



GUINEA

**PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING THAT WORK FOR AT-RISK YOUTH
(PATHWAY)**

Final Report

675-A-00-05-00062-00

**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION**

March 11 – July 09, 2007

1. Introduction

In order to address the potential for organized violence in the Guinea's Forest Region, ARC launched a USAID-funded ***Preventive Activities and Training That Work for At-Risk Youth (PATHWAY)*** program in April 2005. The project, based on a peace-building and youth engagement model used successfully in Sierra Leone (Reintegration Training and Education for Peace), aims to promote reconciliation and reduce conflict in Guinea's southeastern border regions by equipping youth to successfully resist violence while simultaneously improving community capacity to prevent, manage, and ultimately resolve conflict.

The first year of the program ran from April 11, 2005 to June 10, 2006. Specifically, the program provided capacity to over **5000** youths on how to resist violence through conflict prevention-oriented life-skills training. Also **551** youths were trained on vocational skills through apprenticeship, while some **500** received start-up grants. The program also provided training to **35** Community Management Committees (CMCs) on conflict resolution and created links between committees in adversary communities.

The second year of PATHWAY activities started on June 11, 2006. It was previously planned to run through to June 10, but due to consecutive general strikes in January and February 2007, which have paralyzed all the country and particularly hampered ARC activities, a one-month extension to July 09, 2007 was approved by USAID.

II. Program Context

During the reporting period from March 11 to 09 July 2007, PATHWAY maintained the same goal of reducing violent conflict in the border regions of Guinée Forestière by addressing several of the region's structural vulnerabilities, but added a fifth sub-objective that addresses community reconciliation (see result framework p.3 below).

The general strikes led by local Unions in January and February 2007 were followed by an uncertain political situation which remains a source of imminent conflict, conducive to violence. During this unstable period, many youths in Guinea's Forest Region were implicated in the violence and many remain at risk of returning to violence should conditions worsen.

ARC had retained the three major reporting indicators as previously developed with USAID. In addition, ARC tracked a variety of other impact and performance indicators to ensure that the project meets its objectives.

III. Beneficiaries—Targeted Population

The primary target population for this second year of PATHWAY activities had been estimated as 6,000 youth aged 16 - 35 years, who are considered high risk for fomenting or actively participating in future violent conflict. The gender breakdown of the beneficiaries is 75% male and 25% female. PATHWAY work focused on population centers within 50 km of the Liberian and Ivorian borders, located in the prefectures of Lola, Yomou, and N'Zérékoré.

These population centers include Lola, Yomou, and N'Zérékoré towns as well as the 23 sub-prefectures towns that fall within 50 km of the borders.

Also, 12 Master Trainers and 200 Youth Animators were targeted to benefit from capacity-building and have in turn implemented trickle down trainings, thereby expanding the pool of future potential beneficiaries.

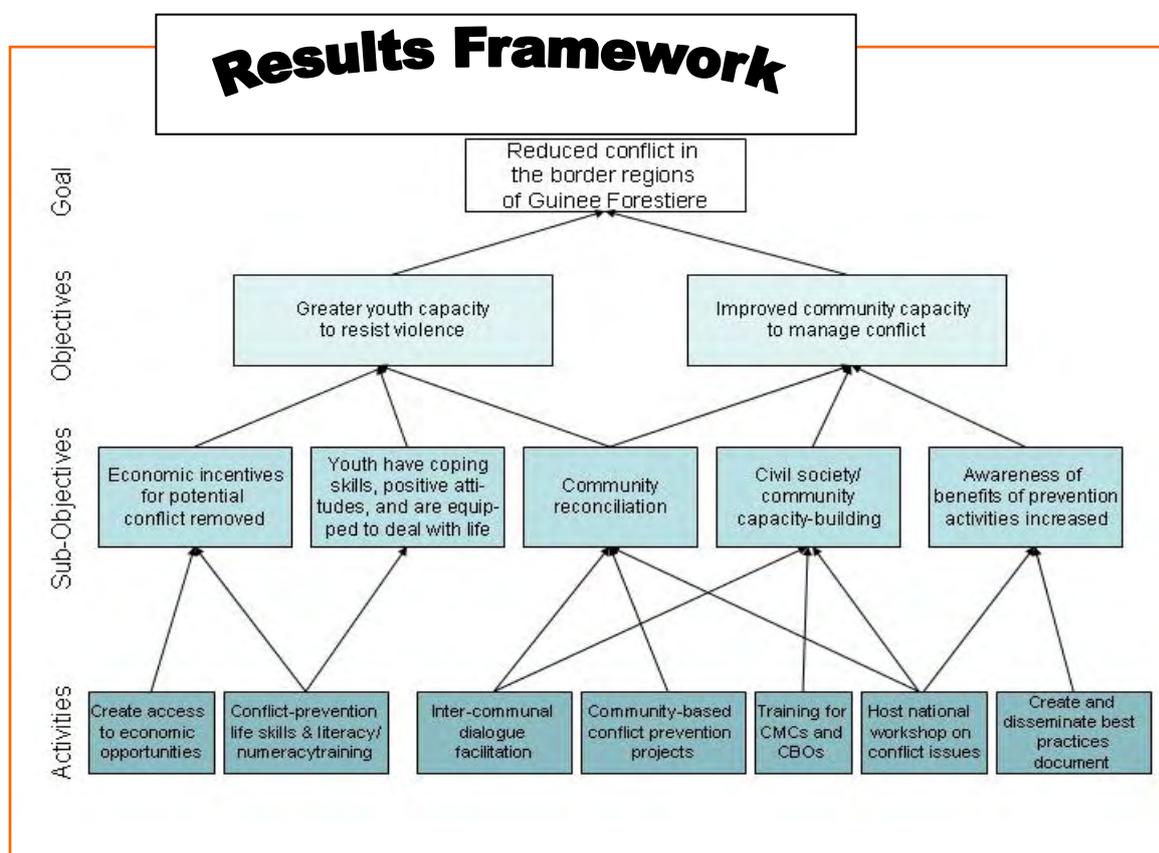
350 people identified as members of the 35 Community Management Committees (CMCs) were engaged to build a community-level conflict resolution and prevention capacity throughout the southern border areas of the Forest Region. Over 1000 members from community-based organizations, civil society and community leaders have also benefited from Inter-communal dialogue facilitation skills.

IV. Progress on Program Implementation

The 4th quarter of the implementation period for this year's work was dedicated to mostly disbursements and implementation of the start-up grants and Community preventive grants, training of CMCs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs), training of Master Trainer and Youth Animators, implementation of life-skills trainings and literacy and numeracy trainings as well as monitoring of all program beneficiaries.

The focus of this report is for activities carried out from March 11 to July 09, 2007. Given that the activities are interconnected during implementation, the activities presented do not necessarily follow the sub-objectives as outlined in the results framework developed for the program.

Figure 1: Results Framework for PATHWAY, 2006/07



Project Goal: To reduce violent conflict in the border regions of Guinée Forestière.

Key Accomplishments in Quarter 4

- **290** additional community members benefited from National Conference follow-up workshops.
- **724** additional community members participated in the inter-communal dialogue facilitation sessions.
- **3521** youths continued benefiting from life-skill trainings Modules 4 and 5.
- **5750** youths benefited from Literacy and numeracy trainings
- **54** Conflicts Prevention Grants disbursed and implemented.
- **94** new selected Master Artisans trained on methodological and management issues as well as on conflict prevention and resolution.
- **96** community members of CBOs trained on conflict resolution
- Disbursement of start-up grants
- Final KAP survey conducted (results expected by end July)

Objective 1: Improved community capacity to prevent and manage conflict.

To meet this objective, the program broadened its community focus to actively participate in conflict resolution, trainings on inter-communal dialogue facilitation, as well as the provision of conflict prevention grants.

Key Activities

Follow-up on conflict prevention issues

In Q3, PATHWAY staff began a regional follow-up to the peace National Conference, using its own network as well as that of its partners. In Q4, as part of the follow up activities, the program team organized additional workshops in the sub prefectures to broaden the National Conference's recommendations. Nine (09) workshops were organised this quarter in Lola, Yomou and N'zérékoré prefectures, benefiting a total of **290** participants. The local administrative authorities were in attendance and most of the recommendations from the National Conference were reaffirmed and more were put forward, such as *free airtime* of about 60 minutes per week on the Rural Radio for PATHWAY activities, just to focus and contribute more to attitude and behavioural change. In total, through workshops, meetings and other organized events, PATHWAY succeeded to reach **493** individuals from which **203** in Q3 and **290** in Q4.

Training of CMCs and CBOs

For the reporting period, PATHWAY continued to empower knowledge of **350** members of CMC and **190** CBO members to be focal points for monitoring and resolving conflicts in the

region, and to further develop the community's long-term capacity as an alternative structure for conflict resolution. Also, **96** members of CBOs received training on conflict prevention, community reconciliation, mediation techniques, and community-based project implementation.

Overall, **746** individuals from CMCs and CBOs were trained on conflict prevention and management, exceeding the target of 700 members that was set for the project duration.

Conflict Prevention Grants

Within the last two quarters, PATHWAY staff received proposals for small community projects from local community groups within the project areas. The goal of the proposals is to increase links between youth and their communities and to show the benefits of cooperation and active participation in community improvement to communities at large. In this quarter, **54** conflict prevention grants were disbursed to facilitate the implementation of community proposals in selected areas.

The disbursed grants aimed at providing resources for community-based conflict resolution activities. The grants addressed conflict sources identified by the communities themselves, and created a flexible mechanism for meeting specific reconciliation needs throughout the target region.

For the project duration, a total of **57** Conflict Prevention Grants were disbursed out of 70 grants as planned. After the activities perturbation due to the national strike in January and February 2007, such performance is to be considered as result-based evidence of deep involvement and complicity of the targeted youth with PATHWAY staff.

<i>Objective 2: Create greater youth and community capacity to resist violence.</i>
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Root conflict vulnerabilities were addressed through a program of conflict prevention-oriented life-skills training and economic opportunity that reduce the need for youth to resort to crime or other unlawful livelihoods.

Key Activities

Training of Master Trainers and Youth Animators

During this period, **94** were selected MTs in the three prefectures attended refresh training on the dialogue facilitation module.

Implementation of Life-Skills and Numeracy and Literacy Trainings

3,521 youths engaged in the process since Q1 benefited from the remaining modules of life-skills trainings during this quarter. In the meantime, the participation rate in the literacy & numeracy centres was maintained at its maximum, going sometimes over the average of 98%. Also, PATHWAY had initiated a wide-range of qualitative evaluation operation which was not implemented in the past quarter due to the national strike that took place in Guinea and Forest region in particular. For that purpose, the terms of reference and questionnaires for the mentioned mid-term evaluation were developed and reviewed for implementation.

Follow-up on Apprenticeship and Micro Enterprise Beneficiaries

All the **1315** youths successfully attended organized training sessions, with a retention rate of over 78 % in the three prefectures. During the quarter under review, PATHWAY staffs continued to monitor skills apprenticeships for **600** youths enrolled under year II of the program while the follow-up and counseling were reinforced for the **715** youth engaged in year I of PATHWAY program.

Additionally, staff continued to monitor micro enterprise beneficiaries from last year's activities while proceeding with the disbursement of the second trench of the start-up grants to selected beneficiaries. A rapid assessment exercise combined to M&E collected data showed an increase of about 10% in income among youths who benefited from start-up grants during the past quarter.

Master Artisans

The 94 selected Masters Artisans were trained on conflict prevention and resolution and on methodological and management issues in the three Prefectures. PATHWAY staff maintained a performance evaluation of MAs to ensure that they are correctly implementing their assignments. The results of these evaluations were quite positive. Additionally, the program maintained good relationship with all MAs and CMCs, along with field implementing partners.

V. Progress on Impact Indicators

Objective 1: Improved Community Capacity to Prevent and manage Conflicts		
Impact Indicators	Number of Beneficiaries	Achieved to Date
National conference held on conflict issues	60	493
35 Community linked together in regional networks	35	35
CMC and CBO members trained on conflict prevention	700	746
Master Artisans trained on methodological and management issues	220	234
Community members participate to inter-communal dialogue facilitation sessions	1000	1204
Community prevention grants disbursed	70	57
Survey's report submitted.		
Objective 2: Create greater youth and community capacity to resist violence through a program of conflict-prevention-oriented life-skills training for 6000 at-risk youth (4000 on 5 life-skills modules and 2000 on literacy) and economic opportunity.		
Impact Indicators	Number of Beneficiaries	Achieved to Date
Life skills training curriculum adjusted from year 1 and new modules developed and field tested		Human Rights chapter & Facilitation developed & field tested.
Training of beneficiaries	6000 youth	9121 youth
25% improvement of overall conflict prevention behavior	4000 youths (75% men, 25% women)	54%
25% increase in knowledge of good governance and democracy and conflict prevention skills		70%
25% increase of knowledge of self-awareness and self-reliance		61%
25% increase in knowledge of personal well-		55%

being (include HIV)		
20% increase of GBV awareness		58%
25% increase in business development and entrepreneur skills	2000 youths (75% men, 25% women)	50%
25% increase in literacy/numeracy		
35 communities implement conflict prevention projects during Q 3-4	70	57 projects implemented
600 youth learning vocational skills through an apprenticeship system in Q 3-4	600	600 selected (30.72% females & 69.28 % males)
500 youth managing micro enterprises Q3-4	500	500 grantees
50% increase in income among micro enterprise managers who receive start-up grant	500	Income increases of 10 % and 300%.
500 beneficiaries from Year 1 access micro enterprise development services from CRG.	500	Sub-grant to CRG to provide micro credit to 400 youths.

VI. Progress on Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator 1:

Reduction of frequency and severity of incidents of violence in the target communities.

On a monthly basis, PATHWAY staff conducted close monitoring to circumvent and determine the frequency and type of incidents violence occurring in the targeted communities.

From the data received and analyzed during the period of March to early June 2007, a total of **1442** incidents of violence were recorded within this quarter as consequential. The breakdown is of 646 in N'Zérékoré, 392 in Yomou and 404 in Lola prefecture.

Compared to past quarters, the data reveals an important decrease of about **102** reported incidents of violence in all prefectures within the period under review, and the trend was confirmed as well in the collective frequencies of incidents reported in the entire region.

Such amelioration in the incidents of violence should be considered as an immediate result of PATHWAY sensitization campaigns and training activities in conflict prevention and resolution scheme. In fact, during this quarter, PATHWAY staff efforts were focused on the implementation of conflict prevention projects, disbursement of conflict prevention grants and search of ways to boost and evaluate the increase rate in generated income among micro enterprise managers who received start-up grants.

With regards to the social and political situation which has prevailed in the Q3, statistics in Q4 are showing direct amelioration, translating in the reduction of frequency and severity of incidents of violence in all Prefectures.

The general political and social situation has improved immediately after the agreement signed between the country authorities and leaders of Unions who have backed the consecutive strikes on the nomination of the Premier Minister of consensus. This nomination was negotiated along together with social measures to be taken in order to ameliorate the life conditions of people. Therefore, communities were expecting change in their life style. In addition to this period of temporary calm, PATHWAY program proceeded to a wide implementation of conflict prevention projects together with the disbursement of

conflict prevention grants. The two factors have positively impacted on the reduction of frequency and type of incidents violence.

Following Table N.1 shows number of reported incidents of violence in the three prefectures.

Table 1: Monthly incidents reported in each prefecture
March – May 2007

Prefecture / Month	March 07	April 07	May 07	Total
N'Zérékoré	230	216	200	646
Yomou	146	142	104	392
Lola	160	155	89	404
Total	536	513	393	1442

Mainly, reported violent incidents were from rape, beating, domestic violence, use of arms (local brands), and gender/sexual harassment. These incidents of violence were common within the ethnic members, the family, such as between husband and wife.

Also, collected data revealed that **69%** of the **1442** incidents recorded during the quarter were resolved. Some violent incidents such as beating and domestic violence were resolved in the community by prominent individuals and chiefs of quarters.

Violence from land conflicts and those that resulted to death were normally referred to security or the justice system for resolution.

The following Table N.2 shows the percentage of conflict cases peacefully resolved in the community.

Table 2: Percentage of Cases Resolved during Q4

Prefecture	Total No of incidents in Q4	No resolved in March	No resolved in April	No resolved in May	Total cases resolved	% resolved
N'Zerek.	646	171	195	114	480	74.30
Yomou	392	83	94	80	257	65.56
Lola	404	86	90	87	263	65.09
Total	1442	340	379	281	1000	69.34

PATHWAY program was also involved in the tracking and analysis of the severity of violence within the communities during this quarter. Incidents of violence were recorded and categorized in term of type and final consequence such as death, serious permanent injury, serious temporary injury, minor injury, material damage, rape and harassment.

Below Table N.3 shows the calculated monthly consequences of the 1295 violence incidents registered. The rest of cases were categorized as without consequence.

Table 3: Consequences of Violence
March – May 2007

Type of	March 07	April 07	May 07	Total
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Incident				
Death	2	0	0	2
Serious Permanent Injury	95	46	51	192
Serious Temporary Injury	108	116	83	307
Minor Injury	200	65	85	350
Material Damage	214	105	125	444
Total	619	332	344	1295

Performance Indicator 2:

At least 65% of contacted community members report a decrease in youth violence in the quarter.

PATHWAY staff developed and administered questionnaires to key community stakeholders to determine whether community members perceive a reduction in youth violence. The surveys conducted on a monthly basis, are intended to reveal individual perception of youth violence in relation to, rising, decreasing or constant trends.

In all the three prefectures throughout the target region over **69.6 %** of community members reported a decrease in youth violence in this quarter as shown in table 4.

Treated as a whole, the Guinea Forest Region perceived net decrease in youth violence during the quarter under review, after incidents of violence in which full of youths were involved during the national strike's period (Q3).

Table 4: Community Perception of Youth Violence
March – May 2007

Prefecture	Decrease	Remain the same	Increase
N'Zérékoré	69.66	10.33	20.00
Yomou	71.00	09.30	19.70
Lola	68.15	20.00	11.85
Regional Average	69.60	13.21	17.18

Performance Indicator 3:

At least 50% of CMCs are involved in resolving at least one conflict per quarter.

The incident report forms developed and distributed by PATHWAY staff also measured CMCs members' participation in resolving identified conflicts in their communities. A target

of at least 50% of CMC members participating in the resolution of at least one conflict was set.

Data collected during the quarter have shown amelioration in the involvement of CMC members into the global and internal process of solving conflicts that occurred in their target community. During this quarter, an average of 40.13% of CMC members in the entire region was involved in resolving at least one of the conflicts that occurred.

Table 5: CMCs Involvement in Conflict Resolution
March – May 2007

Prefectures	No. of CMCs	No of CMCs involved in resolving at least one conflict			% of CMC involved in resolving at least one conflict		
		Mar	Apr	May	Mar	Apr	May
N'Zérékoré	150	61	48	50	40.67	32.00	33.33
Yomou	90	36	44	40	40.00	48.89	44.44
Lola	110	48	47	39	43.64	42.73	35.45

In all prefectures, the target of at least 50% was not reached in this quarter, however, compared to past quarters, an involvement of about 40% of CMCs members in conflict resolution is to be perceived as the best results never recorded in the Guinea Forest Region when taking in account the fact that the region is an ethnic mosaic.

ARC had decided to maintain the ambitious target of at least 50% of CMCs members' involvement to encourage community conflict's resolution within the community and via internal dialogue. PATHWAY had also reported that most of the individuals who were directly involved or concerned by conflicts have looked for redress from other sources, such as family members, chiefs of quarters, prominent individuals in village, the police or gendarmerie, and sometimes the courts.

VII. Conclusion

PATHWAY program focused on impact and performance indicators to meet planned and targeted project objectives despite the delay observed in activities implementation due to the tremendous period of general strikes.

Also PATHWAY program emphasized more on communities capacity building to resist violence through training programs on conflict prevention and prevention-oriented life-skills training for at-risk youth. Thousands of youths were involved in literacy and numeracy sessions while the inter-communal dialogue facilitation retained attention of targeted communities through various activities implemented with the support and entire engagement of the youth.

Particular efforts were necessary from PATHWAY staff to implement the selected communities' projects and disburse the grants for concrete conflicts prevention and resolution. The same efforts were observed during the one-month extension in-time period

which allowed smooth follow-up on apprenticeship and MED activities, the reinforcement of literacy and numeracy program while ensuring a comprehensive M&E system for the implemented micro enterprises.

In general, PATHWAY activities resulted on expected accomplishments and objectives as outlined in the program results framework.