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## SNAPSHOT

Youth from Duékoué are trained as community reporters to provide reliable information and build community trust.



*Listening clubs visit youth and discuss how to successfully disseminate truthful information.*

*“We are already a family. The fact that we reunite here is already a positive move.”*

*- Youth participant in Duékoué information sharing training*

**Telling Our Story**  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
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<http://stories.usaid.gov>

## Youth Receive Information Training

**December 2013** - Duékoué was at the epicenter of the 2010-2011 post-electoral violence in Côte d'Ivoire where small-scale tensions escalated into major violence and destruction of property. This explosion of tension was heightened by youth circulating exaggerated and often wholly inaccurate information in the community. In the violence recovery process, youth remain pivotal in addressing underlying tensions and distrust within communities like Duékoué.

As part of ongoing efforts to heal communities, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) has been supporting weekly youth meetings in Duékoué to dispel rumors of attacks and create confidence among participating youth. However, the impact of these meetings was limited to those in attendance, hampering the activity's ability to diffuse tensions throughout the community.

To further engage communities, OTI has expanded the program to train youth from different ethnic groups to act as community reporters. The training provided them with skills to develop dialogue between communities from different ethnic groups to support community cohesion.

“We are already a family, and we will make the effort to be welded,” said one participant. “The fact that we reunite here is already a positive move.”

The youth learned how to independently produce relevant content about their own lives. The training also incorporated local “listening groups” to coach the youth on using local media to share these stories with a wider audience. OTI provided additional training to the heads of these listening groups to include youth reporting.

“The listening groups are the eyes and the mouth of the population,” said Guéhaoin Gabriel, the program director of a local radio station. “In communities with more reporters, sources of information will be reinforced.” OTI's support has helped engage youth as vital contributors to the spread of reliable information within their communities.

Contact: Lauren Lewis, Côte d'Ivoire Program Manager  
[llewis@usaid.gov](mailto:llewis@usaid.gov) (202) 712-5188

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