



SUCCESS STORY

Restoring public confidence in the justice system in Côte d'Ivoire

Extensive joint trainings improve cooperation and efficiency in the justice sector



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Jean Brou

Thanks to USAID Justice Sector Support Program in Côte d'Ivoire (ProJustice) the justice system is becoming more efficient restoring people's trust in the justice system.

ProJustice for USAID

Dimbokro is a town, approximately 50 km southeast of the official capital of Côte d'Ivoire, Yamoussoukro.

For a long period, in this city as in most of the cities in the country, the populations lacked trust in the Justice system.

In fact, the justice system was perceived as inefficient with the slowness in the prosecution. Besides, citizens had a mistrust of the entire justice processes and components for the absence of independence and fairness.

Today, with the support of USAID, the Ivoirian Government is making significant strides rebuilding the rule of law and restoring public confidence in the justice sector after years of unrest and stagnation.

"The joint training provided by ProJustice was very beneficial for both the magistrates and judicial police officers (JPOs) of the Dimbokro jurisdiction. This training was practical and concrete, and the interactive workshops allowed rich exchanges between participants" said Jean Brou, local prosecutor at the Court Section of Dimbokro, one of USAID's eleven pilot courts.

In fact, the USAID-funded Justice Sector Support Program known as ProJustice is carrying out intensive capacity building activities to improve communication, cooperation, and effectiveness of investigations, prosecutions, and court case of all actors of the justice process.

Today, the results are tangible. Protocols of communication and cooperation are set in place between prosecutors and JPOs during the preliminary investigation. Responsibilities are clearly defined for the custody of suspects. "The collaborative approach learned during the training is now implemented on a daily basis in our jurisdiction" declared Jean Brou.

According to Luc Bahou, USAID's Pilot Court Coordinator in Dimbokro since the training, the local prosecutor now calls the JPO units every morning to monitor in real time all pending cases. The newly trained justice officials closely monitor sus-

pects in custody ensuring that legislation is followed, particularly within the timeframe.

In their turn, JPOs regularly report to the prosecutor and ask for instructions on how to proceed with pending investigations. JPOs demonstrate a renewed commitment to their responsibilities, taking pride in improving the delivery of justice in their jurisdiction for the benefits of the population.