



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COTE D'IVOIRE

CÔTE D'IVOIRE TRANSITION INITIATIVE 2

Chemonics International Inc.

Contract No: AID-OAA-I-14-00006, Task Order AID-OAA-TO-14-00008

Annual Report: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015



Concert held on June 7, 2015, supported by CITI 2 (ABJ020) in Yopougon with local artists including Ismael Isaac. During the concert, artists delivered messages of peace and promoted the need for mutual respect targeting the volatile transport sector, youth and populations at risk.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) launched the Côte d'Ivoire Transition Initiative (CITI) program in September 2011, four months after the end of the post-election violence that claimed the lives of three thousand people and displaced hundreds of thousands of others. While the violence has subsided, Côte d'Ivoire continues to face serious challenges as it emerges from more than ten years of civil conflict. As the October 2015 presidential elections approach, the tensions that led to the violence in 2010 are re-emerging as flash points.

In response to evolving needs, USAID/OTI's work in Côte d'Ivoire has been implemented in two phases. The first phase (CITI 1), implemented by AECOM from September 2011 to August 2014, supported public confidence in the post-conflict recovery process through enhanced governance processes and effective community initiatives. In line with U.S. foreign policy objectives in Côte d'Ivoire, USAID/OTI's goal has evolved in the lead up to the next presidential election period to focus on supporting greater social cohesion and political stability around the elections. This current phase, from June 2014 to March 2016 (CITI 2), is implemented by Chemonics International Inc.

CITI 2's targeted assistance will enable Côte d'Ivoire to achieve greater social cohesion and political stability by:

- Supporting an inclusive and credible elections process through increased public participation, support to electoral institutions, improved access to credible information, and increased intercommunity interaction and dialogue; and
- Increasing community cohesion through the development of community strategies to cope with violence and unrest, the resolution of community grievances, increased constructive dialogue and interaction, and increased dissemination of credible information.

To achieve country objectives, CITI 2 uses a fast and flexible transition activities pool (TAP) to implement grants, short-term technical assistance (STTA), and direct distribution of goods and services (DDGS).

This Annual Report covers activities and events between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

I. COUNTRY SITUATION

I. The Electoral Calendar

In October 2014, concerns about the formulation of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) and the appointment of its President threatened to aggravate social tensions and cast a shadow over the conduct of the 2015 elections. The government attempted to address opposition concerns with the addition of a 4th vice-president and 2 additional assistant secretaries general to the Commission, whose President was appointed the previous month. This had led to the formal withdrawal of representatives of the opposition. In November, however, opposition representatives, including a member of the FPI (*Front Populaire Ivoirien*), resumed their participation. The opposition alliance described the expansion of the CEI secretariat as a small step forward which can be the basis for better orienting the CEI to “defend the interests of the opposition.”

The CEI announced the establishment of local electoral commissions in early December. The setting up of local electoral commissions (CELs) from regional to sub-prefectural level, including commissions in 16 diplomatic missions abroad, was a major undertaking by the CEI and one of the most important preparatory steps in organizing the October presidential elections.

The Electoral Code Bill was passed unanimously at committee stage in the National Assembly on Friday March 27th. The revisions to the electoral law, which provided the legal framework for the October presidential elections, essentially repealed sections adopted to deal with the crisis in 2010. An extra-ordinary, pre-Easter session of the National Assembly held in early April passed the draft text into law, which was another significant milestone on the very tight electoral calendar for the 2015 presidential elections.

The process of revising the electoral list began on June 1st and was originally supposed to end on June 30th, but was extended by 12 days due to the low turnout of eligible new voters. Only 185,183 new voters registered before the deadline was extended. After the 12-day extension, the *Commission Électorale Indépendante* (CEI) announced the registration of "344,295 people on the electoral list including 9,507 abroad." The final electoral list published by the end of September 2015 contained approximately 6.3 million registered voters, 3.1 million of whom were women. The most recent population census conducted in 2014 suggested that a population between 8 and 9 million were of voting age – or 2.3 to 3.3 million potential voters having turned 18 since the electoral list was finalized for the 2010 elections. The voter registration exercise therefore saw only 10-15% of potential new voters registering.

On August 5th, the government officially announced that October 25th would be the date of the presidential elections. Thirty-three candidates, including 3 women, declared their interest in the presidential race by August 25th, the end of the period for registration of candidates, according to the CEI. On August 5th, the government officially announced that October 25th would be the date of the presidential elections. On September 9th, the *Conseil Constitutionnel* released the definitive list of candidates who were accepted to present themselves for the presidential elections. There were 10 candidates in total, two of which were women. In order of presentation of their registration papers, they were: Alassane Ouattara, Konan Kouadio Siméon, Lagou

Adjoua Henriette, Affi N'Guessan Pascal, Essy Amara, Charles Konan Banny, Mamadou Koulibaly, Konan Kouadio Bertin, Kouanga Jacqueline Claire and Gnangbo Kacou.

According to Ivorian law, official campaigns are restricted to a two-week period before the elections and can last until midnight two days before election day, which means this will take place October 9th - October 23rd. Demonstrations against the confirmed candidacy of Alassane Ouattara took place the day after the announcement, most notably in the Marcory and Yopougon suburbs of Abidjan, and in several towns in western Côte d'Ivoire, with strong support for the opposition. One person was killed, several were injured, some roads were blocked, and property was damaged during the clashes. The pro-Gbagbo opposition called for demonstrations and were fiercest in his home region of Gagnoa, 230km northwest of Abidjan. Youth erected barriers and set tires on fire in Bonoua, the home village of Gbagbo's wife, which was 60km east of Abidjan. The protests paralyzed part of the town. Abouré youth, who belonged to the same ethnic group as Gbagbo, clashed with Dioulas, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group from the north who supported Alassane Ouattara. A number of people were injured as a result.

II. Party Politics

The *Front Populaire Ivoirien* (FPI) announced on November 12th that Laurent Gbagbo would be a candidate for the role of party president. The announcement came a day after the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague announced the extension of the detention order against Gbagbo whose full trial at this stage was set to begin in mid-2015. FPI party leader, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, also announced his candidacy for the position. The face-off between supporters of Gbagbo and N'Guessan for the party president position pitted party hardliners, demanding the release of Gbagbo from the ICC and continuing the strategy of boycotting elections, against more moderate elements within the party, who sought more engagement in national politics and a reorientation of the party in a post-Gbagbo era. The "internal crisis" in the FPI became evident from this time over the issue of participation in the presidential elections. Gbagbo's eventual candidacy for the presidential elections was considered by some commentators as the end game for the hardliners, as he would be ineligible to participate due to his absence from the country, justifying a further boycott and facilitating the continued politicization of his detention in The Hague. Eventually, N'Guessan lodged a successful petition with the courts to have the candidature of Gbagbo to the presidency of the party nullified. Tensions rose within the party between the "affistes" and the "gbagbistes." Stalled dialogue between the government and opposition parties, which resumed in January 2015, led to deepening suspicions and accusations that N'Guessan was "too close to those in power". On May 21, 2015, N'Guessan was declared the presidential candidate of the FPI and the Alliance des forces démocratiques (AFD) coalition to face President Alassane Ouattara in the October elections.

N'Guessan will also be coming up against the newly formed opposition outfit, the *Coalition nationale pour le changement* (CNC), which held a number of political rallies in Abidjan in June 2015. The group was established in May 2015 and brings together 19 political parties including the hardliners from the FPI and various prominent personalities (several of whom have already declared for the presidency) broadly allied to the former Head of State, Laurent Gbagbo. The first meeting in the opposition stronghold of Yopougon (a suburban commune of Abidjan)

brought together between 3,000 and 5,000 people according to reports. One of the leaders of the CNC, Kouadio Konan Bertin, himself a declared candidate for the presidency, announced that “we have come to demand that the CEI (the Independent Electoral Commission) be disbanded. We have come to demand that the registration process which is on-going be held under agreed conditions.” At a follow-up meeting a week later in another Abidjan opposition area, Kuomassi, Laurent Akoun, Secretary General of the FPI, told the crowd that “as long as the current the Head of the Electoral Commission (Youssouf Bakayoko) is the one organizing elections, we’re not going to take part.” He called for respect for the Constitution “notably article 35,” alluding to the opposition charge that President Ouattara does not fulfil the nationality requirements in the Constitution to present himself for election of having both parents born in Côte d’Ivoire. Many of the themes in the political rallies were issues raised in the “charter” launched by the CNC in mid-May. First among the demands of the group was the liberation of political prisoners, chief among them Gbagbo himself, and the return of all those in exile. Despite the show of unity around general themes, the coalition brings together a diverse group of politicians with competing longer term interests, which will likely prove difficult to keep together.

The nomination ceremony for President Alassane Ouattara as the sole candidate running on the ticket of the governing coalition, the *Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix* (RHDP), brought together tens of thousands of supporters on April 25, 2015, in the Félix Houphouët-Boigny stadium in Abidjan. This came after separate party congresses for both his own party, the RDR, and its main coalition partners, the PDCI-RDA, voted unanimously to support the current president unchallenged. Support from the PDCI-RDA side of the coalition has not been without its opponents, with several significant personalities in the party voicing their opposition to the “call of Daoukro” (when party leader and former President Henri Konan Bedié unilaterally declared his party’s support Alassane Ouattara as the sole candidate on the RHDP platform). Bedié’s call ultimately held sway as he quashed dissent within the formal party structure. Several opponents have already mounted their own presidential campaigns. Bedié was prominent among those present at the ceremony, which was seen by commentators as a real show of force ahead of the presidential elections in October 2015.

III. Justice and Reconciliation

The trial of 83 close associates of former president Laurent Gbagbo concluded in March 2015. The accused included Gbagbo’s wife, Simone Gbagbo (65), held since her capture in April 2011. The trial formally commenced on December 26th with the accused facing charges of complicity in the post-electoral violence from December 2010 to April 2011 which resulted in the deaths of more than 3,000 people. The verdict handed down in March saw Simone Gbagbo sentenced to 20 years in prison for “treason, taking part in an insurrection and public disorder.” Pascal Affi N’Guessan, the FPI leader, received an 18 month suspended sentence, while Gbagbo’s son, Michel, was sentenced to 5 years in jail. The ICC in The Hague also has an arrest warrant out against Simone Gbagbo where she is accused alongside her husband of “crimes against humanity.” Abidjan has, however, refused her transfer to The Hague, arguing that it could adversely affect the national reconciliation process and that the Ivoirian justice system is up to the task of trying her fairly itself. Some doubts have been expressed about the thoroughness of the process given the volume of evidence and the fact that so little witness testimony was heard.

The Truth and Dialogue Commission (CDVR) submitted its final report to President Ouattara on December 15, 2014, at an official ceremony attended by cabinet ministers, heads of government departments, and other state commissions. CDVR's outgoing president, Charles Konan Banny, who announced his candidacy for the 2015 presidential elections immediately prior to this event, lamented in his speech the uneven work of the commission and recommended follow up dialogue and reconciliation activities. President Ouattara, for his part, announced a review of the CDVR recommendations noting that relevant measures will be implemented. The President also used the occasion to launch a US\$20 million fund for victims. Ouattara closed his speech with a confirmation that the work of the CDVR cost \$32 million. In March 2015, the government announced the creation of a National Commission for Reconciliation and Reparation for Victims called the CONARIV with Archbishop Paul Séméon Ahouanan as its head. According to a government press release, the new commission will have as its mission the "finalization" of the work of the CVDR. Paul Siméon Ahouanan has been the Catholic Archbishop of Bouaké since September 2006. He was a member of the former CVDR and is considered a neutral arbiter. The CONARIV will have as dual objectives the establishment of a list of victims of the violence experienced in Côte d'Ivoire and the payment of compensation.

II. PROJECT OPERATIONS

A. Recruitment and Staffing

At the outset of the current reporting period, all positions were filled in line with the approved field staffing plan. [REDACTED]

In line with the planned increase in program activities during the lead-up to elections, Chemonics and OTI identified the need to recruit an additional Grants Management Unit (GMU), as well as a driver and administrative assistant, to support project activities. As of March 31, 2015, recruitment panels were identifying candidates and conducting interviews for the following positions: Program Development Officer (PDO), Grants Manager (GM), Procurement Specialist (PS), and Admin Assistant in Abidjan, and a driver in Daloa. In April 2015, the project on-boarded these positions. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B. Facilities, Assets & Inventory

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The company's Office Security Plan has been approved by Chemonics Home Office Security Department.

The AECOM Abidjan inventory has been received in total. AECOM's Bouaké office equipment remained in storage following the closure of the AECOM Bouaké office, but was made available to the new Daloa office once rehabilitation works were completed in October.

C. Banking and Finance

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CITI 2 also initiated an account with MTN, and has launched payments successfully through their system. There remain certain challenges, including the capacity for reporting and monitoring transactions, which will limit the use of MTN on a large scale by CITI 2. The project continued to roll out Mobile Money during the reporting period with limitations in the provider's system, which prevented its wide scale application. One particular limitation was the inability of the system to automatically verify an account name against a phone number, and the potential for misdirected funds, which required calls to verify an account prior to each transaction. There, it is still impractical to use Mobile Money for large volume transactions such as those for trainings. The system has nevertheless become a central method of providing implementation funds for project activities in both Daloa and Abidjan, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Despite its shortcomings, this method has greatly reduced the amount of cash transported and kept in both offices.

D. Deliverables

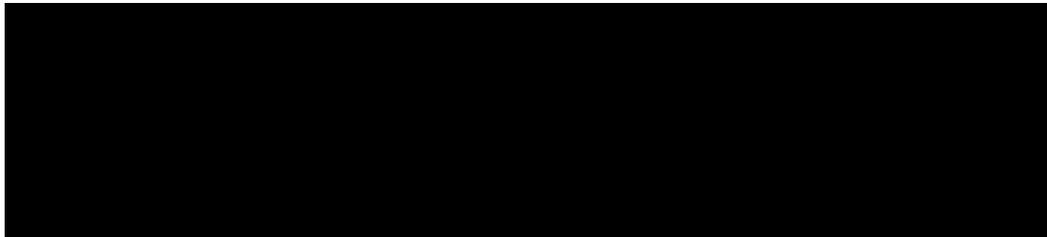
All deliverables due during the reporting period were submitted in accordance with the contract requirements and based on discussions with OTI (see table below).

#	Deliverable	Date Submitted
<i>Other contractual deliverables</i>		
-	Bi-weekly Report #8	10/03/2014
-	Bi-weekly Report #9	10/20/2014

-	October Snapshot	10/30/2014
-	Bi-weekly Report #10	10/31/2014
-	Bi-weekly Report #11	11/14/2014
-	Bi-weekly Report #12	11/28/2014
-	November Snapshot	12/01/2014
-	Bi-weekly Report #13	12/12/2014
-	Bi-weekly Report #14	12/29/2014
-	December snapshot	12/31/2014
-	Quarterly Report (September 2014 -November 2014)	01/07/2015
-	Bi-weekly Report #15	01/10/2015
-	Annual Report (June 2014 - September 2014)	01/13/2015
-	Bi-weekly Report #16	01/23/2015
-	January snapshot	02/03/2015
-	Bi-weekly Report #17	02/06/2015
-	February snapshot	02/26/2015
-	Monthly Report (February 2015)	03/05/2015
-	March snapshot	03/31/2015
-	Monthly Report (March 2015)	04/07/2015
-	April snapshot	04/30/2015
-	Quarterly Report (December 2014 - March 2015)	05/01/2015
-	Monthly Report (April 2015)	05/05/2015
-	May snapshot	05/31/2015
-	Monthly Report (May 2005)	06/05/2015
-	Close Out Plan	06/19/2015
-	June snapshot	06/30/2015
-	Monthly Report (June 2015)	07/07/2015
-	July snapshot	07/28/2015
-	Quarterly Report (April 2015 - June 2015)	07/31/2015
-	Monthly Report (July 2015)	08/07/2015
-	August snapshot	08/31/2015
-	Monthly Report (August 2005)	09/05/2015
-	September snapshot	09/30/2015

III. FUNDING SUMMARY

During the reporting period, the project received funding as follows:



The total available TAP funding to the end to the reporting period was [REDACTED]. All available TAP will be programmed immediately prior to the election with a forecasted [REDACTED] becoming available with the closure and de-obligation of activities in the months of November and December to enable the project to engage in post-electoral activities.

As of September 30, 2015, CITI 2 has committed funds to 105 activities totaling [REDACTED]. 48 activities were implemented in Abidjan or had a national focus, with 57 from the Daloa office focused on the west. 42% of funds have been committed to activities in the Abidjan region (or with a national focus), and 58% to the west.



Exhibit 1: Funds committed per office for the life of the project.

Average life-of-project grant size for CITI 2 through September 2015 is [REDACTED]. Grant budgets during the current reporting period ranged from [REDACTED].

As expected, September 2015 witnessed the highest month of grant disbursements thus far, totaling [REDACTED]. Exhibit 3 charts disbursements against clearance rates over the life of the project. Clearance rates will decrease sharply in October 2015 as the project moves into the post-electoral period and eventually to close-out.

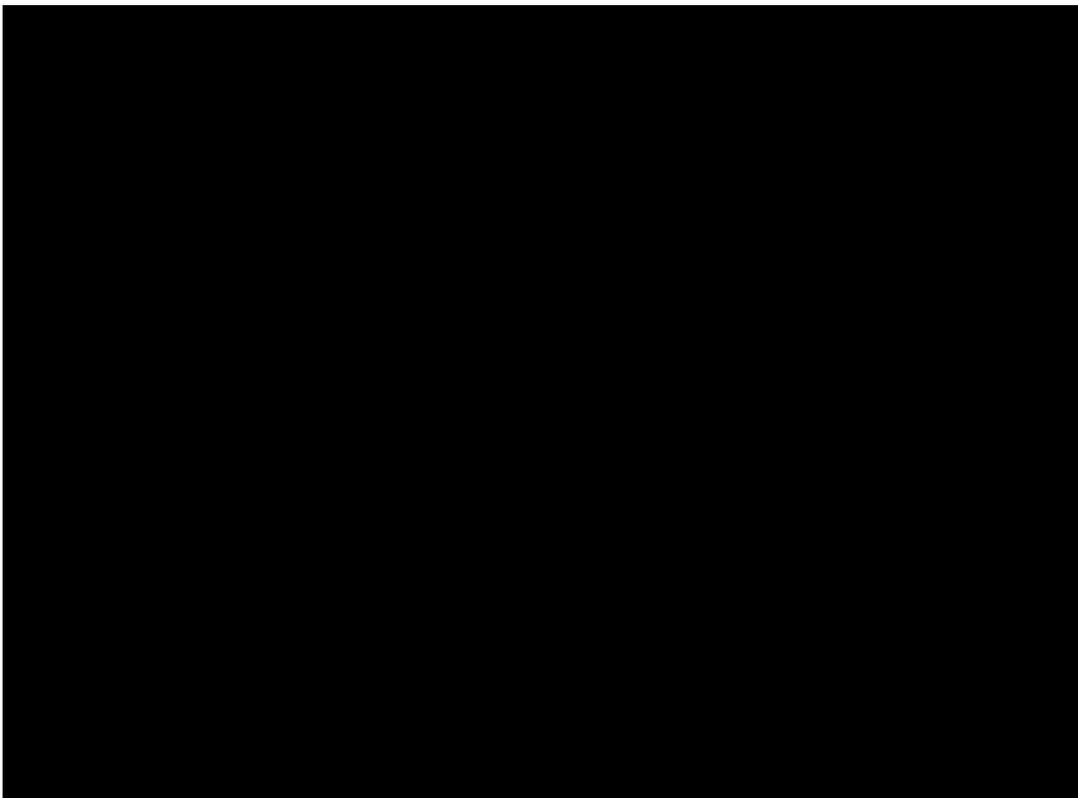


Exhibit 2: Clearance rates (orange line) and disbursement rates (blue line) for the CITI 2 project from July 2014 to September 2015.



Exhibit 3: Clearance rates (orange line) mapped against targets set (grey line) for the project from July 2014 to September 2015

IV. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Objective I: Increasing Community Cohesion

During the reporting period, 28 activities were approved by OTI with the objective of increasing community cohesion, committing just over [REDACTED]. The project shifted focus substantially in the post March 2015 SRS phase – towards supporting an inclusive and credible elections process, however in the October 2014 to February 2015 period, 84% of grants cleared had the objective of increasing community cohesion. Some highlights from the program supporting this objective are presented below.

Cleared	Activity #	Activity Title
2014-10-09	DAL008	Building the capacity of Lokosso communities to resolve land disputes
2014-10-12	ABJ007	Promoting dialogue between communities of Kennedy, Abobo Baoule and Aboboté
2014-10-30	DAL010	Integrating at-risk youth into the community in Duekoué
2014-10-31	DAL007	Strengthening local decision-making institutions in Mona
2014-10-31	DAL012	Facilitating meaningful reconciliation in Daloa
2014-10-31	DAL014	Educating Bangolo youth on the principles of a democratic society
2014-11-03	ABJ006	Restoring social cohesion in Gesco, Yopougon
2014-11-03	ABJ008	Promoting political tolerance in Abobo through participatory theater
2014-11-27	ABJ009	Engaging women to promote social cohesion in Abidjan
2014-11-27	ABJ013	Confronting bias and misinformation in informal discussion groups in Abobo
2014-11-28	DAL017	Arts and Culture Festival to Promote Dialogue in Duékoué
2014-11-28	DAL020	Promoting reconciliation through a forgiveness ceremony in Duekoue
2014-11-30	DAL015	Enhancing collaborative relationships between youth in Daloa
2014-12-24	ABJ011	Establishing an early warning and response system in Abobo
2014-12-24	DAL025	Operationalizing Duekoué's early warning committee
2014-12-30	ABJ014	Holiday celebration to promote social cohesion in Koweit, Yopougon
2014-12-30	DAL023	Fostering peace and tolerance in Daloa during the African Nations Soccer Cup
2014-12-31	DAL018	Empowering students in Daloa for non-violent action
2015-01-30	ABJ019	Establishing an Early warning and response system in Yopougon
2015-01-30	DAL016	Promoting Peace Among Youth in Issia
2015-01-30	DAL024	Supporting inter-ethnic dialogue between market women in Duekoue
2015-02-06	DAL022	Facilitating Meaningful Reconciliation in Bangolo
2015-02-16	ABJ021	Highlighting the role of women on International Women's Day in Dabou
2015-02-17	ABJ012	Combating Violence in the Urban Transport Sector in Abidjan
2015-02-19	ABJ020	Awareness Campaign against Violence in the Urban Transport Sector in Abidjan
2015-03-16	DAL035	Supporting the First Instance Tribunal Inauguration in Man
2015-05-12	ABJ029	Evaluating Early Warning and Response Activities supported by CITI2
2015-05-26	DAL019	Enhancing Bangolo youth's skills for greater economic prospects

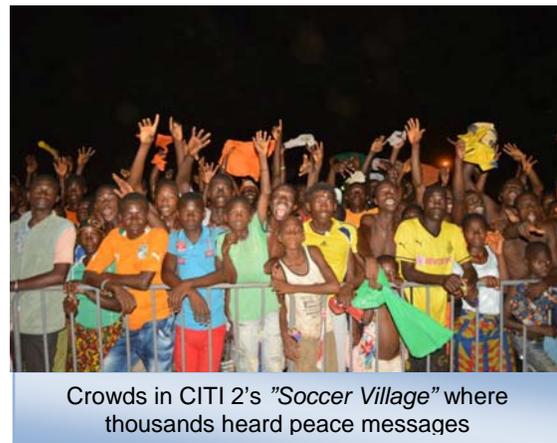
Exhibit 4: Grants cleared from October 2014 to September 2015 with the program objective to increase community cohesion.

In an effort to promote social cohesion, CITI 2 continued its engagement with women in the troubled Duékoué region in western Côte d'Ivoire during the reporting period. *DAL024* built on an initial activity to strengthen dialogue and positive interaction between women in the markets of Carrefour and Kokoma through the establishment of a network of market women from different communities who came together to purchase and sell their wares at each other's markets. Tensions between Guéré and Malinké women of Carrefour and Kokoma markets have,

on occasion, led to violent confrontations between the two communities. CITI 2 provided them with the opportunity to discuss and jointly conduct market days. Under this activity, CITI 2 partnered with the *Coalition des Femmes Leaders pour la Lutte Contre les Violences faites aux Femmes et Filles de Duékoué* to provide a cohort of market women with business training and storage capacity for their goods. Work with this group of women clearly bore fruit with women from the Malinké and Guéré communities working together to challenge the prejudices that their respective communities harbored toward one another. The women have become vocal advocates for sensitization on issues of peace and social cohesion, which are crucial issues in the pre-electoral period when ethnic relations are likely to be strained.

In the town of Dabou, not far from Abidjan, where inter-group tensions were still tangible several years after the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis, *ABJ021* supported a gathering to mark International Women's Day on the square in front of the Mayor's Office. The event brought together over 1,000 women across faiths and political persuasions from Dabou and surrounding villages. For the first time since the end of crisis, women from Dabou had the opportunity to celebrate the day together through fashion shows, traditional dances, and cooking competitions. The day was an opportunity to pass the message of unity and togetherness among women and to reinforce their cohesive role in the community. As a follow up, the women leaders embarked on campaigns in the outlying villages. Because of this initiative, the women's NGO *Unir et Servir* became a powerful voice advocating for peace and reconciliation.

In January and February 2015, CITI 2 used an innovative approach in continued efforts to support community cohesion, targeting youth in particular. *DAL023* supported a consortium of youth from varying political parties in Daloa – The Young Leaders Platform – to set up a “Soccer Village,” aiming to bring youth and communities together around the football matches of the African Cup of Nations. The “Village” contained a stage and large screen where community members from all backgrounds came to watch all thirty of the Africa Cup of Nations matches live. The event drew huge crowds for Côte d'Ivoire's six matches – with more 5,000 people present for the semi-final and final. Before, after the games, and during half time, well-known local performers took the stage to disseminate messages of peace and social cohesion through interactive sketches.



Crowds in CITI 2's "Soccer Village" where thousands heard peace messages

During the period under review, CITI 2 undertook support of the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system in Côte d'Ivoire. The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) established a EWER infrastructure in the country in the early 2000s. Leveraging its experience elsewhere in West Africa, in particular from Ghana, WANEP is at the forefront of conflict prevention efforts in Côte d'Ivoire and has been working on strengthening the local EWER infrastructure and linking it to the ECOWAS Early Warning system at the regional level. Through its network of civil society partners in the country, WANEP has established a vertical information sharing system, and uses ICTs to ensure that information on conflict is collected and

shared in real time to facilitate appropriate and timely responses. In exploring the weaknesses in the local EWER system, CITI 2 identified the lack of “horizontal” reporting capacity in the system, meaning that while a robust system of information transmission to the central database and to an online interactive map exists, systems of information sharing and response at the community level are weak. *ABJ011* established a local EWER system in Abobo, which was the site of extreme violence during the 2010-2011 post-elections crisis. Three years on, these communities had scarcely moved past their grievances and frequently resorted to violence to address their differences. While local NGOs monitor indicators of violence in this location, they lacked the necessary tools to document and share the information with the proper authorities. Through CITI 2’s partnership with WANEP, members of a local NGO consortium, the *Plateforme des Organisations de la Société Civile d’Abobo* (POSCA), were trained on the EWER system and triggers for conflict have been identified. As such, local responses to issues can be developed and addressed in time, thus stopping the cycle of violence that has plagued the community. With *ABJ019*, CITI 2 established a similar system in the hot spot of Yopougon, the largest and most populous commune in Abidjan. Located along the main artery entering the city of Abidjan from the west, control of Yopougon was hard fought by opposing sides during the post electoral crisis of 2010-2011. Residents are mainly supporters of former President Laurent Gbagbo, and enjoyed political patronage during his tenure, and supported him during the post electoral crisis. When the post-election violence broke out in Abidjan in 2010, Yopougon witnessed some of the worst of the violence, including many executions. Four years after the crisis, tensions are still palpable. Politics continues to inflame passions in this neighborhood and violent inter-group conflict is a frequent occurrence. The current electoral period brings with it the potential to exacerbate the deeply rooted ethno-political divisions in the community. The establishment of a local EWER system with the *Comité de coordination de la Société Civile de Yopougon* (CCSCY) promises to strengthen the peacebuilding capacity of local civil society to actively engage in conflict prevention.

Finally, *DAL025* sought to operationalize Duékoué’s early warning committee that aimed to provide authorities the necessary information to take preventive measures to address tensions thereby preventing them from turning violent. Duékoué is host to the country’s major ethnic groups who participate in the region’s flourishing cocoa industry. In this city, innocuous misunderstandings in communities can evolve into ethnic conflicts in the absence of credible information, along with rumors, which spread quickly. These conflicts are usually perpetrated by youth and reverberate in neighboring villages with similar ethnic makeups. With WANEP and the *Plateforme des Organisations de Jeunesse de Duékoué* (POJED), CITI 2 equipped the early warning committee and provided training to its members on the use of the equipment.



An elder is interviewed on local radio and calls on the community to support the EWER committee in Duékoué.

Objective 2: Supporting an inclusive and credible elections process

Over [REDACTED] was committed to 65 approved activities during the reporting period to Objective 2: Supporting a credible and inclusive electoral process. 70% of CITI 2 grants cleared in the period October 2014 to September 2015 supported Objective 2. Since March 2015, 95% of CITI 2 grants cleared have supported this objective. The western region was the main focus of programming with 34 individual activities implemented representing 52% of all grants. 18 activities focused on the Abidjan region (28% of all grants), while 13 activities (20% of all grants) had a national focus. Below is a snapshot of the Daloa activities focused on Objective 2 during the reporting period. Please see page 17 for a snapshot of the Abidjan activities and page 18 for a snapshot of national level activities focused on Objective 2 during the reporting period.

i. Western Region

Cleared	Activity #	Activity Title
2014-10-31	DAL011	Disseminating objective information on citizenship laws in Duekoue
2014-12-04	DAL013	Facing the past to prevent future electoral violence in Duékoué
2015-03-24	DAL021	Monitoring Hate Speech ahead of the 2015 Elections
2015-04-25	DAL027	Engaging Traditional Chiefs in Preventing Electoral Violence in Guiglo
2015-02-20	DAL028	Encouraging Guiglo youth participation in the democratic process
2015-02-28	DAL029	Promoting the benefits of citizenship with the national Identity Card
2015-02-16	DAL030	Preventing Electoral Violence in Bangolo with an Early Warning & Response System
2015-03-25	DAL031	Engaging University of Daloa students in Peaceful 2015 Elections
2015-03-30	DAL032	Supporting Daloa Women's Association for Peaceful 2015 Elections
2015-03-30	DAL033	Engaging high school students in the Guémon region for non-violent elections
2015-04-29	DAL034	Preventing Elections Violence in Guiglo
2015-04-24	DAL036	Bangolo Youth for Peaceful Elections
2015-04-30	DAL037	Supporting Haut-Sassandra's Local Election Commission (CEL)
2015-05-26	DAL038	Promoting peaceful elections participation with Duékoué transporters
2015-06-25	DAL039	Promoting Women's participation in Elections in the West
2015-05-22	DAL040	Supporting Guemon region's Local Electoral Commission (CEL)
2015-05-22	DAL041	Supporting Cavally's Local Electoral Commission (CEL)
2015-09-16	DAL042	Community members and local authorities addressing elections security in Cavally
2015-06-25	DAL043	Educating Voters in the West on Electoral Reforms
2015-05-27	DAL044	Supporting Mothers for Women's Participation in the Elections
2015-06-29	DAL045	Supporting Community Radio Stations in the West during Elections
2015-06-30	DAL047	Supporting CELs in the West During the Voter Registration Dispute Phase
2015-07-24	DAL048	Religious Leaders in Daloa Promoting Peaceful Elections
2015-07-16	DAL049	Electoral Dispute Resolution in Haut Sassandra
2015-09-30	DAL050	Building the Capacity of CELs in the West in Elections Management
2015-07-27	DAL051	Religious Leaders in Duekoue Promoting Peaceful Elections
2015-07-16	DAL052	Preventing Electoral Violence with Voter Education in Vavoua
2015-07-24	DAL053	Engaging Traditional Bangolo Chiefs in Preventing Electoral Violence
2015-08-20	DAL054	Promoting Peaceful Participation in Elections with Bangolo Transporters
2015-08-31	DAL055	Promoting Peaceful Participation in Elections with Daloa Transporters
2015-08-31	DAL056	Promoting Peaceful Participation in Elections with Guiglo Transporters
2015-09-25	DAL057	Youth and Women Promoting Voter Education in Duekoue
2015-09-29	DAL058	Voter Education by Women in Daloa
2015-09-29	DAL059	Women and youth promoting voter education in Vavoua

Exhibit 5: Grants cleared from October 2014 to September 2015 supporting an inclusive and credible elections process in the west.



Daloa women turn out in their thousands for DAL044 to reject elections-related violence and encourage participation.

During the reporting period, CITI 2 signed its first grant with the *Fédération des Associations de Femmes de Daloa*. This group has a membership of 1,200 women from small women's groups throughout Daloa. A great diversity of ethnic groups, religions, and economic and social statuses were represented. DAL032 supported this women's group to encourage its membership – and the women of Daloa more generally – to play an active part in all aspects of the October Presidential elections. In the past, women in this region have been subjected to violence during the pre-election period, and this partner reported to CITI 2 that

their membership had no interest in a process that disrupts their lives and livelihoods, and preferred to stay out of it. Negotiating with the group's leadership in the planning of the first activity revealed a number of avenues that would increase women's confidence to exercise their rights as citizens to participate in the democratic process, allay their fears of violence, and strengthen their voice in demanding respect for the involvement of women throughout the electoral process. DAL044 was a follow up activity with the group promoting women's participation in elections with activities with a special focus on voter registration and the importance for women to register. The activity took advantage of Mother's Day celebrations in Daloa to sensitize over 3,000 women from Daloa and surrounding areas through activities including a women's football match, a women's march with messages on banners encouraging participation in the elections, and a sensitization caravan which travelled around featuring dance and theatre.

The three flagship activities for CITI 2 in the west in support of the Electoral Commission at the local level to organize voter registration have been grants DAL037, DAL040 and DAL041 to the Local Electoral Commissions (CELs) of Haut-Sassandra, Guémon and Cavally respectively. These activities were designed to support public education campaigns (through public forums and radio shows involving the provision of civic education materials and access to advice from experts from the Electoral Commission) on the role of CELs and their management of the various phases of the electoral calendar. The activities were heavily geared to supporting the capacity of the CELs to organize and promote voter registration during the month of June 2015. The president of the CEL in Haut-Sassandra bemoaned the fact that in his entire region he had been given 100 posters to promote voter registration. The support of CITI 2 has been critical in bolstering the low turnout in these areas.

ii. Abidjan Region

Cleared	Activity #	Activity Title
2015-03-31	ABJ015	Encouraging peaceful participation in the elections through murals in Abidjan
2015-02-11	ABJ016	Increasing public participation in the elections with Radio Yopougon
2015-04-27	ABJ017	NGO Consortium for One Voice on the Elections
2015-01-30	ABJ018	Women's Half Marathon on International Women's Day 2015.
2015-03-26	ABJ025	Increasing public participation in the elections with Abobo's Radio Arc-en-Ciel
2015-04-30	ABJ027	Promoting university student participation in elections with CROU-A
2015-04-29	ABJ028	Engaging the transport sector for peaceful presidential elections
2015-05-26	ABJ031	Outreach on the Electoral Code and institutions involved in the elections
2015-05-26	ABJ034	Social networking for peaceful and inclusive elections in Côte d'Ivoire
2015-06-30	ABJ035	"Vote-ball" Tournament in Dabou for Peaceful Elections
2015-06-24	ABJ036	Educating Abobo voters on Electoral Code and institutions governing elections
2015-09-25	ABJ037	Women getting out the vote in Abobo, Yopougon and Koumassi
2015-08-20	ABJ042	Engaging Youth in Preventing Electoral Violence in Abobo and Anyama
2015-06-30	ABJ043	Educating Dabou voters on Electoral Code and institutions governing elections
2015-07-31	ABJ044	Broadcasting in local languages for peaceful elections on Radio Yopougon
2015-07-31	ABJ045	Broadcasting in local languages for peaceful elections- Radio Arc-en-Ciel, Abobo
2015-07-23	ABJ047	Increasing public participation in the elections with Dabou's Radio Leboutou
2015-09-30	ABJ050	Support for Local Electoral Commissions in Abobo, Yopougon, and Dabou

Exhibit 6: Grants cleared from October 2014 to September 2015 supporting an inclusive and credible elections in the Abidjan area.

CITI 2 employed a number of strategies for reaching the general public with educational and participation messaging around the electoral process and promoting peaceful elections. ABJ015, a grant with the *Institut National Supérieur des Arts et de l'Action Culturelle* (INSAAC), involved the production of several large murals produced by art school students featuring on prominent walls throughout the city of Abidjan. First, with the support of an art critic and consultant in social communications, the students learned about the electoral process and developed concepts for paintings that best expressed the message for peaceful civic participation. This experience impacted several students, such as Kouassi Alberic who said that “because of the disastrous after-effects of the 2010 elections, I did not want to have anything to do with this year’s voting. But having proper information about the process and expectations alleviated my fears. I went to register to vote recently.” They then proceeded to paint murals explaining the electoral process and promoting peaceful participation in the elections on walls in several strategic, highly frequented sites in the two neighborhoods. Every site had monitors present, explaining the objectives of the murals to passersby, who are invited to sign a pledge to participate peacefully in the elections. In the hope of reaching a maximum number of people and ensuring the success of the October elections, these colorful murals will remain on display until November 2015.



A mural encouraging participation in the elections painted by local art students in Abidjan (ABJ015).



An interview taking place in the Bété language for a broadcast for ABJ044

CITI 2 supported local radio stations in their civic education role informing people of the stages of the electoral calendar and encouraging their participation. *ABJ044* with Radio Yopougon and *ABJ045* with Radio Arc-en-Ciel were supplementary grants to these radio stations in two of the major communes of Abidjan that have been a focus of CITI 2. The project had been working with these radio stations on elections-focused civic education since March 2015 and plans to continue to do so through November, however, these two grants focused on the production and broadcast of material in local languages. Partner radio stations produced interactive programs

consisting of interviews taken out and about in the local languages of Ebrié, Dioula, Baoulé, Bété, Guéré and Attié. Local languages are crucially important to extend awareness messaging to the people of Yopougon and Abobo, many of whom are functionally illiterate with little formal education and do not necessarily understand French well. CITI 2's partnership continues over the pre- and post-electoral period where topics to be discussed will include issues such as validation/proclamation of results, roles of the CEI and the *Conseil Constitutionnel*, violence-free elections, and social issues surrounding the elections.

iii. National-level activities

Cleared	Activity #	Activity Title
2015-03-26	ABJ010	Supporting Religious Leaders to Promote Peaceful Elections Campaigns
2015-02-28	ABJ023	Public Debates on Elections and Violence in Cote d'Ivoire
2015-04-14	ABJ024	Building Independent Electoral Commission capacity for better communication
2015-04-20	ABJ026	Supporting a National Workshop on the Civic Education Strategy for the Elections
2015-05-20	ABJ030	Involving women in the electoral process through a television drama
2015-05-19	ABJ032	Organizing information campaigns through comics strips for peaceful elections
2015-09-29	ABJ033	Ivoirian stars for peaceful presidential elections
2015-06-03	ABJ038	Promoting strategies for greater participation of women in politics
2015-07-06	ABJ039	Encouraging local radio to engage in civic education for the 2015 elections
2015-06-12	ABJ040	CITI 2 SMS Platform
2015-08-31	ABJ046	Communications Campaign with Religious Leaders
2015-08-21	ABJ048	Mass Mobilization of Youth for Peaceful Elections in 2015
2015-08-24	ABJ049	Sensitization of MPs on Reconciliation, Prevention and Management of Conflict

Exhibit 7: Grants cleared from October 2014 to September 2015 supporting an inclusive and credible elections nationally.



Women assemble for a national workshop in Yamoussoukro on greater engagement in electoral processes (ABJ038).

CITI 2's special focus on supporting women's engagement continued in the reporting period with several activities on the theme of strengthening the voice of women. For example, on June 10th and 11th 2015, CITI 2, in collaboration with NDI and UN Women, supported the Women Politicians Group of Côte d'Ivoire to hold their first national workshop with the objective of strengthening women's capacity to mobilize to promote their greater engagement in the electoral processes as voters, candidates, observers or as part of the legal and institutional framework governing elections in

Côte d'Ivoire (ABJ038). The meeting brought together nearly 200 politically-active women in Yamoussoukro and led to the adoption of a "Declaration for the participation of women and their representation in decision making bodies." The women asserted that their issues should be taken up and promoted by presidential election candidates and challenged candidates to court the support of 50% of the population by promoting women's issues.

CITI 2 also used TV as a medium to promote voter participation in the electoral process, particularly among women. Through a DDGS activity (ABJ030), a local production company was hired to produce a TV drama – the first two episodes of which prominently featured messaging around the voter registration process in June and July 2015. There were also two episodes of the drama broadcast throughout the month of September 2015 to encourage people to come out and vote. The drama was broadcast on the national channel RTI three times a week, including twice during peak viewing hours on Sunday nights, with a potential reach of several hundred thousand viewers (more precise viewership data is not collected in Côte d'Ivoire). In addition to the airing of the drama, CITI 2 supported several of the most well-known actresses to engage in an awareness-raising campaign for women's participation in the electoral process in six markets in Abidjan and the west. The campaign raised awareness of the importance for women of getting involved in the electoral process.

In seeking innovative and creative ways to ensure the mass mobilization of the public ahead of the elections, the program team developed ABJ048 to engage young people through music and dance, with the aim of creating a movement of young people for peaceful elections. CITI 2 selected a partner for the production of a song and the development of a dance concept with several very well know singers (including several woman). Artists were drawn from various regions of Côte d'Ivoire and several musical genres. The song conveys messages of public-spiritedness, citizenship and tolerance - in a language and a style accessible to young people. The song has been promoted on the social media and the video clip was



CD of song "Ma voix, mon avenir" (my voice, my future) produced as part of ABJ048.

downloaded over 100,000 times by the end of September. 1000 CDs have been produced and three concerts will be held in the month of October during which strong messages of awareness will be delivered.

V. CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Operational.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Program. The first rolling assessment took place in December 2014. The first Rolling Assessment was a very important event in the cycle of CITI 2 and an opportunity for the entire program team to give their input for the strategic framework and assess the responsiveness of the project’s objectives to the current social and political realities in Côte d’Ivoire. After the SRS in March, more frequent rolling assessments were held to allow the entire program team to share their assessments of the political situation and, critically, discuss windows of opportunity for the CITI 2 project.

During the earlier part of the current reporting period, delays were noted from yellow light to grant submissions. The Chemonics team proposed to encourage greater use of ad hoc Yellow Light approvals – by email, unscheduled meetings, or phone (with follow up formal AIT by email). This was to ensure that PDOs were not waiting until a scheduled YL meeting to potentially submit several ideas at once, thus creating a bottleneck in the activity development cycle where lower priority activities could remain in YL longer than they should. It was also agreed to amend the AIT template to include the estimated submission date to serve as a useful “check-in date” to ensure activity notes are up-to-date and that an update on estimated submission date is communicated to OTI. The team decided to use dates in the Web-based Database (WBDB) to better track YL submissions as follows:

- Concept Identification: Date is when we discuss the idea (the YL discussion meeting, as it is now).
- Concept Submission: Date is when the formal AIT is submitted to OTI.
- Concept Endorsed: Date is when formal (written) approval is given to Chemonics.

This was also to ensure that no activity advanced to full development without formal AIT approval.

An additional GMU for Abidjan was on-boarded, as planned, in April 2015. The extra programming capacity in Abidjan brought great promise of a higher volume of activities to intervene in the densely populated areas of Yopougon and Abobo and also the possibility to increase the volume and scope of national-level activities with Abidjan-based partners. New staff came with strong experience both of OTI and partnering with civil society in Abidjan. As mentioned above, however, by July 2015, the unexpected departure of the new PDO presented a significant programming challenge. The Senior PDO stepped in to take on many of the outgoing PDO's ongoing activities and lead the Abidjan program team in planning how to handle his portfolio of pending activities after his departure. It proved challenging to take on his pending activities in his absence. The decision was taken not to proceed with a number of them, thereby freeing up resources committed, but posing a fresh challenge of needing to present new and more responsive ideas for the remaining team to take on. Workloads increased substantially, but the entire team rose to the challenge. The M&E Officer, for example, agreed to take on some activities in the role of a PDO.

The management of the electoral calendar by the Electoral Commission (CEI) and the government posed a challenge for the program team. The CEI was not forthcoming with specific dates for the various key events on the electoral calendar. For example, the specific dates for the revision of the electoral register (i.e. voter registration) were only announced on May 13, 2015, to begin within just over two weeks. It was also only clear at this point that the process would be given one month, that is, from June 1st to 30th. The program team were nonetheless able to respond very rapidly to the announcement and prepare for the short window of voter registration. Further, when it became clear that the take up of voter registration was so low, it wasn't until late in the evening of the last day (June 30th) that the government announced an extension of 12 days to the time given. The team also proved capable of responding to this information and extending or amending grants, as appropriate.

The ambiguity of the position of much of the opposition vis-à-vis the elections and what the eventual impact of their position would have in opposition strongholds such as Yopougon and parts of western Côte d'Ivoire proved challenging for the program team in terms of identifying priority interventions in the months running up to the election. Threats of an active boycott, a passive boycott or disinterest were considered and analyzed by the team which proved adept at proposing programmatic solutions wide enough in scope and yet sufficiently well focused to impact populations in an environment of considerable confusion. For example, while some within the opposition *Coalition nationale pour le changement* (CNC) were calling for a boycott of the elections, three of its leaders presented themselves as candidates for election in August 2015. The continuing analysis of a complex political situation required of the program team was assisted by regular program team meetings. These were valuable opportunities for the team to come together to share and challenge one another's perspectives. The result was a responsive

portfolio of activities, demonstrating a diversity of approaches in the months before the elections, well-tailored to the realities on the ground in the west, in Abidjan, and nationally.

VI. NEXT STEPS

The CITI 2 team has identified the following priorities for the next period :

- Monitor closely the security situation in the run up to the elections, taking any necessary precautions such increasing familiarity with the security plan, ensuring communications systems are in place, etc.
- Clear any activities planned for the pre-election period in early October 2015.
- Manage disbursements and de-obligations carefully to allow for continued programming in November – December 2015.
- Continue to support and motivate the national staff team to invest maximum effort in the pre-election push.
- Work with OTI and the program team to present and develop ideas for the post-election period.
- Prioritize the timely close-out of a large number of elections-related activities from November 2015.
- Work with all 4 Corners to fine tune the close-out plan, prepare for close-out events, finalize the inventory disposition plan, etc.
- Finalize close out of all activities and ensure the orderly closure of the Daloa office by the end of February and of the Abidjan office by the end of March.