



Ivory Coast

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

95% of the 250 000 post-electoral conflict refugees have returned

60 000 Ivorian refugees remain, mostly in Liberia (UNHCR)

More than 1 in 10 children dies before the age of 5 (UNICEF)

ECHO's beneficiaries:

- 2.2 million people (2012-2013)
- 4.2 million people (2014-2016)

European Commission humanitarian funding

- Since 2011: €119 (including €36 million for the Partnership for Transition, €20.5 million provided through France's Debt reduction for Development contracts & €3 million for social cohesion)



A pregnant woman collecting medicines free of charge at a rural health centre. ©EC/ECHO/A. Delafortrie

Keymessages

- Ivory Coast continues to record high child and maternal mortality despite free healthcare for children and mothers. The European Commission's humanitarian aid and civil protection department (ECHO), France's development agency (AFD) and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire joined forces and continue to work to reinforce the health system.
- In the aftermath of the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis, the European Commission initiated a [Partnership for Transition](#) to restore basic health services, improve food security and foster social cohesion benefiting millions of Ivorians in the regions most affected by the crisis.
- Today, the country is stable and enjoys steep economic growth; however, the transition from Relief to Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) needs to be sustained. Tensions and sporadic violence persist in the border region with Liberia. Conflict prevention and programmes to enhance social cohesion remain important.
- Following the [Ebola](#)* epidemic in the neighbouring countries, including Liberia, which hosts Ivorian refugees, humanitarian partners undertook preparedness and prevention activities such as training, sensitisation and the pre-positioning of supplies.

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Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

Ivory Coast has made a remarkable recovery from the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis, which resulted in widespread looting, destruction, displacement and a collapse of public services. A return to political stability and security combined with large-scale humanitarian aid have encouraged the majority of displaced Ivorians to return home.

Major needs and related problems

Despite the country's steady recovery, gaps remain in restoring basic services such as healthcare. This has prevented the country from meeting the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 by the 2015 target, namely the reduction of child and maternal mortality. The high numbers of maternal and child deaths constitute a major problem, particularly in western Ivory Coast, the area most affected by the post-electoral violence.

This region is still volatile as a result of poverty, ethnic tensions, land disputes and the eviction of communities from protected forests. Progress has been slow with regard to reconciliation and the disarmament, demobilisation and re-integration of former fighters. The transition from Relief to Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) needs to be sustained, more specifically in the areas of:

- **Protection & Social Cohesion:** communities in the border region with Liberia are particularly fragile due to the presence of former combatants, returnees and unresolved land disputes which result in sporadic clashes and small-scale displacements.
- **Access to basic services:** more than a decade of conflict, instability and lack of investment have resulted in a weakened health system; the national policy of targeted free health care requires backing to ensure that health structures run properly.

Frequent cross-border travel from neighbouring Liberia and Guinea, which have been affected by the **Ebola** epidemic, also warrants extreme vigilance and preparedness.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

Since the post-electoral crisis emergency, the European Commission has provided humanitarian aid of €119 million to Ivory Coast.

The European Commission currently manages €18 million in Debt Reduction for Development funds, as part of an agreement concluded between France and Ivory Coast aiming at reinforcing the country's health system. This funding is allowing partners to build on the achievements of the EU-Ivory Coast Partnership for Transition which ran from 2011 to 2014. Efforts to ensure free health care for all children under age five and pregnant and breastfeeding women are being intensified in the regions most affected by the post-electoral conflict. In 2014, an additional allocation of €2.5 million was made to ECHO under the debt reduction Franco-Ivorian scheme, providing NGO health partners with supplementary resources for reinforcing the country preparedness against the Ebola outbreak.

The European Commission also allocated €3 million for the period 2014-15 to promote social cohesion in the border region between Ivory Coast and Liberia.

Outreach and coordination with humanitarian partners

A radically new approach was taken by the EU in 2012 after the post-election crisis in an attempt to facilitate the transition from humanitarian to development aid. **The Partnership for Transition provided 2.2 million Ivorians with basic healthcare, food assistance, protection or livelihoods support.** In the field of healthcare, the Commission funded the supply of 1 200 tons of essential medical supplies which included 107 different articles. Partner NGOs rehabilitated health structures, trained staff and provided management support to the health regions and districts.



This two-year partnership laid the foundations of a new three-year (2014-2016) programme funded through Debt Reduction for Development funds (C2D) from France's Development Agency (AFD). The Project for Health System Reinforcement enables the same partners – International Rescue Committee, French Red Cross, Médecins du Monde and Terre des Hommes – to provide support to six health regions, 21 health districts and close to 400 first-contact health centres. From the beginning of 2014 until mid-2015, **340 061 pregnant women and 1 556 384 under five-year-olds have benefited from the free health care** the project provides.

In November 2014, in response to the **Ebola** epidemic which was affecting neighbouring countries, ECHO's partners started four new projects in preparation of a possible emergence of the virus in the border region with Liberia and Guinea and in the capital Abidjan. The implementation of these different projects has improved the **epidemic preparedness** and enhanced the **response capacity**.

ECHO continues to support a cross-border programme aimed at diffusing tensions between Ivorian refugees, returnees and host communities. It focuses on providing livelihood support and preventing conflict over land tenure and access to land.

Examples of humanitarian projects



In Tonkpi region, the regional hospital of Man is supported to improve the quality of **services** and ensure that they are **free of charge for children and mothers**. Health staff and community outreach workers receive training. The vaccination of children and follow-up of pregnant and breastfeeding women are among the priorities in addition to guaranteeing a good referral system.

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In villages on both sides of the Ivorian-Liberian border, communities are being encouraged to work together on getting **income-generating projects** off the ground. The development of rice paddies in underdeveloped regions requires a considerable effort. By accomplishing such works tensions are diffused while understanding and social cohesion are stimulated.

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Under the Partnership for Transition, from 2012 to 2014, the equivalent of **26 cargo planes of medicines and essential medical supplies** were delivered to support Côte d'Ivoire's policy of targeted free health care. These supplies were delivered to the national pharmacy where staff assembled 55 000 delivery kits, 2 400 caesarean section kits and 400 anaesthesia kits. Once assembled, the kits as well as other medicines were transported to 270 health centres in 17 health districts.

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Through the **Ebola virus Prevention and Response Programme** financed by the European Commission, various activities to combat the virus have been carried out: training community workers and volunteers to raise public awareness, strengthening the epidemiological monitoring in health structures, training medical staff on protective measures, conduct to adopt, hospital waste management, sample taking process, etc.

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