- ✚ The Convention of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) relating to the refugee problems in Africa of 1969 (ratified on February 26, 1998).
- ✚ The Kampala Convention of 2009 relating to the internally displaced in Africa.
- ✚ The CEDEAO Protocol of 1979 on the Right of Establishment and the Free Movement of Persons and Goods.
- ✚ In addition to these texts, various so-called Tripartite Agreements were signed between the Ivorian government, the host country accepting Ivoirian refugees, and the UNHCR, in order to implement an efficient coordination mechanism and an appropriate legal framework for the return of refugees under conditions guaranteeing security and dignity:
 - In Côte d'Ivoire, with Ghana: 06 October 2011
 - In Côte d'Ivoire, with Togo: 15 November 2011
 - In Côte d'Ivoire, with Liberia: 09 August 2011
 - In Côte d'Ivoire, with Guinea: 30 November 2011
 - In Côte d'Ivoire, with Mali: 09 August 2012

B) THE NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

- ✚ In order to signal its commitment to protect refugees living on its soil, Côte d'Ivoire, in its Constitution of 01 August 2000, established the following in article 12 of section 2: *“Any person who is persecuted due to their political or philosophical beliefs or their ethnic origin may enjoy the right of asylum on the soil of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, as long as they abide by the laws of the Republic.”*
- ✚ Let us note Law n° 2004-303 of 03 May, 2004, concerning the identification of persons and the residence of foreigners in Côte d'Ivoire, favoring the integration of strangers, particularly those from West Africa.
- ✚ Decree n° 2006-110 of 07 June , 2006 which created the Service for Aid and Assistance to Refugees and the stateless (SAARA - *Service d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides*) which is part of the Ministry of state and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- ✚ There are two main texts which regulate the terms for obtaining the status of refugee in Côte d'Ivoire. These are judicial orders n°46 and 47 MAE/AGH/SDAH/SAARA of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 12 February, 2007 concerning respectively the creation and operation of the *Commissions Nationales d'Eligibilité (CNE) et de Recours (CR)* which frame the right of asylum in Côte d'Ivoire.

III) THE PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATIONS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

A) THE NATIONAL ACTORS

✚ THE SAARA ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF IVORY

The SAARA is in charge of implementing the asylum policy defined by the Ivoirian government. The duties of the SAARA are the following:

- **The coordination of refugee management, including:**
 - The determination of refugee status.
 - Legal protection and assistance to refugees.
- **The coordination of returnee management, including:**
 - The reception of returnees at the borders, accompanied by a police escort if necessary.
 - Assistance in establishing official documents for the returnees.
 - Advocacy on behalf of national and international organisations for implementing sustainable solutions for the benefit of returnees.

In the framework of these activities, the Ivoirian government works in collaboration with several national and international organisations.

The NATIONAL NGOs

- **ASAPSU and CARITAS**

These are the organisations which implement the health and educational policy intended by the UNHCR for refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees for special purposes. They also implement income-generating activities for these same populations.

In the context of the reception of returnees under conditions that are safe and dignified, Asapsu and Caritas do medical accompaniment of returnees arriving in Côte d'Ivoire from the borders.

In addition to these activities, CARITAS is responsible for assembling food packs and NFI for the returnees and rehabilitating the educational and community infrastructure of the beneficiaries.

- **ASA**

Afrique Secours Assistance performs monitoring in the zones of residence of the refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees in order to identify the problems they face and any further assistance that may be needed.

- **AWECO**

This is an organisation which works to strengthen the social cohesion of refugees and returnees.

B) THE INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

The UNHCR

The goal of this United Nations agency is to promote international agreements in favour of refugees and to oversee states' respect for refugee rights. In Côte d'Ivoire, the UNHCR provides financial and technical support to the SAARA and the NGOs in charge of issues related to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

- Medical assistance to refugees and asylum applicants with specific needs;
- The education of target populations;
- The issuance of birth certificates for refugee children born in Côte d'Ivoire;
- Facilitating integration if needed by providing assisting with the purpose of offering naturalisation to refugees who are interested;
- The provision of a returnee fund (cash grant: 75,000 FCFA for adults and 50,000 FCFA for children)

In the past, through its operational partners, UNHCR had implemented IGAs (Income-Generating Activities) on behalf of refugees and gave out study grants to certain refugees to pursue university studies.

The IOM

When the returnee convoys arrive, this international organisation is in charge of logistics (buses, luggage, etc.).

IV) COORDINATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

This coordination has translated into the implementation of a framework for cooperation and dialogue between the Ivoirian government and humanitarian organisations, both nationally and locally. In the west of Côte d'Ivoire for example, a community reintegration program was established on behalf of the displaced. A supervisory and orientation body to oversee implementation of the program was established. This committee met three times per month, and consisted of the following participants:

- The local representatives of all the United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNIDO, FAO, WFP, UNHCR, OCHA...).
- The government, through the Ministry of Planning, of Defence, of the Interior, of Employment, of Social Affairs, of Health, of Education....
- The local administrative authorities.
- The representatives from NGOs and civil society organisations.
- A private sector representative.

V) CONCRETE ACTIONS TO FACILITATE THE RETURN OF IDPs AND RETURNEES

1. Security component

- o Implementation of security measures for the purpose of re-establishing state authorities over the entire territory and especially in the return zones.
- ✓ The implementation of a Command Centre for Operational decisions (CCDO) in charge of fighting organised crime and the random installation roadblocks. This unit is composed of the police, the gendarmerie and the army, with a total force of 750 persons.
- ✓ The presence of a military battalion in Western Côte d'Ivoire in order to secure the property and persons in this zone.
- ✓ The rehabilitation of police stations to ensure their proper operation.
- ✓ On the order of the President of the Republic, the FRCI (Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire) units were chased out of the police stations and are forbidden to intervene to resolve problems.
- ✓ Reduction of the number of roadblocks across the entire national territory to 33 in order to put an end to extortion and harassment on roads imposed on the population.
- ✓ Meetings and exchanges with the DOZOS to explain their role to them with regard to governmental administration, while requesting their withdrawal from land management and their return to their respective cultural milieu.
- ✓ In the context of the return of gendarmerie and police forces to their posts across the entire territory, the Ministry of State, the Ministry of the Interior has instructed the Prefects concerning the creation or reactivation of the Departmental Security Committees in order to create a legal framework for cooperation and coordination of security forces at the local scale for efficient oversight of the security activities (August 2011).
- ✓ The Ministry of State, the Ministry of the Interior, has also notified the Prefectoral and Municipal Authorities about the creation of Departmental, Sub-Prefectoral and Commune Committees of Awareness-Building and Oversight, for the early detection of sources of tension, and to prevent inter-community clashes (April 2011).

- ✓ Meetings between the populations and NGOs, instigated by the Prefectoral Authorities, are held regularly in order to take into account their concerns and to ensure continued social cohesion and especially to facilitate the return and reinsertion of displaced persons.
- ✓ The Prefectoral Authorities shall also ensure the settlement of land disputes occasioned by the return of populations to their own zones.
- ✓ The government has also taken all measures in order to ensure that any person who was illegally dispossessed of their property can reclaim it as soon as the proof of this circumstance and the status of the owner have been established. The legal services of the Army General Staff as well as those provided by town halls and prefectural administrations may at any moment be petitioned for this purpose. Certain former refugees have been able to recover their property in the West, with the assistance of the SAARA and the UNHCR.
- ✓ Steps have been taken in order to end the presence of military personnel or men in military uniforms in the streets. As such, since January 2013, only defence and security forces tasked with securing public or private areas continue to maintain a presence in certain neighbourhoods of Abidjan.
 - The establishment of a Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration Authority (ADDR) whose objectives are the following:
 - ✓ Reinsertion and integration of ex-combatants, whose numbers are estimated to be 65,000. The process has already commenced, with the objective for 2013 being the processing of 30,000 beneficiaries.
 - ✓ Reinsertion opportunities which follow the options proposed here below:
 - ✓ Self-employment (private sector) with the granting of reinsertion allowances, the granting of IGAs to ex-combatants and to the host communities (5%) to avoid possible stigmatization, as well as the restitution of leases, and expropriated properties and goods.
 - ✓ Studies, with the granting of 200 scholarships to students.
 - ✓ Direct hiring in Public Service, on a case by case basis.
 - ✓ To facilitate the follow-up in the field, after the opening of the North and Central regional offices (Korhogo and Bouaké), the ADDR opened a West regional office (Man) with departmental branches in Danané, Duekoué, Guiglo and Toulepleu). The ADDR expects to eventually open a regional office in Abidjan.
 - ✓ The rehabilitation at the level of local government, and social cohesion in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders for this sector.

2. Support to the establishment of civil documents by national institutions

The beneficiaries undergo interviews for the various hosting programs, including the procedures to establish birth certificates (birth registration) and the issuance of duplicate certificates, including the various documents and fees required for establishing the corresponding civil documents. During these interviews, the beneficiary receives instructions on how to be empowered or to own a personal protection strategy in the future. Furthermore, after the interview, the beneficiary shall receive a SAARA pamphlet in order to guide through the reintegration process and to petition the Protection department of the SAARA if the need should arise.

The SAARA periodically organises courtesy calls and work sessions with the competent authorities (courts and civil service centres) to facilitate the delivery of civil documents (harmonizing the document processing fee schedule). In this way, 2,247 civil documents were completed on behalf of the target population, ahead of the initial goal of 1,000.

3. Support for reintegrating returnees and IDPs into the social fabric

This consists of individual and community-wide support, customised to suit the needs of the beneficiary within the social framework of integration. The assistance may for example consist of a proper bed with a mattress suitable to a handicapped person with reduced mobility who would otherwise have to sleep on the ground, despite being handicapped. Assistance can also take the form of medical fees and transportation for a sick person whose treatment is not covered by the available medical network. It can even consist of school uniforms or items for orphans who were forced to abandon school for lack of means. The group assistance shall be developed with help from the communities in order to strengthen that community and to reinforce its social structures. Vulnerable populations may be encouraged to pool their forces in order to seek more substantial group assistance (example: for a group of widows, professional training and the gift of various sewing machines).

4. Assistance in job training and education

With regard to job training, this mainly consists of:

- ✓ Opportunities offered to young returnees seeking employment.
- ✓ Training centres and vocational high-schools for school-age returnees.
- ✓ Young returnees from 15 to 25 years old may apply for the entrance exam into the professional training establishments, or professional training centres (CFP) and vocational high-schools which provide training in several trade sectors.
- ✓ Training in certificate-granting short-term programs for returnees who are relatively older.
- ✓ Variable in length, the certificate-granting training generally last 3 to 9 months. This training may be dispensed in Mobile Training Units, which are structures whose advantage is that they go to where the trainees are, depending on the training needs or local job opportunities.
- ✓ Descriptions of the training-professional entry programs.
- ✓ Training-professional entry program for 30,000 young people in basic construction and the hydraulics sector.
- ✓ Training-professional entry program for 200 young people in basic mechanical manufacturing and the hydraulics sector.
- ✓ Training-professional entry program for 200 young people in tractor driving and maintenance.
- ✓ Assistance program for the placement of trainees in the information technology and communication sector.
- ✓ Pilot program for training 205 apprentices in car mechanics.
- ✓ Placement-professional entry program for 200 young people trained in electronics.
- ✓ Instructions to follow for identifying oneself: simply go to the AGEPE.
- ✓ A monitoring committee has been established at the AGEPE of Plateau to identify the projects and the young people searching for work.

The main objectives of professional training are the following:

- ✓ The student returnees (primary and secondary education) are systematically reintegrated upon presentation of a school document. 338 student returnees were accepted into the educational system through the SAARA.
- ✓ The primary level students receive school kits.
- ✓ By request from the government of Liberia, the primary curriculum received certification for the 2011-2012 school year.
- ✓ The degree equivalencies were subject to a review by the Board of Testing and Examination (DECO). This provision also applies to the CPC (the Togolese diploma is equivalent to the CEPE in Côte d'Ivoire).
- ✓ Admission into sixth grade (secondary school) is conditioned by a test called "Sixth grade entrance". It is decided by the National Orientation Commission.
- ✓ The student returnee integration files are submitted to the Board of Schools, High-Schools and Academies (DELCA) by the *Services d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides* or (SAARA).

5. Medical assistance:

- ✓ Fight against malaria through the distribution of 20,000 sprayed mosquito nets: 5,015 families received a sprayed net.
- ✓ Care provision (PEC) to HIV and STD cases and distribution of KITS: over 800 kits for STD treatment distributed, treatment of 40 vulnerable persons (HIV) treated and 3,528 IDPs referred to the care of *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF).
- ✓ Camp management, CATD GUIGLO, fight against HIV/STD, malaria, tuberculosis: over 7000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), host populations and refugees from CATD received awareness training on condom use and the methods for fighting HIV/STD, as well as 5000 sprayed mosquito nets were distributed to the CATD and to the NICLA village of Guiglo.
- ✓ Treatment of Orphans Vulnerable Children (OEV): 47 OEV received health and nutritional care as well as schooling.
- ✓ Training and treatment of ex-combatants from zone 6: 20 former combatants received training on prevention methods and fighting STD/HIV AIDS in addition to being in-training for socio-economic reinsertion.

6. The fomenting of Income-Generating Activities (IGA)

- ✓ THE YEP PROJECT: Youth Education Pack (Training and apprenticeship centre in the various trades: confection (textile), hairdressing, pastry cooking, mechanics, agriculture and literacy): 2007-2008: 200 beneficiaries trained and 195 placed. 2012-2013: 250 beneficiaries trained and placed: 2014: 275 beneficiaries in-training.
- ✓ Foodstuff and the distribution of seed (socioeconomic reinsertion): 40 daughters/mothers were reinserted through work in garden markets (provision of seed and equipment).
- ✓ Socioeconomic reinsertion of women in a vulnerable situation due to the crisis (TRAINING and JOB PLACEMENT): 47 out of 50 women in a vulnerable situation due to the crisis were trained and placed in jobs in confection, hairdressing and pastry cooking.
- ✓ Food for Training for trainees and nutritional provisions for Persons Living with HIV: 275 daughters/mothers trained in the sector of confection and hairdressing received aid from the WFP (distribution of food).
- ✓ Reinsertion of Persons Living with HIV in Bangolo: 50 PLHIV persons are reinserted through lowland rice cultivation and medical treatment.

7. Institutional and Multisectoral Program for recovering from the crisis in CdI, holistic approach to treating GBV victims before and after the post-electoral crisis

- ✓ 75 watch committees established and trained in the fight against and prevention of sexual violence; the watch committee members are able to detect psycho-social cases, to refer them and to assist the care providers.
- ✓ 22 mass awareness sessions were conducted, reaching about 11,000 persons, of which 7000 were women and 4000 men.
- ✓ 210 community leaders were trained in fighting GBV.
- ✓ Awareness about the voluntary surrender of weapons: 5 groups or 75 women (15 women per group) for market gardens; 35 persons for a poultry farm.

8. Social cohesion: community and civil society together to prevent conflicts and consolidate peace in the IC

- ✓ 10 youth associations received material support from the IGA program.
- ✓ 60 vulnerable youth aged 14 to 24 received entrepreneurship skill-building training.
- ✓ 247 persons received training in community organisation, good governance and conflict management.
- ✓ 233 persons received life-skill (conflict management) and training.

9. Support Program to reinforce SOCIAL COHESION and the reintegration of returned and/or repatriated persons

- ✓ 33 out of 35 community peace bodies, trained and placed.
- ✓ 27 mass awareness campaigns were conducted for large groups, 319 focus group, 453 grass-roots awareness raising campaigns for 14620 persons.
- ✓ 20 actions in support of community initiatives from 25 proposals submitted by the populations.
- ✓ 15 Income Generating Activities in favour of beneficiaries.
- ✓ 2 markets built, including the ones at the Duékoué crossroads and at Bloléquin.