

Côte d'Ivoire

Background

Over the last six years, Côte d'Ivoire has experienced growing instability as a result of a complex socio-political crisis that erupted in 2002. However, following the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement in March 2007, there has been a considerable improvement in the security situation. This has facilitated the voluntary return of an estimated 69 000 IDPs to their places of origin in western parts of the country during 2007 and 2008, while further returns are anticipated in 2009.

Security remains fragile as the global rise in food and fuel prices has led to violent street demonstrations during 2008 and high unemployment among young men coupled with growing tensions between resident communities and returnees threaten further unrest.

KEY FACTS

- Population: 15.36 million
- GNI per capita (USD): 910
- Population below poverty line: 55%
- Life expectancy: 44 years
- Total arable land: 10.23%
- Population in agriculture: 68%
- Population undernourished: 13%
- Total land area: 318 000 sq km
- Human Development Index: 164/177

(Source: UN; World Bank; World Factbook)

Although the country is beginning to move towards social and political stability, continued humanitarian and early recovery assistance is essential to enable returnee households in western regions to rebuild their livelihoods and to improve the food security and nutrition situation of vulnerable families in northern parts of Côte d'Ivoire.

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

Soaring global food prices had a significant impact on household-level food security across the country, considerably decreasing purchasing power and forcing families to reduce the quality and quantity of food consumed. The average price of imported rice, which is an essential foodstuff for much of the population, rose by up to 38 percent compared with 2007. In May/June 2008, FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) conducted the first round of the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) survey, which indicated that 24 percent of households in the north of the country were food insecure and 3 percent were severely food insecure. By the second round of FSMS in August 2008, this had risen to 27 percent of households food insecure and 12 percent severely food insecure.

In western parts of the country, IDPs that have returned require urgent assistance to resume agricultural production as quickly as possible. Support is also essential to ensure that tensions between resident and returning households do not result in outbreaks of violence. The distribution of basic agricultural inputs, training and the development of income-generating opportunities for the most vulnerable households in both groups will improve social cohesion and prevent further unrest.

FAO response

In order to improve the relevance and effectiveness of agriculture-based emergency and early recovery interventions in Côte d'Ivoire, FAO plans to support data collection on agriculture and food security, coordinate and facilitate interventions in the agriculture sector, exchange and disseminate food security and nutrition information through the Dynamic Atlas, organize further food security and harvest evaluation missions with the Government and WFP and enhance consensus-building among all stakeholders through the validation of the IPC.

FAO also proposes to improve the food security and nutrition situation of the most vulnerable households by distributing cereal, vegetable and pulse seeds, as well as tools and fertilizers, to smallholder farmers; developing income-generating activities; and providing training for improved agricultural production. Demonstration vegetable gardens will be established in or near selected nutrition/feeding centres and vegetable seeds and tools will be provided for the caretakers of malnourished children being treated at these centres.



“Security remains fragile as the global rise in food and fuel prices has led to violent street demonstrations during 2008”

PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Total funding required: USD 3 060 394

Support to the coordination of emergency agricultural operations in Côte d'Ivoire	
Objectives:	To strengthen emergency coordination through food security analysis, evaluation and mapping, thereby improving the effectiveness and relevance of agricultural relief operations and enhancing food security monitoring capacities.
Activities:	Support agricultural and food security information collection in coordination with all actors in the sector; coordinate and facilitate humanitarian interventions in the agriculture sector; exchange and disseminate food security and nutrition information through the Dynamic Atlas; enhance collaboration among humanitarian actors through developing IPC; recommend interventions most likely to be effective, drawing on lessons learned, best practices, etc.; and conduct food security and harvest evaluation missions, food price studies and others in collaboration with WFP and the Government.
Beneficiaries:	6 000 households (30 000 beneficiaries).
Implementing partners:	Government, WFP, UNICEF, OCHA, NGOs, etc.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 303 134.

Provision of agricultural inputs and establishment of income-generating activities for returnees and host communities in the west and poor households affected by soaring food prices in the north of Côte d'Ivoire

Objectives:	To reinforce the agricultural production capacity of returnees and vulnerable farmers in order to support the establishment of sustainable livelihoods in areas affected by crises.
Activities:	Distribute inputs (cereal, vegetable and pulse seeds, tools and fertilizers) to beneficiaries identified based on strict humanitarian criteria (mainly returnees in the west); develop and implement income-generating activities for returnees, host communities and vulnerable people; rehabilitate lowland rice production areas; and train beneficiaries.
Beneficiaries:	21 500 vulnerable farmers (including IDPs and returnees) and malnutrition-affected households (including those affected by HIV/AIDS).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Animal Production and Halieutic Resources, WFP and international and national NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 2 461 360.

Improving the nutritional status of children under five in northern and western Côte d'Ivoire through nutrition knowledge and improved feeding practices

Objectives:	To ensure that improvements in the nutritional status of children receiving treatment in therapeutic feeding centres in the north and west of Côte d'Ivoire are sustained after treatment by providing caretakers with increased nutrition knowledge, information on better child feeding practices and training on gardening techniques.
Activities:	Identify partners, nutrition/feeding centres and beneficiaries (caretakers of malnourished children); establish demonstration gardens in or near nutrition centres; provide inputs (vegetable seeds and tools), nutrition and hygiene education sessions, cooking demonstrations and gardening training to 3 000 caretakers of malnourished children; and conduct monitoring and evaluation.
Beneficiaries:	3 000 caretakers of children in nutrition centres.
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, WFP, UNICEF and national and international NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 295 900.

