



REINFORCING SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACE IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND LIBERIA

Along the border of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, many communities are ethnically and politically divided. Land is at the heart of social, political and economic life, which makes land disputes and other related issues even more challenging. Tensions and conflict in Liberia, as well as the civil war, created an unstable scenario, where marginalized people increasingly take to demonstrating in cities, and roadblocks and even violence are becoming more common. Within this context, FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) developed this project to promote the stabilization and cohesion of 10 communities along the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia borders in Grand Gedeh and Nimba counties. The project focused on implementing joint sociocultural and economic activities and identifying the main drivers of conflict in concession areas and communities that rely on natural resources.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project aimed to improve communities' safety and strengthen social cohesion. A total of 325 beneficiaries from 26 towns and villages participated in activities to enhance community dialogue and reinforce cooperation through cooperative socio-economic stabilization and cross-border cultural exchanges. Capacities were built on financial management and value-added processes, including through the construction of two warehouses for post-harvest processing. Studies in concession areas and strengthened concession monitoring and prevention capacities helped improve the understanding of how concessions affect local communities' livelihoods. Furthermore, a study on the drivers and livelihood impacts of conflicts was carried out and used to develop mitigation measures and recommendations.

IMPACT

This project built capacities for beneficiaries in ethnically and politically divided communities along the Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia border, resulting in better cross-border community dialogue, cooperation and conflict resolution mechanisms. The construction of storage facilities and value-added practices at major crossing points strengthened cross-border trade (storage) and may help reduce tensions. There is much potential for communities to continue the income generating and livelihood activities developed under the project, which would further strengthen social protection, reduce economic vulnerability and enhance social cohesion. Additionally, the involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture to provide training activities and extension support to women and youth is expected to continue in the future.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 258 034

Duration

May 2017 – December 2017

Resource Partner

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

Partners

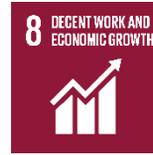
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Government of Liberia; Miracle Construction Company

Beneficiaries

Women and youth in border communities

ACTIVITIES

- Study on the impact of concession operations on the traditional use of forest resources conducted.
- Two post-harvest facilities constructed and equipped with agroprocessors.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Project Code
FAO: UNO/LIR/021/MIL

Project Title
Cross-border cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia for sustainable peace and social cohesion

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