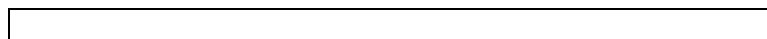




**West Africa
January - March 2010**



Regional Developments

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PAST QUARTER

Main external developments and challenges faced during the past quarter ó in terms of politics, displacement situation and security	<p>West Africa Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) received US\$ 107,873,938 (21%) of its revised requirements of \$507,758,400. This is presently the most underfunded appeal (reliefweb.org). Needs remain substantial across most priority sectors: food security and nutrition is currently at 31% funding (\$ 101,670,991), WASH is at 9% (\$1,441,340), health at 5% (\$ 1,199,550), while emergency preparedness has received no funding at all. Only some emergency flash appeals for combating malnutrition in Niger received a portion of needed funding.</p> <p>With the elections in Cote d'Ivoire postponed again and still uncertain when they would be held, planning for voluntary repatriation of Ivoirians from neighbouring countries has been equally stalled. Main host countries are Liberia (4,739 persons), Guinée (3,939 persons) and Mali (2,014 persons). The dismissal of the government and Electoral Commission by Ivoirian president in February sparked violent protests, ensuing in some killing of civilians and increased insecurity of the population. The situation somewhat calmed down during March.</p> <p>During the 37th ECOWAS Summit in Abuja, Nigeria, the president of ECOWAS Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas said that despite significant progress in ECOWAS member states, the issue of peace, security, and democratic environment remain fragile and susceptible to reversals, given some member states' pursuit of consolidation resulting in tragic events and attempts at constitutional manipulation. He said the region is also confronted with transnational organized crime such as trafficking in human beings, small arms and light weapons, terrorism and drugs.</p> <p>An International Conference on 'Two Decades of Peace process in West Africa: Achievements, Failures, Lesson' was held in Monrovia with a call on the ECOWAS to fast-track the establishment of a Council of former Heads of States and governments in the region in order to enable them contribute more effectively to conflict prevention and peace-building. A 16-points declaration indicated that ECOWAS should strengthen its mechanisms to confront structural causes of conflicts and enhance democratic culture in member states. Attention should be given to building the capacity of electoral organizations, political parties, parliaments and judiciary. ECOWAS will review the sanction regime in collaboration with the African Union and the UN in order to make it more efficient.</p>
Main internal achievements and challenges during the past quarter	<p>The funding outlook has improved for Cote d'Ivoire and remained unchanged in Liberia. Guinée Forestière did not receive the projects expected and is therefore at most risk of all DRC WA operations.</p> <p>DRC WA has renewed consultations with UNHCR offices in the region (including the presence of the Regional Director at the COP in Dakar) to discuss modalities for strengthening joint planning and programming within the Danida Region of Origin Initiative for West Africa.</p>
List of donors	Danida ROI, Danida Women in Africa, EC, WB, UNHCR, , DRC, Troldekugler, Borough of Viborg
Main funding developments	Regional

during the past quarter

1. The regional project entitled Community Ownership for Human rights Enforcement, Stability Improvement, Organisation and Networking (COHESION) in the Mano River Union was approved by the European Commission in 2009, contract was signed in January and implementation has begun. The proposal covers 24 months to the tune of EUR 1,875,000.
2. Otherwise, no new regional funding developments in this quarter. Several projects were approved for Ivory Coast and Liberia and several proposals (national scale) are under preparation for April deadlines.

Southeast and North Liberia

BACKGROUND AND CONFLICT

Description of conflict	<p>The civil war in Liberia can be divided into two phases: from 1989 to 1996 and from 2000 to 2003. In 1980, a coup by Sergeant Samuel Doe overthrew President William Tolbert and ended the dominance of the Americo-Liberians since the country's independence in 1847. Doe favoured his own ethnic group, hence spurring tensions between ethnic groups in Liberia. Discontent grew into civil war as the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) started an armed insurrection in 1989, with Charles Taylor as its leading man. A breakaway fraction of NPFL later gained control of Monrovia and killed Doe in 1990. The civil war spread as former Doe supporters, organized in ULIMO, began to fight the NPFL. In 1996, a peace agreement was signed and the NPFL was transformed into a political party, the National Political Party (NPP). Between the two phases of war, Charles Taylor was elected president, and subsequently refused to implement the peace agreement.</p> <p>The starting point of the second phase of the civil war was an attack by the rebel group LURD from the border areas of Guinée in 2000. Fighting intensified in 2003, when LURD attacked Monrovia several times, and following a split within LURD, a new rebel group, MODEL, emerged. In August 2003 an ECOWAS force was deployed and the same month Taylor went into exile. Following signature of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, also in August, the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was launched. In November 2005, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected president. The government faces many challenges in rebuilding the country and fostering reconciliation. The trial against Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Special Court for Sierra Leone commenced on 4th June 2007.</p> <p>Besides the ethnic dimension, access to natural resources has played an important role in sustaining the civil war in Liberia. The warlords exploited the natural resources in their controlled areas, and used the incomes for financing the war, but also to increase personal wealth, which led to UN sanctions on exports of most natural resources from Liberia. Today however many of these sanctions have been lifted, and trade in diamonds, timber and gold has contributed to the steady growth of the country's national income. The wars have also had important regional dimensions and 'spill-overs', as the leaders and warlords in the region repeatedly supported rebel groups in neighbouring countries.</p>
Displacement situation	<p>Liberia had a pre-war population of approximately 2.5 million people, and most Liberians were forced to flee during the war, either to other countries or internally. Many have fled on several occasions (on average all Liberians have been displaced 1½ times), as war returned after 1996, but also because there have been a number of separate military factions targeting civilians.</p> <p>The first phase of war caused 750,000 refugees, with the vast majority fleeing to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinée, and one million IDPs. Most of the IDPs remained after 1996, although about one third of the refugees had returned a few years later.</p> <p>At the time the second phase of war ended, more than 500,000 were IDPs and 233,000 had fled the country. Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée, Sierra Leone and Ghana were</p>

the main recipients of Liberian refugees during the second war. The organized repatriation of refugees by UNHCR began in 2004, and officially ended on 30th June 2007, but restarted in April 2008 following the Ghanaian Government's resistance to let the Liberians remain. Since the beginning of voluntary repatriation on 1st October 2004 up to end of August 2008, over 119,000 individuals arrived back in Liberia. Main return areas were Lofa County (51%), Montserrado County (17%), Maryland County (8%) and Nimba County (9%). Today some 60,000 Liberian refugees still remain in the region and are facing the cessation of refugee status in 2010/2011. Finding durable solutions for the remaining caseload is now becoming more urgent.

In April 2006, the IDP return process was officially completed in Liberia. Approximately 314,000 had returned to their area of origin, and were assisted with transport allowances and return packages. However, spontaneous IDP/squatter settlements remain.

DRC'S PRESENCE

DRC history

DRC programme in Southeast Liberia has been operational since May 1998, aiming at supporting the reintegration of displaced Liberians in their areas of origin. As the civil war in Liberia fluctuated back and forth the program has maintained flexibility to also respond to more acute humanitarian needs when those have arisen. For example, in 2003 DRC set up temporary activities in Tabou county in Côte d'Ivoire to assist Liberian refugees following the escalation of conflict in Southeast Liberia, and likewise DRC was involved in assisting Ivorian refugees who crossed the border following the 2004 outbreak of violence in Côte d'Ivoire. After signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in August 2003, and the establishment of UNMIL, focus of the programme was to support peace and stabilization efforts through reintegration of returnees and ex-combatants.

In 2006 a field office was opened in Sanniquellie, Nimba County (North Liberia) as part of DRC's regional growth strategy in West Africa. Nimba County borders Côte d'Ivoire and Guinée, and is a crux for sub-regional trade and migration. It is populated mainly by Mano and Gio, but has also been one of the traditional areas where the Mandingos have settled. The perceived support given to Mandingos by Doe's presidency angered the other population groups in Nimba, and that along with its vast border areas meant that the county saw some of the worst fighting during the civil war. Today ethnic tensions are still visible in Nimba, particularly as return of refugees spur conflicts over land use, ownership and access.

Brief narrative description of current DRC programme

DRC operates a programme focused on return and reintegration of refugees, IDPs, and ex-combatants as well as general recovery, reconstruction and peace building at community level.

In both areas of operation the programme aims at strengthening the communities' ability to plan and prioritize their own development, which is being done through PRA methods and by the formulation of Community Action Plans (CAPs). The programmes are implemented in collaboration with local authorities and the communities wherein DRC works. The communities themselves often contribute with e.g. local materials, labour and land. Furthermore, labour-intensive strategies form an essential backbone of the program, which aims at improving and stabilizing the security situation through employment creation.

	<p>In Southeast Liberia, DRC implements a community-based livelihood program in three counties: Maryland, River Gee and Grand Kru. Main activities include revitalization of agricultural production to enhance food security, nutrition, provision of vocational training, and infrastructure rehabilitation/construction. Capacity building of staff, local authorities, community members and farmers is one of the objectives, and DRC uses internal, national and international facilitators to meet that goal.</p> <p>In North Liberia, DRC implements community-based livelihoods-centred development programs in 3 districts of Nimba County, with primary focus on displacement affected women, safe drinking water, enhancing sustainable agricultural production and access to markets to meet food security and income needs, as well as address regional aspects of displacement, targeting Liberian returnees and refugees from Côte d'Ivoire. Projects support development and conflict transformation activities by reinforcing women's role in the economy, and a gender balanced representation in governance. This includes empowerment and skills building, as well as fighting rights abuse through an approach based on UNSC Resolution 1325 and awareness on Gender Based Violence (GBV).</p> <p>With the start of regional COHESION project, activities in both areas now include improvement of the society knowledge of their own rights, building capacities to handle divisive issues peacefully, increasing cross-border linkages, establishing protection mechanisms at borders, as well as conflict prevention, mediation, and rights promotion activities.</p>
Strategic objective of programme	Support peace and stabilization, and protect and promote durable solutions to conflict affected population in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée and Burkina Faso and other West African countries on the basis of humanitarian principles and fundamental rights.
Immediate objectives of programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Livelihood assets, capacities, opportunities and resilience among the conflict affected population in DRC area of operation are protected and strengthened on the basis of their own resources and capacities; 2. Local institutional and organisational capacities that can promote democratic, accountable and transparent governance conducive for the peaceful handling of conflict and promotion of recovery processes are strengthened; 3. The conflict-affected population in DRC area of operation has safe access to meet subsistence needs in accordance with relevant standards and local emergency response capabilities are strengthened.
Target group(s)	<p>Groups that constitute war-affected population (refugees, IDPs, ex-combatants, returnees, community members).</p> <p>In the Southeast, DRC currently supports 46 communities, with around 3,350 individual beneficiaries. The activities are positively affecting a total of app. 90,000 persons in three counties. Danida activities target 15 communities with agricultural support and training, adult literacy training, business skills training, cash for work activities, support to social, cultural, sport and youth groups, training on conflict resolution, and road and bridge maintenance. Activities are mainly implemented in a co-funding function of the EC-PEACE grant that started during the first quarter of 2009 and focuses on food security, change-agent training, nutrition and hygiene practices, as well as good governance. With the EC-</p>

	<p>COHESION project DRC is supporting 6 border communities with the aim to contribute to strengthen and capacitate civil society and traditional governance structures to address divisive issues, promote equal participation of women, greater cohesion among group interest and handle conflicts in the cross-border areas of Liberia and Ivory Coast.</p> <p>In Nimba County, DRC is running two Danida-funded projects and one EC-funded project (COHESION) targeting over 800 individual beneficiaries (79% women and 21% men) in 18 communities in Gbehlaygeh, Sanniquellie-Mahn and Zoegeh districts, benefiting over 4,800 HH members (51% women and 49% men). The target group includes refugees from Côte d'Ivoire and Guinée, returnees and vulnerable local residents. In addition, 10 communities with a total of around 35,000 residents benefit from the community action plan (CAP) exercise. The food security project (Danida Region of Origin Initiative) works with 305 individual beneficiaries in 2009 with (75% women; with 2,122 HH members) and currently working with 9 new communities with 439 individual beneficiaries while the sub-regional women's empowerment programme (Danida TERRA) targets 453 individuals (80% women) with a total of 3,017 household members (50% women). Through the reconstruction of bridges and support to cooperatives and groups developed under previous and present DRC projects, the intervention is positively affecting over 85,000 people in target areas, which is around 20% of the population of Nimba County. About 80% of entire Nimba population was affected by displacement during the conflicts in Liberia.</p>
<p>Main sector(s) /type(s) of intervention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Food security and agricultural rehabilitation and development (FSARD):</u> Providing seeds & tools, pest management inputs, and agro-processing equipment to farmers; training in home economics, nutrition and food preservation; support to farmers' groups (including women farmer groups) and livestock rearing. • <u>Income Generation (IG):</u> Business skills training, vocational training, and basic literacy for adults; with a particular focus on women's economic empowerment through providing economic opportunities for women traders and farmers. • <u>Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Cohesion Sociale (3Cs):</u> Human and women's rights workshops, GBV and HIV/AIDS education, training traditional/community leaders on good governance, support to youth groups, awareness on GBV and women's rights, mediation and conflict solving activities. In light of the current food crisis, cash-for-work and food production activities aim to stabilize urban areas. • <u>Infrastructure rehabilitation (IR):</u> Construction and rehabilitation of schools, markets, roads and bridges. • <u>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):</u> Construction and rehabilitation of wells and latrines, provision of bio-sand water filters, awareness raising. • <u>Information Management and Coordination:</u> Facilitation of Community Action Plans.
<p>List of donors</p>	<p>Southeast Liberia: Danida ROI, EC North Liberia: Danida ROI, Danida TERRA, EC</p>

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PAST QUARTER

<p>Main external developments and challenges faced during the past quarter ó in terms of politics, displacement situation and security</p>	<p>Government of Liberia's Planning Minister stated that the ongoing global financial crisis has adversely affected 60,000 livelihoods in the country, particularly impacting smallholder producers and thousands of contract workers. The consequences of the loss of employment income òwill be far-reachingò, given the inter-dependency of earning across the labour force.</p> <p>In its 2009 National Nutrition Policy report, Ministry of Health attributes 44% of child death in Liberia to malnutrition. The report says that 45% Liberian children under age five chronically or acutely malnourished. The NGO community feels the MoH is not as worried as it should be, and lacks the capacity to provide leadership in bringing about solutions.</p> <p>President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf announced during her annual message to the House of Legislature her intention to seek a second term at the 2011 elections.</p> <p>World Bank unveiled an assistance package to Liberia, in the amount of US\$16 M for youth employment and additional US\$11M as direct support to the national budget. Focus is on infrastructures and development paramount to recovery.</p> <p>This quarter was also marked by riots, demonstrations, ritualistic killings, arson attacks, armed robberies, and land disputes etc. some of these national disturbances almost led to ethnic conflicts; but was abated by the government and the United Nation Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).</p> <p>MoH with assistance from WHO, UNICEF, USAID, UNMIL and other partners completed the 2nd phase of preventative polio immunisation campaign in the country-targeting 750,000 children under five.</p>
<p>Main internal achievements and challenges during the past quarter</p>	<p>Southeast Liberia (Harper field office):</p> <p>Main achievements by sector:</p> <p><u>Food Security and Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development/ Income Generation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1200 farmers received 2400 cutlasses, 2400 steel files, 1200 hoes, 1200 shovels, 40 metal bucket, 800 axes, 560 rakes, 40 tarpolines and 40 sprayers. 1200 rain boots, 600 bags of seed rice were distributed. • Construction of 40 seeds and tools bank in 40 communities in Maryland, Grand Kru and River Gee is completed. • Agro-processing machines and equipment (15 cassava crushers, 10 rice threshers, 15 cassava pressers, 24 farina pots, 24 alluminium pans and 24 plastic buckets) distributed to beneficiaries in the 40 EC-PEACE communities • SEWODA ó local implementing partner - has completed the first session of basic literacy classes with 400 women as beneficiaries <p><u>Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Cohesion Sociale (3Cs):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 border communities have been selected for the COHESION project implementation. The project is still in preparation phase and concrete activities in the field have not started within this reporting period. <p><u>Infrastructure Rehabilitation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 km road repaired and maintained in Maryland <p><u>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOUs signed between DRC and County Health teams in Maryland and Grand Kru for the implementation of nutrition training for county health teams • Baseline Nutrition survey carried out in 40 EC-Peace communities and data has

been analysed.

- Training in improved nutrition and hygiene practices for pregnant women and mothers of children below 2 years initiated, aiming to cover all communities

Information Management and Coordination:

- 80 persons who participated in the Change agents training were provided additional training in project activities monitoring within the 40 EC-Peace communities in Grand Kru, River Gee and Maryland Counties.
- 6 Community Action Planning workshops conducted in River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru

Main Challenges:

Main roads as well as minor roads were for most parts hardly damaged during the previous rainy season, very little maintenance was done and the rainy season is about to start. Many bridges on the main and secondary roads are also in a very bad condition.

These conditions put a heavy strain on our resources for repair and maintenance of vehicles and the remaining funding might not be adequate to get us through the year. Restrictions and mechanisms to reduce repair and maintenance costs are also put in place to address this problem.

In River Gee some NGOs have been using the policy to pay community members to implement community-based projects. This policy has threatened the success of similar DRC activities, because community members expect to be paid by DRC as well. This issue was taken up at county level; County authorities have agreed to take it up with Agriculture Ministry.

North Liberia (Sanniquellie FO):

Food Security and Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development/ Income Generation:

- Danida ROI: livelihood project targets 439 beneficiaries with 1,273 HH members (62% women) engaged in environmentally sustainable agriculture. Rice harvest completed in December 2009 with average 3.7 T per community (average 1.5 T/ha). Eight (8) mechanized cassava graters installed for 8 women farmers groups and 12 rice mills upgraded for 10 other farmers groups and two farmers' cooperatives, who continue to generate income through processing farm products, both Cassava and rice. Through training support in Sustainable Agriculture for the beneficiaries, over 7 compost heaps were created and used in the summer gardens to improve the soil fertility.
- Danida TERRA: targets 453 individual beneficiaries (80% women, with 3,017 HH members) in 12 communities in Nimba. Harvest done in December on 9.3 HA of swamp rice (Suakoko 8) yielded an average of 4.1 tons per community (average 1.5 T/Ha ó 0.5 T above average in Liberia). 20 compost heaps were constructed by beneficiaries and followed by training on soil fertility and organic fertilisers in order to improve soil condition. The group of 24 farmer trainees and 6 DRC extension staff, trained as Trainers (ToT) in Sustainable Agriculture by the Center for Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) in December 2009, have completed the training of the remaining beneficiaries within the 12 communities.

Infrastructure Rehabilitation:

- Under Danida-ROI 3 minor bridges have been identified for rehabilitation.

Assessments have been completed and signing of MoUs with the communities is ongoing. When completed, these bridges will create market access for about 13,000 persons.

Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Cohesion Sociale (3Cs):

- As a result of the assessment done on strengths and gaps in dispute handling mechanism in 8 communities, human rights workshops have been completed in 4 of the communities with total of 240 individual beneficiaries (65% females and 35% males).
- Seven communities identified for the COHESION project, preparatory activities and information to beneficiaries ongoing

WASH:

- Assessments have been completed for WASH activities with emphasis on the CLTS methodologies in 13 communities. Hygiene promotion workshops have been completed in two of the communities benefiting 81 individuals (30% females and 70% males.) In these communities, Two Community Water Committees (including Water Management Committee, Hygiene Promoters and Pump Mechanics) consisting of the membership of 26 persons (40% females and 60% males) have been formed.
- 4 communities assessed during the visit of the Viborg Team are to benefit from the construction of 7 hand pumps targeting over 15,000 persons. Signing of MoUs is ongoing for the activities.

Information Management and Coordination:

- Editing of the 2009 CAP reports ongoing for distribution to communities.
- 10 communities have been identified for CAPs. Planning ongoing for the CAP workshops.

Main challenges:

Logistics continues to be the main challenge for the Nimba operation, especially in Zoegeh district. Some harmful traditions and taboos also pose a problem to development activities, but mitigation measures are in place through community mobilisation.

Main funding developments during the past quarter

- Project proposal "Women of Nimba Leading in Livelihoods" is still on the WLL web-page for fundraising (see <http://www.unhcr.org/49f990e92.html>)
- Proposal by FAO based on the expression of interest rejected by DRC as not sustainable (funding too low for implementation).
- First collection from Viborg Liberia project / DRC pledged for NL;
- Meeting held with SIDA in Liberia, no concrete developments yet.

Côte d'Ivoire

BACKGROUND AND CONFLICT

Description of conflict

Until the late 1990s Côte d'Ivoire was a model for prosperity and peace as well as the economic powerhouse in West Africa. The coup in late 1999 exposed the fragility of the nation and pronounced divisions along ethnic, political and religious lines. Continued insecurity after the first coup was followed by another coup in 2002 and led to the separation of the country, with the north controlled by the Forces Nouvelles (FN), and the south under Government control. Numerous peace agreements failed and more violence continued. In March 2007 the FN and the Government – following mediation efforts of the Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore, signed the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement (OPA), but implementation of the OPA has been slow. Elections planned since 2005 have continuously been cancelled, but are now confirmed for 29 November 2009. The OPA itself is a source of dissatisfaction for some who claim the agreement has no popular adhesion as it is was made by two individuals who have not taken the interest of the majority into account.

Ongoing violence since the conflict began has led to a climate of lawlessness and impunity, which continuously exacerbates the humanitarian situation, particularly the living conditions of IDPs and other vulnerable population groups. There are substantial indications that the conflict which originated as a struggle for control of political power and resources at central level also incorporates an inter-ethnic conflict at inter- and intra-communal.

This may have severe repercussions for the fragile stability in the neighbouring countries of Guinée and Liberia as well. The areas most affected by the conflict are the North (the former *Forces Nouvelles*-controlled areas), the former Zone of Confidence and the West. In the sub-region itself, the current situation of 'no war-no peace' is creating an atmosphere of uncertainty at social and community levels.

Displacement situation

Tens of thousands of people fled from Côte d'Ivoire when fighting broke out in September 2002. Many of the refugees returned when the ceasefire was signed in May 2003, but some have remained in Liberia and Guinée, with the vast majority in North/Eastern Liberia, mainly Nimba County. Renewed violence in late 2004 caused another refugee flow. A substantial number of refugees have returned, but the latest figures show that about 18,000 still remain. All political sides agree that the Ivorians displaced in neighbouring countries should return prior to the planned November 2009 elections; UNHCR is taking the lead to start repatriation together with Ivorian Government.

Most of the displacement caused by the conflict is internal displacement. As many as one million people fled to other parts of the country due to the conflict in 2002; today it is estimated that there are 700,000 IDPs, the majority of which are living in the Centre and South of the country. There has been no IDP profiling since 2007 and therefore current numbers are not reliable.

The ethnic tension in Côte d'Ivoire is a constant factor affecting the displacement of the population throughout the country. This displacement leads to violence in

many forms and is particularly difficult on vulnerable populations. The constant minor and major movements of displaced people contribute to the difficulty of collecting accurate data of the IDP population at any given time. The high concentration of IDPs integrated into dense urban areas make accurate counts of the displacement situation extremely difficult.

The West hosts the majority of Liberian refugees still remaining in Côte d'Ivoire, and continues to be affected by attacks from militia and unknown groups. The majority of the IDPs live in overcrowded and overburdened host communities. These IDPs only add to an already stressful situation and place a large strain on a fragile and underserved infrastructure. The attempted return of IDPs in the West is resulting in inter-ethnic tension and sporadic violent clashes, when internally displaced *allogènes* and *allochtones* return to their previous plantations which they left during the crisis, now occupied by the autochthons landlords.

In the Southwest, the area around Grabo has been particularly hard hit and was affected by serious fighting in late 2002 and beginning of 2003, which led to widespread destruction and displacement. The main displacement issue in the region relates to the 7-year ban of migrant populations from 43 villages following a murder in 1999. As the *öbannedö* populations started returning in late 2006 this sparked concern over renewed inter-communal tensions and possible ensuing violence. The area also hosts the largest group of the residual Liberian refugee caseload in Côte d'Ivoire with an estimated 14,000 persons.

Côte d'Ivoire is also a host country; in July of 2006 UNHCR closed a refugee transit camp leaving an unspecified number of refugees choosing resettlement rather than returning home or integrating into host communities. Resettlement for this population is complicated and may simply not be an option.

DRC'S PRESENCE

DRC history

In 2003, during the height of the Liberian conflict, DRC ran operations in Tabou to assist the thousands of Liberian refugees who fled the violence from the south-eastern area of the country. This operation closed in August 2003, when peace agreement was signed for Liberia and most refugees returned.

The present DRC activities in Tabou were established in April 2006. This was the first step in the expansion of the up-to-then Southeast Liberia programme into a Regional West Africa Program. Severe funding limitations forced a temporary closure of the Tabou operation by the end of June 2007. However, with funding from UNHCR the activities were resumed in August with an emphasis on promoting community dialogue in support of the return and *öbannedö* populations.

In August 2009 DRC began implementation of a WB funded project focused on SWCI, entitled FEST-NOS (FESTivale pour une NOuvelle Solidarite), to be implemented from the newly established DRC SWCI office in San Pedro. Currently SWCI operation covers regions of Bas-Sassandra and Fromager, with sub-offices in Tabou and Gagnoa and satellite offices in Sassandra, Oume and Soubre.

DRC programme in Duékoué has been operational since July 2007, supporting the reintegration of returned IDPs in their areas of origin and host communities. Activities are carried out in both regions of *Moyen Cavally* and *18 Montagnes*, through the FO Duekoue and satellite offices in Danane, Toulepleu and Pehe.

Brief narrative

The programme in Côte d'Ivoire seeks to address the needs of IDPs and host

<p>description of current DRC programme</p>	<p>communities affected by the crisis since 2002, while simultaneously aiming to promote and facilitate durable solutions for Liberian refugees in protracted displacement, as well as IDPs wishing to return or resettle. DRC also strives to foster constructive dialogue and promote reconciliation between conflicting groups.</p> <p>Southwest Côte d'Ivoire (San Pedro FO)</p> <p>Current activities focus on supporting IDP return/ resettlement and reintegration as well as peace building and governance projects in the Bas Sassandra and Fromager regions. This is done by promoting reconciliation, respect of human rights, good governance and facilitation of inter- and intra-community dialogue processes and projects. Programme also supports income generation schemes for mixed gender and ethnicity groups, who can receive grants to achieve priority projects.</p> <p>West Côte d'Ivoire (Duékoué FO)</p> <p>This programme supports voluntary return and assistance to IDPs and their host communities with a strong emphasis on reestablishment of livelihood and income opportunities and rehabilitation of infrastructure vital to economic development. The programme aims to strengthen the communities' ability to plan and prioritize own development: this is done through the formulation of Community Action Plans (CAPs). DRC initiated activities to strengthen social cohesion in return communities in the <i>Moyen Cavally</i> and <i>18 Montagnes</i> regions, since the return process is hampered by lack of acceptance of returnees by the residents, as well as the perception of returnees on their condition of return.</p> <p>Though the Danida funded TERRA project, DRC has done preliminary selection of communities along the border with Liberia (Nimba County) for fostering cross border economic opportunities through trainings and other agricultural exchanges as a vehicle for the promotion of women's leadership. This is complemented with the EC funded COHESION project, started in January 2010, addressing issues of social cohesion, economic cooperation and SGBV.</p> <p>National (Abidjan RO)</p> <p>The WB funded PAROLES project combines capacity building of the Ivorian civil society in rights awareness and conflict resolution with a nation-wide media campaign promoting respect for diversity and human rights.</p> <p>UNHCR funded IGA project aims at assisting urban refugees in durable solutions through sustainable livelihoods.</p>
<p>Strategic objective of programme</p>	<p>Support peace and stabilization, and protect and promote durable solutions to conflict affected population in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée and Burkina Faso and other West African countries on the basis of humanitarian principles and fundamental rights.</p>
<p>Immediate objectives of programme</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Livelihood assets, capacities, opportunities and resilience among the conflict-affected population in DRC area of operation are protected and strengthened on the basis of their own resources and capacities; 2. Local institutional and organisational capacities that can promote democratic, accountable and transparent governance conducive for the peaceful handling of conflict and promotion of recovery processes are strengthened; 3. The conflict-affected population in DRC area of operation has safe access to meet subsistence needs in accordance with relevant standards and local emergency

	response capabilities are strengthened.
Target group(s)	<p>The programmes target the conflict-affected population (refugees, IDPs, host communities and other vulnerable groups). The programmes are run in the regions of Bas-Sassandra and Fromager covering more than 42 communities within the departments of Tabou, San Pedro, Sassandra and Soubre in Bas Sassandra region; Gagnoa and Oume in Fromager region with community development and good governance, income generating activities that would facilitate reintegration and peaceful co-existence, positively affecting around 40,000 people.</p> <p>In Western Côte d'Ivoire, DRC works in <i>Région du Moyen Cavally</i> and <i>Région des 18 Montagnes</i>, covering a total of 29,195 beneficiaries (63% men and 37% women) in the first quarter. The new COHESION regional programme aims to improve social cohesion in target communities. Larger number of men in this quarter is due to type of activities (construction, cash-for-work) and is likely to change with the start of agriculture activities. The PAROLES project, implemented at a <i>national scale</i>, focuses on civil society organisations with capacity building, but in principle targets the wider Ivorian population.</p>
Main sector(s) /type(s) of intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Food Security and Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development (FSARD)</u>: Support to women's farmers groups with input and training and start of agro-processing. • <u>Income Generation (IG)</u>: Business training and support to restarting income, and revolving loan groups for youth. A particular focus on women's economic empowerment through providing economic opportunities for women traders and vulnerable women, including former combatants. Adult literacy training. • <u>Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Cohesion Sociale (3Cs)</u>: Human rights, women rights, and mediation training; training of women and youth groups; gender sensitization; awareness on SGBV, human and women's rights; mediation and conflict resolution; HIV/ AIDS awareness; micro-projects for multi-ethnic/ religious groups. • <u>Infrastructure Rehabilitation (IR)</u>: Rehabilitation of schools, roads and bridges. • <u>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</u>: Rehabilitation of water points and sanitation facilities; urban sanitation. • <u>Information Management and Coordination</u>: Facilitation of Community Action Plans, and Refugee/ IDP survey.
List of donors	<p>SWCI: Danida ROI, World Bank, EC, UNHCR WCI: Danida ROI, EC National: World Bank, UNHCR (Abidjan), EC</p>

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PAST QUARTER

Main external developments and challenges faced during the past quarter in terms of politics,	<p>The mandate of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI) was extended in January by the UNSC until end of June 2010.</p> <p>In February, the President of Cdi dissolved the government and the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) and re-appointed the former Prime Minister to form a new government. The crux of the problem being the electoral lists (including a grey list of 1,033,000 names contested by the government or neither Ivoirians nor foreigners), this decision sparked violent protests throughout the country, resulting</p>
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<p>displacement situation and security</p>	<p>in at least 10 deaths of civilians. This created a general sense of insecurity and raised tensions as the process of re-establishing the CEI and the government took over one month. As previous head of CEI was accused of fraud (putting in names of non-Ivoirians on the list), dismissal was contested by the opposition and solution was finally found by nominating a representative of the opposition by consensus. During this period heavy electricity cuts became a practice throughout Cdi, mostly affecting poorer communities in Abidjan and the interior of the country. This has raised popular tensions and it worsens the living conditions of the population. The return environment in the West Cdi is still challenging, as the spontaneously returning IDPs find their land occupied and a population that does not readily accept them. Hence sustainable return needs to be strengthened by providing adequate support to returnees (UNHCR, INGOs, SAARA), rather than focusing on transport only. This includes the strengthening of intra- inter community social relations. DRC has already raised this issue with UNHCR on several occasions, but improvements in return practice are yet to take place. Communities of Kieibly and Diboko, as well as the Nicla 1 camp remain problematic in terms of acceptance of return ó same situation as in the past 2-3 years. The Nicla 1 hosts 3,000 Liberian refugees who reject repatriation or local integration and keep requesting relocation to USA. With cessation of refugee status for Liberians in Cote d'Ivoire in 2010-2011, solutions will have to be found. UNHCR has not yet come up with a strategy on how to implement the cessation of status and will most likely count on partner NGOs for funding and implementation. Migratory flows of IDPs and the so called "new migrants" are still unclear and could pose problems as some of these groups are armed and occupying protected forests, where police forces are not able to intervene. There is a high potential of conflict in this situation as the resident villagers do not accept a regular settlement of these persons.</p>
<p>Main internal achievements and challenges during the past quarter</p>	<p>South-West Côte d'Ivoire (San Pedro FO) Main Achievements: <u>Food Security and Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development (FSARD):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established vegetable (cabbage, eggplants, salad, okra and cucumbers) gardens at 3 schools to access to nutritionally adequate food for 540 pupils (boys-335, girls-205). • 3 community group farms of total 8.5ha were established. Harvest of cabbage done in 1 community and 1/3 of the portion was sold, income to be used for further development of fields. (70 individual beneficiaries, mainly youths). <p><u>Income Generation (IG):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the period in review, no specific IGA activities were done apart from agriculture activities above. However, identification and registration of refugees for income generation support is ongoing under the UNHCR funding. <p><u>Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Cohesion Sociale (3Cs):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 communities were identified for conflict resolution training. At the moment, training has been done in 13 communities through the Danida funding. • 10 existing Peace and Protection Committees (PPCs) received continuous support from DRC in the areas of group management, conflict resolution and animal husbandry • Between January and March 2010, 42 sets of training (1325 and conflict resolution) were conducted in the target communities through FEST-NOS.

- 6 communities identified for the COHESION project and preparatory activities ongoing

Infrastructure Rehabilitation (IR):

- No infrastructure projects during this quarter, apart from small cash-for-work initiative related to the reparation around the new office compound in Tabou, benefiting 5 persons

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

- The construction of a Garbage Refuse Site that was started during 2009 under the previous Danida funding has been completed. Garbage collection is ongoing. This project is in partnership with the City government of Tabou; and aimed at recycling plastic items into paving stones and organic waste into compost. It also serves to providing income for youth population while improving hygiene and sanitation.
- Hygiene sensitization training has been conducted in Tabou City through a local partner ó AWANE.

West Côte d'Ivoire (Duékoué FO)

Food Security, Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development (FSARD):

- 8,275 direct beneficiaries (3,475 men and 4,800 women):
- Follow up of 5 intervention communities in developing 22 HA of swamp rice, 2 HA of maize, and 2 HA of cassava
- Six rice threshers bought and in stock, 6 communities selected, distribution pending
- Training of 10 farmer cooperative groups in management and simplified accountancy (68 persons ó 34 women and 34 men)

Income Generation Activities (IGA)

- 29 persons (22 women and 7 men) benefited from IGA micro-projects (livestock rearing ó small ruminants, soap making, tailoring and small shops), average amount per project 150,000 XOF (337 USD)

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

- 15,000 individuals in 5 communities (45% men and 55% women)
- Training of 95 members of water and sanitation committees in selected communities in water distribution management (aiming at introducing payment by communities for maintenance of public water points)
- Inspection and assessment of 5 pumps repaired / upgraded by DRC (installed by UNICEF), all working well

Conflict Prevention, conflict resolution and cohesion sociale (3Cs):

- 82 individuals (51 men and 31 women):
- Four peace committees in 4 communities restructured and strengthened (existing from previous project (WBP))
- DANIDA: Trainings in conflict prevention and conflict management for members of 4 intervention communities that will partake in COHESION project (EC funded),
- Training in human rights, SGBV prevention and peace education for the same 4 communities and beneficiaries (Peace Committees)
- CERF (liquidation period of 2009 project): community rehabilitation of one school, one market hall, one teacher's quarters and one bridge completed in first

quarter as micro-projects aimed at establishing social cohesion (public places of common interest), .

- Five communities and one town (Danane) were selected for the EC funded COHESION project which was in the stage of preparation during first quarter

National (Abidjan RO)

Conflict Prevention, conflict resolution and cohesion sociale (3Cs):

- PAROLES: Radio messages on social cohesion conceptualised and approved by PAPC/WB, production under way. Over 20 short stories received under the call for submissions, winners selected; publication and award ceremony in next quarter.
- UNHCR IGA project was prepared and initial selection of beneficiaries was done (delay mainly to lack of information from UNHCR). This project targets around 30 individuals (urban refugees in Abidjan) and is co-funded by the Danish jewellery company Troldekugler.

Main funding developments during the past quarter

UNHCR project (IGA Tabou and Abidjan, social services Tabou) approved by letter of intent; response expected from FLT (Fond Local de Transition) for WCI; contract signed for DEPART (SWCI) project funded by EC; concept note developed for NSA call in Ivory Coast (submission date 7 April); initial negotiation with UNICEF in Ivory Coast for the Water Facility EC funded call. Monitoring of opportunities continues.

Guinée Foréstièrè

BACKGROUND AND CONFLICT

Description of conflict

Over a 20-year period, conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire have resulted in political instability and refugee movements in Guinée Forestière, which were exacerbated by IDP movements due to domestic problems, such as inter-communal and ethnic clashes and the cross border attacks by rebels from neighbouring countries of Liberia and Sierra Leone in 2000. Repatriation of Liberian refugees has been completed, and camps have been closed. However, their long-term presence has contributed to infrastructural damage, environmental degradation and food insecurity. Socio-economic indicators reveal an alarmingly degraded situation according to a Demographic and Health survey by the Ministry of Plan in 2005.

Instability in Liberia and Sierra Leone in the early 1990s forced massive population movements resulting in almost one million people seeking refuge in Guinée (representing 50% of the total population in affected areas). In addition to the populations from Sierra Leone and Liberia, the 2002 crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and the resulting instability forced more than 100,000 Guineans and Ivorians to seek refuge in Guinée Forestière. Some of these returnees and refugees were unable to access humanitarian support and sought shelter in local communities

In 2005 figures were showing that approximately 52% of households in Guinée Forestière were food insecure or highly vulnerable to food insecurity. This situation could quickly deteriorate in the case of a disruption in agricultural production. Recent crises have further aggravated the food security situation, such as the case of cessation of all economic and agricultural activity at the beginning of 2007.

In December 2008, President Lansana Conté's death was followed by a bloodless military coup led by junta leader Capt. Moussa Dadis Camara. International pressure, and a stated wish to hand power back to a civilian government, led to the announcement of elections for late 2009; the date was later postponed until 31 January 2010. Initially, the junta was largely seen as eradicating corruption that was widespread under the former regime, and consequently gained support from the majority of the population, especially the youth and particularly in Guinée Forestière, as Captain Camara originates from N'Zerekore. This changed towards end 2009, especially after the bloodshed in Conakry during a crackdown against opposition; in December Capt. Camara suffered an assassination attempt and was incapacitated, while Gen. Sekouba Konate took over as the interim junta leader.

Any potential crisis will be compounded with socio-economic factors that can provoke conflicts: low education of populace, lack of sufficient social infrastructure, low income due to high unemployment rate, low agricultural productivity as a result of poor farming systems in place, and low work force in rural areas (due to population movement for urban settlements). Hence the need for continued search for improved and sustainable development of the region in order to reduce or eschew the possibility of conflicts, as well as for contingency planning should the situation erupt into an armed conflict.

Displacement situation	<p>The region has been the main theatre of displacement and hosting in Guinée, and in addition is much marginalized in a country where the government generally has undertaken little socio-economic development. The state is very weak in Guinée Forestière, especially in the conflict-affected areas, and the security situation is poor with the area being infested with many regional militias, including Guinean rebels, members of former Liberian militias and soldiers from Côte d'Ivoire. It is furthermore characterized by limited access to farming land, employment and social services, as well as inter-ethnic rivalries and inter-communal clashes. It is estimated that the region still hosts some 7000 Liberian refugees, 3 500 Ivorian refugees and small case loads from Sierra Leone, as well as 20,000 IDPs. From the start of 2009, Sierra Leonean refugees are no longer officially refugees due to a cessation of status, hence no more assistance available from UNHCR.</p> <p>It is expected that the cessation of status would be announced for Liberian and Ivorian refugees before end 2010.</p>
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DRCøS PRESENCE

DRC history	<p>The office in Guinée Forestière was opened in December 2007, and has been fully operational since early January 2008. The office was opened as the last phase of the DRC West Africa expansion strategy designed in 2005-6 with the aim of being able to address root causes of the conflicts that have affected this part of West Africa on all sides of the border.</p>
Brief narrative description of current DRC programme	<p>DRC operates a program focused on providing community-based support to local integration of Liberian refugees, return and reintegration of refugees, IDPs, and ex-combatants as well as the general recovery and reconstruction at community level.</p>
Strategic objective of programme	<p>Support peace and stabilization, and protect and promote durable solutions to conflict affected population in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée and Burkina Faso and other West African countries on the basis of humanitarian principles and fundamental rights.</p>
Immediate objectives of programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Livelihood assets, capacities, opportunities and resilience among the conflict-affected population in DRC area of operation are protected and strengthened on the basis of their own resources and capacities; 2. Local institutional and organisational capacities that can promote democratic, accountable and transparent governance conducive for the peaceful handling of conflict and promotion of recovery processes are strengthened; 3. The conflict-affected population in DRC area of operation has safe access to meet subsistence needs in accordance with relevant standards and local emergency response capabilities are strengthened.
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberian refugees (7,500 persons) some wishing to integrate locally in Guinée Forestière • Ivorian refugees in Guinée Forestière (3 500 persons) • IDPs in host communities in Guinée Forestière (est. 19,000 persons) • Conflict affected population and the host population from Guinée Forestière
Main sector(s) /type(s) of intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Food Security and Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development (FSARD)</u>: Providing seeds & tools, pest management inputs, and agro-processing equipment to farmers; support to farmers' groups; training in food preservation. • <u>Income Generation (IG)</u>: Training in business management, literacy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Infrastructure Rehabilitation (IR):</u> Construction of clinics, cereals banks, roads • <u>Information Management and Coordination:</u> Carrying out of participatory rural appraisals (PRAs) leading to development of community action plans (CAPs.) • <u>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):</u> Community projects on WASH structures, sensitization and CLTS • <u>Conflict prevention, conflict resolution and cohesion sociale:</u> Training of border communities in peaceful conflict resolution techniques, increasing participation of women in governance, combating rights abuse and strengthening cross border linkages
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List of donors	Danida ROI, EC
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MAIN DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PAST QUARTER

Main external developments and challenges faced during the past quarter ó in terms of politics, displacement situation and security	<p>After the assassination attempt against the former junta leader Capt. Moussa Dadis Camara in December 2009, the leadership of CNDD was taken by Gen. Sekuba Konate. Small scale unrest and violence took place, but the situation was put under control and elections have been announced for 27th June 2010. After assassination attempt against Dadis, his supporters tried to conduct a march in Nzerekore, but only succeeded to paralyse the city for a while. There seems to be collaboration between civilian and military leaders and the registration of voters is ongoing without major difficulty.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the overall situation in Guinea remains volatile, despite the slow opening of international donors towards funding of projects. Ethnic tensions still persist, while the region of Guinée Forestière remains in an uneasy calm. Security remains unpredictable.</p>
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Main internal achievements and challenges during the past quarter	<p>Main Achievements by sector:</p> <p><u>Food Security and Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development (FSARD):</u> This component assists a total of 181 individual beneficiaries (160 women and 21 men) and consequently 1072 direct beneficiaries, household members <u>(575 women and 497 men)</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 144 individual beneficiaries in 5 communities (129 women and 15 men) received 10800 kg of upland seed rice (115 kg per person) and tools, preparation of fields under way; additional 37 beneficiaries who opted for swamp rice support will receive input in the next quarter • Previous (2009) harvest evaluated in January 2010 and shows 1044 kg per HA for swamp rice and 1122 kg HA average. • Follow up of the emergency assistance programme by FAO to 231 beneficiaries under training for growing vegetables that started in 2009 • Support to 2 groups of women of 30 members growing cassava and vegetables (established last year) with agro extension services <p><u>Income Generation (IG):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up of beneficiaries in 6 communities (a total of 171 individuals - 41 men and 130 women) who had received training in business skills and entrepreneurship and input for relevant activities selected: groups are gradually developing and some of them are making an income sufficient to manage the activity (not yet clear sign of sustainability). <p><u>Infrastructure Rehabilitation (IR):</u></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned 2 improved wells with pumps for a total number of 290 150 women, + 864, 472 women beneficiaries in 2 communities; selection of constructors almost done, work to be done in next quarter • Designing standard blueprints for most frequently required infrastructures • DRC rehab supervisor successfully lectured at Nzerekore University on potable water supply systems and caption of • Maternity clinic in Kouankan is done as concerns DRC responsibilities and was handed over to UNHCR, which should further hand over to the population. <p><u>Emergency Logistics and Transport Management (ELTM):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR decided to discontinue the contract with DRC for the management of their log-base in December 2009 and <i>DRC is no longer responsible for the base</i>. Final reports and audit were completed in this quarter. <p><u>Information Management and Coordination IMC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of 2 CAPs in target communities (with financial participation of communities in the cost of event) with total population of 3,372 inhabitants. Production of reports under way. This activity is linked to the start up of COHESION project and serves as a part of baseline study. Simultaneously the community profiling and cultural denominators survey is being administered.
<p>Main funding developments during the past quarter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full proposal « Soutien au développement économique agricole des communautés rurales de Guinée Forestière » was rejected by EC. • Full proposal « Soutien à l'autonomisation des besoins alimentaires de Guinée Forestière (SABA) » rejected by EC Food Facility. • A concept note was prepared under EC Food CfP in Conakry, in partnership with AUDER and PRIDE, to be submitted in early April.