CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

RESILIENCE FOR PEACE (R4P)

Annual Report

Reporting period:

February 21, 2022, to February 20, 2023

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. 72062421CA00002

Table of Contents

Table of Acronyms

A4D	Accountability for Development
AAC	Community Action Animators (*Animateurs d'Action Communautaire)*
AIP	Ivorian Press Agency (*Agence Ivoirienne de Presse*)
ALS	Annual Learning Summit
ARU	Action Research Unit
ASGM	Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
CCM	Civil-military Cell (*Cellules Civilo-Militaire*)
CNS	National Security Council (*Conseil National de Sécurité*)
CPD	Permanent Dialogue Framework (*Cadre Permanent de Dialogue*)
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
EAI	Equal Access International
FDS	Security and Defense Forces (*Forces de Défense et de Sécurité*)
GAC	Community Action Groups (*Groupe d'Action Communautaire*)
GUM	Mobile One-Stop Clinic (*Guichet Unique Mobile)*
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IGA	Income Generating Activity
NRM	Natural Resources Management
P/CVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PNC	Comoé National Park (*Parc National de la Comoé*)
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
PSGouvII	Government Social Program (*Programme Social du Gouvernement*).
R4P	Resilience for Peace
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United State Government
VDP	Volunteer for the Defense of the Homeland (*Volontaire pour la Défense de la Patrie*)
VE	Violent Extremism
VEO	Violent Extremist Organization
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
XOF	West African CFA franc

Executive Summary

During the project's second year, Equal Access International (EAI) strengthened community resilience to Violent Extremism (VE) in Côte d'Ivoire's northern border areas by leading evidence-based efforts rooted in communities' strengths, conflict sensitivity, and inclusion. Through a holistic approach, Resilience for Peace (R4P) addressed issues that make communities vulnerable to VE, including:

- Access to government services;
- Social cohesion;
- Trust between government representatives and communities
- Access to land;
- Farmer-herder conflicts;
- Limited economic opportunities;
- Access to reliable and accurate information.

In Year Two, the R4P project activities reached **10,474** individuals across **27** localities. R4P **improved local governance** by working with community groups to advance 84 local priorities, bringing government services to **17 villages** in remote areas, and promoted the inclusion of marginalized groups, especially Fulani communities in **eight localities**. R4P also promoted civil-military collaboration to manage local security through supporting the decentralization of **12** Civilo-Military Cells (*Cellules Civilo-Militaire* – CCM).

R4P **strengthened Natural Resources Management (NRM)** via sustainable community mechanisms to prevent and manage conflicts. R4P facilitated access to **four plots of land for women's market gardening**. A major success this year was the establishment of three **night cattle parks** which reduce conflicts arising between farmers and herders over damage done to crops by unsupervised cattle at night and that simultaneously employ young people who manage the park and benefit women who use organic soil from the park for market gardening.

R4P **facilitated access to economic opportunities** to youth and women by supporting **28 Village Savings and Loans Associations** (VLSA), **establishing 12 literacy centers**, and **training 214 youth and women on entrepreneurship** skills, equipping them with skills they need to launch their own business.

The project also **enhanced Communication and Digital Media** through its media ecosystem by cultivating collaboration between radio stations, social media influencers and the press, and by supporting partners in developing responsive countering violent extremism (CVE) content. R4P strengthened the technical capacity of **12 partner radio stations**, and facilitated **21 community validation groups** to review and vet radio programming, ensuring relevance and conflict-sensitivity. R4P also brought media content to communities by organizing **35 listening sessions** as a space to spur discussions and solutions to local issues. R4P coordinated **ten multi-platforms media campaigns and three emergency campaigns** to address urgent issues. R4P worked with social media influencers to **prevent fake news on social media** and to post verified content to inform their communities.
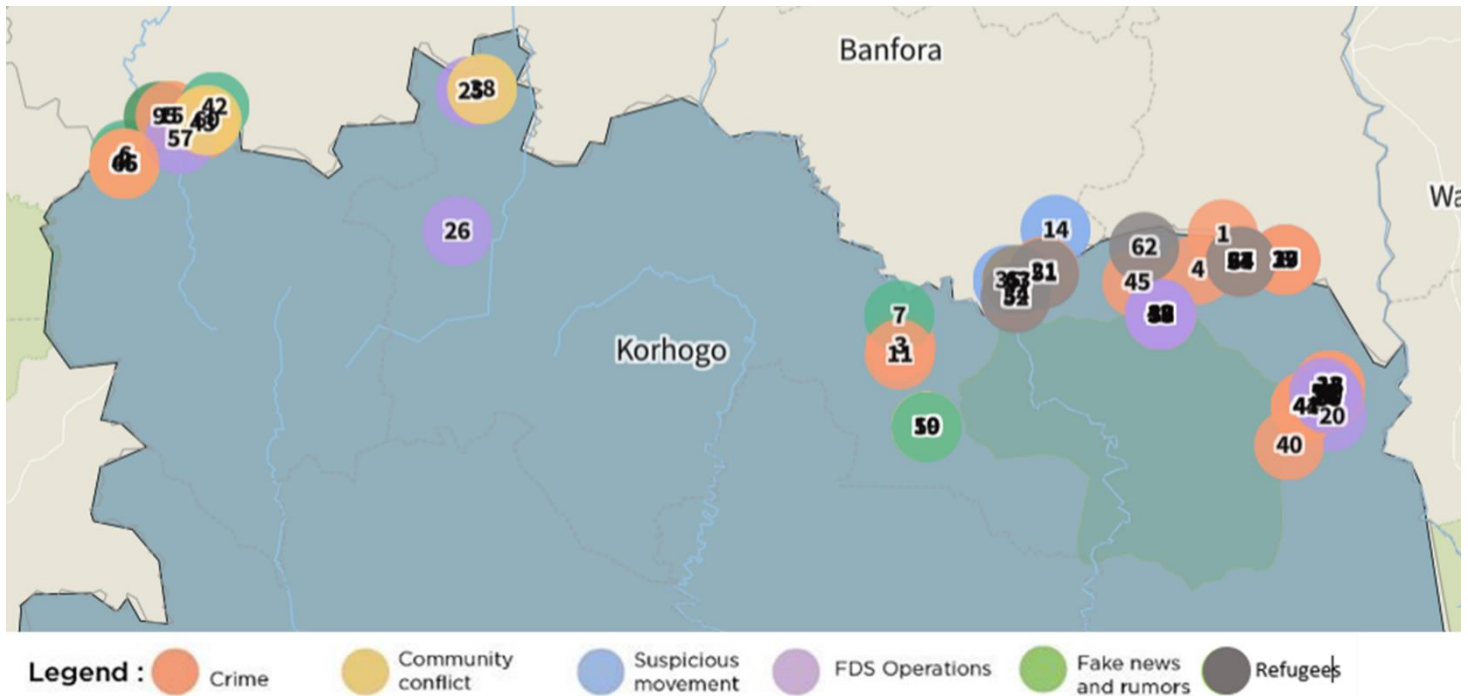
R4P's **Research contributed to bridge knowledge gaps** through rapid research and five studies. Research also directly informed activities making the project more responsive and sensitive to local dynamics.

I.   CVE Context Evolution

a) Map of incidents for Year Two

Map 1: Potential CVE-related incidents documented by R4P during Year Two
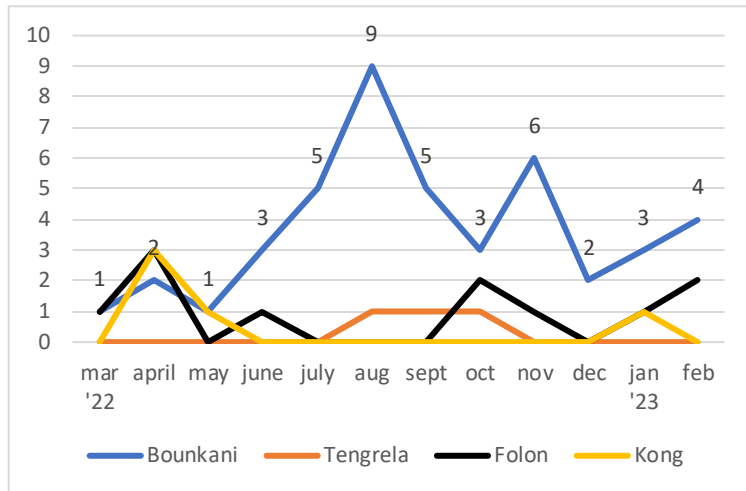

The incident map only includes events reported in R4P target areas. Please refer to Annex 1 for a detailed list of incidents. To access this interactive map, follow this link: R4P Year 2 Incident map

As in the project's first year, the Bounkani region had the highest number of reported incidents (47) among R4P target regions, especially in the Téhini department and around Bouna. This indicates the vulnerability of the region, where communities also experienced new challenges such as vehicle arsons and the arrival of large numbers of Burkinabe migrants. Among other R4P target regions, the Folon region (11) witnessed more incidents than the departments of Tengrela (3) and Kong (5) combined. Most incidents (9) in the Folon region are linked to cross-border tensions between local communities and cross-border movements.
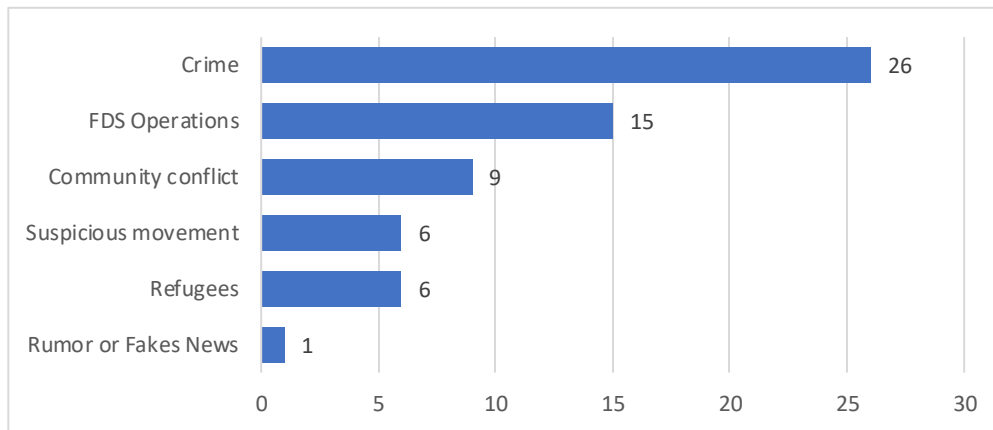
Figure 1: Incidents Recorded in Year Two per R4P Region

The spike in incidents in August 2022 is due to four incidents related to vehicle arson in Bouna and the arrests of two Fulani community members. The R4P team recorded seven robbery incidents in August and September. The increase in refugees arriving from Burkina Faso to the Bounkani region contributed to the rise in incidents between December 2022 and February 2023.

Figure 2: Incidents Recorded in Year Two per Type

The dominant type of incident is crime (29), including vehicle and building arson (10); and money, goods, and cattle theft (9). The second higher number of incidents (11) relates to Defense and Security Forces (*Forces de Défense et de Sécurité* – FDS) operations, primarily including arrests (7). Finally, the number of incidents related to rumors and fake news is low (1) compared to Year One.

b) Trends in attacks by Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs)

This past year, Côte d'Ivoire did not experience violent extremist (VE) attacks – either through armed individuals or Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). According to several analysts, this is a result of the government of Cote d'Ivoire and its partners' multi-faceted responses to violent extremism. First, the government has invested in training and deploying FDS in border localities, including building military camps, police stations, and deploying *gendarmerie* brigades. It also

created special units dedicated to countering violent extremism. Furthermore, the government designed and implemented an ambitious social plan implemented across government agencies: the *Programme Social du Gouvernement* (PSGouv II). This plan places an emphasis on building roads, increasing youth employment, and improving education, health and social services.

EAI notes that according to information received from different sources by the R4P, two unidentified men attacked two gendarmes in Tougbo on July 23. Accounts indicate that the two men fled after an exchange of gun fire. However, the government has not officially acknowledged this incident, and the media did not report on it. Additionally, while the Ivorian side of the border has witnessed no VE attacks this year, the communities on the Burkina Faso side have experienced a continuous increase in VE violence, driving more and more Burkinabe to seek refuge in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

c) VE Dynamics

This past year, R4P identified the following dynamics related to VE.

Communities are aware of VE threats. Communities in areas that have experienced VE understand threats are "real," even if there have not been attacks lately. Community-based initiatives, such as monitoring initiatives, are a good indication of awareness levels. Communities continue to use cautious language when discussing VE-related topics and have generally accepted FDS presence and their role in protecting them from threats. R4P's Early Warning Signs of VE and Comoé space studies highlighted this.

VEOs changed their operating strategy in northeast Côte d'Ivoire. The Early Warning Signs of VE study documented over a dozen indicators related to violent extremist organization (VEO) activity and presence ahead of 2021 VE attacks. Looking at the past year's context using the same indicators shows a significant reduction in reports related to these indicators. During year one, R4P received multiple accounts of kidnappings and purchases of large quantities of food. During Year Two, R4P's network reported little to no information about similar events.

Nevertheless, a few indicators remain relevant. R4P's network reported cases of cattle theft, one of which was attributed to VEOs based in Burkina Faso operating in the Téhini department. This specific incident also seemed to indicate that a resident from Téhini had joined VEOs across the border. In Téhini, R4P continues to notice communities' fear of VEOs' reprisal as a driver of communities' behavior when interacting with the government.

Arson to instill fear among communities. Since August 19, 2022, there have been a dozen vehicle arsons in the department of Bouna. Despite efforts by security forces and the arrest of local community leaders, local authorities had not identified the individuals responsible for these incidents as of February 20, 2023. The issue spread to Doropo (about 46 miles north of Bouna) where five vehicles, four three-wheel vehicles, and one motorcycle were burnt between December 2022 and February 2023. There are multiple narratives about the motives behind the arsons, including that it could be related to gold miners, local politicians, military staff, or VEOs. Given that most individuals targeted by the arsons either work for the government or for companies working with the government, it remains possible that VEOs were involved, to push away government services.

No sign of VE online. R4P's partner, Moonshot, analyzed violent extremism on social media in Côte d'Ivoire and did not identify instances of users or channels openly endorsing, glorifying, or advocating violence in the name of VE ideologies. Furthermore, the number of incidents related to fake news, such as attacks, presence, and VEOs' activities, decreased significantly according to the R4P network.

d) Social and economic trends related to insecurity

Security checkpoints amplify hostility toward FDS. The multiplication of road checkpoints set up by FDS in border areas triggered hostility toward them. Negotiations, corruption, and tensions over border posts, motorcycle and identity documents have strained relationships between FDS and communities. To avoid checkpoints, communities use bypass roads, which creates opportunities for VEOs to use these routes and take advantage of these spaces to reach communities and request information or help. Despite some efforts by FDS leadership to reduce the number of checkpoints, improvements remained short-term and did not impact local perceptions. R4P shared information from its research and studies with the government, including during the R4P Annual Learning Summit (ALS), and government sources indicated that R4P information contributed to the government's decision to reopen the borders on February 15, 2023. Communities are hoping that the reopening will reduce opportunities for extortion and using alternative roads.

Trauma caused by VE attacks and threats. During the project's first year, VEOs' attacks and threats negatively impacted economic activities in border localities in Doropo, Sikolo, and Téhini departments. One of the consequences for farmers was abandoning fields far from villages or close to the Burkinabe border. In response, farmers developed small fields near the villages, for example, in Tougbo, Môrô-Môrô, Bolé, and Kafolo. Farmers who did not leave their fields, ensured their security by traveling to the fields in larger groups. In Kafolo, fishermen used to cross the border to go fishing on the Burkinabe side of the Comoé river, but they no longer go out of fear of being abducted by VEOs. Accounts from displaced Burkinabe in border localities confirmed VEOs' presence on the Alidougou side of the river in Burkina Faso.[1]

During Year Two, the lack of attacks and the deployment of FDS and other community resilience initiatives resulted in communities slowly reviving economic activities put on hold in recent years. According to a women leader in Kafolo:

"We have spent two years without going to the fields for fear of meeting the alhaji [violent extremists]. *But since the beginning of this year, economic activities have started to resume. We are aware of the threat, but we cannot stay locked up forever. The local market has become expensive so we must overcome our fear and return to the fields."*

In other localities, economic activities have resumed. The weekly rotating markets, called "logodougou," have resumed even in localities close to Burkinabe villages. According to Ivorian security authorities, markets such as Kologobo, Toumgbawiri, and Govitan are operational and receive visitors and vendors from Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

---

[1] Bernard Bleou, Parfait Ngoran, Aziz Moussi, Rapport final Etude sur les signaux d'alerte précoce de l'extrémisme violent dans les régions frontalières du nord de la Côte d'Ivoire, R4P , octobre 2022, p.39

Burkinabe migrants test local communities and the government's resilience capacity. Since 2021, Côte d'Ivoire has welcomed displaced Burkinabe fleeing violence. As of March 27, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that 18,511 refugees have arrived in northern Côte d'Ivoire, particularly in the Bounkani and Tchologo regions. However, R4P notes that numbers vary significantly depending on who collects and communicates them, from the government, the United Nations, international organizations, or local authorities. The difference in numbers also raises concerns about the coordination efforts and interests. In Folon, prefectural authorities say they have difficulties finding the 130 refugees reported by the UNHCR and some government officials contest the numbers of refugees being reported. Regardless, the number of displaced is increasing and will be closely watched by R4P in year three.

There are two distinct groups of refugees: Burkinabe refugees reporting fleeing VE, and Fulani refugees. Fulani communities are fleeing Burkina Faso with their families and cattle, seeking refuge mainly in Doropo and Bouna. They also report fleeing violence from the Volunteer for the Defense of the Homeland (*Volontaires pour la Défense de la Patrie* – VDP[2]). The VDPs are village self-defense groups, armed by the Burkina Faso government in some instances and have stopped Fulani communities from settling near their villages, for fear that they are complicit with VEOs. Their arrival puts pressure on natural resources, and competition to access pastoral land and water could generate tensions between local herders and refugees.

According to a security source, the government of Côte d'Ivoire is growing concerned that VEOs could use refugee groups to infiltrate the country. As a result, the National Security Council (*Conseil National de Sécurité* – CNS) sent several representatives to localities where refugees have arrived to understand the situation better and respond to challenges. In addition, they have assumed the coordination role for humanitarian actions addressing refugees.

II.   Activities and achievements

a) Progress in Numbers and Graphics

During the second year of the project, 71 percent of the R4P indicators reached their targets. A target is considered reached if its achievement rate is between 90 and 110 percent.

Nine out of 17 performance indicators (53 percent) reached their annual target. Three performance indicators (18 percent) exceeded their annual targets and five (29 percent) were below 90 percent achievement rate.

The indicators that were under targets were related to the number of internal and external collaborative learning and adapting (CLA) meetings held (85 percent), the number of people trained in CVE-related topics with USG assistance (72 percent), the percentage of participants who are youth (15-29) in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources [IM-level] (33 percent) and the percentage of social media training participants (journalists, bloggers, influencers, etc.) that acted to counter the spread of fake news and hate speech (29.3 percent). These results are linked to challenges in engaging social media

---

[2] VDPs are security volunteers operating in Burkina Faso. As part of a government program to increase the security response across the country, they are trained and armed by the Burkinabe military.

influencers, and economic livelihoods activities being delayed or not implemented. R4P will use these challenges as lessons learned to improve year three programming and planning.
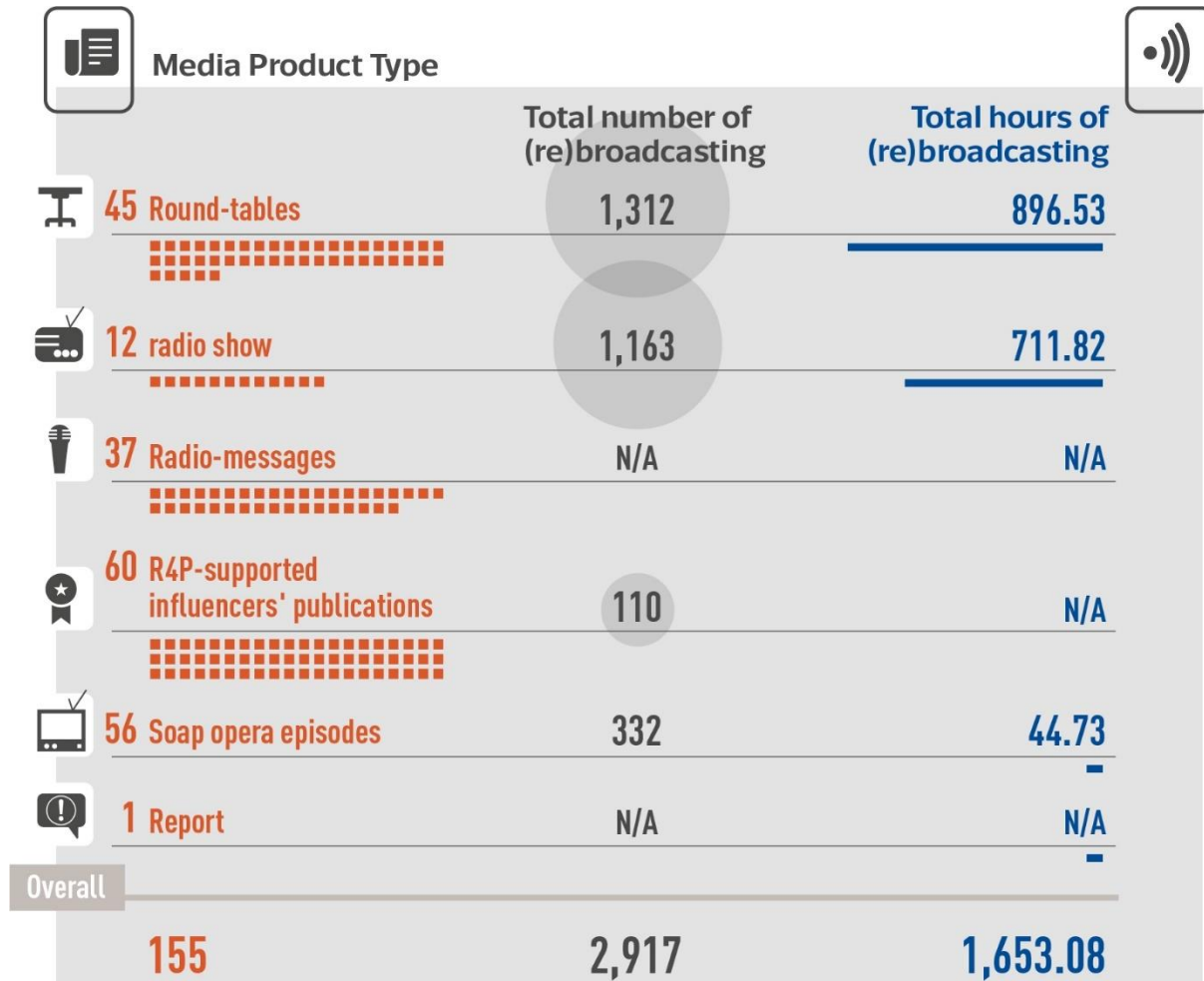
Infographic 1: Number of participants in Year 2

A total of 10,474 individuals participated in the 283 activities implemented during Year 2, 44% of which were women and 37% youth.

Infographic 2: Number and type of media productions in Year 2

Media Product Type

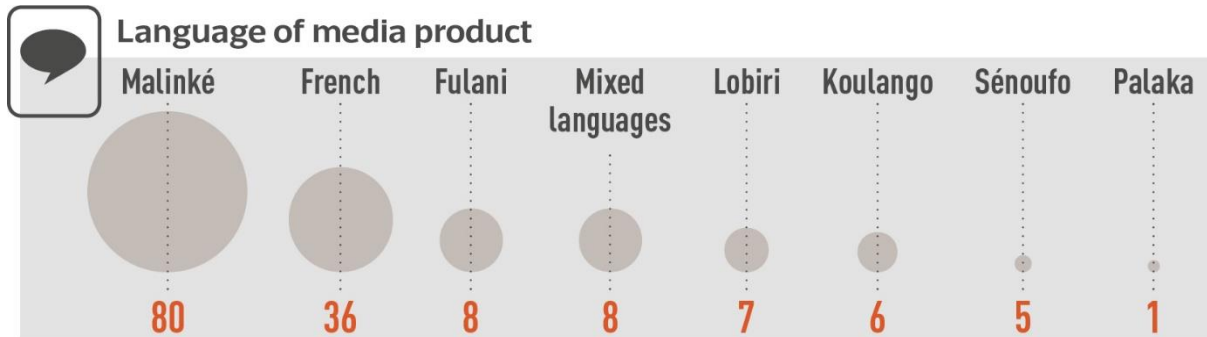|	Total number of (re)broadcasting	Total hours of (re)broadcasting
45 Round-tables	1,312	896.53
12 radio show	1,163	711.82
37 Radio-messages	N/A	N/A
60 R4P-supported influencers' publications	110	N/A
56 Soap opera episodes	332	44.73
1 Report	N/A	N/A
Overall **155**	2,917	1,653.08

Over the course of Year 2, the R4P media component created 155 new productions, including 45 roundtables, 12 radio shows, 37 radio messages, and one report. The 56 soap opera episodes are not included in the total as they were developed under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Accountability for Development project (A4D). In addition, the R4P network of influencers produced 60 publications for countering fake news and hate speech. In terms of diffusion, through its radio partners and network of influencers, R4P disseminated a total of 2,917 broadcasts and rebroadcasts of content related to violent extremism and community resilience. This equates to approximately 1,653.08 hours of broadcast time.
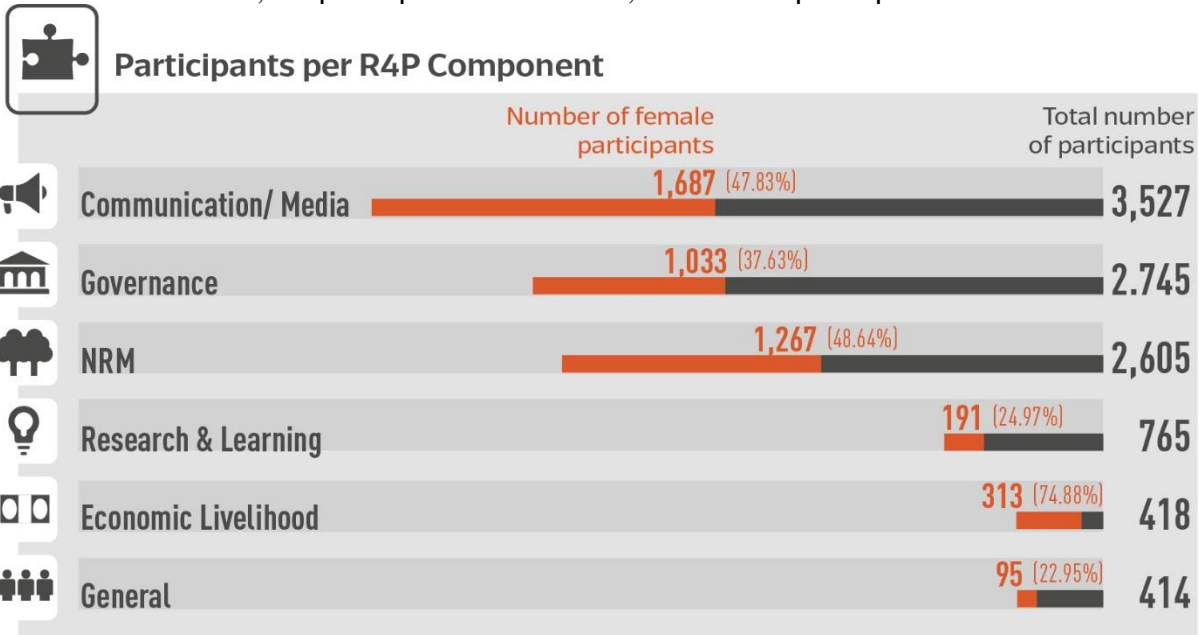
Infographic 3: Number of media products by language

Language of media product

Malinké	French	Fulani	Mixed languages	Lobiri	Koulango	Sénoufo	Palaka
80	36	8	8	7	6	5	1

Among the 155 new media products from this year, 80 were in Malinké, 36 in French, eight in Fulani, seven in Lobiri, six in Koulango, five in Senoufo, one in Palaka, and eight in various other languages.

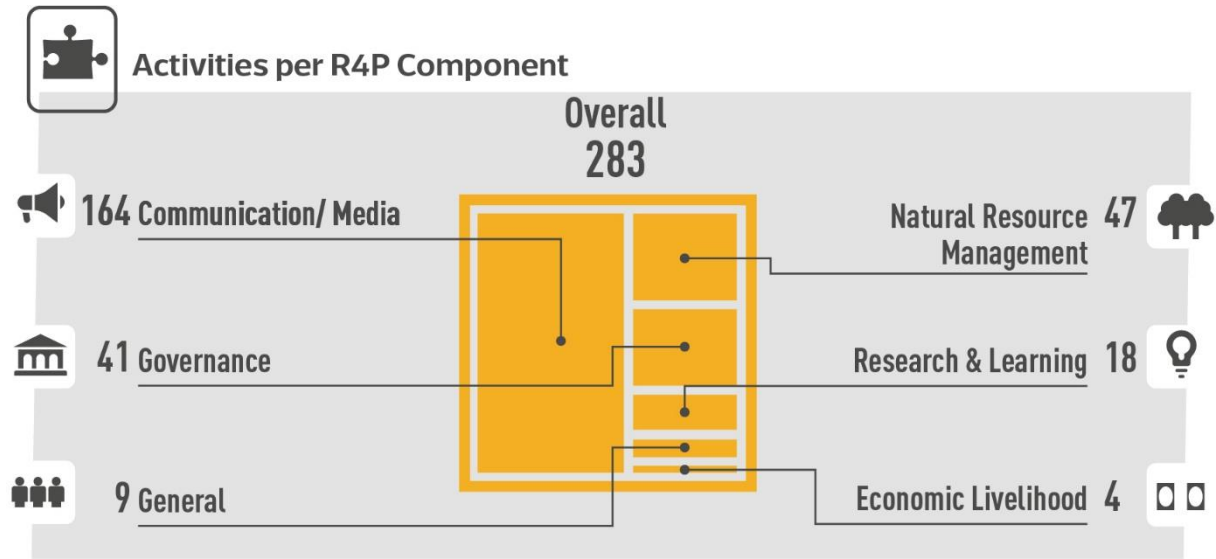*Infographic 4: Number of participants per component in Year 2*

R4P had a total of 10,474 participants in Year 2: 3,527 of them participated in communication and

Participants per R4P Component

Component	Number of female participants	Total number of participants
Communication/ Media	1,687 (47.83%)	3,527
Governance	1,033 (37.63%)	2.745
NRM	1,267 (48.64%)	2,605
Research & Learning	191 (24.97%)	765
Economic Livelihood	313 (74.88%)	418
General	95 (22.95%)	414

media activities (of which 48% were women); 2,745 in governance activities (38% of which were women); 2,605 in NRM activities (49% were women), 765 in research activities (25% were women), 418 in livelihoods activities (75% were women), and 414 took part in cross-cutting activities (23% were women).
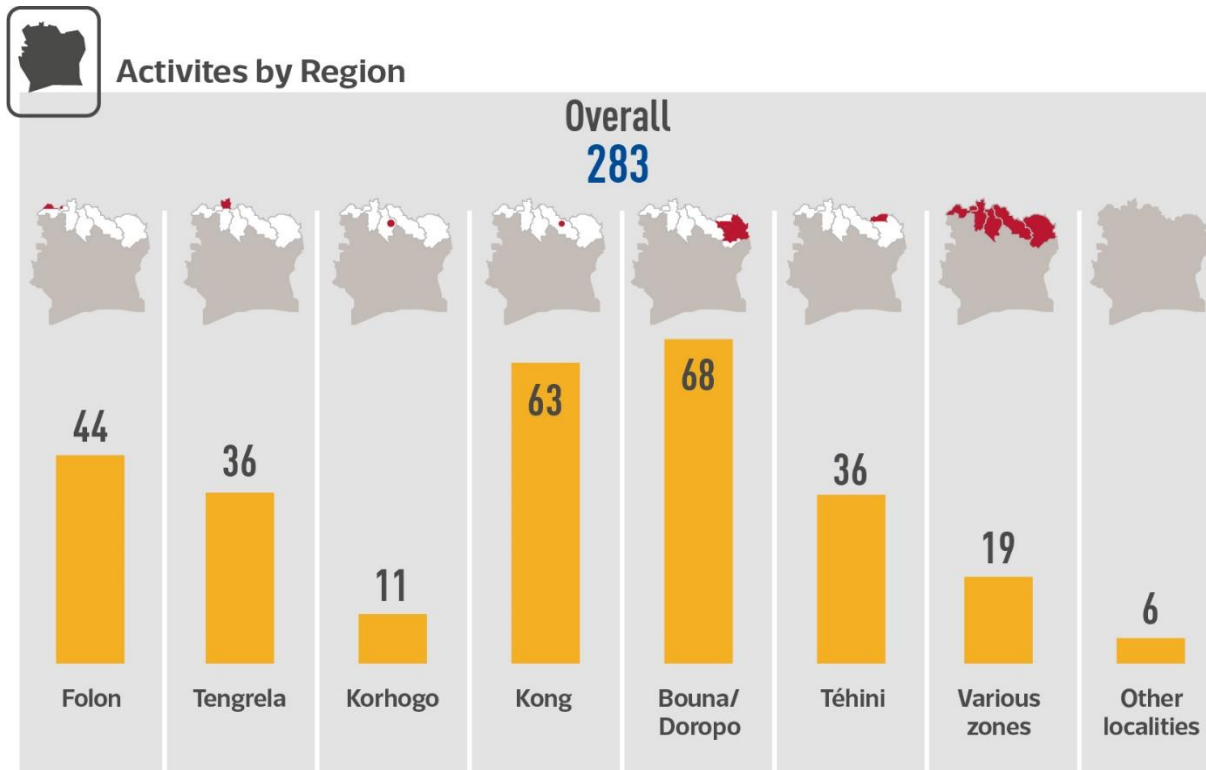
Infographic 5: Number of community activities per component in Year 2

Activities per R4P Component

Overall
283

164 Communication/ Media

41 Governance

9 General

Natural Resource Management 47

Research & Learning 18

Economic Livelihood 4

During Year 2, R4P carried out 283 activities, including 164 communication/media activities, 47 NRM activities, 41 governance activities, 18 research and learning activities, nine cross-cutting activities, and four economic livelihoods activities.

Infographic 6: Number of community activities per R4P region in Year 2

Activites by Region

Overall
283

Folon	Tengrela	Korhogo	Kong	Bouna/ Doropo	Téhini	Various zones	Other localities
44	36	11	63	68	36	19	6

Among the 283 activities carried out over Year 2, 68 took place in the Bouna/Doropo target region, 63 in the Kong region, 44 in Folon, 36 in Tengrela and in Téhini, 19 took place in multiple regions, 11 in Korhogo, and six outside the project regions (Ferkéssedougou, Dabakala, etc.)

b) Highlights from Annual Activities

Workshop to ensure buy-in of prefectural authorities from five R4P border regions

In May, R4P held an exchange workshop in Yamoussoukro with 31 prefectural authorities from R4P's five target border regions. Representatives also attended from the National Security Council and the National Border Council of Cote d'Ivoire. The workshop explained R4P to the prefects and identified concrete opportunities for their collaboration. The prefects initiated the workshop, giving examples of R4P impact in their region. As an example, the prefect from Kong said:

"We have a very good collaboration with Resilience for Peace. The project has brought us closer to the Fulani community, helping us to strengthen collaboration."

The prefect from Tengrela added:

"Thanks to this project, we've been able to raise awareness on a number of important issues to our communities using local radio."

R4P worked with the prefects to identify concrete joint actions between the communities. At the end of the workshop, the Bounkani prefect thanked all participants and USAID for their support to R4P:

"The workshop has allowed us to see where the project is going, what is working, and what is not. This will increase our success in Year Two. On behalf of all the prefects in Cote d'Ivoire, I would like to say thank you to USAID [...] Each of us present today has learned what will be done to support project goals in his region, his department, or his sub-prefecture."

High level presentation of research findings in Abidjan

R4P organized a workshop to showcase its research findings from seven research studies, inviting state, regional, and international authorities to learn more about the dynamics of community resilience in the face of VE in the northern border regions. Mr. Diakalidia Konate, Executive Secretary of the National Border Commission, noted during his speech that:

DR. KIMOU, Ivorian researcher presenting the PEA analysis

"We are working in synergy with the Resilience for Peace project and we thank them for these studies, the results of which will greatly help us in the development of the policy National Border Management of Cote d'Ivoire."

The publications generated much interest from and many conversations with actors to collaborate with R4P, such as Expertise France, UNICEF, World Bank, IOM, African Development Bank, GIZ, the British Embassy, and the German Embassy.

High-level USAID missions in Abidjan

In October, R4P hosted two high-level USAID missions. The first mission was led by Deputy Administrator Prof. Coleman, who met with community leaders from Côte d'Ivoire. The leaders explained to the delegation how they work to create more resilient communities in the face of VE. The second mission, led by Ambassador Bell, consisted of a discussion between high-level United States government official delegation and USAID program implementers in Côte d'Ivoire.

c) Governance

Main governance achievements

Collaboration between women of different communities in Doropo

During the second year of the project, R4P strengthened its multipronged approach to improving local governance. The R4P team supported communities in organizing and advancing key priorities and worked with government agencies to better respond to citizens' needs. This included facilitated collaboration between communities and local authorities to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE), and to prioritize the inclusion of marginalized groups.

Initiatives included:
- Bringing government agencies to rural areas for community members to register for vehicle paperwork – directly addressing a key issue at the center of distrust between security forces and communities;
- Community-led activities to improve infrastructure, collaboration and ultimately resilience across all five regions;
- Activities to improve the inclusion of Fulani communities who are often marginalized from decision-making spaces; and,
- Improving security governance through supporting civil-military initiatives in R4P target areas.

Building R4P's community ecosystem

During Year Two, R4P identified and trained 54 Community Action Animators (*Animateurs d'Action Communautaire* - AAC) based in all five target regions. The R4P communities chose the AACs for their desire to volunteer and their commitment to collaborate across community lines. About half of the AACs are women, which empowered women to lead community efforts and demonstrated the importance of women's leadership and participation in community management. Throughout the year, the AACs led Community Action Groups (*Groupes d'Action Communautaire* - GAC) which brought communities together to improve community resilience. By leading the GACs in their regions, the AACs gained leadership skills and experience that they shared with others to continue to make an impact in their communities.

Collaborating on community improvement activities

Young girls in Kong participating in intercommunal games

Facilitated by the AACs and with the support of the R4P team, the GACs carried out a total of 84 activities across all five regions (18 in Téhini, 15 in Bouna/Doropo, 17 in Kong, 16 in Tengrela, and 18 in Kimbirila Nord). The AACs worked alongside their community to identify and address problems they faced locally and provide action-oriented solutions. These activities improved intercommunal relations and collaboration as well as improved their communities where they needed it most. These activities included cleaning public spaces and facilities, awareness raising activities, intercommunal games to support the inclusion and collaboration of different groups (including with local authorities) and repairing community areas. After a GAC awareness raising activity in Tougbo, a participant noted:

"*We are committed to this initiative because it is together that we will be able to develop the village into an environment of peace and love.*"

The GACs had many local successes and a sustainable impact as it was initiated and implemented by communities themselves. The success story "6: Community action groups lead projects and strengthen resilience" in Annex 3 highlights the impact of GACs.

The Koulousson GAC and community rebuilt a wooden bridge that had been damaged by a river overflowing during the rainy season. This bridge linked Koulousson with the village of Tchongui, across the river. Due to a land conflict before the bridge was damaged, the two villages did not interact with one another. When the bridge was damaged, the chief of Koulousson sent a representative to inform the chief of Tchongui that fixing the bridge would benefit both villages. As a result, community members from both sides came together to repair the bridge, which allowed for a renewed relationship between the two villages.

In August, the Niamoué GAC facilitated a "Community Day" to promote community cohesion, tolerance, and resilience. Community members from the Fulani, Koulango, Mossi, Akan, and Lorhan communities each presented their culture and its historical elements. Following the event,

Niamoué community leaders signed a Charter for Intercommunity Tolerance, pledging their commitment to prioritizing intercommunity dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution.

Promoting accessible government services (Activity 2.2.3.1)

From May through July 2022, the R4P team organized "Mobile One-Stop Clinics" (*Guichet Unique Mobile* - GUM) in 17 villages (Bouna, Koflandé, Doropo, Koguiénou, Kalamon, Niamoué, Téhini, Tougbo, Kointa, Govitan, Gogo, Kong, Togoniéré, Sikolo, Kafolo, Nassian, and Sokolo) in collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation. This activity played a key role in addressing tensions between communities and security forces, which had been exacerbated

Two motorcyclists presenting their new documents from the Mobile One Stop Clinic

by the frustration of community members who were forced to pay security forces bribes at roadside security checkpoints when they did not have proper vehicle documentation. The GUM allowed vehicle owners to obtain required documents, including insurance, vehicle registration, and driver's licenses. Prior to the GUM, the closest place to obtain these documents was in Korhogo, which can be up to a two-day journey with multiple checkpoints and bribes to security forces. According to a beneficiary in Bouna:

"I drive a three-wheeled vehicle; it feeds my family. But since I have no registration papers, I spend almost XOF 6,000 in bribes a day at the various checkpoints. Today I registered my vehicle and I'm happy because I'll no longer be throwing away money like that."

Woman receiving her documents from the GUM

This initiative facilitated the registration of 3,853 vehicle-related documents across the Bounkani and Tchologo regions between May and July and generated a revenue for the state of XOF 107,960,000, roughly $180,000.00. The activity has led to better relations between the security forces and the community members and has changed state employees' attitudes regarding service delivery. When the GUM began in May, the state employees would process documents but would stick to their schedules and working hours. By the second GUM, the state employees became more invested in the process and went out of their way to accommodate as many participants as possible, and extended their working hours as needed. Success story 5 in Annex 3 ": Bridging the gap to reach local communities in northern Cote d'Ivoire" highlights individuals' positive experiences with the GUM and the development of

the state services. Community members from across the regions have expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with the GUM, and this activity will expand in year three.

"I am very happy, because I got my papers without much effort, the cost is reduced here, and there is no need to travel far... These papers change so much in my daily life; it is a huge relief when dealing with police. For example, now if an officer whistles at me, I will stop and present my papers. I feel better when I respect the law, and it keeps good relations between me and law enforcement." – Woman beneficiary in the Bounkani region

Bringing together local authorities and communities (R4P2-2212)

Over the course of Year 2, R4P worked with six CCMs, and facilitated the decentralization of Téhini, Doropo, Kong, Minigan, and Kaniasso CCMs into 12 localized ones (Govitan, Gogo, Tougbo, Niamoué, Koguiénou, Kalamon, Kimbirila Nord, Sokoro,

Group picture of the community during the decentralization of the Téhini CCM in Tougbo

Kafolo, Sikolo, Petit Nassian, and Goueya). CCMs are comprised of young people from the community, women, state representatives, and representatives from minority communities. With R4P's support, the CCMs supported 15 activities that brought together local leaders, gendarmes, police, and civilians to bolster trust and collaboration. Decentralizing the CCMs is key to improving the relationships and building trust between the state and local communities and creating a more effective fight against violent extremism. These CCM meetings and activities were also an opportunity to discuss the relationship and expectations between the departmental and sub-prefectural CCMs.

CCM activities also supported cross-border relations, for example in Goueya, where youth from Mali and Cote d'Ivoire established a cross border network to share information and respond to incidents taking place around the border. The activity brought together administrative, religious, and community leaders from both sides of the border to collaborate on new measures to adapt to respond to incidents reported at the border.

Strengthening Fulani Community Resilience Capacity (R4P2-2124)

Because the marginalization of Fulani communities prevents long-term resilience prospects, R4P has placed their inclusion at the center of its approach by facilitating discussions with local authorities and social cohesion activities with other communities. Across its target regions, R4P facilitated 16 activities in eight localities (Kong, Tengrela, Kimbirila Nord, Sokoro, Flabougou, Bouna, Doropo, and Téhini) to provide a space for Fulani and other community members to discuss their culture, community issues, and encourage social cohesion and inclusion.

The R4P team organized "cultural days" in Sokoro and Flabougou for the Fulani and Malinké communities to share their respective cultures. This activity helped the two groups realize how much they had in common and that it was in the best interests of the community for them to work together. In Kong, following the cultural day, the Fulani and Malinké communities participated in

Fulani and FDS during cultural day in Flabougou

a joint radio program facilitated by R4P on the coexistence between Fulani and Malinké communities. This allowed the two groups to share their culture and their voices publicly.

Relations in Kong and Tengrela between the Fulani community and the FDS also improved following the signing of the Permanent Dialogue Frameworks (*Cadre Permanent de Dialogue* – CPD). The Fulani and FDS organized activities together and continued close collaboration without R4P facilitating activities. As part of this collaboration, a representative of the Fulani community participated in the Kong police ethics advisory committee. A local government staff said:

"*The signing of the CPD is an opportunity to maintain cohesion between FDS and our Fulani brothers. Soon, they will come visit government services so we can get to know them ... this would reduce collaboration fears and reduce stigmatization.*"

d) Natural Resource Management (NRM)

This year, the R4P NRM team supported target communities in reducing natural resources management conflict, which remains at the center of local tensions and conflicts. R4P invested in community mechanisms to ensure local engagement and sustainability of efforts. Women often remain excluded from decision-making spaces and have limited access to land. R4P facilitated opportunities for women to participate in NRM discussions and activities and gain access to land. Highlights for the second year of the program include:

- Improved inclusive management of local water points and pastoral areas by communities;
- Facilitating access to four plots of land for women's groups in four villages (Débété, Kalamon, Téhini, Sanzanou) for market gardening, giving women opportunities to create income generating activities (IGA);
- Communities built three cattle night parks (in Sanzanou, Kimbirila Nord, and Koflandé), which reduce conflicts arising between farmers and herders over damage done to crops by unsupervised cattle at night, and benefit the community as a whole.

Managing water points and pastoral areas (R4P2-2114)

One of the most prominent intercommunal conflicts along the northern border regions revolves around the management of community water points and pastoral areas. R4P contributed to reducing these tensions and strengthening social cohesion by developing community-led action plans to enhance the management of water points and pastoral areas.

R4P facilitated meetings for communities in Kalamon, Koguiénou, Sokolo, Petit-Nassian, Togoniéré, and Sanzanou to discuss solutions for mitigating conflicts. Kalamon, Téhini, and Débété each created

Sub Prefect of Doropo discussing the governing of the water points and grazing areas with participants in

agreements for local authorities to sign and pledge their support. In Sokolo, the community group created a management committee to develop community management rules and a village conflict resolution committee to enforce the rules and avoid disputes. In Sanzanou, the negotiations and verbal agreements strengthened the social cohesion between the community and federal services management. The R4P NRM team supported the communities in Togoniéré in holding an activity which taught community members how to manage water points and pastoral areas.

Facilitating women's groups' market gardening activities (R4P2-2115)

The R4P team aided women's groups to obtain plots of land in four villages and facilitated trainings for over 300 women. Access to land remains a challenge for women, and in areas affected by VE threats, women often had to abandon their fields far away from their villages to ensure their security. R4P worked with local authorities to identify plots of land and to coordinate their legal acquisition for women's groups to promote their access to natural resources and economic empowerment. In addition to working with local authorities and women's groups, R4P trained

Women in Débété

women's groups on topics related to managing market gardening activities, such as producing organic soil in the market gardens to improve plant growth. Following market gardening activities women expressed their enthusiasm for the activity as it increased community collaboration and gave them the tools they needed to produce quality food and support their own IGAs.

The R4P NRM team also supported community activities to build fences in four villages around the plots of land granted to the women's groups. In Téhini, the activity brought together 137 participants to construct a fence to protect crops from animal damage. This activity strengthened social cohesion within the women's group and the rest of the community.

Community collaborative hubs: cattle night parks

Unsupervised cattle walking around cultivated fields at night create tensions between farmers and herders. R4P supported communities in three villages (Sanzanou, Kimbirila Nord, and Koflandé) to build cattle parks. In these villages, communities came together to find resources, such as wood, and labor to build the parks, and hired young people to monitor the parks. These controlled areas for the cattle also produced organic soil for the women's market gardening groups to use. The President of the women's group of Sanzanou noted:

"The park was built at the right time. Because of inflation, the cost of fertilizer was unaffordable."

Building these parks brought different individuals from the community together to work towards a common interest. Relationships between Fulani herders and indigenous youth and women have greatly improved because of this collaboration. The vice president of the Fulani association in Sanzanou explained,

"This activity will help limit the vulnerabilities related to the herding and farming conflicts in the face of the rise of violent extremism."

Community workers constructing the cattle night park in Sanzanou

e) Economic Livelihoods

The R4P Economic Livelihood component focused primarily on improving access to economic opportunities, particularly for women and youth. Addressing challenges is key to improving vulnerabilities to VE. Highlights for the second year of the program include:

- Creating and revitalizing 28 Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLAs) as a space to learn how to manage money, take loans, and discuss common community concerns surrounding finances.
- Increasing literacy among women and youth through the creation of 12 literacy centers.
- Boosting entrepreneurship skills of 214 youth and women through localized trainings.

Economic Opportunities Assessment (R4P2-2311)

This past year, the R4P Livelihoods team completed an economic opportunities analysis. Data collected from a total of 238 households in Doropo, Téhini, Kimbirila Nord, and Kong showed that men mainly raise and sell cattle and sheep (especially during holidays), and grow maize (mainly for family consumption), while women tend to carry out commercial activities such as producing and selling milk, collecting and selling shea nuts, selling condiments, running small shops, etc. The analysis of the data revealed that the livelihoods of communities and primary sources of income in the regions are based primarily on agriculture (62%), trade (18%), livestock (5%), handicrafts (3%), and occasional work (2%).

Village Savings and Loans Associations (R4P2-2313)

During Year 2, the VSLAs continued providing women and youth with access to financing and the ability to develop IGAs. R4P supported the creation of six new VSLAs and strengthened 11 previously active ones, across a total of 13 localities: Doropo, Govitan, Kafolo, Kalamon, Kimbirila Nord, Koflandé, Kointa, Kong, Nassian, Niamoué, Sokolo, Téhini, and Tiefinzo. The VSLA groups held savings meetings and instructed groups on how to take out and repay loans. The groups reinforce social cohesion by allowing members from different communities to meet once a week and discuss a common topic of interest. The weekly meetings also give members a space to talk about other events and create stronger relationships between individuals. A Fulani woman from Kimbirila Nord noted:

First savings meeting of the VSLA group of GOVITAN

"*Before, we were in the village without worrying about the health of the other women in the village. But now, thanks to the VSLA initiative, we check in with each other weekly. When we notice the absence of one of the members of the group at the meeting, we ask ourselves why? In case we have no information at the meeting, a delegation is sent to the home of this person to know the reasons of her absence. When a member is affected by a happy or unhappy event, the solidarity fund allows us to support them. We feel considered and supported... Also, we [Fulani women] were not as involved in the village activities. But now, thanks to this group to which we belong, we frequently take part in village cleaning activities.*"

Weekly meeting of the VSLA Kimbirila Nord group

By the end of Year 2, the six new VSLAs had accumulated savings of XOF 6,117,600 (about $9,833), and granted participants 182 loans for a total of XOF 7,667,500 (about $12,342). This served to finance 143 IGAs, including 33 new activities and 110 ongoing activities. The IGAs included selling clothes, catering at small restaurants, selling miscellaneous items, or selling local food. R4P provided women with easy access to loans through the VSLAs, which were previously very difficult for women to obtain.

"*It is not easy at all to obtain a loan of more than XOF 20,000 here in the village. I am very happy because, thanks to the VSLA that was set up by the R4P project, I was able to obtain a loan for the first time of XOF 50,000. I used it to buy maize that I will resell. In addition, what impresses me a lot is the fact that we meet every week, which was not the case before the set-up of the VSLA, and in the group there is no discrimination between communities (Lorhon, Fulani, Lobis, Mossi, Malinké)…*" -VSLA member from Govitan

Increasing Literacy Among Youth and Women (R4P2-2341)

This past year, R4P launched literacy centers in 12 different localities for participants, specifically women and youth, to develop literacy and numeracy skills. R4P identified literacy facilitators who led the three two-hour classes each week at each of the centers. These 12 literacy centers saw a total of 292 participants, and six centers (Sokoro, Tiéfinzo, Kimbirila Nord, Govitan, Gogo, and Téhini) completed the pre-literacy training and have started the next phase. The other six centers (Koflandé, Kafolo, Sokolo, Kong, Doropo, and Niamoué) are in the pre-literacy phase.

Literacy class in Govitan

Entrepreneurship training (R4P2-2312)

Working session on business ideas and how to write business plans

R4P trained eight groups (in Doropo, Koflandé, Govitan, Gogo, Kafolo, Sokolo, Kimbirila Nord, and Tiéfinzo) in entrepreneurship, with a total of 214 participants (including 127 women). The training taught participants key entrepreneurial skills including financial management, marketing, and business strategy, and included individual coaching sessions with participants. By the end of the training, participants had created a total of 10 business plans.

f) Communication and Digital Media

During Year Two, R4P strengthened its media ecosystem by cultivating collaboration between radio stations, social media influencers and the press, and by supporting partners in developing responsive CVE content. The R4P media team continued to provide technical support to 12 radio partners and supported them in producing radio programs. R4P-facilitated community validation groups that played a key role in ensuring community participation in local radio programming and monitoring content for accuracy and conflict sensitivity (See success story # 4 for more details on community validation groups). Despite challenges around their coordination, the R4P influencers made meaningful contributions to their communities while working to prevent fake news and changing the narrative around local tensions or issues. Moonshot's research on the footprint of VE online contributed to better understanding signs of VE online in Côte d'Ivoire. Highlights for the second year of the program include:

- Improving the quality and technical capacity of 12 local radio partners to broadcast radio content.
- Facilitating 21 community validation groups to review and vet radio programming.
- Organizing 35 listening sessions to spur discussions and solutions to local issues.
- Coordinating ten multi-platforms media campaigns and three emergency campaigns to address urgent issues.
- Supporting social media influencers to counter fake news on social media, and post content to inform their communities.

Annual Media Partner Workshop (3.1.1.3)

In January 2023, the R4P media team held its annual media review workshop in Ferkéssedougou with the R4P media ecosystem, including representatives from radio stations, the press, and the influencer network. During this workshop, media partners reflected on previous activities and identified ways to increase the impact and efficiency of future activities. The workshop also addressed challenges related to the coordination of the influencers' network and how to facilitate collaboration with radio stations.

Bolstering the Capacity of Local Radio Stations (3.1.1.1; 3.1.1.2)

Radio Binkadi director during on-site training in Tengrela

This year, EAI built the capacity of 12 local radio partners to produce and broadcast CVE content. The R4P team conducted technical audits of all partner radio stations' equipment and trained them to diagnose and troubleshoot technical issues affecting radio transmissions.

The R4P media team also organized on-site training for all 12 partner radio stations on developing CVE-specific content. The training sessions brought together radio station staff, R4P influencers, community members, and media professionals. Each training included discussions about key local issues and resulted in producing radio content such as a radio show or a roundtable. These individualized radio programs aided partner radio stations' awareness and responsiveness to the lives of everyday listeners, which in turn enhanced the role radio stations can play in discussing sensitive issues.

R4P partner radio stations strengthened their skills and capacity to produce CVE-related content through sustained community engagement and dynamic tailored on-site technical support. Partners shared that they feel empowered to take ownership of CVE content and equipped to use their platform to share information with their audience. As noted by the director of Niellé Radio,

"Niellé radio was falling into disrepair, and given the lack of interest in the station, I was discouraged and considered closing it. But since R4P associated the radio with its actions, I was inspired and could see the strength of the radio for our community. I installed new management by associating other people from the community, including a Fulani brother as program director. Thanks to the R4P training, the new team learned theory and through practical exercises we learned how to do a vox pop and, for the first time since I am managing this station, we recorded a complete show. The training also helped us see how to strengthen the community spirit around our radio."

Since receiving on-site technical support from the R4P media team, Niellé Radio made considerable progress towards diversifying and improving its technical capabilities. Radio Niellé recently modernized its broadcasting by implementing software updates, which helps improve the reliability of broadcasting equipment and the resilience of the radio station to improve its operational capabilities.

Producing CVE Media Content (Activity 3.1.2.1; 3.1.2.2; 3.1.2.3; 3.1.2.4; 3.1.2.5; 3.1.2.6)

In Year Two, the R4P media partner radio stations, and influencer network produced 155 new media products, including 45 roundtables, 12 radio series, and 37 radio messages. R4P partner radio stations rebroadcast 1,653 total hours of content across the northern border regions. This included broadcasting the same radio programs simultaneously on Saturdays. R4P-produced programs rotate every week and include programming in local languages as well as French. Simultaneous broadcasts addressed CVE-related topics such as land management and fostering collaboration between communities and FDS.

Radio series "*Ma vie en zone rouge*" (3.1.2.3)

In September 2022, R4P developed a radio series called "*Ma vie en zone rouge*" ("My life in the red zone") that discussed community resilience in areas that have experienced VE attacks and continue to face security threats. R4P worked with radio stations, journalists, and influencers to interview communities in Kafolo, Téhini, and Tougbo and gathered local perceptions on security, adaptation, and resilience. R4P and partners featured the interviews as part of the show. The show gave a platform to communities living with VE risks while offering listeners in northern Cote d'Ivoire "real" accounts of life facing VE threats.

Multimedia campaigns (3.1.2.5)

Throughout Year 2, the R4P media team implemented ten multimedia campaigns spotlighting local issues and R4P activities. These campaigns mobilized members within the larger R4P media ecosystem and encouraged collaboration among media players to better relay information to communities.

Media roundtable production in Téhini

For example, in the Folon region, R4P deployed two media campaigns, one promoting Fulani and Malinké collaboration, and the other one presenting the R4P-facilitated night cattle park. In Doropo, the R4P team organized a campaign to discuss "*talibé*"[3] children as part of R4P's governance activities. R4P also used the multimedia campaigns to increase the visibility and coverage of the GUMs through broadcasts, radio spots, and press releases in French and local languages in May, June, and July 2022. The productions highlighted the benefits of registering vehicles and provided dates and locations for upcoming GUMs to attract broader participation.

Community validation groups (3.1.2.7)

Community validation group in Korhogo

This year, R4P facilitated the creation of 21 community validation groups across its radio network. These groups reviewed and evaluated media content before its release to the public.

Each validation group ensures that media content is conflict-sensitive and does not reinforce marginalization and biases. The validation groups offer opportunities to discuss ways to improve radio programming and ensure tailored content specific to each community. It contributes to preventing interpretations that could undermine social cohesion. For example, in Doropo, the validation group rejected a radio production (see below).

---

[3] Talibe are children placed with a mosque who receive religious but no formal education, and often are required to beg for food and money from the community

This validation process is necessary for building trust between media outlets and communities. Validation groups rejecting content also indicate that they actively participate and engage with their task. According to a member of the group,

"We didn't know it was possible for people like us to give our opinion on communal radio programs, so we are excited to participate. We think this approach should be adopted for all radio broadcasts and not just those of the R4P project."

EAI included a success story titled "7: Local voices are loud and clear" in Annex 3. The success story highlights R4P's successful community validation work across northern Cote d'Ivoire. The success story describes how Radio Doropo proposed a story they wanted to broadcast, but Lobis in the community validation group found it susceptible to misinterpretation and that it had the potential to incite violence. The story shares examples of improving media content to respect all local communities and add value to community-led resiliency efforts.

Community listening sessions (3.1.2.1)

Listening session in Sanzanou

Since October 2022, partner radio stations started broadcasting episodes of the soap opera "*Le Choix de la Vie*" (The Choice of Life)[4]. The episodes highlight important cultural and local themes, including collaboration between the population and the security forces, child marriage, and income-generating activities for women. The R4P media team held 35 community listening sessions across target communities.

Listening sessions showcased valuable examples of problem-solving and illustrated non-violent solutions to address issues the characters faced. During each listening session, communities discussed the relevance of episodes and often proposed follow-up activities to reinforce lessons learned. Community listening sessions increased community buy-in and support around themes related to community resilience. The village chief from Sanzanou explained how these listening sessions touch on approaches to conflicts:

"Everything is gained through dialogue; when we sit down to discuss, it helps prevent disputes like what happened in the soap opera we just heard."

After the listening session, the community in Sanzanou gathered to plan their follow-up action, and subsequently agreed to create a monitoring committee. This monitoring committee is comprised of community members who investigate any reports of suspicious activities within the community. The committee then reports to the youth president and village chief who partner with local authorities to address any security concerns. This exemplifies how listening sessions not only

---

[4] This soap opera was produced under the USAID-funded Accountability for Development project.

create discussion and reflection spaces for communities, but also develop positive relationships between the community and local authorities.

In Débété, Thursday is the only day locals can buy goods at the market. When the market is closed, families must rely on their crops or any money their children can bring home. After the listening sessions, the community decided to act to prevent children from leaving home in search of money. They collectively developed a market management and supply cooperative. This initiative brought vendors to sell goods each day of the week. Having the market open dissuaded families from sending their children away to potentially dangerous environments and allowed families more access to the goods they need to survive. One community member shared that:

"We are committed to monitoring closely and being attentive to the difficulties and needs of each in order to avoid frustration."

Using social media for CVE and preventing fake news (Activity 3.1.2.2; 3.4.1.1)

Research on the Online Footprint of Violent Extremism (3.4.1.1)

From March to October 2022, R4P's partner Moonshot, conducted a research study on the online footprint of violent extremism in Côte d'Ivoire which can be found in Annex 5.[5] The study investigated and analyzed narratives related to violent extremism, and mis/disinformation on online platforms, including Facebook and Telegram. On November 30, R4P organized a webinar to present the study and discuss key findings. The webinar took place both in French and English.

Moonshot used a mixed methodology that captured search traffic analysis on Google and an analysis of data collection from online public forums, social media outlets, and messaging boards. The research did not uncover violent extremist communications or activity on public platforms in Côte d'Ivoire but noted that mis/disinformation was present in discussions about regional conflicts and violent extremism. The report also highlighted that there are online narratives that could negatively impact social cohesion.

Fake News Training for R4P's influencers (3.4.1.2; 3.4.2.1)

In June 2022, R4P's partner Moonshot conducted a three-day advanced online training for 19 R4P influencers and three national influencers. The training gave influencers the tools and strategies to identify and respond to disinformation and extremist narratives online. Moonshot also shared

---

[5]http://eai1.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Moonshot_Cote-dIvoire-The-online-footprint-of-violent-extremism_EN.pdf

lessons on using fact-checking and other information verification tools to expose fake news and hate speech.

The influencers developed infographics explaining how to verify information online, and the importance of questioning content to raise awareness in their communities. These verification techniques helped prevent the spread of narratives that could exacerbate harmful existing conflicts or tensions. Following the training, influencers developed social media awareness campaigns to expose fake news narratives and hate speech.

Fake news training with Fulani community members

As a result of the fake news training, a Fulani influencer from Kong reached out to R4P to replicate the fake news training for the Fulani community in Kong. He identified this training as a critical need for his community because of the large number of fake news messages he noticed on social media. In November 2022, R4P trained over 100 members of the Fulani communities from Kafolo, Kong, Petit Nassian, Sikolo, and Sokolo. During the training, the R4P influencer showed participants practical examples of hate messages, including a recent example of a call for the Fulani to attack the Dogon in Mali, and how to use mechanisms to disprove harmful claims. Through early social media intervention, community members learned to challenge what they read on social media instead of forwarding and messages that can inflame social tensions and threaten the security of the community.

Emergency campaigns (3.1.2.2; 3.4.1.2)

R4P's media team led three emergency campaigns in Year 2. Emergency campaigns are responses to urgent situations that threaten social cohesion. They combined radio messages and social media content disseminated by the R4P influencer network. This year, R4P deployed an emergency campaign in Kong department when hostilities arose between the Fulani and Lobi communities.

Members of the Lobi community burnt Fulani's homes, resulting in Fulani fleeing the area. R4P influencers launched a multiplatform social media campaign to spread peaceful messages and promote solidarity with the Fulani community. The influencers also collected donations for helping the displaced Fulani community.[6] Radio Kong and Radio Togoniéré broadcasted conflict resolution programs in French, Malinké, Fulani, and Lobiri. Through this campaign, the

---

[6] Link to video calling for donations on Facebook: https://fb.watch/jBJqCprtph/

influencers produced two social media videos, 38 publications and elicited 64 shares on Facebook, and 1,001 views on WhatsApp to reach a total audience of 2,125 viewers. The emergency campaign culminated when influencers facilitated an event for Fulani and Lobi leaders during which they reconciled in presence of Kong's prefect. At the end of the event, the influencers shared the donations they collected with the Fulani communities.

R4P also organized two emergency campaigns around vehicle arsons in the Bounkani region – one in September 2022 and again in February 2023 when similar incidents occurred in Doropo. R4P mobilized its media ecosystem to promote best practices for identifying and sharing accurate information online. The Ivorian Press Agency (*Agence Ivoirienne de Presse* – AIP) amplified the work of the influencers by publishing two articles about how R4P's rapid involvement calmed fears among the community across social media.[7] Through R4P's swift emergency campaign, influencers were able to counter fake online narratives and provide the community with verified sources of information.

g) Research and Learning

Action Research

This year, R4P's ARU, led by Indigo Côte d'Ivoire, continued to conduct rapid response research in R4P's target localities to inform activities and better understand local dynamics and the CVE context. These research efforts remain a critical part of the project as they provide essential information, ensure conflict sensitivity, and make the project more relevant and responsive to local contexts.

The ARU's research showed that border communities have vulnerabilities that VEOs could exploit to expand their reach to Côte d'Ivoire. Tensions surrounding NRM, mainly access to water and land ownership, are still prevalent, especially in the Folon and Tchologo regions. In Kobada (Kong department, Nafana sub-prefecture), a conflict opposes Lobi farmers and Fulani herders, while in the Kimbirila Nord sub-prefecture, R4P observed tensions around villages' administrative borders.

Youth remain very vulnerable, particularly in the Folon region. Government policies and social norms are at the center of youth issues. Government repression against illegal artisanal mining and limited alternative economic opportunities result in youth having few livelihood options. Youth feel that the government is only bringing security responses in a context with urgent employment and livelihood needs. Youth also experience conflicts with their parents and have been outspoken about being unable to make decisions for themselves because of family structures. R4P's rapid research efforts also highlighted successful youth inclusion initiatives. For example, in Sikolo (Kong Department), elders have given priority to youth and women to use land. As a result, any youth in Sikolo can access land and spend more time cultivating their field than their parents' fields. In Sokoro (Folon region), elders are shifting traditional practices to include young men. Traditionally, only older men are introduced to the Dozo hunter group, but elders are now making it accessible to young people to facilitate their participation in their communities and promote interaction between young men and older men.

---

[7] AIP articles about the emergency campaign in Doropo: https://www.aip.ci/cote-divoire-aip-le-projet-r4p-renforce-la-resilience-des-communautes-par-lactivation-de-son-ecosysteme/ ; https://www.aip.ci/cote-divoire-aip-le-projet-r4p-organise-des-emissions-radio-sur-la-gestion-des-rumeurs-a-doropo/

This year's research also showed that Fulani communities undergo challenging internal dynamics, resulting in complicated relationships with other communities. These challenges relate to a leadership crisis and subsequent tensions and conflicts that led to distrust and weakened the community's cohesion. The R4P ARU notes that in the Bagoué, Bounkani and Folon regions, Fulani communities have launched efforts to organize and participate in broader community activities. They have created associations and organized cultural days to share their culture and prevent harmful stereotyping. In the Bouna department, the Fulani community set up a system of representatives to facilitate the community's participation in farmer-herder conflict prevention, mediation, and resolution. In Doropo, the Fulani communities established a mechanism to interact with other communities and prevent tensions and conflicts regularly.

R4P studies

This year, R4P commissioned five studies about northern Côte d'Ivoire, on the following topics:
- The Online Footprint of Violent Extremism (described above in the Communication and Digital Media section)
- Illegal Artisanal Gold Mining
- Early Signs of Violent Extremism
- The Comoé National Park and VE risks
- The Fulani community and VE (field research started at the end of Year Two and will conclude in May 2023).

Illegal Artisanal Gold Mining (1.1.1.4)

This study investigated illegal artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in northern Côte d'Ivoire. The report, included as annex seven, gives a detailed and comprehensive account of illegal ASGM management and challenges related to government repression of illegal mining. While the research did not find direct links between VEOs and high-production artisanal gold mining, the study outlined risks factors, as shown in the infographic below:

Infographic 7: Key risks in illegal ASGM

Several key risks were identified in illegal gold mining sites.

Chart 1: Key risks in illegal ASGM

● = medium
● = high

Conflict
- LSGM and ASGM conflict ●
- Community conflict ●

Rule of Law
- Corruption ●
- Money Laundering ●
- Illegal supply chain ●
- Illegal ASGM operations ●

Health & Safety
- Infrastructure reliability & operational safety ●
- Lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) ●
- Mercury use ●
- HIV & STDs ●

Environment
- Wastewater contamination and water quality ●
- Soil pollution and contamination ●

Human Rights
- Child labor ● Discrimination ●

The final reports in English and in French will be published on EAI's website at the beginning of Year Three, and were validated by Ivorian officials in a March, 2023 meeting.

Early Signs of VE (1.1.1.7)

This study examined early warning signs of VE activity among communities[8] that experienced attacks in northern Côte d'Ivoire. The report shows signs that communities identified and identifies whether the signs were present in multiple locations ahead of attacks. For example, common early signs among the six localities include road robberies, kidnapping, rumors of VEO presence, and cattle theft. In addition to identifying early signs of VE attacks, the research also looked at local early warning mechanisms, and adaptation strategies. The research showed that many communities will not openly discuss VEOs following attacks and promoted simple, smaller family celebrations. Communities also reported organizing travel in groups, working fields closer to the village, monitoring Muslim preachers, and other security mitigation measures.

The final reports in English and in French will be published on EAI's website in Year Three.

Comoé Space (1.1.1.8)

The Comoé space study looked at social dynamics around the protected Comoé National Park (*Parc National de la Comoé* – PNC) and vulnerabilities to VE. Comoé is a vast protected area, twice the size of the US state of Delaware, and is rich in natural resources. The exclusion of local communities from the park, inter-communal tensions, land ownership disputes, the continued presence of illegal artisanal gold mining in protected spaces, historical conflicts, and increased migratory pressures as well as pressure from the displaced coming from Burkina Faso are all potential inroads for VEOs. However, there are no current indicators of VEO presence. R4P is

---

[8] The research was conducted in Kafolo, Bolé, Môro-Môrô, Tougbo, Téhini and Zépou.
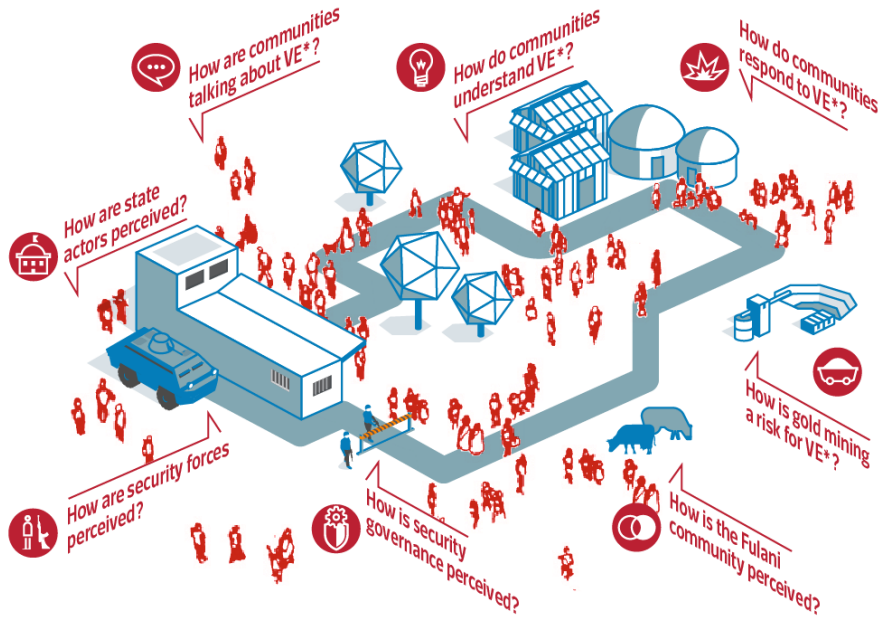
currently working with the research team to finalize the report. It will be published in French and English during Year Three.

R4P also developed an infographic showing key questions the project answered through research efforts and posted it on EAI's website[9] alongside Year One's studies.

Infographic 8: R4P's Key Questions Around Community Resilience to VE in Northern Cote d'Ivoire

[9] Link to the version in English: https://www.equalaccess.org/key-questions-around-community-resilience-to-violent-extremism-in-northern-cote-divoire/.
Link to the version in French: https://www.equalaccess.org/questions-cles-autour-de-la-resilience-communautaire-face-a-lextremisme-violent-dans-le-nord-de-la-cote-divoire/

How are communities talking about VE*?

How do communities understand VE*?

How do communities respond to VE*?

How are state actors perceived?

How is gold mining a risk for VE*?

How are security forces perceived?

How is security governance perceived?

How is the Fulani community perceived?

Training curriculum for CVE research/practitioners (1.2.2.1; 1.2.2.2)

This year, R4P's research team developed a Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) curriculum and organized training for 428 stakeholders, including prefectorial authorities, government leaders, civil society organizations, researchers, members of the R4P ecosystem, and community leaders from R4P target localities.

According to the Sub-Prefect of Débété:

"I have attended several seminars on violent extremism, but this training is by far the best. It allowed me to better understand violent extremism, and especially local sources of resilience."

Participants during PCVE training in Korhogo

Annual Learning Summit (1.3.1.1; 1.3.1.2)

In January 2023, EAI, and its partners Indigo Côte d'Ivoire, and Chaire UNESCO, organized the R4P Annual Learning Summit in Korhogo. The event convened community researchers and practitioners, donors, the Ivorian government, and regional and international representatives, including the incoming USAID Country Representative, Ms. Shawn Jones. Research partners and local communities discussed local contexts and collaborated to identify emerging research trends that will inform the next phase of R4P's activity implementation.

Women leaders at the ALS

The ALS included ten research presentations (including six R4P presentations) on CVE topics, ranging from artisanal gold mining to the online footprint of VE. Participants agreed that fear decreased in the last year but that communities in the Bounkani and Tchologo regions are increasingly aware of VE threats despise a decrease in security incidents. There was also a consensus that communities resent FDS, and that mistrust remains at the center of interactions between FDS and communities. Participants also noted the marginalization and stigmatization of Fulani communities as a continuous issue for community resilience. Finally, participants also recognized positive trends from border communities, including local initiatives that improve social cohesion and promote stability. The ALS report is attached as Annex 6.

The ALS offered an opportunity for community members to engage in discussions with government representatives and to advocate for policy changes they believe would help their communities. As a highlight of this year's ALS, immediately after the event, Côte d'Ivoire reopened land borders. After R4P questioned the timing with the CNS, it was confirmed that the reopening was directly tied to discussions between the CNS and local and traditional authorities as well as border residents, conducted during the ALS. After returning to Abidjan, the CNS added a border closure discussion to the agenda for the inter-ministerial committee. After sharing their findings from the summit, and as an unexpected outcome of the event, the ministers voted to open all land borders.

Following the ALS, R4P conducted restitution workshops in Kimbirila Nord, Tengrela, Bouna, Sikolo, Téhini, and Korhogo to discuss the outcomes of the ALS. These restitutions reflected on Year two activities while also proposing activities for Year three to local leaders and government partners. R4P used their feedback to inform and adjust proposed activities to better reflect the needs of local communities.

Pause and Reflect Workshop (1.3.1.3)

In February 2023, R4P convened all staff, partners and USAID for its annual Pause and Reflect workshop in Assinie, Côte d'Ivoire. Over the course of three days, the R4P team reflected on program results and impact, successes from the previous year, lessons learned, and engaged in strategic planning for upcoming activities.

The Pause and Reflect workshop highlighted examples of successful R4P initiatives completed in Year 2. For example, staff discussed the success of activities such as the GUM, which brought government services closer to local communities, and the dialogue framework mechanisms between the Fulani community and local authorities in Kong and Tengrela. In addition to successes, R4P staff discussed improving project approach, implementation, and collaboration for Year 3.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

During Year Two, EAI continued implementing a robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning system to track programmatic progress and inform adaptive program management. The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team monitored performance and complexity-aware indicators, organized review meetings with the project's team, and updated the project's database. During monthly program performance reviews with program leads, the Monitoring and Evaluation officer reviewed results against performance indicators, the implementation status of planned activities and discussed activity adjustments as needed. During all staff quarterly project internal review workshops, the R4P team discussed activity implementation, progress toward project performance indicators, and successes and lessons learned.

Outcome Harvesting

This year, the R4P team completed the pilot phase of the outcome harvesting process. Outcome harvesting is an evaluation methodology to identify changes and effects resulting from a project. It allows capturing outcomes beyond results frameworks, and aids in measuring program successes in complex environments. R4P's partner NORC trained the program's team on the outcome harvesting approach and process, and the R4P team designed the process, from drafting terms of reference to reviewing program documents and verifying changes. After identifying changes or effects, the team reached out to R4P's partners in target areas including the GACs, CCMs, partner radio stations, influencers, NRM working groups, and NRM village committees. The team collected information from them and consolidated the description of changes. Then, to verify the changes, the team confirmed the information with independent and informed individuals such as local leaders, government authorities, etc.

III. Annexes

Annex 1: List of CVE-related incidents recorded by Resilience for Peace during Year 2

Annex 2: Overview of Indicator Table

Annex 3: Success Stories

Annex 4: The Online Footprint of Violent Extremism in Cote d'Ivoire

Annex 5: ALS Final Report

Annex 6: ASGM Full Report