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Office of Transition Initiatives

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

November 2012

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. The contested presidential election of November 28, 2010 was a part of the 2007 Ouagadougou Political Agreement, which outlined steps towards reunifying a country divided between a government-controlled south and a rebel-controlled north. Meant to ensure Côte d'Ivoire's transition to a stable and democratic country, the contested elections provoked violence; 3,000 people lost their lives, hundreds of thousands were displaced, and an already-tense social and political environment throughout the region was inflamed.

Although the violence has ended, Côte d'Ivoire is facing serious political, social and security challenges as it emerges from more than ten years of civil conflict. The daunting challenge for the Ouattara Administration is to consolidate peace and assure all Ivoirians that representative and functional governance and the rule of law will replace the politicized or collapsed state institutions of the past twelve years. The OTI program supports the priorities of the new administration during this window of opportunity to establishing a more equitable, responsive, and legitimate government.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

OTI activities aim to boost government capacity and stimulate community engagement by working with the Ivoirian government and local groups to identify and respond to community-prioritized needs and encourage a peaceful transition. In addition, program activities highlight the tangible benefits for communities that accompany a government responsive to the needs of its people. OTI activities in Côte d'Ivoire support the following objective:

Improve public confidence in the post-conflict recovery process through enhanced governance processes and effective community initiatives.

Under this objective, CITI supports activities that 1) assist government at all levels to (re)establish accountable state authority; 2) enable government-community dialogues to improve understanding between local authorities and local populations; and 3) encourage communities and civil society organizations to solve local problems that are beyond the responsibility or capacity of government.

Complementary CITI activities focus on improving public understanding of and access to the justice system. CITI is also providing initial assistance for a forthcoming longer-term USAID program of support to the National Assembly by providing technical and material assistance to enable its transformation into an independent and effective legislature.

FAST FACTS:

Start Date: September 2011

Budget: \$6.55 million TI, \$7 million CCF, \$9 million ESF

Partner: AECOM, International Development

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