CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

RESILIENCE FOR PEACE (R4P)

Annual Report

Reporting period:

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Table of Acronyms

ANADER	National Agency for Support of Rural Development
CAMEL	Complexity Aware Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
CCM	Civil-military Cell
CLA	Collaboration, Learning and Adaptation
CNFCI	National Border Commission of Côte d'Ivoire
CV	Curriculum Vitae
CVA-NRM	Village support committees for the management of natural resources
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
EAI	Equal Access International
EWS	Early Warning Signals
FCFA	CFA Franc (African Financial Community)
FDS	Security and Defense Forces
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
KLU	Knowledge, Learning, and Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NORC	National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago
PAR	Participatory Action Research
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
PNGIF-CI	National Integrated Border Management Policy
R4P	Resilience for Peace
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United State Government
VE	Violent Extremism
VEO	Violent Extremist Organization

Executive Summary

In its first year of activities, the Resilience for Peace (R4P) project established a coordination office in Abidjan, set up an operational base in Korhogo, and embedded its program team in local communities across six focus regions along the country's northern border. The R4P teams designed and initiated activities with local stakeholders to bolster local governance, support natural resource management, and extend the availability of credible, objective information through the R4P media ecosystem approach. In addition, the project completed six major research studies and presented their findings at the R4P Annual Learning Summit in February 2022. Major achievements throughout the year include:

❖ The project is present and/or works in **all six regions** and in 8 out of 10 departments at the northern border area with a team comprising all socio-cultural groups and profiles present.

❖ The **National Security Council (CNS)**, the government entity responsible for coordinating CVE efforts, has publicly confirmed its institutional stewardship of the Resilience for Peace project given its close alignment with government priorities.

❖ The project worked with **nine State-sponsored Civil-military cells** (CCMs) in the border area to improve the inclusivity and geographical reach of civil-military initiatives.

❖ The project team has been able to gain the trust of large parts of the **Fulani community** and encourage local actions to improve their social integration.

❖ Completion of **six studies** on socio-economic dynamics linked to community resilience against violent extremism, including political economy analyses, a perception survey, and communications analysis.

❖ A community-anchored **communication ecosystem** was established, including **12 local radio stations**, **145 social media influencers** and a dozen customary tea clubs ("*grins*") that generate positive narratives around community resilience against violent extremism.

❖ State technical services and prefectorial authorities are now included in regional oversight working groups that focus on linkages between **natural resource management** and violent extremism.

❖ Several **communities in remote border areas** welcomed visits by representatives from key decentralized State services to learn directly about State-sponsored programs, to express their concerns, and to request public service improvements.

❖ **Women and youth** in each of the six regions have organized themselves into structured, voluntary groups to drive collective action around specific objectives and to strengthen social cohesion.

❖ The innovative format of the **Annual Learning Summit** allowed field practitioners and citizen leaders from border communities, State authorities, and researchers from Abidjan and Bouaké to discuss R4P research findings and CVE experiences in Niger and Benin, and to build a common set of priority CVE actions and research for northern Côte d'Ivoire.

I. CVE Context Evolution

a) Map of incidents for year 1

Map 1: CVE-related incidents documented by R4P during Year 1
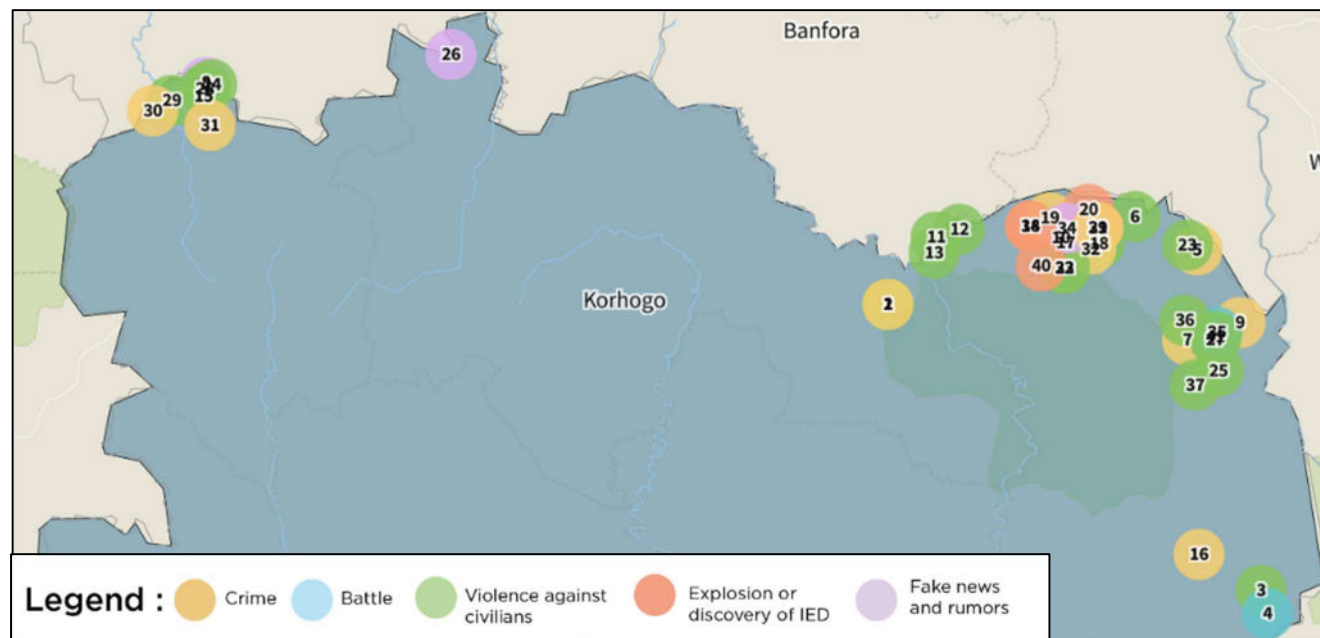
Note that only incidents in R4P intervention areas are presented. Please refer to annex 1 for a detailed list of incidents. To access this interactive map, follow this link: https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8717294/

Among the R4P intervention areas, the Bounkani region experienced the highest number of reported incidents, especially near the border and around Bouna town. All IED-related incidents occurred in Tehini department. This concentration in Bounkani overlaps with the presence of active armed groups linked to networks of criminal actors and/or of violent extremist organizations (VEOs). A secondary geographical cluster can be observed in the north-western Folon region, where various types of incidents have occurred, but with less intensity and frequency. This concentration may indicate an initial VEO presence or at a minimum the presence of risk factors that open the door to infiltration by these actors. Finally, the center-north region of Tengrela reported rumors of incidents linked to violent extremism, but has not confirmed a connection between these incidents and VEO presence. Heightened fears caused by the VE threat explain such associations in the absence of concrete evidence.

b) Trends in attacks by violent extremist organizations (VEOs)

Côte d'Ivoire has been the target of VE-related violence since 2016, with a total of 14 attacks, including ten in 2021 alone. The Bounkani and Tchologo regions were the two main targets of VEO mobilization. These two regions are surrounded by the Comoe forest reserve and share a border with Burkina Faso, Mali, and Ghana, all three of which have been sites of VEO activity in recent years. The landlocked geography of these and other regions in northern Côte d'Ivoire constitutes a vulnerability, as Minister Fidèle Sarassoro noted at the official launch of the R4P project in November 2021 in Korhogo.

Analysis of the ten attacks in 2021 reveals three common features as compared to military and security operations in previous years.

i. The first is a **shift in tactics**. Except for the March 29th raid on the Kafolo military detachment, VEOs appear to have suspended direct face-to-face attacks on national security and defense forces (FDS), instead targeting decentralized or even remote military posts. This was the case in Gôgô, a village outside of Tehini, on the night of October 18, 2021, when a sniper fired on an army checkpoint, injuring one soldier (Army Chief of Staff press release from October 19, 2021).

ii. The second difference is the **use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs)**. Four out of ten attacks in 2021 used IEDs:
    1. April 1: a civilian vehicle hit an IED near Kafolo;
    2. April 12: a civilian vehicle was hit by multiple IEDs near Kafolo;
    3. May 26: a military patrol was hit by an IED near Kafolo;
    4. June 12: a patrol vehicle with a mixed group of security forces hit an IED near Téhini, killing a soldier and two gendarmes.

The use of IEDs is what experts call "low-cost terrorism," as it uses lethal yet unsophisticated logistics. According to an Ivorian security analyst, chemical products used by gold miners to break up rocks are a main component of local IEDs. Miners learn and use artisanal IED detonation techniques for mining, leaving one to wonder if there is a link between (illegal) gold mining operations and targeted attacks on civilian and security infrastructure.

iii. The third change concerns their **target selection**. Unlike the Grand-Bassam attack in March 2016 where civilians were the main target, two attacks in 2020 (June 11, Kafolo, Sikolo department, 14 soldiers killed; December 30, Kodienou, Doropo department, one gendarme killed) and all 2021 attacks targeted national military, with ten victims in total.

c) Perception trends of VE threats

In response to this uptick in terrorist violence, R4P studies brought to light and documented two key shifts in public perception around VEO risk in the northern border regions.

The awareness level of the extremist threat varies by region and correlates to recent history and direct exposure to terrorist attacks. VE risk perception decreases the further one moves away from areas with recent history and direct exposure to violence. Consequently, populations living in the Bounkani and Tchologo regions are more risk-aware than those from other northern regions where few or no VE attacks have occurred. This connection was clearly documented by the community resilience study led by Indigo-Côte d'Ivoire and the NORC public perception survey study in 2021.

**Graph 1: Rate of Concern over Security Threats**
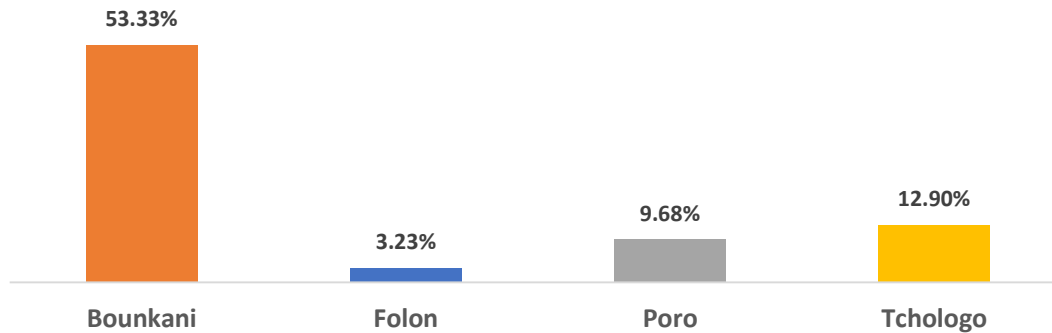
(Source: Resilience for Peace, Perception study, 2021)

Despite this variation, all northern border communities and local authorities share some minimum level of awareness that Côte d'Ivoire faces an unprecedented security threat led by external actors who seek a base of operations on national soil. They understand that VEOs hope to reach this goal through their efforts to win the trust and collaboration of local communities and even state actors. This strategy seems to be effective in neighboring countries.

Additionally, communities involved in R4P research believe that these groups have already invaded towns and villages on a wide scale. In Bounkani, the belief that VEOs have infiltrated the area has increased public vigilance and raised suspicions between local ethnic groups and toward public security officials. The scapegoating of entire communities such as the Fulani, justified or not, is perhaps the most acute symptom of this decline in public trust. In Bounkani, for example, over 50% of the people surveyed view the Fulani negatively. According to a Fulani participant at the Annual Learning Summit: "*My community is between the devil and the deep sea. On the one hand, authorities, state security forces (FDS) and some people suspect us of being accomplices of jihadists. On the other hand, jihadists perceive us as collaborating with FDS. It is becoming more and more difficult for us to circulate in certain places without being stopped. In addition, visits from relatives from another locality or neighboring countries for social events, such as marriages and baptisms, are subject to prior agreement from local authorities.*"

**Graph 2: Rate of negative perceptions of Fulani**
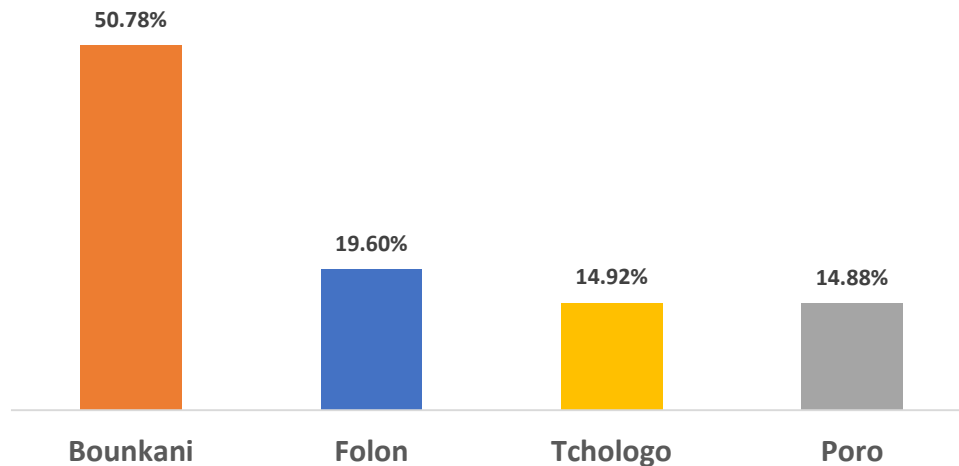
(Source: Resilience for Peace, Perception study, 2021)

On a more positive note, the lack of trust does not apply to all groups and relations between most ethnic groups in the northern regions are generally positive (cf., perception study).

d) Political and economic trends because of insecurity

The attacks described above have had three discernible consequences:

i. **Loss of legitimacy and distrust toward state agencies.** The two R4P studies on public perceptions of VE and on community resilience underscored that the public has greater confidence in non-state authorities (traditional chiefs, religious leaders) than in state agents (police, gendarmerie, military, and the judiciary). The confidence level is even lower for elected officials with a mandate to resolve problems facing residents, their constituencies, and is lowest in areas with a history of VEO attacks.
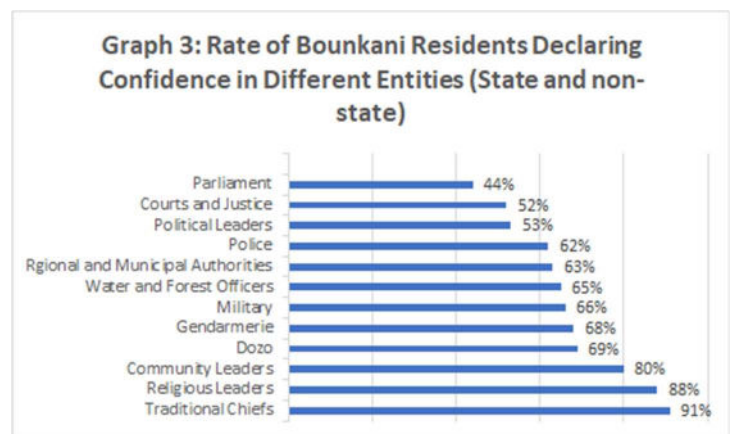
(Source: Resilience for Peace, Perception study, 2021)

ii. **The proliferation of road checkpoints to improve public security has triggered public hostility toward state security agencies, the opposite of its intended effect.** Local officials and residents alike complain that the current approach is a failure. Popular resistance to state efforts to control local transport and human mobility (most female traders are on foot) carries two noticeable consequences. First, it increases public hostility toward the security apparatus and thus motivates evasion (smuggling) over compliance. Second, it may accelerate recruitment by extremist groups, as has been the case in neighboring countries. VEOs tend to instrumentalize frustration against security forces to gain public sympathy.

iii. **Previous attacks marked local populations with a kind of collective trauma, as they remain at-risk for repeat attacks**. According to a Tehini military leader, this trauma also affects trade, local travel, and agricultural output. Many farmers, especially women, have abandoned their fields for fear of being attacked. According to a regional head of ANADER, lower agricultural yields will increase local food prices and could generate widespread food insecurity. As described by a transport union official in Gôgô (Tehini): "Since these 'outsiders' [terrorists] started planting homemade bombs; people travel less. Drivers of public transport vehicles have seen a drop in revenues and are unable to pay vehicle owners their daily dues. This could motivate a shift to more lucrative urban areas. Loss of local transport options would hinder trade, increase transport costs, and raise the cost of living." This assertion by the trade unionist is confirmed by the NORC perception study, which revealed that in Tchologo, a target of terrorist attacks, over 39% of survey respondents see the price of basic consumables as one of their primary concerns.

At the community level where R4P is working, some risk mitigation and resilience mechanisms are showing results, including the civil-military cells (CCM) and the cross-border exchange platforms between Ivoirian communities with those in Mali and Burkina Faso. The CCMs aim to strengthen links and improve collaboration between state security and citizens. According to a Bounkani CCM leader, the committee has successfully completed several initiatives to improve state-citizen collaboration, overcoming initial resistance and distrust.

II. Activities and achievements

### a) Progress in Numbers and Graphics

Infographic 1: Overview of the achievement of annual targets of selected performance indicators (in percentage), for details please refer to annex 3
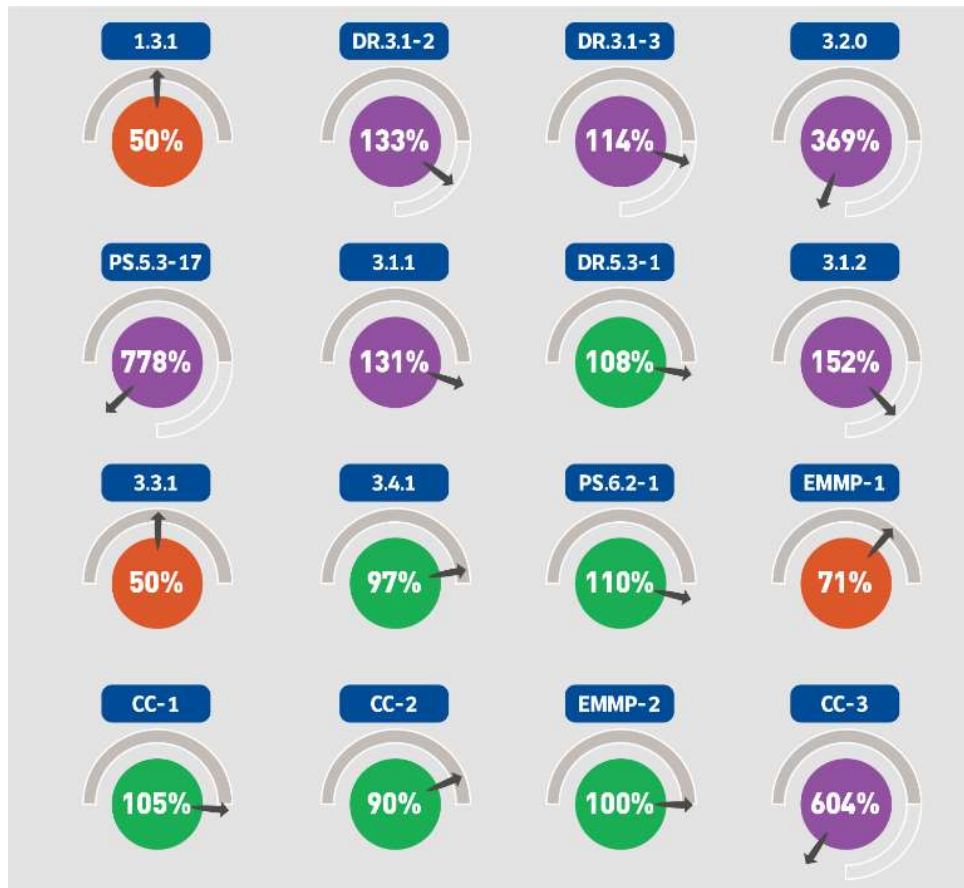
Overall, according to Infographic 1, six indicators are on target (38%), seven are above (43%), and three indicators are below their annual targets (19%). For the indicators below target, there are two main reasons. First, the postponement of some activities due to COVID-19, such as the annual learning summit, prevented the realization of other activities that depended on the former (regional validation workshops for example). In addition, the project made some necessary adjustments according to the context. For example, instead of 2 LDAGs (Listening, Discussion, & Action Groups) per radio as planned in the work plan, the project deemed it more appropriate to do 1 per radio and to have more Community Content Advisory Groups (GVC). Most of the indicators that exceeded their targets were media-related. Those targets were underestimated because it was difficult to predict certain factors in the first year of the project. These factors included the fact that the partner radio stations were much more effective and responsive than expected. In addition, the partner radio stations innovated to share productions among them in order to broadcast them in their respective areas. This increased the number and duration of rebroadcasts. In particular,

radio stations with little original content decided to rebroadcast productions from other partner radio stations regularly.

Infographic 2: Number of participants in Year 1
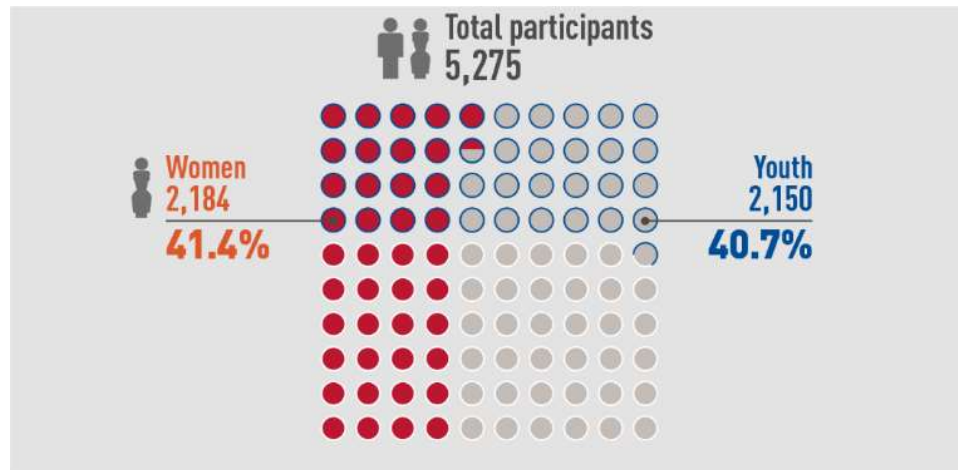
Here, we see that R4P engaged more than 5,200 persons in community activities during Year One. Over 40% of these beneficiaries were women and over 40% were youth.
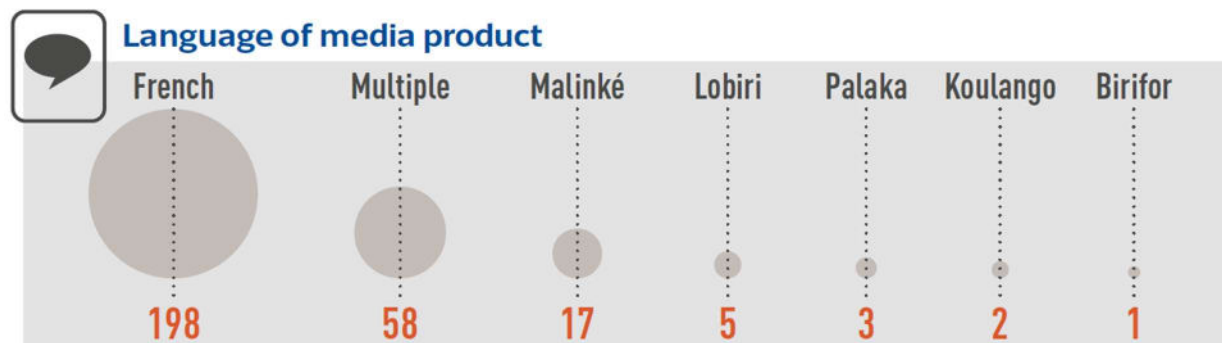
*Infographic 3: Number and type of media productions in Year 1*
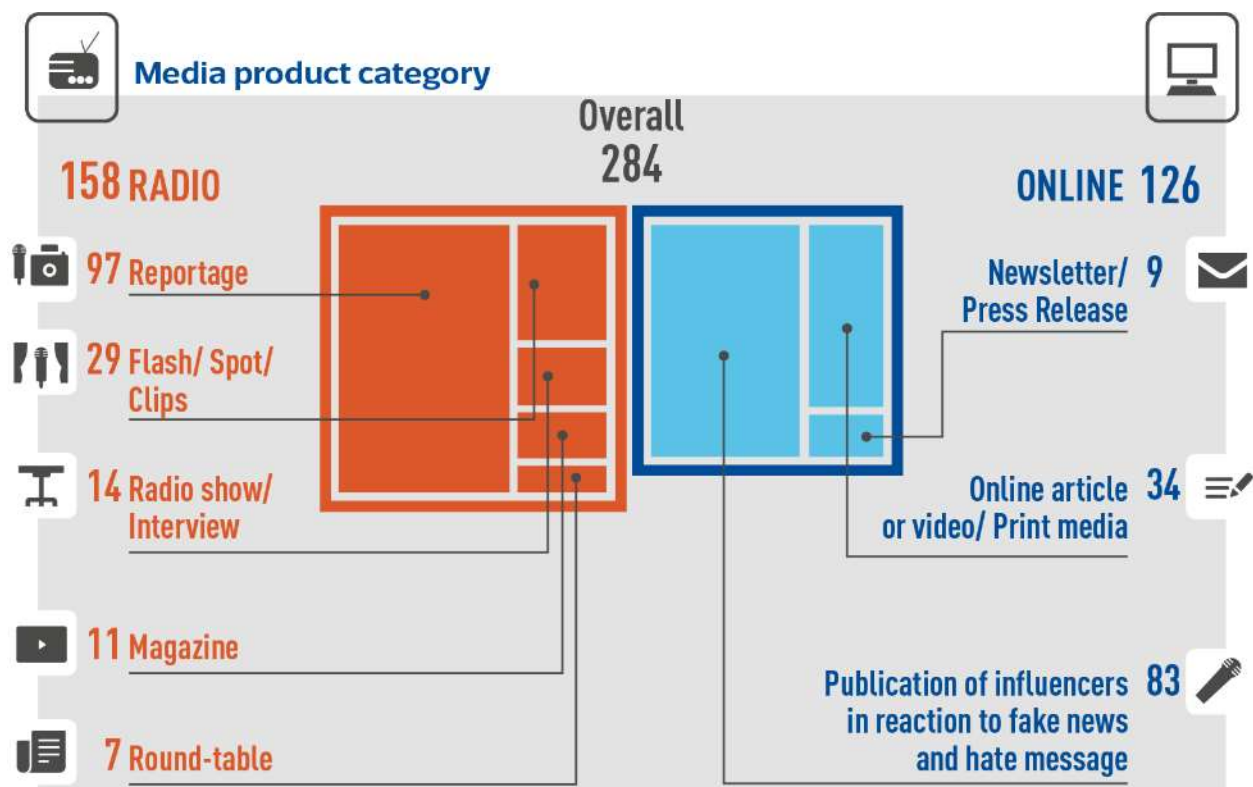
Of the 284 total media products in Year 1, over half involved community radio and nearly half occurred online using social media. Of the work online, most of the activity involved R4P-trained influencers responding to fake news and/or extremist messaging such as incendiary language or

hate speech. Of the radio content generated, five different formats were used to collect and convey content; some live, others recorded then broadcast. The large majority of broadcasts were on-site reporting ('reportage'). While French language transmissions dominated (graphic 4), many (58) transmissions employed multiple languages. Fulani will be added in 2022.

Infographic 4: Number of media productions by language

Infographic 5: Number and duration of (re)broadcasts of media products in Year 1
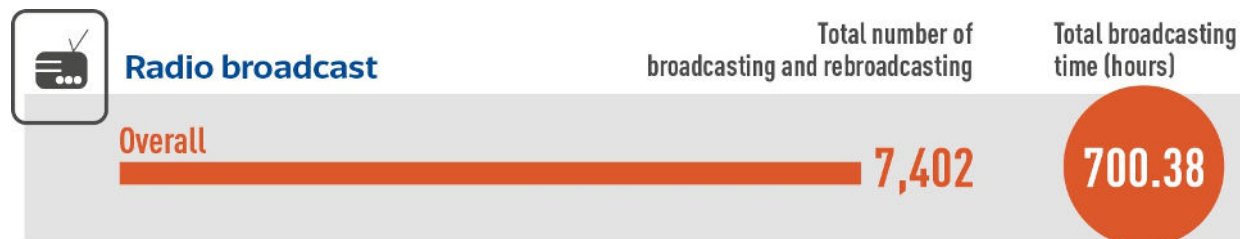
The total airtime for community radio in Year 1 amounted to over 700 hours of transmission. Of the total number of broadcasts (7,402), some of these were live transmissions, which were recorded and re-broadcast later or in other areas.

Infographic 6: Number of community activities per component in Year 1
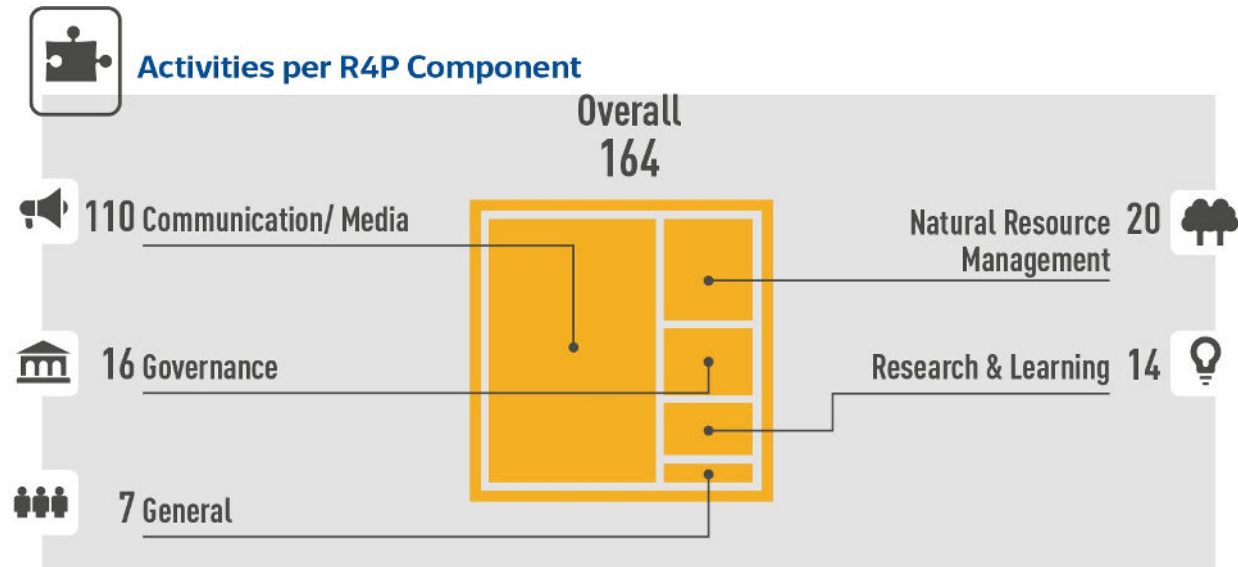
Across R4P's four technical workstreams, the total number of activities in Year 1 amounted to 164. 110 of these were in communications and digital media, 20 in natural resource management, 16 in governance and 14 in research and learning.

Infographic 7: Number of community activities per R4P region in Year 1
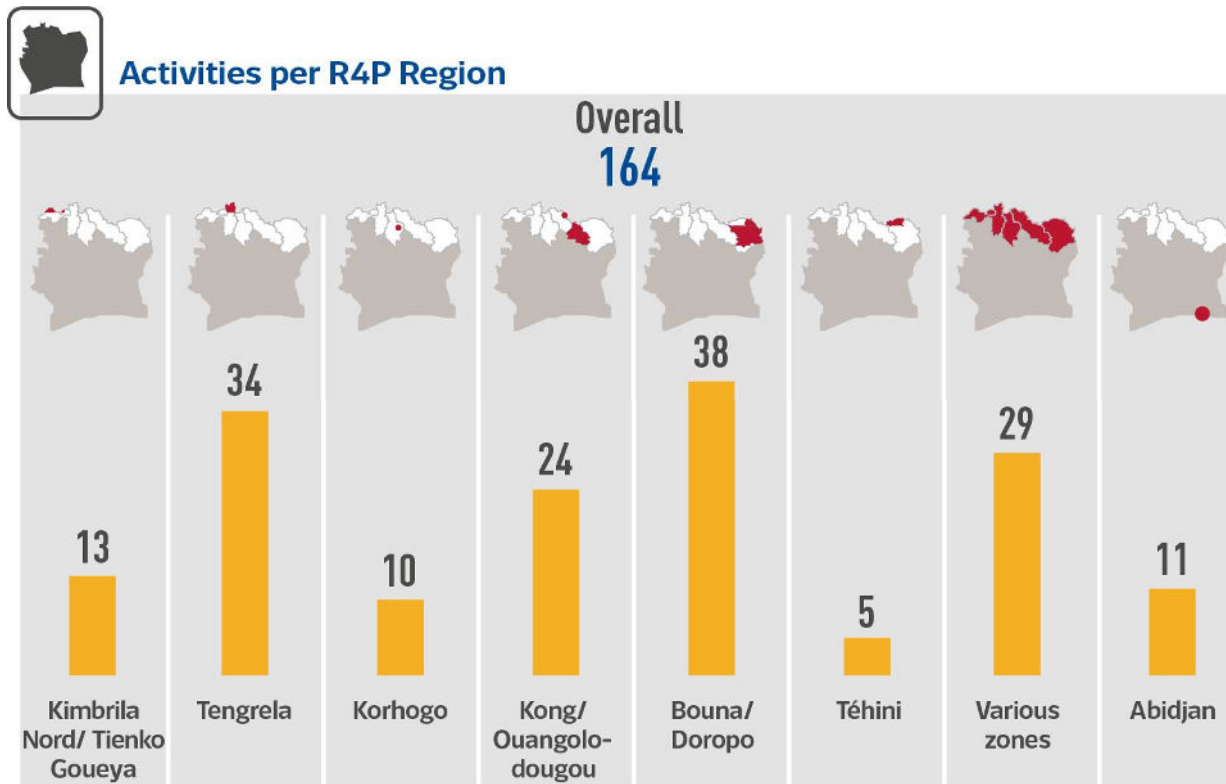
Geographic distribution of the 164 activities in Year 1 covers the five regions of concentration, as well as Abidjan and Korhogo. The highest concentration of activity occurred in Bouna/Doropo, with 38 activities. Tengrela followed, with 34 activities. Kong saw 24 activities in its localities. Kimbirila-Nord saw 13, and Tehini 5 activities. 29 activities covered all five regions.

b) Highlights from Annual Activities

Official Project Launch

Opening remarks by Minister Fidèle Sarassoro

On November 16, 2021, Equal Access International (EAI) held the official project launch of the USAID R4P project in Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire. Minister Sarassoro confirmed that project objectives are "*perfectly in line with those of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. They reinforce actions undertaken by the Government and the National Security Council in line with instructions from the President of the Republic, his Excellency Alassane Ouattara.*" The USAID Country Representative in Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Nancy Lowenthal, confirmed that the R4P project brings "*expertise to more effectively respond to the challenges of violent extremism.*"

Local authorities, traditional chiefs, security and defense forces came from all regions and departments covered by R4P to attend the launch. The launch attracted the participation of 15 press agencies from Abidjan, as well as the project's local radio station partners, television journalists, national and local radio stations, the written press and online.

Annual Learning Summit

From February 8-10, 2021, EAI, and its partners the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, Indigo Côte d'Ivoire, and Chaire Unesco Bioethique-University of Alassane Ouattara (CUB-UAO), organized an Annual Learning Summit of the Resilience for Peace project. The objective of the summit was to enable participating researchers and practitioners to understand the community resilience approach to countering violent extremism. It also served to share research results from various studies conducted over year one of the project. This Annual Learning Summit helped increase understanding of how research and practice can effectively complement each other to generate real-time learning to be translated into program activities, advocacy messages, and positive media narratives around social cohesion, state legitimacy and resilience. The summit also allowed researchers and practitioners to build

relationships, strengthen mutual appreciation, and foster collaboration, while educating participants on research findings and recommendations. National research institutions have benefited directly by designing and conducting these studies. The Resilience for Peace project also benefited from the studies' key findings and practical recommendations to guide the work plan for year two of the project.

Ivoirian researchers and practitioners in plenary session

Partnership with the National Border Commission

To achieve the common objectives of strengthening resilience and improving the standards of living of Côte d'Ivoire's northern border populations, Equal Access International and the National Borders Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (CNFCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize their collaboration on August 9, 2021.

As part of this dynamic and fruitful cooperation, the R4P project has seconded a consultant to support the process of developing the National Integrated Border Management Policy (PNGIF-CI) initiated by the CNFCI. Beyond collecting and analyzing data, the consultant trained the CNFCI team on research methods and helped them improve their data gathering process. The work of the consultant helped identify a need for data collection at the local community level, leading to an extension of the data gathering effort by the CNFCI.

c) Governance

Bringing Women and Youth Closer to Local Authorities

Workshop with women leaders and local authorities, September 25, 2021, Tengrela

Throughout the past year, governance activities aimed to bring women and youth closer to local authorities by creating regular feedback loops between leadership and all social strata and demographics, including Fulani. Many initiatives successfully engaged local security and defense forces as well, both to increase community understanding of security initiatives and strategy, and to promote two-way information flow to increase real-time situational awareness for both FDS and communities. Pursuing greater public collaboration between FDS and communities in this way can spur public accountability dynamics and deflate inter-communal tensions.

Joining women of opposing communities for joint advocacy with local authorities

In Tengrela, R4P held meetings in the more conflict-prone areas and organized 11 focus groups with young people, women, and other community members to reflect on and analyze conflict between the Malinké and Senoufo communities. R4P's approach was to first meet communities and their leaders in their own neighborhoods, a gesture much appreciated by community members. Focus group participants in the districts of Sikabala and Dramanela (Malinké area) and Gbongola (Sénoufo area) reported that previous peace-building efforts had "*taken advantage of our distress, with NGO officials taking money from us and promising to find further funding for our activities. [One actor] came to understand the conflict but never followed up with concrete action.*"

Concretely, R4P identified that the absence of communication between women from different neighborhoods of Tengrela presented an opportunity to build bridges. In October 2021, an R4P-facilitated workshop allowed for the creation a Women's Oversight and Action Committee in Tengrela named SIGUIKAFO ("sit down and chat" in Malinke) that unites women from different neighborhoods and communities of the town. This committee is the first permanent platform in Tengrela that brings together women from both Malinké and Sénoufo communities to talk about issues of community interest. Aiming to identify shared needs and concerns among diverse women's groups, the platform establishes advocacy and communication channels to transmit their requests to State authorities and services, including security forces. After an initial training on

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advocacy, the women were invited by R4P to the first formal exchange between with civil and military authorities, both to initiate contact and to apply their advocacy skills. Women highlighted increased aggressions and nocturnal theft in homes and on the street, where women are frequent targets. Following this session, local security forces incorporated this feedback by increasing night patrols in select neighborhoods.

Women and Youth create structured, volunteer groups to engage public service agencies

In Kimbirila-Nord, R4P organized seven focus groups with the Fulani, leaders of community groups, youth and women from Kimbirila North and Tiefinzo (Folon region). Semi-structured interviews were held with state technical services, including the Regional Directorate for Women, Family and Children, the Regional Directorate for Youth, and the Youth Employment Agency. This activity sought to advocate with the offices of state technical services for more effective collaboration with young people. It also endeavored to make the civilian security actors in these localities more aware of the need to pool their strengths through coordinated action and to consider establishing a formal discussion framework, such as a CCM. R4P generated real enthusiasm among local stakeholders and state technical services.

The youth and women's leaders of Kimbirila Nord and Tiefinzo understood the need to establish registered associations to better address the new security dynamics in the region. R4P accompanied these youth and women by organizing information and training sessions on statutes and internal regulations. Youth and women then developed statutes and action plans for their associations and soon had these validated by government officials. Many participants claimed this was the first time they had formally established such a civic association. Such formalization allowed R4P to facilitate collaboration between these youth and women's associations, the Civil-military cell (CCM) of Minignan, and other state services. Participants remarked that this was the first time that government agencies had traveled to their localities to discuss collaboration, possible funding, and employment opportunities.

R4P continues to provide tailored support to these new associations through its awareness campaign to strengthen civil-military trust and to encourage practical forms of collaboration between youth, FDS and Dozo (traditional hunters) in Kimbirila-Nord and Tiefinzo. Around 300 people, including youth and women's delegations from Sokoro, Goueya and Sanzanou, took part in this campaign.

Supporting state campaigns to deescalate inter-group violence

In November 2021, ongoing hostilities and reciprocal violence between Lobi and Fulani groups in Bouna department led to a request from Fulani leaders for state intervention in Pouan, a village 15 km from Bouna. The Bouna gendarmerie authorized the local peace and mediation committee to intervene. R4P supported the local CCM to accelerate their information and advocacy campaign with communities, traditional and religious leaders, and FDS officials by becoming active members of the team visiting the village. Following this, the Bounkani Prefect held a working session on peaceful cohabitation and legal resolution options for Bouna civilian leaders (community, customary and religious leaders). Following this workshop, R4P delivered an awareness campaign focused on peaceful resolutions of local disputes and improving civil military

collaboration in Koflandé and Sipaldouo. Participants learned about community-level and legal recourse for farmer-herder disputes over crop damage. These R4P partners have since planned additional meetings aimed at finding permanent solutions to inter-community conflicts following violent incidents in Sipaldouo.

Group photo of CCM, SDF and Dozos

Building trust between at-risk youth and security forces

In December 2021, thirty young people from Tengrela participated in a training workshop on civic engagement and strategic non-violent action for change. Youth participants discussed the causes and consequences of antisocial behavior and violence against state officials and personnel in Tengrela, sharing their perspectives on possible solutions. They decided to meet separately with each FDS entity to understand their mandate and potential for youth collaboration. The encounter further allowed FDS to remind youth of the importance of valid identity papers. The administrator of the Tengrela mayor's office described the meetings as supporting their own efforts to increase the forms of public support available to young people.

d) Natural Resource Management (NRM)

Identifying VE vulnerabilities around natural resources and creating social infrastructure for direct action

The relationship between natural resources management (NRM) and the risk of VE is often not well understood by communities at risk, which in turn heightens their vulnerabilities. Throughout the year, R4P organized a series of local vulnerability and resilience assessments linked to NRM using participatory methodology in a dozen remote border villages. For example, in July and August 2021, R4P brought together 170 participants (women, young people, elderly) from the Malinké, Lobi, Fulani, Loron, Mossi communities. Through participatory exercises and focus group discussions, participants shared their individual views and opinions on how the management of different natural resources can translate into community divisions.

In Kalamon and Gogo (Bounkani region), the primary weakness raised was the recurrent farmer-herder conflict around water points and grazing areas. Similarly, the community assessments in the villages around Sikolo and Kong identified difficulties in accessing water points for long periods each year, challenges accessing land, and the unlawful appropriation of farmland as vulnerabilities. These challenges disrupt cattle breeding patterns, and untended herds damage local crops. In response, local farmers now block access to passing pastoralists, forcing them to move their herds elsewhere or to take up farming. These kinds of tensions and grievances are well documented as entry points for violent extremist groups who present themselves as alternatives to economic despair.

Fulani man in Sikolo designing a map of natural resource in his community, Sikolo

An additional conflict dynamic is growing between mining workers and national or international mining companies exploiting these assets since the end of the post-electoral crisis of 2010-2011.

Indigenous populations are reportedly excluded from 'their' mineral resources by mining companies, fueling grievances and hostilities.

When discussing the link between NRM and violent extremism, residents framed their vulnerability in terms of climate shifts and resource scarcity, fluctuating market prices, and farmer-herder conflicts. Porous national borders, Fulani scapegoating, evictions from national parks, and the closure of illegal mining sites were also highlighted as potential pull factors of VEOs.

Informed by these in-depth assessments and the resulting priorities, each community set up a village committee to support natural resource management (CVA-GRN). Committee members include men, women, and youth from all ethnic communities, including Fulani. Each village committee developed an action plan listing concrete solutions to improve natural resource management, to reinforce inter-community trust, and reduce vulnerability to VEOs.

Engaging decentralized state services to collaborate on CVE-relevant NRM dynamics

During year one, R4P set up four NRM working groups covering the border departments of Tengrela, Kong, Tehini, Doropo and Bouna. Each working group is composed of 20 members or more, many of whom are representatives of state services charged with managing different natural resources. The group also includes non-state resource representatives, including from the Fulani community. The working groups provide a platform for coordinated, targeted action around VE-related vulnerabilities and for support to R4P communities that initiate resource management projects of their own. Each NRM working group has identified and prioritized the vulnerabilities and resilience dynamics to be addressed in their department. Furthermore, they developed initial action plans to undertake concrete support for R4P communities that have established NRM village committees with local action plans.

Listening to Fulani concerns and promoting agency

*Meeting with the women's association in Kalamon*

Along the northern border, Fulani communities are increasingly equated with jihadists and treated suspiciously. Fulani leaders say they are exhausted by the recurrent discrimination, arbitrary arrests, and seizure of cattle or property. Throughout the year on different occasions, R4P brought together over 100 Fulani community leaders from 30 localities along the border to share their experiences with VE-dynamics and to identify resilience initiatives to counter VEO influence. The prefectorial authorities and representatives from state services in charge of natural resources participated in these meetings, offering their support and buy-in. For many Fulani leaders, these meetings provided a unique opportunity to identify diverse and shared challenges and opportunities. During these meetings, they openly shared their frustrations and discussed concrete actions on how to end the stigmatization in a climate of VE-related fear. Encouraging Fulani leaders to actively engage in these working groups has made the Fulani a stronger ally with efforts to prevent the spread of violent extremism.

e) Communication and Digital Media

R4P Community Ecosystem

Setting-up a network of competent and relevant radio stations

Map 2: Map of geographic coverage by R4P radio partners
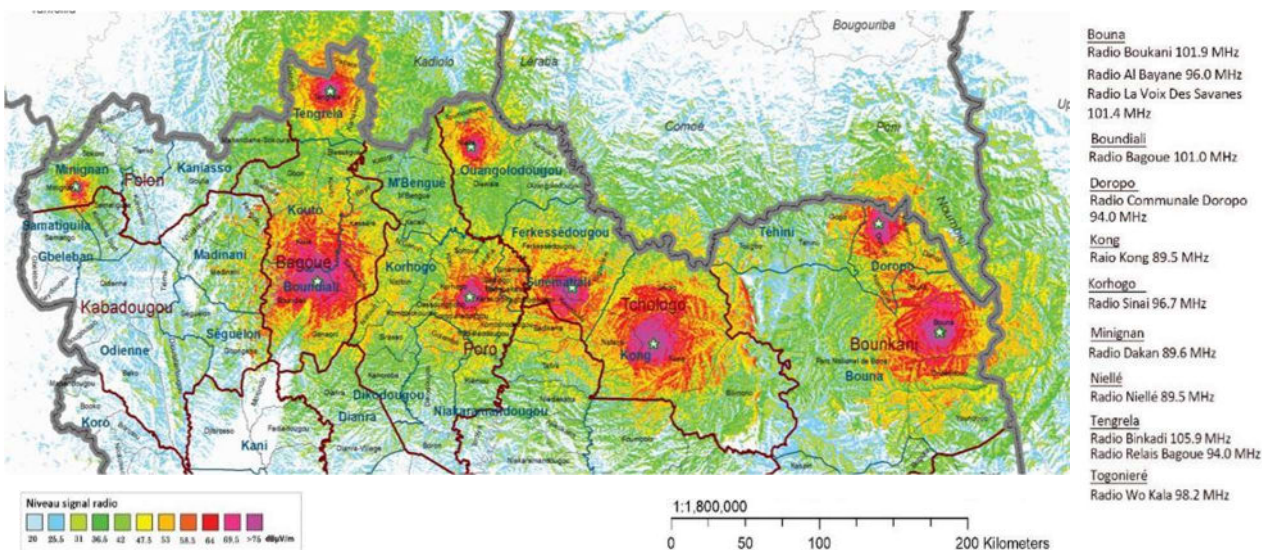
The R4P media component sought to understand the media environment in Northern Côte d'Ivoire to identify the most adequate partners, stakeholders, methods and channels for social behavior change programming with regards to community resilience against violent extremism. The northern borders of Côte d'Ivoire have little media coverage, so the project began by assessing radio capacities in Tengrela, Kimbirila North, Sikolo-Kong, Bouna/Doropo, and Tehini.

This assessment involved rapid surveys with communities, which in turn served to identify and propose actions with a list of partner radio stations with the potential to increase community resilience.

A total of 22 radio stations were assessed across the six border regions, either in person or remotely, focusing on technical skills, production competency, CVE understanding, community engagement, and management quality. R4P identified eleven radio stations and signed partnership agreements with them, establishing the initial R4P radio network. To account for variation in sophistication, resources, commitment and production capacity, the partner radio stations are categorized either as "production" or as "broadcast" partners, referring to their primary activity within the partnership. The assessment process helped R4P generate radio coverage maps which identify those border communities without local radio coverage to develop alternative communication strategies for these groups.

On-site training in the production of radio spots with Kong radio stations

Each partner radio station received specialized training aligned with R4P goals, specifically to foster better understanding of how community resilience can serve to counter extremist violence and thinking. Journalists, radio managers and technicians, women, and youth groups benefited from these training sessions by coming to see how identity-based thinking can become a conflict trigger and entrench divisions. The training sessions also incorporated community members to build bridges between media actors and local people. Directly engaging community members resulted in the production of short radio spots in local languages (Fulani, Palaka, Senoufo, Malinké, Lobi, and Kponka) that highlighted existing community resiliencies. This participatory approach incorporated R4P's "community ecosystem approach," which emphasizes local ownership of the media production process. The combined actions of the capacity assessment, on-site training, and community media production have increased CVE enthusiasm and awareness among local media actors, particularly radio stations.
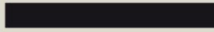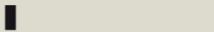
Study on the communication ecosystem

To further deepen R4P's understanding of the communication ecosystem in the border areas, a mixed-method study was conducted with a particular focus on women and youth. The resulting insights informed the R4P communication strategy for behavior change and the prioritization of information means, channels and mechanisms. A total of 1,083 people were interviewed in cities and villages across the R4P intervention area.

Infographic 7: Disaggregation of respondents from study on communication ecosystem by gender, age group and location

Area	Towns and villages drawn	Number of respondents		Total
		Men	Women	
Bouna	Bouna	52	55	107
	Vonkoro	34	30	64
	Total	86	85	171
Doropo	Doropo	53	51	104
	Danoa	22	22	44
	Kalamon	21	21	42
	Total	96	94	190
Tengréla	Tengréla	40	41	81
	Débété	29	30	59
	Féni	19	21	40
	Total	88	92	180
Sikolo/Kong	Kong	40	41	81
	Sikolo	36	37	73
	Manogota	24	23	47
	Total	100	101	201
Kimbirila-Nord/ Goueya	Goueya	39	40	79
	Kimbirila-Nord	24	21	45
	Sokoro	29	28	57
	Total	92	89	181
Korhogo	Kimbirila Nord	40	40	80
Ouangolodougou	Sokoro	40	40	80
	Total	80	80	160
Total		**542**	**541**	**1083**

Age of the interviewee	%
15 – 19	14.2
20 – 24	14.4
25 – 29	12.7
30 – 34	11.0
35 – 39	11.8
40 – 44	10.2
45 – 49	6.9
50 – 54	6.5
55 – 59	3.6
60 – 64	3.1
65 – 69	1.6
70 – 74	1.4
75 – 79	0.8
80 and +	0.7
Undeclared	1.1
Total	**100.0**
Average	35.2 [34.2 – 36.0]
Median	33.0

Soliciting public perception from remote areas to inform national policy processes

In October 2021, five partner radio stations launched one series of interactive radio shows (round table and/or call-ins) to encourage listeners to share their views on priority needs and the roles of the State in border areas. The activity was designed with the National Border Commission (CNFCI), to inform the CNFCI process of developing a national border policy.

Launching the first R4P radio show on community resilience

In November 2021, the first R4P on-air magazine was finalized and delivered by Kong FM radio station. Under the theme of 'regional strengths', it highlighted examples of community resilience from across the Tchologo region. In line with the R4P ecosystem approach, the draft production was reviewed by a diverse group of community members to ensure that the content was conflict sensitive, and to solicit suggestions for improvement. The show was produced and broadcast by Kong FM radio station, and then also aired on the other ten partner radio stations. In January and February 2022, partner radios evolved to produce further magazines and round tables on community resilience.

Rapid-response radio emissions in Korhogo

Building a network of social media influencers who are locally rooted and mentored by national-level coaching

In September 2021, R4P's digital communication component led a training of trainers (TOT) in 'Tech Camp' facilitation techniques for eight established influencers from Abidjan, Korhogo and Odienne. Tech Camp is a workshop format aiming to equip youth participants with social media skills to help counter extremist rhetoric, hate speech and fake news online. This training helped the project establish a pool of national Tech Camp mentors capable of training and coaching the network of social media influencers from R4P border areas. In addition, these national-level influencers serve to amplify the social media content generated by the border-area network. Equipped through the training-of-trainers approach, eight youth trainers led a series of six TechCamps in each R4P region. These trainings reached 145 youth, 54 of which were young women. At the end of each TechCamp, a regional influencer network was created with leadership by a coordination committee whose primary task is to develop and implement an action plan. R4P teams will support these influencer groups to develop and deliver against their action plans in the fight against hate speech and fake news.

*Two young designing a digital communication
strategy at the ToT TechCamp, Bassam*

Happy family picture of participants from Bouna

Creation of R4P social media profiles

As part of its online strategy, R4P social media profiles were created on Facebook ([Resilience for Peace](#)), Twitter ([@ResiliencePaix](#)) and YouTube ([Resilience for Peace](#)). All channels went live in November 2021 to mark the project's official launch. Each channel will disseminate project activities, news, and impact, to promote R4P values of accountability and transparency towards communities.

f) Research and Learning

Year One of the project saw several targeted field studies and perception surveys around matters of violent extremism, public attitudes toward State-led responses to insecurity, and the quality of local service delivery. These diverse research efforts were conducted by R4P partners NORC and

R4P meeting with customary chiefs in Katogo during the initial scoping mission.

Indigo Côte d'Ivoire, as well as independent national research teams hired for two political economy analyses (PEA) in the northern regions. Research topics are diverse but share a common aim of generating greater insight into the VE landscape, its causes and consequences. The research produced findings and recommendations that R4P can draw on to improve community resilience and enhance social cohesion in the face of violent extremism, and to inform government efforts to control its spread by securing communities along the northern border.

Literature Reviews on Violent Extremism and NRM

NORC led a literature review of trends in violent extremism in the Sahel and Côte d'Ivoire, its drivers and common early warning signs, as well as different strategies and programs to address violent extremism, including community resilience, in the country and regionally. This review informed the subsequent perceptions survey and other R4P research activities.

The literature review on the intersection of Natural Resource Management and violent extremism was led by NRM expert and independent consultant, Terah DeJong. It focused on developing a framework that allows R4P to link NRM research with CVE questions and identified gaps in the literature which can be addressed by subsequent project activities and research.

Perceptions Survey

Data collector in Vonkoro (Bouna) using the only way to connect to the telephone network by using a modified cell phone that is connected to a TNT antenna.

Forty-seven Ivoirian enumerators composed of students and eight supervisor professors conducted the data collection for the perceptions survey after a five-day training in October and pilot survey test, led by NORC experts. Themes included demographics, views of government performance and services, views of conflict and violence, and sources of resilience. The survey of roughly 2,400 respondents provided critical capacity building for enumerators, selected based on their CVs and completion of training. The survey team produced a brief that was shared during a December event with USAID and UNDP on countering violent extremism in Côte d'Ivoire. Survey findings will contribute to learning around VE sources, patterns, and mobilizing actors in the north, as well as views of government performance, and sources of community resilience

Early Warning Signal (EWS) Survey

The EWS survey contributed to enhanced knowledge of warning signs of VE in northern Côte d'Ivoire, enabling more effective interventions and resilience strategies. Survey findings showed that while most of the surveyed population in northern Côte d'Ivoire do not appear to be experiencing the early warning signals used by the survey, three indicators may warrant further attention: 1) Conflicts between

farmers and herders; 2) Cattle theft; and, 3) Public discourse promoting hate and inter-group violence.

Political Economy Analysis (PEA) Studies

In December, R4P launched a political economy analysis of two separate but complementary topics: local governance and security governance in the northern regions.

The study on local governance sought to understand the power dynamics of governance in the northern border regions by mapping the institutions and networks of local and decentralized state actors and their interactions. The PEA on security governance sought to understand and map the power dynamics of local security governance. Specifically, the study mapped mandated national and local state systems of security governance, describing informal and community-based systems that support or spoil the proper functioning of state security governance systems on the ground.

Participatory Action Research

Over the project's first year, Indigo Côte d'Ivoire conducted and facilitated participatory action research (PAR) on the dynamics of vulnerability and resilience in the project intervention areas. Activities consisted of focus groups, formal and informal interviews with the target actors or groups of actors such as young people, women, community and religious leaders, administrative authorities as well as Fulani communities. Participatory Action Research is a qualitative research methodology that involves researchers and participants collaborating to understand a given social issue and to take remedial action to bring about specific social change.

This innovative research approach enabled participants to enjoy a secure space to share perceptions and experiences of the security situation and to offer their interpretation of events and its impacts on their daily life. The research also brought about a more refined understanding of the contextual dynamics likely to affect the implementation of activities, positively or negatively. Research activities also helped to identify, in each zone, modes of responses available to communities, and their pros and cons.

Discussion group with youths from Tengrela
facilitated by Indigo-Côte d'Ivoire

III. Annexes

Annex 1: List of CVE-related incidents recorded by Resilience for Peace during Year 1

N°	Date	Location	Incident Type	In numbers
1	July 12, 2021	Sahandala	Kidnapping	No loss
2	July 12, 2021	Sahandala	Bulldozer fire	No loss
3	July 24, 2021	Bondoukou	Armed attack against civilians	1 death
4	July 27, 2021	Tissie, Bondoukou	Armed attack against FDS	1 death
5	Aug 8, 2021	Danoa	Spying: Unknown drone flyover	No loss
6	Aug 9, 2021	Nianmoin	Arrest	No loss
7	Aug 11, 2021	Botou	Robbery	No loss
8	Aug 17, 2021	Kimbirila Nord	Strangers	No loss
9	Aug 21, 2021	Djemitedouo	Robbery	No loss
10	Sept 05, 2021	Zêpou	Bulldozer fire	Loss of bulldozer
11	Sept 09, 2021	Môrô-Môrô Bolè, Tougbo	Burkinabe Refugees	No loss
12	Sept 09, 2021	Tougbo	Burkinabe Refugees	No loss
13	Sept 09, 2021	Bolè	Burkinabe Refugees	5 deaths
14	Sept 10, 2021	Togolokaye	Helicopter Crash	No loss
15	Sept 27, 2021	Kimbirila Nord	Kidnapping: Rumor	Stigmatization of Fulani community
16	Oct 8, 2021	Laoudiba-Gbanhui	Armed robbery	7 million fcfa robbed
17	Oct 8, 2021	Téhini	Kidnapping of a Fulani man	One person Kidnapped
18	Oct 19, 2021	Gongonpèle	Armed attack of SDF	Two soldiers wounded
19	Oct 21, 2021	Barkè	Bulldozer fire	One bulldozer lost
20	Oct 22, 2021	Barkè	IED explosion	One army vehicle destroyed
21	Oct 30, 2021	Gôgô	IED discovery	No loss
22	Nov 8, 2021	Téhini	Hostage release	Two hostages released
23	Nov 15, 2021	Lagbo	Accusations of rape against FDS	One social media campaign
24	Nov 15, 2021	Tiéfinzo	Attempt of rape	One person Kidnapped
25	Nov 16, 2021	Sipaldouo	Attack of Fulani villages	One person arrested
26	Nov 16, 2021	Tengrela	Fakes News	Fear in the Community
27	Nov 21, 2021	Bouna	Attack of Fulani villages continued	Seven people dead
28	Nov 24, 2021	Kimbirila Nord	Raid of the FDS in the gold mining sites	Six motorcycles and three water pumps confiscated, Three people arrested
29	Nov 26, 2021	Sanzanou	Land conflict	No loss
30	Nov 30, 2021	Madina	Raid of the FDS in the gold mining sites	Several machines confiscated, Three people arrested
31	Dec 8, 2021	Tienko	Arrest of an unknow man	One person arrested

N°	Date	Location	Incident Type	In numbers
32	Dec 13, 2021	FIKI	Cattleman arrested possessing a Kalashnikov	Three persons arrested
33	Jan 04, 2022	Téhini	Attack in a Burkinabe village	No loss
34	Jan 08, 2022	Téhini	Fakes News on an attack of FDS	N/A
35	Jan 14, 2022	Bouna	Ambush of FDS	One death of Gendarmes
36	Jan 24, 2022	Ondéfidouo	Discontent of the youth	No loss
37	Jan 28, 2022	Kounandouo	Prohibition of access to the village water points to the Fulani	
38	Feb 1, 2022	Togolokaye	Discovering of IED	Death of 2 Dozos
39	Feb 1, 2022	Gôgô	Robbery	One man Robbed
40	Feb 2, 2022	Kointa	Discovering of IED	No loss
41	Feb 3, 2022	Bouna	Kidnapping of pump attendant	One person kidnapped

Annex 2: Chronology of major attacks attributed to violent extremist organizations during Year 1

March 29, 2021: Militants suspected of belonging to Katibat Macina attacked an army post near Kafolo killing at least two people.

March 29, 2021: Not long after the raid in Kafolo, militants attacked an additional army post near the town of Tehini in the neighboring Zanzan district leaving at least one gendarme dead.

April 1, 2021: Côte d'Ivoire suffered its first reported IED attack when a civilian vehicle was hit not far from Kafolo.

April 12, 2021: A gendarmerie vehicle was struck by an IED blast just outside of Kafolo.

May 19, 2021: Suspected jihadists destroyed a customs post near Kamonokaha in the Savanes district.

May 19, 2021: Shortly after the Kamonokaha attack, another customs post was destroyed in Korohouita on the border with the Valle du Bandama district.

May 26, 2021: A third IED was detonated on Ivorian troops on patrol near Kafolo, though no one was injured.

June 7, 2021: Suspected jihadists assaulted the town of Tougbo, a village on the border with Burkina Faso in the Zanzan district. At least one Ivorian soldier was killed in a subsequent skirmish with the militants.

June 12, 2021: One Ivorian soldier and two gendarmes were killed by an IED during a patrol near the town of Tehini.

Night of 18 – 19 October 2021: Unidentified assailants attacked a police outpost in near Gôgô,Tehini, Bounkani Region, Oct. 19. One security force member was reportedly injured in the incident before they repelled the attack.

			Achievements					

R4P Complexity-Aware Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (CAMEL) Indicator Tracking Table: Year 1
Performance and Environmental Mitigation/Monitoring indicators list

Overall Project Goal: Strengthen community resilience and learning, particularly for youth and women', to counter violent extremism (CVE) in Cote d'Ivoire's northern border areas.

No.	Indicator Title	Baseline	Q2(Apr-June 2021)	Q3(July - Sept 2021)	Q4 (Oct-Dec 2021)	Q1 (Jan-March 2022)	Annual achievement	Y1 Target
Objective 1: Increase knowledge, learning, and understanding (KLU) of VE in border communities								
1.1.0	% of research and analysis consumers reporting that R4P products are relevant and actionable	N/A				83%	83%	70%
Sub Objective 1.1. Increased practical research and analysis conducted to address analytical gap areas around community resilience to violent extremism								
1.1.1	% of identified analytical gap areas around community resilience to violent extremism addressed through practical research and analysis	0		0		91%	91%	100%
Sub Objective 1.2. Created a cadre of local researchers/practitioners' and key actors on CVE								
Sub Objective 1.3. Organized collaborative learning and adapting platforms and networking for exchanges between community actors and research/practitioners on CVE								
1.3.1	# internal and external collaborative learning and adapting (CLA) meetings held	0	1	2	1	2	6	12
Objective 2: Reduce socio-political-economic marginalization and inequality in border areas								
2.1.0	% of respondents stating that they had the opportunity to share their opinions or needs with community leaders or local authorities	83,6%			83,6%			N/A for Year 1
Sub-objective 2.1. Prevented inter-communal and ethnic conflicts in northern border communities or other areas as relevant								

			Achievements					
								Y1 Target
No.	**Indicator Title**	**Baseline**	**Q2(Apr-June 2021)**	**Q3(July - Sept 2021)**	**Q4 (Oct-Dec 2021)**	**Q1 (Jan-March 2022)**	**Annual achievement**	

R4P Complexity-Aware Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (CAMEL) Indicator Tracking Table: Year 1
Performance and Environmental Mitigation/Monitoring indicators list

Overall Project Goal: Strengthen community resilience and learning, particularly for youth and women', to counter violent extremism (CVE) in Cote d'Ivoire's northern border areas.

No.	Indicator Title	Baseline	Q2(Apr-June 2021)	Q3(July - Sept 2021)	Q4 (Oct-Dec 2021)	Q1 (Jan-March 2022)	Annual achievement	Y1 Target
2.1.1	% of respondents reporting increased trust between communities in northern border areas	60.7%			60.7%			N/A for Year 1
Sub-objective 2.2. Increased accountable local governance for ALL in northern border areas to respond to VE threats								
DR.3.1-2	# of groups trained in conflict mediation/resolution skills or consensus-building techniques with USG assistance	0	0	3	12	5	20	15
DR.3.1-3	# of consensus building forums (multi-party, civil/security sector, and/or civil /political) held with USG Assistance	0	0	2	6	8	16	14
EMMP-3	# of new community and government-led measures that improve NRM administration in northern border areas	0	0	0	1	0	1	N/A
Sub-objective 2.3. Promoted innovative economic livelihood opportunities in northern border areas for youth and women								
2.3.1	% of youth reporting satisfaction with economic livelihood opportunities	9.5%			9.5%			N/A for Year 1
YOUTH-3	% of participants who are youth (15-29) in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources [IM-level]	N/A						N/A for Year 1

	R4P Complexity-Aware Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (CAMEL) Indicator Tracking Table: Year 1 Performance and Environmental Mitigation/Monitoring indicators list							

Overall Project Goal: Strengthen community resilience and learning, particularly for youth and women', to counter violent extremism (CVE) in Cote d'Ivoire's northern border areas.

No.	Indicator Title	Baseline	Achievements					Y1 Target
			Q2(Apr-June 2021)	Q3(July - Sept 2021)	Q4 (Oct-Dec 2021)	Q1 (Jan-March 2022)	Annual achievement	
EMMP-4	# of conditionalities or measures imposed on livelihood activity beneficiaries aimed at mitigating potential negative environmental impacts.	0						N/A for Year 1

Objective 3: Increase positive narratives to counter radicalization and hate speech, particularly for youth women and girls in border areas

3.1.0	% increase of CVE-relevant media products across media platforms	N/A			465%	34%	249%	20%
3.2.0	% of non-state media outlets or platforms assisted by R4P who produce a viable operations plan lasting at least six months	8%		8%		N/A	92%	25%

Sub Objective 3.1. Improved media coverage and platforms through positive narratives and increased availability of information to counter VEOs

PS.5.3-17	# of times awareness materials (CVE-relevant media products) broadcasted or published	0	0	102	6955	345	7402	952
3.1.1	# of hours broadcast and rebroadcast of local CVE-relevant media products by radio partners on issues of peace & governance linked to violent extremism	0	0	2,3	273,5	424,51	700.4	520
DR.5.3-1	# of non-state news outlets assisted by USG	0	0	11	2	0	13	12

	R4P Complexity-Aware Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (CAMEL) Indicator Tracking Table: Year 1 Performance and Environmental Mitigation/Monitoring indicators list							

Overall Project Goal: Strengthen community resilience and learning, particularly for youth and women', to counter violent extremism (CVE) in Cote d'Ivoire's northern border areas.

No.	Indicator Title	Baseline	Achievements					Y1 Target
			Q2(Apr-June 2021)	Q3(July - Sept 2021)	Q4 (Oct-Dec 2021)	Q1 (Jan-March 2022)	Annual achievement	
3.1.2	# of functional interaction platforms for generating content and gathering feedback developed with R4P support	0	0	1	14	17	32	21
Sub Objective 3.2. Targeted Hands-on Mentoring for Investigative journalists, with a focus on youth and women, to report on VE								
Sub Objective 3.3. Increased use of cultural and traditional structures to increase/spread positive narratives								
3.3.1	# of debates on CVE-related topics taking place in cultural / traditional structures	0	0	0	0	11	11	22
Sub Objective 3.4. Counter-hate speech and false narratives on social media platforms								
3.4.1	% social media training participants (journalists, bloggers, influencers, etc.) that acted to counter the spread of fake news and hate speech	N/A			8,2%	50%	59%	60%
Cross-cutting indicators								
PS.6.2-1	# of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving the conflict or the drivers of the conflict	0	0	4	14	5	23	21
EMMP-1	# of activities that include NRM as a way to understand and influence conflict dynamics.	0	0	2	2	1	5	7

	R4P Complexity-Aware Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (CAMEL) Indicator Tracking Table: Year 1 Performance and Environmental Mitigation/Monitoring indicators list							

Overall Project Goal: Strengthen community resilience and learning, particularly for youth and women', to counter violent extremism (CVE) in Cote d'Ivoire's northern border areas.

No.	Indicator Title	Baseline	Achievements					Y1 Target
			Q2(Apr-June 2021)	Q3(July - Sept 2021)	Q4 (Oct-Dec 2021)	Q1 (Jan-March 2022)	Annual achievement	
CC-1	# of people trained in CVE-related topics with USG assistance	0	0	23	256	103	382	365
CC-2	# of studies, analysis or research papers, training materials or tools created/produced to address knowledge, learning, and understanding (KLU) on community resilience to violent extremism VE in CI border communities	0	1	8	8	20	37	42
EMMP-2	# of training or capacity-building activities that include NRM/environmental best practices	0	0	0	3	N/A	3	3
CC-3	# of CVE-relevant media products created with the support of USG (interactive and educational media transmissions, written press, etc.)	0	0	20	113	151	284	47

Annex 4: Year 1 success Stories

When Security Actors Truly Listen to Women

How the civil-military dialogue in Tengrela allowed security forces to adapt the pattern of their patrols, thereby contributing to a decrease in nocturnal aggressions

In Tengrela, a northern border town in Côte d'Ivoire, the Resilience for Peace (R4P) governance team identified challenges with inclusivity and female representation in local public institutions.

Women participants after the workshop

The governance component of R4P aims to improve local governance in project areas. On September 25 this year, a training and information workshop was held for women on how to lodge a complaint when a deficit in public services is noted. This workshop also served as a platform for local women's groups to interact directly with representatives from various State services, including security and defense forces. Women highlighted the increase in aggressions and theft in homes and on the streets during the night, of which they are common targets.

An important outcome of this exchange is the deployment of mixed patrols in city neighborhoods and their impact at critical hours of the night. An outcome of a request made by the women, security forces from mixed teams operate in specific areas through the late hours. They patrol in two ways now: First, motorized patrols in army transport trucks act as dissuasive presence, covering all Tengrela district. Second, as foot patrols by mixed units, as women described their attackers as generally on foot or on motorbikes. Working in pairs, security officers dress in civilian clothes and roam dark alleys and back streets to attract potential attackers. The army transport trucks are never far from the foot patrols and can quickly respond with support as needed.

My neighborhood, Sikabala, is not the same today as a month ago. Houses have not changed, people are the same; but a month ago I was scared when I went to sell at the market because at any time thieves could break your door in your absence. In the early morning I was afraid to go to the mosque because it was the right time for the thugs to attack us women.

For a few weeks now, the security forces have been patrolling a lot. I would say this began with the R4P workshop where we alerted the security forces about the aggressions. They started patrolling and it calmed the thugs. Now I go to prayer in the morning.

Mme Coulibaly Korotoum , quartier Sikabala

The Voiceless Claiming the Microphone to Speak Up

How a young Fulani women took the courage to host the first ever radio show in Fulani language at the radio station in Togoniéré

In Togoniéré, a northern town in Côte d'Ivoire near the border with Burkina Faso, the Resilience for Peace (R4P) media team and its partner radio station Wo Kala openly acknowledge the limited inclusion of local languages in the broadcasting program. Since the start of Radio Wo Kala ten years ago, there has never been a Fulani-speaking radio host.

Zeinab in a radio studio developing her broadcasting skills

According to the Radio Director, the Fulani community had expressed the wish to hear programs in their language, but the difficulty of finding a Fulani-speaking host made it impossible to satisfy the demand. In the current security dynamic the stigmatization of Fulani as associates of armed groups is intensifying. It is now more important than ever to ensure that Fulani community members take part in public debates, in this case via the radio, to ensure community cohesion and solidarity.

The R4P media "ecosystem training" in Kong from September 27 to 30, 2021 was an opportunity for the radio station to find a response to this need. The community ecosystem approach employed by R4P facilitates the awareness of both radio teams and community members to collaborate closely in order to use the local radio station as a joint tool to advance the community's development and cohesion. With this objective, R4P and radio Ko Wala had invited Zeinab, a dynamic young Fulani woman from a village close to Togoniéré to join the training.

Despite initial hesitation, Zeinab participated in the four-day workshop, which also accompanied each participant in the production of one radio spot in their own local language. The practical experience and the connection with the radio staff gave Zeinab the courage to start hosting her own weekly radio show in Fulani every Saturday. According to the Director of Radio, Wo Kala, the second show saw a remarkable increase in Fulani community members calling into the show and expressing themselves on community issues.

My radio broadcasting helps me reach my community in ways I could not achieve on my own, to convey my message of peace. I can also serve as an example that a Fulani girl can work in radio, have a career, and still represent our traditions and culture. Fulani communities everywhere can understand that all Fulani children should be educated.

Zeinab, radio host at Radio Wo Kala

A Timely Partnership to Counter a Common Enemy

How Resilience for Peace (R4P) supports the national strategy to prevent and combat violent extremism in Côte d'Ivoire.

Minister Fidèle Sarassoro (center), Dr. Nancy Lowenthal, USAID Representative (left), and Leanne Bayer, R4P COP

At the official launch ceremony of the R4P project in Korhogo on November 16, 2021, the Ivorian government was steadfast in its willingness to work with the R4P project to counter violent extremism. Minister Fidèle G. Sarassoro, Chief of Staff to the President of the Republic and President of the National Security Council, stressed the synergies between R4P's objectives and those of the Ivorian government. In his view, this partnership is perfectly timed to reinforce State actions already underway in the fight against violent extremism. After the ceremony, the Minister emphasized his government's support, and that of the National Security Council (CNS), on Twitter and Facebook.

In addition to the Minister, the Mayor of Korhogo, numerous prefects, sub-prefects, and customary authorities from R4P activity areas were also present. These authorities are the privileged partners of R4P in the field. They prioritize the well-being of their communities and are known to provide support whenever necessary.

Since 2020, Côte d'Ivoire has faced increasing attacks by terrorist groups along its northern border, with one attack in 2020 and four between January and June 2021. To increase its support of the Ivorian State to prevent and fight violent extremism, the American government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)- initiated R4P project in 2021. The project will run for five years.

Fidèle Gboroton Sarassoro
@FGSOFFICIEL

Face l'ennemi commun, il est important que nous conjuguions nos efforts afin d'éradiquer le terrorisme de nos frontières.

Fidèle Gboroton Sarassoro
@FGSOFFICIEL

Je me réjouis de savoir que les objectifs de ce projet sont parfaitement en ligne avec ceux de l'État de Côte d'Ivoire et viennent renforcer les actions en cours du Gouvernement et du Conseil National de Sécurité conformément aux instructions de, S.E.M
@AOuattara_PRCI

No one left Behind: digital literacy for everyone.

By including local languages, Fulani can now participate in digital education in Côte d'Ivoire's northern borderlands.

In Côte d'Ivoire's northern border regions, communities like the Fulani are marginalized and typically overlooked by media activities and digital education programs. The Resilience for Peace (R4P) media team understands the importance of overcoming barriers to digital media literacy faced by residents in remote, rural areas.

R4P tackles this challenge with its TechCamps, designed to maximize inclusivity and accessibility. Using humor to build familiarity, trust, and a welcoming environment, trainers encourage everyone to participate through simultaneous translations of Fulani or other regional language.

Not speaking French or being Fulani never stopped Mohamed Sidibé or other Fulani from committing to their communities. In Tengrela today they are local influencers on social networks, active in the fight against hate speech and fake news to preserve social cohesion and make their voices count. Further, they are part of a wider network of community influencers across Côte d'Ivoire, allowing them to share and confirm news, and identify falsehood. After building ties with participants during a recent TechCamp training, Mohamed received a courtesy visit from the network coordinator for community resilience in Tengrela and from the Bagoué radio station in Foulabougou. It was the first time that R4P team members had set foot in Foulabougou.

"Coming here, I expected to be sidelined as usual, but was pleasantly surprised that both the organizers and the other participants sought our opinions and asked to hear our views," Mohamed Sidibe, Foulaboubou, Tengrela.

"We were well received in Foulabougou. The day was full of lessons for us," Fous Kader, Director of Radio Bagoué, Boundiali.