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**COTE D'IVOIRE**

## COTE D'IVOIRE TRANSITION INITIATIVE 2

### Chemonics International Inc.

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

Annual Report: June 5, 2014 – September 30, 2014



*A potent symbol of reconciliation. A representative of the village of Dah (standing) offering the Béoué Chief (seated with cap) a drink – a pledge of peace and reconciliation between their villages (DAL003)*

## **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 post-election violence which 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 US 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 May 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 June 5, 2014 – the effective date of the subject task order – and September 30, 2014.

## I. COUNTRY SITUATION

The reporting period has witnessed significant developments on the political front and the raising of alert levels over the potential for an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in the country.

### Political Situation

Undoubtedly, the most significant political development during the reporting period has been the establishment of the new Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) to oversee the forthcoming presidential elections, scheduled for October 2015. The government resisted a root-and-branch reform of the Commission and has maintained a dominant role. Following the election of Youssouf Bakayoko as the President of the CEI, the FPI (Front Populaire Ivoirien), the main opposition party, formally withdrew their representative on September 14th. This came after his walk out during the meeting which elected Bakayoko. A subsequent meeting of the CEI took place without the representatives of two other opposition parties and the Catholic Church. They too had walked out of the meeting electing Bakayoko, objecting to the process followed. Continuing concerns about the formulation of the secretariat of the CEI and the appointment of its President threaten to aggravate social tensions and cast a shadow over the conduct of the upcoming elections. President Ouattara appears unbending in his support of the CEI as constituted.

During a visit to Côte d'Ivoire in July, French President François Hollande exerted pressure on the FPI to participate in the 2015 elections. Deep divisions have emerged in the FPI, however, between the more hard line faction who are demanding the release of Gbagbo from the custody of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague and imposing a continued boycott of elections in protest, and those who propose the party present a candidate to face President Ouattara in the forthcoming polls.

*"We have to seize this opportunity to bring about national reconciliation through the elections. If it wants to exist into the future, the party [the FPI] must be involved. When elections are organized in a transparent and free manner, parties can form, and express themselves. So these elections must be elections for all."*

President Hollande, in a press conference following his meeting with FPI officials in July.

On September 17th, the influential leader of the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), and former Head of State, Henri Konan Bédié, announced his support for President Ouattara as the sole candidate representing the governing RHDP coalition for the 2015 elections. Although the announcement had been expected for some time, some in the former ruling party have expressed their opposition to the move. The party's executive secretariat are calling upon the general membership to support Bédié, it remains to be seen if this call proves a rallying point for party supporters or a source of division.

### Ebola

On July 23, 2014, the Ministry of Health raised the alarm after a suspected case of the Ebola virus was reported in a village on the Liberian border with Côte d'Ivoire. The Ministry reported the risk of the spread of the virus into Côte d'Ivoire as "very high". In August, the Government announced strict measures in an effort to prevent an outbreak. Among the measures taken was a

ban on airlines transporting passengers into Côte d'Ivoire from affected countries and the reinforcement of sanitary controls and screening. As of August 22, 2014, the complete closure of the border with Liberia and Guinea was announced by the Prime Minister. Many people are following the government's advice and no longer shaking hands in greeting. Prevention messaging is frequent through SMS and national TV and radio stations. As of the end of the reporting period, no case had been detected in the country.

## ICC



The pre-trial chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) confirmed charges for crimes against humanity against former President Laurent Gbagbo in June. In a majority decision, judges confirmed the four charges against Gbagbo and have sent him to full trial.

Gbagbo is accused of giving the orders for crimes against humanity to be committed in the months that followed his refusal to recognize Alassane Ouattara's victory in the November 2010 presidential elections and step down. More than 3,000 people were killed during the ensuing crisis. The current President's party the *Rassemblement des républicains* (RDR), hold Gbagbo entirely responsible for the slaughter.

Arrested in April 2011 by pro-Ouattara forces with the assistance of the French and United Nations Peace Keepers, Laurent Gbagbo was extradited to The Hague seven months later. The ICC has also detained Charles Blé Goudé, leader of the *Jeunes Patriotes*, and a key member of Gbagbo's inner circle. Simone Gbagbo, the former President's wife, is also sought by the ICC, but has not yet been extradited, with the Ouattara government suggesting they can try her locally.

Only close associates of Gbagbo have so far been the subject of ICC investigations or faced prosecution locally. Associates of President Alassane Ouattara are, however, also suspected to have played a part in the chaos. Gbagbo supporters and many civil society observers have condemned the situation as "victor's justice".

## II. PROJECT OPERATIONS

### A. Recruitment and Staffing

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The original CITI 2 staffing plan had included a full regional office in Bouaké to manage programming in the North and West of the country.

Following the CITI 2 startup conference from June 11 – 12, 2014, in response to the prioritization of the West as the area of focus for programming under CITI 2, the regional office was shifted from Bouaké to Daloa. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**B. Facilities, Assets & Inventory**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





#### IV. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

USAID/OTI and Chemonics' senior management team (SMT) engaged in several sessions in June and July to agree on the programmatic and operational framework for CITI 2. Issues discussed included establishing the program's theory of change, goals, and objectives; processes for activity development and implementation; monitoring and evaluation; and SMT roles and responsibilities. A Strategic Framework was agreed upon for CITI 2 based on OTI's foundational operating principals, the specific rationale for programming in Côte d'Ivoire, and the project's manageable interests. Sub-objectives, themes, and sectors were elaborated in the guiding document.

Geographic targeting was one of the priorities of the planning process, and in line with the recommendations from the CITI 1 Evaluation Team, it was decided that a *Hotspot Mapping* exercise be conducted to provide the CITI 2 team with relevant information regarding conflict risk in potential intervention areas. Using the DDGS mechanism, CITI 2 sought a consultancy firm through *ABJ001* to provide independent recommendations regarding intervention areas and a list of potential partners and beneficiaries. The project designed the consultancy to furnish information and analysis about the susceptibility to conflict and exploitation in geographical areas of interest to the CITI 2 project. Although some illustrative geographic areas – including communes, towns and cities – had been identified for the consultants to help focus their research, the provided list was not exhaustive. Consultants are expected to make recommendations on what geographic areas to investigate based upon their understanding of the context and the CITI 2 strategy. The consultancy will be conducted by a competitively selected firm over a 60-day period. The firm will present information in a ranked list of geographic intervention areas with analysis to justify choices and a contact list and brief description of potential partners identified during field work.



Duékoué youth who came together under DAL001 for a training on public dialogue

The project had its first cleared grant activity during the reporting period, which enabled youth to engage with authorities and use constructive participation in discussions on community cohesion and violence mitigation techniques in and around the Duékoué area. The activity, *DAL001*, works with a local youth platform, *Plate-forme des Organisations de Jeunesse de Duékoué* (POJED), to increase its visibility and engagement in targeted communities. In general, youth living in Duékoué do not have well-organized structures or visible, effective representation, and lack interactions with community leaders and relevant authorities. CITI 2 is using this period as an opportunity to engage with potentially influential

groups in order to strengthen their links with each other as we near presidential elections and alleviate tensions already existing between communities.

Finally, CITI 2 continues to explore ways to positively participate in the complex land question in the west. Consistently identified as one of the main sources of tension between ethnic groups in the west, the issue of land ownership, exchange and titling has the potential to result in violent

conflict between communities especially in this period of heightened tension with the approach of the 2015 presidential elections. *DAL003 - Building the capacity of Dah-Zagnan and Beoue-Zagnan to resolve land disputes* is a pilot project that seeks to propose local solutions to land conflicts in the Bangolo area in ways that prevent disagreements from turning violent. This grant will bring together communities to reach a common understanding of land issues and identify ways to resolve their differences through a series of problem-solving meetings.

#### Summary of Grants “Cleared”, “Completed” or “Closed” during reporting period

<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>Grant Title</i>	<i>Cleared Date</i>	<i>Awardee</i>	<i>Status</i>
ABJ001	Hotspot Mapping Consultancy	07/31/2014	DDGS / Global Challenge Corporation	Cleared
ABJ002	Building peaceful relationships between youth of Anokoua kouté and PK18 in Abobo	08/31/2014	Plate-forme Jeunesse d’Anokoua Kouté et Jeunesse PK18	Cleared
ABJ003	Promoting tolerance and forgiveness in Yopougon by example of resiliency	08/31/2014	Comité de Coordination de la Society Civile de Yopougon	Cleared
ABJ004	Provision of educational materials on the Ebola virus in West Africa	09/29/2014	DDGS	Cleared
ABJ005	Supporting dialogue between Yaoséhi & Doukoure youth of Yopougon	09/29/2014	Comite de Coordination de la Societe Civile de Yopougon	Cleared
DAL001	Engaging youth in violence prevention in Duékoué	07/27/2014	Plate-forme des Organisations de Jeunesse de Duékoué (POJED)	Cleared
DAL002	Reduce community violence in Duekoué through an early warning mechanism	08/28/2014	Plate-forme des Organisations de Jeunesse de Duékoué (POJED)	Cleared
DAL003	Building the capacity of Dah-Zagnan and Beoue-Zagnan to resolve land disputes	08/25/2014	Sous-Prefecture de Bangolo	Cleared
DAL004	Mitigate community tensions through dialogue between Malinké and Guere women – Duékoué	09/15/2014	La station de radio locale	Cleared
DAL005	Facilitating meaningful reconciliation through Radio Roundtables –Duékoué	09/15/2014	Coalition des Femmes Leaders	Cleared
DAL006	Enhancing collaborative relationships between vulnerable youth	09/15/2014	Jeunesse Communale de Guiglo	Cleared

DAL009	Conflict resolution and management training for youth in Bangolo	09/30/2014	Préfecture de Bangolo	[REDACTED]	Cleared
<b>Total</b>					
<b>Average</b>					

## V. CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

*Operational.* [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*Program.* The demands of the closeout of CITI 1 on staff were significant. It was not possible to transition the bulk of staff over to the new project until early to mid-August. However, by working in close collaboration with OTI and AECOM, an accelerated plan was developed to transition some key staff from CITI 1 to CITI 2, thus allowing CITI 2 to focus programming on the western Côte d’Ivoire region while allowing CITI 1 to retain the staff necessary to ensure a smooth closeout. Due to this strong working relationship between implementers, CITI 2 was able present the first idea to OTI for Yellow Light by the second week of July.

Initial strategies to tackle problems using the Grants under Contract (GUC) model have tended to follow a predetermined formula involving mobilizing outside expertise to provide training. While PDOs have very well-honed skills of analysis and presentation of problems, there is a need to support them in exploring alternative methods of approaching problems. The SMT has begun working with PDOs on problem analysis and elaboration of alternative strategies to tackle

issues. Yellow Light sessions will be used to explore problems in depth and PDOs will be encouraged to present diverse strategies for engaging with relevant issues.

## **VI. NEXT STEPS**

As the project moves into Phase 2, the CITI 2 team has identified the following priorities for the next quarter:

*Refinement of strategic framework.* The Rolling Assessment planned for November 5 and 6 will present an opportunity to involve the entire CITI 2 team in the process of refining the strategic framework, building on previous collaboration on the SMT. With several months of experience in CITI 2 programming, the team will be well positioned to contribute meaningfully to the continued development of this framework. Additionally, we anticipate that the preliminary results from the current Hotspot Mapping DDGS activity will be available prior to the Rolling Assessment and will provide valuable information on geographic targets to inform the strategy.

*Continuing innovative programming.* As CITI 2 moves out of start-up and into Phase 2, the focus will be on encouraging innovative problem-solving to address identified areas of intervention and programmatic needs. CITI 2 will hold sessions with PDOs to brainstorm problem-solving techniques and stimulate creative thinking in activity design.

*Achieving and sustaining clearance rate targets.* As activity implementation becomes the main focus of CITI 2, a different approach will be required to achieve targets moving forward. The project's priority in the next quarter will be working with OTI and PDOs to facilitate the rapid yellow lighting and clearance of activities, while concurrently maintaining high quality implementation. The project will continue with work with our grants management team to facilitate the management of a high volume of ongoing activities and ensure that we are achieving the most efficiencies possible at each stage from Yellow Light to closeout.