CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

RESILIENCE FOR PEACE (R4P)

Annual Report

Reporting period:

February 21, 2023, to February 20, 2024

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. 72062421CA00002

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Table of Acronyms

AEJ	Youth Employment Agency / *Agence Emploi Jeunes*
AFJCI	Women Lawyers Association of Côte d'Ivoire / *Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire*
AIP	Ivorian Press Agency / *Agence Ivoirienne de Presse*
ALS	Annual Learning Summit
ANADER	National Agency for Rural Development Support / *Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Rural*
CAG	Collective Assistance Groups
CCM	Civil-Military Comités / *Cellules Civilo-Militaires*
CNMCI	National Chamber of Trades of Côte d'Ivoire / *Chambre National des Métiers de Côte d'Ivoire*
CNFCI	National Border Commission of Côte d'Ivoire / *Commission Nationale des Frontières de Côte d'Ivoire*
CNS	National Security Council / *Conseil National de Sécurité*
CPD	Permanent Dialogue Framework / *Cadre Permanent de Dialogue*
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
EAI	Equal Access International
FCFA	CFA Franc /African Financial Community
FDS	Security and Defense Forces / *Forces de Défense et de Sécurité*
GAC	Community Action Groups / *Groups d'Action Communautaire*
GBV	Gender-based violence
GFA	Global Fragility Act
GUM	Mobile One Stop Clinic / *Guichet Unique Mobile*
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IGA	Income Generating Activities
MIRAH	Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources / *Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques*
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
ONECI	National Office of State Registration and Identification / *Office national de l'état civil et de l'identification*
R4P	Resilience for Peace
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VE	Violent Extremism
VEO	Violent Extremist Organization
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association

Executive Summary

During the project's third year, Equal Access International (EAI) strengthened community resilience to Violent Extremism (VE) in Côte d'Ivoire's northern border areas by leading evidence-based efforts rooted in communities' strengths, conflict sensitivity, and inclusion. Through a holistic approach, Resilience for Peace (R4P) addressed issues that affect communities' vulnerability to VE, including:

- Improving access to government services;
- Guiding communities in identifying alternative income generative activities;
- Improving access to land for marginalized groups;
- Fostering community dialogue and breaking down inter-ethnic barriers;
- Increasing access to reliable and community-vetted information; and
- Addressing some of the key issues driving farmer-herder conflict.

In Year Three, R4P's **363** program activities in **29** localities reached over **24,000** participants. R4P **increased the percentage of youth participants,** going from 37 percent in Year Two, to **48 percent this year**. The program broke new ground by successfully deploying the Mobile One Stop Clinic (*Guichet Unique Mobile* – GUM) in all R4P regions, providing northern communities with access to national identity cards and vehicle license plates. R4P also contributed towards **bridging inter-ethnic divides** by organizing socio-cultural exchanges attracting hundreds of participants to discuss education, income diversification, peacekeeping, and good governance.

R4P strengthened Natural Resources Management (NRM) via sustainable community mechanisms to prevent and manage conflicts. This year, R4P introduced the **innovative concept of cattle night parks** in **five villages and towns**, reducing the **number of conflicts between farmers and herders** while promoting their economic collaboration around the parks' management. Women groups in **eight locations** secured access to **land plots for vegetable farming** which were **formally guaranteed** by community leaders and local State administrations.

The program improved access to economic opportunities for youth and women providing over **$47,000 in savings and $32,000 in loans** via R4P-supported **17 village and loans associations (VLSAs).** R4P provided **62 people with professional apprenticeships**, and through its **19 literacy centers,** helped educate **575 students**.

Under its communication and digital media objective, R4P supported **21 journalists** through a series of investigative journalism trainings who went on to produce pieces on dynamics linked to VE. R4P also produced its **first soap-opera** in Malinké using an innovative approach **grounded in local community ownership** who produced the recordings with local radio stations. R4P's local media partners (radio and online press) produced **168** media products, nearly **70 percent** of which were produced in local languages, generating over **1,900 hours** of broadcasting.

R4P's network of social media influencers published a total of **178 posts** garnering over **5,800 likes and shares**.

This year **marked the start of R4P's gender-based violence (GBV)** component. R4P's **GBV situation analysis** revealed that **GBV is a widespread and pervasive** issue affecting **women and girls of all ages** in the three regions studied. To address this, R4P began working with the Women Lawyers Association of Côte d'Ivoire (*Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire* – AFJCI) to deliver workshops and activities which will contribute to improving services for GBV survivors.

R4P's research team completed **four studies**, deepening the prfogram's understanding of VE dynamics and community resilience in northern Côte d'Ivoire. The development of a VE resilience index was launched in close collaboration with key government actors like the National Security Council (*Conseil National de Sécurité* – CNS), Security and Defense Forces (*Forces de Défense et de Sécurité* – FDS), and the national coordination of intelligence. To strengthen monitoring and evaluation, R4P conducted **outcome harvesting** and collected **93 outcomes** across all regions and components and furthering the program's ability to document impact.

Year 3 Key Successes and Highlights

Forging strategic alliances and partnerships: In Year 3, R4P's strategic alliances and partnerships contributed significantly to the success of activities. Collaborations with organizations like the International Organization for Migration (OIM) and the Dutch Foreign Ministry not only expanded funding sources but also facilitated high-level participation of FDS in program events, fostering positive perceptions of local resilience initiatives. Sharing with other projects implementing in the northern border areas, among others financed by the European Union and Germany, enhanced coordination, impact and sustainability of initiatives. R4P will continue to seek additional partnerships and strengthen collaboration with other implementers in Years 4 and 5.

Annual Learning Summit (ALS) bridging divides: Bringing together 150 diverse stakeholders, including researchers, locals, senior security officials, and government representatives, the third ALS represented the culmination of three years of efforts building social cohesion and fostering dialogue between residents and authorities. Residents from northern Cote d'Ivoire had a unique opportunity to voice their concerns directly to government officials, shedding light on challenges they experience. A poignant example of the impact of bringing such a diverse group of participants together was vividly illustrated when a senior police official, who initially feared and distrusted the Fulani community, publicly apologized to a Fulani leader at the end of the summit. R4P will continue to build trust between government representative and communities as well as within northern border communities themselves.

Prioritizing GBV prevention and response: In the past year, upon start of the R4P GBV Component, R4P conducted field research in the Folon region, engaging with local groups and leaders to understand perceptions of GBV and improve access to services for survivors. This approach was in line with R4P's research-action method. The analysis uncovered the widespread prevalence of GBV, particularly affecting women and girls across all age groups. Key concerns included a culture of silence, limited awareness of available services, and entrenched harmful gender norms. The results of this analysis will inform project activities in Years 4 and 5.

Ecosystem approach to building resilience: In 2023, R4P created cattle parks as an innovative solution to mitigate conflicts and protect crops from damage caused by wandering cattle. The

impact of the cattle parks, however, has extended far beyond mere conflict resolution. The parks have contributed to local women-run market gardens by providing organic waste which is used as fertilizer and in turn benefits farmers who buy this fertilizer at lower prices. Through this ecosystem approach to building resilience, R4P has not only addressed a pressing challenge in the community but has also transformed it into an opportunity for sustainable growth and prosperity. This solution was developed collaboratively with community members which is why it has been successful. R4P remains committed to prioritizing community involvement in finding solutions to ensure the sustainability of initiatives.

a) Map of incidents for Year Three

Map 1: Potential CVE-related incidents documented by R4P during Year Three
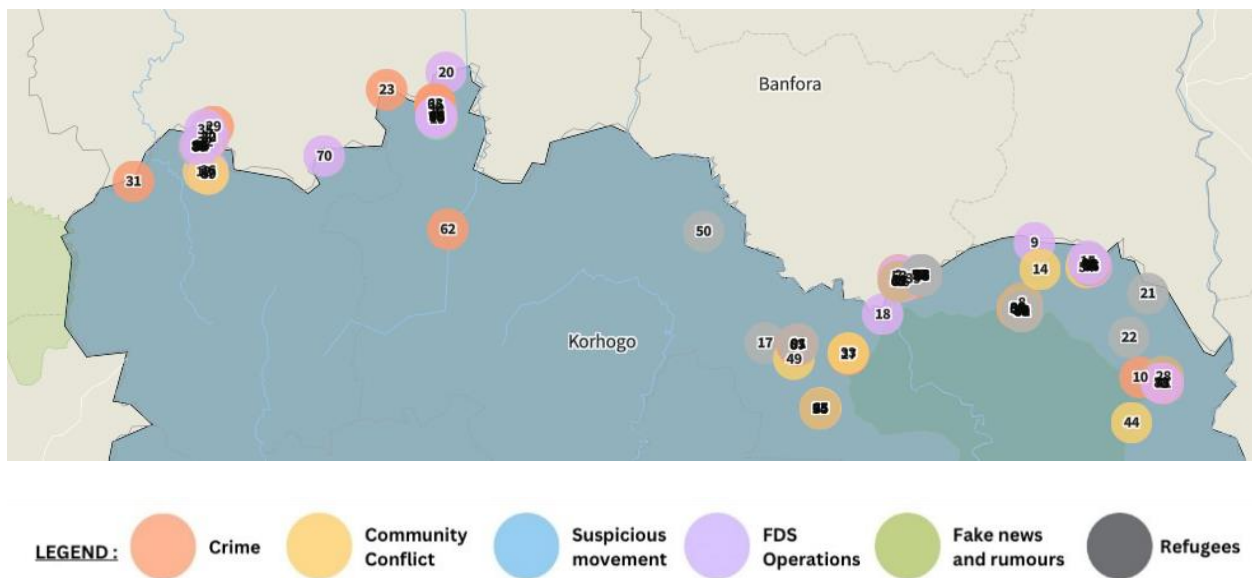
Note that only incidents in R4P intervention areas are presented. Please refer to annex 1 for a detailed list of incidents. Link to interactive map.

During the third year of programming, 96 potentially CVE-related incidents were reported in the R4P regions. This is a 46 percent increase over last year (66 incidents), with the majority of incidents linked to FDS operations (28) and local crime (28), which tend to be linked to one another.[1] Further analysis reveals that 53 percent of incidents were in Bounkani (similar trend to last year), followed by the Bagoué, Folon, and Tchologo regions. A list of incidents can be found in Annex 1.
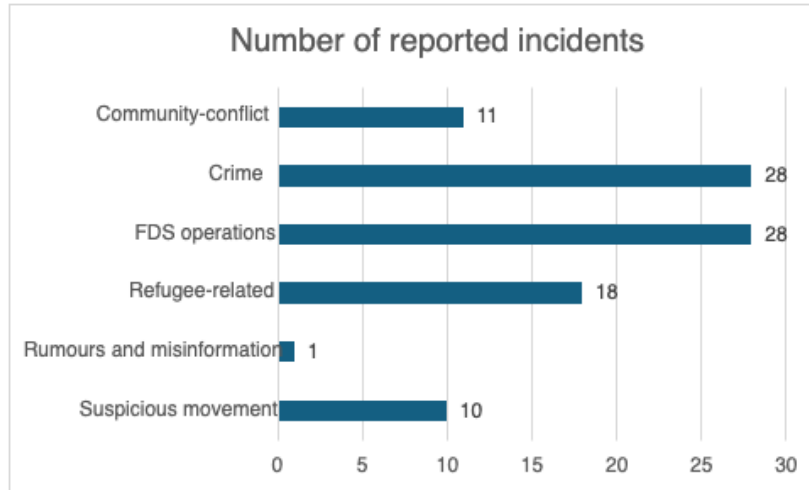
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[1] Based on ACLED data.

Figure 1: Type of CVE-related incidents

The primary drivers for this increase appear to be linked to the deterioration of the security context in the Sahel resulting from the neighboring military regimes which led to an increase in activities by FDS along the border, and an influx of refugees fleeing violence. As a result, R4P recorded a three-fold increase in the number of incidents related to refugees (18), with most of these incidents occurring in the Bounkani region and concerning the arrival of refugees.

b) Trends in attacks by violent extremist organizations (VEOs)

There were no reports of VE attacks carried out by either armed individuals or improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the third year of the project. Despite this, the presence of VE groups continued to be reported in certain localities. In Kong, a community leader close to the FDS alleged that armed groups were present and ready to act, confirming that VE threats are perceived as real, both by local populations and local authorities in communities across northern Côte d'Ivoire.

Across R4P's program regions, different conflict patterns were observed. In Téhini, local communities face VE infiltration across four localities, alongside conflictual relationships between the population and FDS often caused by racketeering. In Bouna-Doropo, NRM-related conflict remains the most common source of community conflict and is compounded by divergent religious ideologies and local leadership crises.

Throughout the year, the worsening security context in Burkina Faso continued to fuel a refugee crisis along the border, and the forced departure of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) raises concerns about the degradation of the regional security context. The government of Côte d'Ivoire expressed concerns regarding the refugee situation and took steps to strengthen its military presence and coordinate refugee settlement and assistance. Despite these efforts, the heightened influx of refugees persisted for most of the year, outpacing the government's ability to provide settlements and increasing risks of infiltration of VE groups into the northern regions.

c) Perception trends of VE threats

Although the security context remains stable, community members in northern Côte d'Ivoire continue to express security concerns, including criminal acts, the refugee crisis, fears of infiltration, and conflicts over natural resources. The government's decision to reopen borders after the COVID 19 pandemic in February 2023, combined with the deterioration of the security context in the Sahel, led to a surge in refugees, intensifying competition, and conflict over natural resources

among local and displaced populations. This situation is further complicated by the need to manage watering points and grazing areas amidst drought conditions, which is crucial for maintaining social cohesion and community resilience against VE.

Local perceptions attribute a strategic intention to the displaced populations, particularly the Fulani, which host communities associate with VE groups. This association, reinforced by media and literature on jihadist movements, has fostered fear, mistrust, and prejudice against the Fulani. Such negative dynamics reduce cooperation and are unfavorable to peaceful coexistence, potentially making vulnerable groups more susceptible to recruitment or collaboration with VE.

Research conducted by R4P on illicit activities in the Folon region highlighted that, charitable activities, such as the construction of infrastructure like wells, mosques, and schools, are perceived by local populations and religious leaders as strategies employed by VE groups to spread their ideology. Despite the need for such infrastructure, these perceptions result in communities rejecting these charitable gestures, viewing them as attempts to establish VE ideologies in their locality.

d) Political and economic trends related to insecurity.

The border closure in March 2020 had a range of consequences, notably in terms of security, leading to a proliferation of bypass routes, an increase in the theft of motorcycles and cattle, and a rise in racketeering. The closure also had a considerable impact on the economy, resulting in constraints for traders, a reduction in agricultural production, and an increase in the cost of living. Despite these challenges, people found new economic opportunities, such as youth switching to becoming motor-taximen and mechanics.

Once borders reopened, the number of bypass roads were reduced, and the movement of goods and people increased through official crossing points. Nonetheless, the opening did not lead to a reduction in racketeering by FDS at road checkpoints and along bypass routes. This has increased tensions which undermine relations between local populations, particularly young people, and security forces. Although the controls carried out by FDS are perceived as necessary to secure the border against VEOs and illegal entry, the high frequency of racketeering and extortion by security forces remain a key issue for northern border communities.

Finally, illegal gold panning in northern border regions, which serves as a key economic activity for local youth, continued to face government repression due to its clandestine nature. This crackdown has generated resentment among the miners towards the state since it deprived them of their main income source. The miners' discontent and the perceived lack of support from the government potentially increase their vulnerability to recruitment by VEOs, who may offer them more favorable opportunities.

I. Activities and achievements

a) Progress in Numbers and Graphics

During the third year of the program, R4P reached and/or exceeded[2] 84 percent of its indicator targets. Ten out of 19 performance indicators (53 percent) reached their annual target. Six performance indicators (32 percent) exceeded their annual targets and three (16 percent) were below 90 percent achievement rate.

The indicators that did not meet their targets are those targeting youth participation in GBV activities, and the number of training participants. Low youth participation in economic livelihoods was the result of underestimated social norms whereby young people have a responsibility to prioritize the economic activities of community elders over their own independent economic initiatives. The GBV activities had a later than anticipated start as EAI worked with AFJCI to build their USG-compliance capacity. For the indicators that were related to the number of training participants, one activity was removed from the workplan due to lack of relevance, and another was switched from training to a research activity to better respond to identified needs.

For each of the underperforming indicators, we have conducted a thorough analysis to understand the root causes and have developed a set of remedial actions to address the challenges and improve performance in the coming year. These actions include:

- Strengthening collaboration and coordination with key partners such as IRC and AFJC to leverage resources and expertise. For example, we established weekly meetings with the partners to discuss activities to allow us to catch performance issues earlier on and propose solutions.
- Enhancing data quality and timeliness through regular staff training and improved data management systems.
- Regularly monitoring progress and making data-driven decisions to adapt our strategies and interventions as needed.

By implementing these actions and continuously monitoring our performance, we are confident that we will be able to improve our results and achieve our targets in the upcoming year. We remain committed to learning from our experiences and making the necessary adjustments to maximize our impact and ensure the success of our project.

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[2] A target is considered reached if its achievement rate is between 90 and 110 percent.
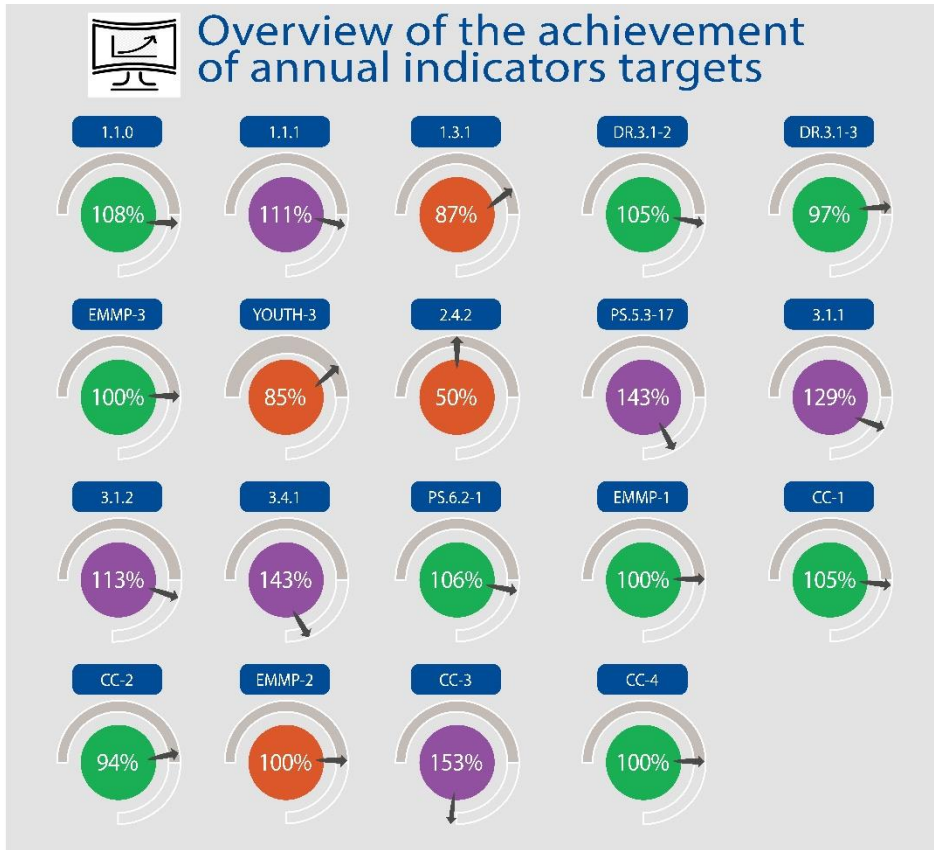
Infographic 1: Overview of the achievement of annual targets of selected performance indicators (in percentage), for details please refer to Annex 3

Infographic 2: Number of participants in Year 3 (refer to Annex 2 for details)
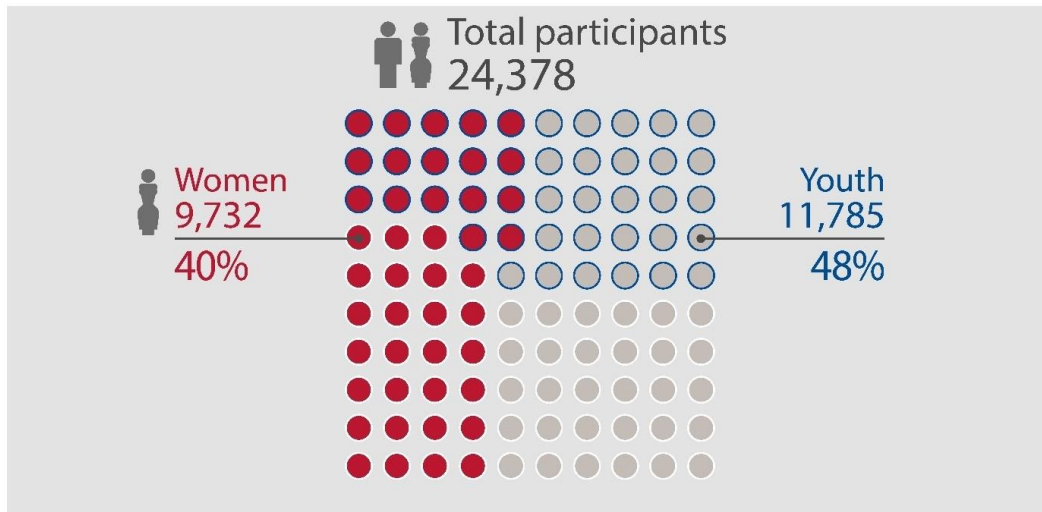
Infographic 3: Number of participants per component

Participants per R4P Component

Component	Number of female participants	Total number of participants
Communication/ Media	1,383 (41%)	3,414
Governance	3,755 (35%)	10,852
NRM	2,740 (45%)	6,031
Research & Learning	69 (8%)	822
General	274 (23%)	1200
Economic Livelihood	1,292 (80%)	1,617
Gender-Based Violence	219 (50%)	442
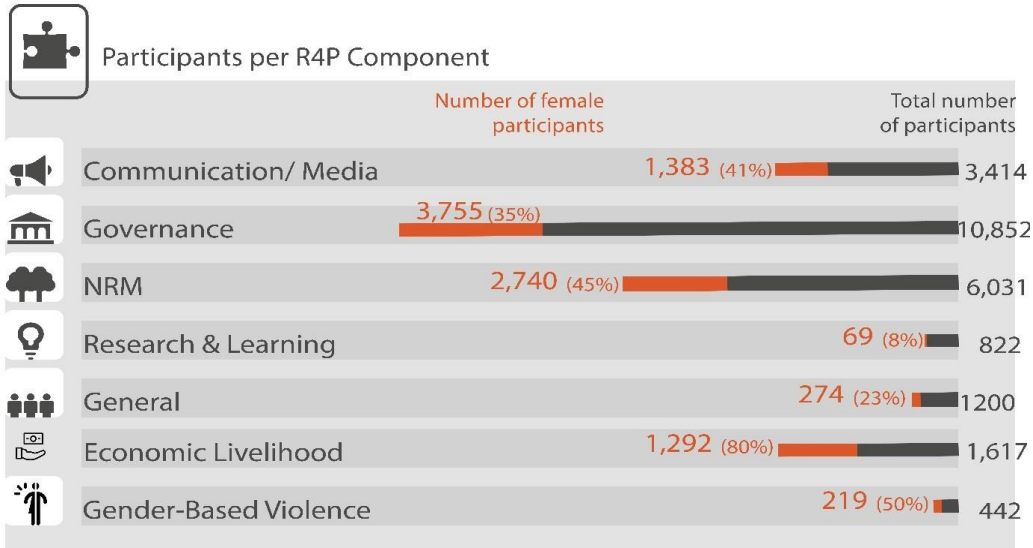
R4P reached 24,378 participants across 363 activities implemented during Year Three. Roughly 40 percent of participants were women and 48 percent youth. Governance activities saw the most participants with 10,852 (including 35% women), while the highest percentage of women participation (80%) was found in economic livelihoods activities. Media activities reached a total of 3,414 participants (41% women), 6,031 in NRM (45% women), 822 in research and learning (8% women), 1,200 in general activities (23% women), 1,617 in economic livelihoods (80% women), and 442 in GBV activities (50% women).

Infographic 4: Number and type of media productions in Year 3 (refer to Annex 2 for details)

Media product type*	Number of new media productions	Total number of (re)broadcasting	Total hours of (re)broadcasting
Radio-messages	50	N/A	N/A
Round-tables	43	1,624	948.76
R4P-supported influencers' publication	137	5,611	49.58
Magazine	09	1,563	686.6
Report	17	28	N/A
Spotlights / Capsule	05	N/A	N/A
Soap operas	27	1,284	203.72
PRESS RELEASE	17	N/A	N/A
Overall	305	10,110	1,909.66
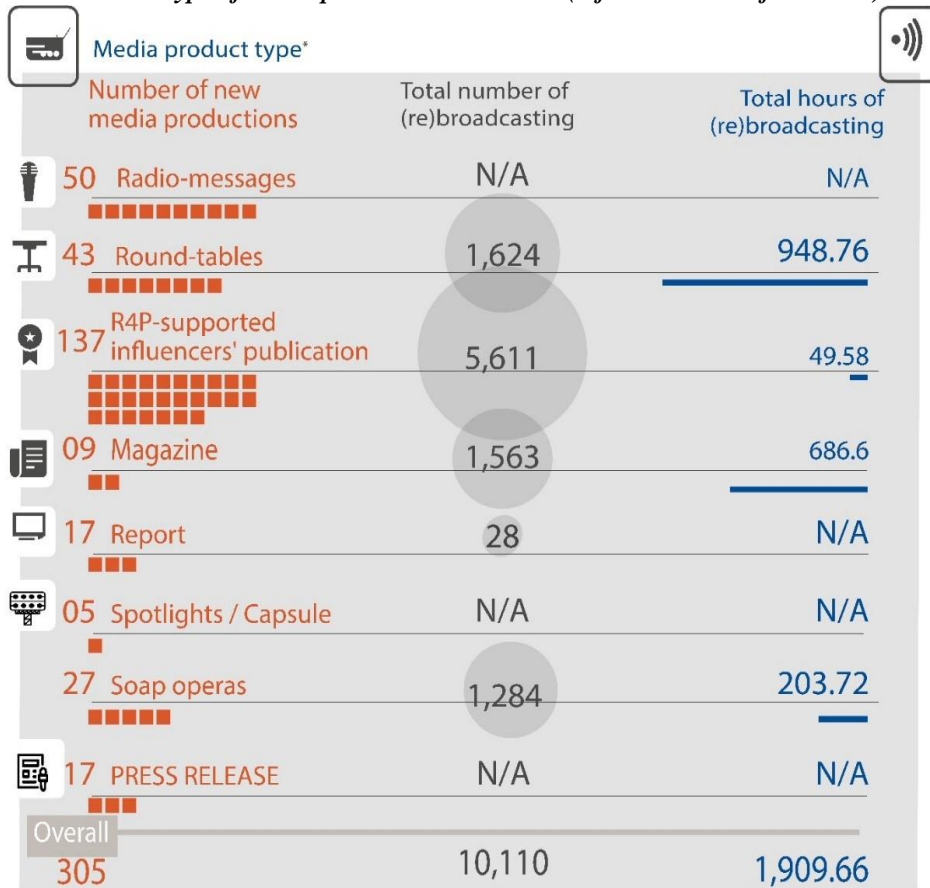
The R4P media component created 305 new productions, including 43 roundtables, 50 radio messages, 137 influencer publications on countering mis- and disinformation and hate speech, nine radio magazines, 17 reports, five spotlights, 27 soap opera episodes, and 17 press releases.

R4P produced 10,110 broadcasts and rebroadcasts of content related to VE and community resilience in collaboration with partner radios and the influencer network. This equates to approximately 1,900 hours of broadcast time.

Infographic 5: Number of media productions by language

Language of radio products

French	Mixed languages	Malinké	Fulani	Lobiri	Sénoufo	Koulango	Birifor	Lohron
52	39	34	23	11	4	2	2	1

Among the 305 new media productions generated, 168 were radio products, 77 of which were produced only in local languages. In total, 52 were produced in French, 34 in Malinké, 23 in Fulani, 11 in Lobiri, four in Sénoufo, two in Koulango, two in Birifor, and one in Lohron.

Infographic 6: Number of community activities per component in Year 3 (refer to Annex 2 for details)
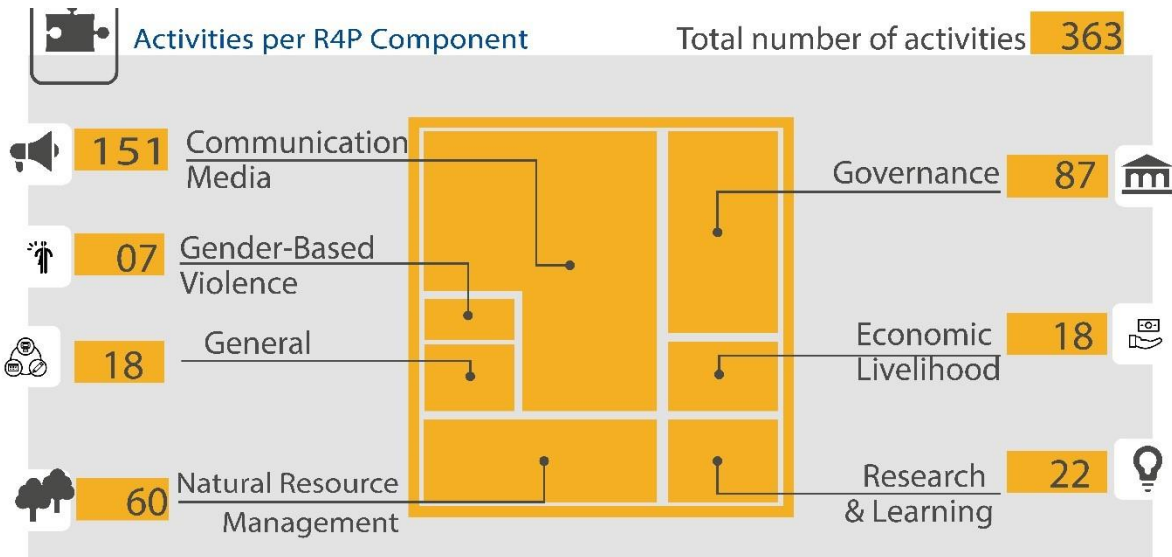
During this year, R4P carried out a total of 363 activities. Of those activities, 151 were implemented by the communication/media component (42%), 87 were related to governance, 60 to NRM, 22 to research and learning, 18 to economic livelihoods, and seven to GBV prevention.

Infographic 7: Number of community activities per R4P region in Year 3 (refer to Annex 2 for details)

Out of the 363 activities carried out in Year 3, 73 took place in the Bouna/Doropo region, 66 in the Kimbirila-Nord region, 58 in the Kong region, 56 in the Tengrela region, 45 in Téhini, 31 across multiple regions, nine in Korhogo, and 25 in Abidjan, Yamoussoukro, and online.

b) Highlights from Annual Activities

Partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Netherlands

In November, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs awarded EAI €742,500 to enhance the role and impact of the Civil-Military Comités (*Cellules Civilo-Militaires* – CCM), securing a major part of R4P's contractual cost-share contribution. The project began on December 1, and will run through January 31, 2026.

Annual Learning Summit

From November 28 to December 8, R4P hosted the third ALS in Yamoussoukro. The event brought together 150 participants with a broad range of stakeholders present, including local community members from northern Cote d'Ivoire, civil society organizations, members of government, security and defense forces, international organizations, and diplomatic missions. The event marked the first-time members from northern communities, particularly members of the Fulani community, interacted directly with government and security forces representatives.

c) Governance

During Year 3, the program broke new ground by successfully deploying the GUM in all R4P regions, providing nearly 6,000 people in northern communities with access to national identity cards and vehicle license plates. R4P also contributed towards bridging inter-ethnic divides by organizing socio-cultural exchanges attracting hundreds of participants to discuss education, income diversification, peacekeeping, and good governance.

Collective Community Action Organized by Community Action Groups (*Groups d'Action Communautaire* – GAC) (R4P3-2121)

In Year 3, R4P supported 27 localities in organizing GAC activities. The activities brought together a total of 2,451 participants, as seen in Table 1. The GACs work to improve community resilience through inter-communal collaboration and inclusion focused on local community needs. The activities the GACs carried out ranged from community dialogues geared towards strengthening social cohesion, to cleaning public health centers, or rebuilding roads connecting communities.

In Bouna, in partnership with the National Border Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (*Commission Nationale des Frontières de Côte d'Ivoire* – CNFCI), R4P organized a workshop for participants from border areas on how to identify IEDs. Participants included the prefect of the Bounkani region, village chiefs, as well as community and youth leaders. Participants learned about how VEOs deploy IEDs in northern Côte d'Ivoire, how to identify IEDs, and how to safely report an IED to the authorities. During the training, community members also advocated for a stronger

security presence in their communities. Participants then organized training sessions in their communities and served as points of contact for issues related to IEDs.

In Goueya, the GAC built a fence for the village's Cultural and Education Action Center. The community deemed the fence necessary to curb instances of motorcyclists using the center's courtyard, posing risks to young people, and causing conflicts between parents and the motorcyclists.

Goueya GAC building a fence around the Cultural and Education Action Center

In Kalamon, the GAC organized a clean-up and weeding activity at the local public elementary school to bring communities closer to public services. Before the start of the 2023-2024 school year, the school heads signaled the need for a clean-up around the school to keep reptiles away and the children and teachers safe. This activity strengthened the ties between the communities and the representatives of the local schools, who praised the actions of the young people taking the initiative to better their community.

Table 1: GAC activities in Year 3

Date	Location	Activity	Number of Participants		Total
			Female	Male	
March 29-30	Bouna	Training on IEDs	3	72	75 (16 youth)
August 13	Kointa	Advocating for the rural health center of Kointa	61	36	97 (47 youth)
August 16	Téhini	Bringing communities together	62	35	97 (51 youth)
August 19	Tougbo	Rights and responsibilities of refugees and communities	56	87	143 (62 youth)
September 7	Sokoro	Restoration of a road connecting Sokoro to the Malian village of Sandougoula	4	38	42 (20 youth)
September 12	Sanzanou	Expanding the village market and raising community awareness on the importance of sending youth to school	74	44	118 (39 youth)
September 30	Kimbirila Nord	Community dialogue with healthcare workers	59	31	90 (37 youth)
October 3	Gouéya	Built fence for community Cultural and Educational Action Center	30	77	107 (78 youth)
October 4-6	Bouna/ Doropo	Film screening on community resilience and community discussion	19	33	52 (46 youth)
October 15	Foulabougou	Built a shelter for meetings and hosting visitors	18	64	82 (48 youth)
October 15	Kalamon	Cleaned and weeded around public elementary school	64	79	143 (109 youth)

October 27-28	Koflandé	Built shelter for FDS	13	30	43 (20 youth)
October 30	Koguiénou	Cleaned and weeded around the public elementary school	13	30	143 (25 youth)
October	Niamoué	Cleaned up community health center	64	79	
October 16	Koulousson	Cleaned plot of land for women's group market garden	15	54	69 (63 youth)
October 17	Tengrela	Held session to improve relations between the community and the FDS	18	31	49 (29 youth)
October 19	Débété	Cleaned up the health center, cleaned the courtyard around the prefect's residence, and built a boat to cross the river	40	26	66 (43 youth)
October 26	Petit Nassian	Hosted community debate on tensions between FDS and community	24	80	104 (35 youth)
October 27	Kapégué	Built a shelter for meetings and vaccinations for youth	43	41	84 (52 youth)
October 28	Kafolo	Soccer match between FDS and village youth	9	89	98 (12 youth)
October 30	Sahandala	Cleaned and prepared a plot of land for a community health center	83	34	117 (12 youth)
October	Kong	Skit on farmer-herder conflict resolutions	23	107	126 (113 youth)
November 10	Gouéya	Storytelling to promote community moral values	75	6	81 (52 youth)
November 11	Gouéya	Radio broadcast on community participation and solutions to local security concerns	36	20	56 (21 youth)
January 19	Kong	Dialogue with FDS	21	66	87 (73 youth)
January 20	Petit Nassian	Dialogue with Social Center	29	27	56 (20 youth)
January 23	Sokolo	Dialogue on literacy	46	27	73 (24 youth)
January 30	Kafolo	Dialogue on youth employment	69	51	120 (73 youth)
February 1	Sahandala	Dialogue with Youth Employment Agency and youth of Sahandala	39	48	87 (41 youth)
Total			1131	1337	**2,470**

R4P Community Ecosystem Meetings (R4P3-2122)

From August through November 2023, R4P held six community ecosystem meetings bringing together 250 participants, including community facilitators, local media, decentralized state authorities, and traditional authorities to strengthen ties within their community. In October, R4P

hosted a community ecosystem meeting in Tengrela and Kimbirila Nord to discuss how different groups can work together to improve social cohesion and community resilience.[3] Some participants explained that prior to the meeting, many had never met or collaborated. They expressed a desire to create a platform for the community ecosystem to exchange information about upcoming activities and share results to allow for greater and more meaningful participation.

Following the community ecosystem meetings held in Kimbirila Nord, in Bouna/Koflandé, and in Doropo/Niamoué/Kalamon/Koguiénou, participants and community influencers created WhatsApp groups to facilitate information about activities and share ideas among group members.

Table 2: Community ecosystem meetings in Year 3

Support to Cross border Collaboration Platforms (R4P3-2123)

Date	Location	Number of participants		Total
		Female	**Male**	
August 24-25	Bouna/Koflandé	9	21	30 (14 youth)
August 30-31	Doropo/Niamoué/Kalamon/Koguiénou	13	26	39 (30 youth)
October 3 – 4	Tengrela	14	40	54 (29 youth)
October 6 - 7	Kimbirila Nord	13	29	42 (29 youth)
November 17 – 18	Téhini	19	27	48 (31 youth)
November 21 - 22	Kong	12	27	39 (24 youth)
TOTAL:		**80**	**170**	**250 (157 youth)**

The R4P team supported the creation of a Joint Cohesion and Peace Committee between Léleh in Côte d'Ivoire and Missiland in Mali in May 2023. The two local governments had been attempting to resolve a long-standing border dispute in the region. Both communities had asked for forgiveness for their engagement in this conflict that resulted in violence. Both sides verbally agreed to mediation rules, and Mali has agreed to require Malians who are occupying Ivorian land to return to Mali.

In November 2023, 79 community members (including 20 women) from Débété, Gouéya, and representatives from Fakola, Kadina, and Zéguéré across the border with Mali participated in a cross-border meeting to establish a watchdog committee to oversee the cross-border security collaboration. Following the meeting, the cross-border network held its first annual event featuring a participatory theater performance which gathered 125 participants (including 65 women). The network also organized a soccer tournament (with 140 participants, including 54 women) with Ivorian FDS called "Sport for Cohesion." A local authority noted:

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[3] The event gathered participants from Débété, Flabougou, Kapégué, Koulousson, and Tengrela.

"We can all benefit from working together to live in peace and security. Conflicts are the gateway for malicious people to make us suffer."

Fulani Social Integration Initiatives (R4P3-2125)

Over the course of Year 3, R4P supported four Fulani social integration initiatives including a workshop on integrating *"Talibé"*[4] children into formal education, intercommunal dialogue discussions, capacity building sessions, and an intercommunal integration activity. These activities brought a total of 254 participants including 70 women and 110 youth.

Participants from the "legal clinic" capacity building session

In June 2023, Fulani community leaders (men and women) came together at the Youndouo sub-prefecture in Bouna to participate in a legal clinic organized by R4P as part of a community resilience initiative activity to help Fulani leaders understand their rights and laws in Côte d'Ivoire. Representatives from the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (*Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques* – MIRAH), the Ministry of Transportation, and AFJCI all attended to discuss the importance of vaccines for livestock, laws, and regulations in driving two- and three-wheeled vehicles, and the importance of birth registration and documentation.

Fulani leaders from Doropo, Bouko, Danoa, Kalamon, Koflandé, Niamoué, and Bouna expressed their satisfaction with this activity. The General Secretary of the Fulani Union of Bounkani (*Union des Peuls de Bounkani* – UPB) noted:

> *"This training is important because those who don't know their rights, or the rights of others don't know their duties."*

Table 3: Fulani social integration activities in Year 3

Locality	Date	Activity	Participants
Doropo	April	Integrating *"Talibé"* children into formal education	56 (15 women, 41 men, 23 youth)
Sikolo	June 22	Intercommunal dialogue with Fulani and other communities	135 (46 women, 89 men, 64 youth)
Bouna/Doropo	June 21-22	Capacity building sessions with Fulani leaders	43 (9 women, 34 men, 17 youth)
Kong	August 8	Fulani integration activity with Permanent Dialogue Framework (*Cadre Permanent de Dialogue* – CPD) to plant trees	20 (0 women, 14 men, 6 youth)

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[4] Talibé are children placed with a mosque who receive religious but no formal education, and often are required to beg for food and money from the community.

Total	254 (70 women, 178 men, 110 youth)

Dozo-Fulani Dialogues (R4P3-2212)

Following concerns that the Dozos did not always provide equal treatment to the Fulani community, R4P facilitated the creation of the Sokoro Permanent Dialogue Framework. A total of 52 individuals (19 women) took part in a dialogue event, including the Sokoro sub-Prefect and village chief, representatives of the Dozo brotherhood, Malinké, Fulani, and Yacouba communities, youth presidents, and other community members to build trust between local authorities and the Fulani community. The group identified good practices between the communities such as resolving disputes over crop damage without violence, involving the Fulani in all village activities, and strengthening social cohesion. A Dozo participant explained:

> *"If people are united, there will be peace and development. This initiative shows that the peace we are talking about is not just words, it is in our actions too."*

Collaboration Between Government Services and Border Communities (R4P3-2213)

This year, R4P supported four government collaboration activities to improve service delivery in R4P target regions drawing in 248 people, including 111 women and 125 youth. The activities supported youth employment and local health workers and centers.

In October and November 2023, EAI facilitated discussions between youth participants and representatives from the National Council of Youth of Côte d'Ivoire (*Conseil National des Jeunes de Côte d'Ivoire* – CNJCI) and the Youth Employment Agency (*Agence Emploi Jeunes* – AEJ) to discuss employment and financing opportunities. Participants learned about how to access different programs such as financing for income generating activities (IGA), temporary employment, driver's licenses assistance, and apprenticeships. The AEJ also noted that young people rarely visit the town's employment office and that there is a need to raise awareness about the opportunities provided by the agency. Following the dialogue, one participant noted:

> *"We often hear about offers from the youth employment agency, but we do not know how to take advantage of them. So, we would like to thank R4P for initiating this meeting. Today at least, I know the procedures to benefit from the AEJ opportunities."*

In November 2023, community members and nurses participated in a series of dialogues where individuals shared their concerns and experiences with the local health center. The dialogues were an opportunity for health care workers to gather input from the local population to help address their concerns. In one of the dialogues, community members discussed their concern for the lack of key equipment in the health center and proposed solutions such as the setting up of a committee for follow-up and advocacy with local authorities.

Table 4: Community-government dialogue activities in Year 3

Date	Location	Activity	Number of participants	Total

			Female	Male	
July 21	Tengrela	Dialogue between young people and the AEJ on employment opportunities	9	30	39 (39 youth)
October 18	Téhini	Dialogue between community members and the AEJ	14	31	46 (21 youth)
November 16	Kimbirila Nord	Dialogue between community members and health workers	51	43	94 (37 youth)
February 1	Doropo	Community dialogue to discuss local health center	37	32	69 (28 youth)
TOTAL:			111	136	248 (125 youth)

Workshop for Coordination and Buy-in of Prefectorial Authorities from Border Departments (R4P3-2214)

In May 2023, R4P convened 28 prefectural authorities from R4P target communities in Yamoussoukro to discuss project results and ongoing collaboration in northern border areas. This was a necessary step since approximately 70% of prefectural authorities were newly appointed in R4P's target regions.

Representatives from the CNFCI and the Secretariat of the CNS attended the workshop as well. The prefect of the Folon region gave introductory remarks and thanked the project for its impact on strengthening northern communities' resilience, stressing the need for continued cooperation with R4P to further stability.

Prefectural authorities at workshop in Yamoussoukro

Representatives from each of the northern border regions presented the main activities and challenges that required collaboration with prefectural authorities. R4P's staff based in each region then met with their local prefectural authorities in working groups to identify activities and priorities for further collaboration.

This workshop also gave the CNFCI and the CNS an opportunity to address prefectural authorities directly. The CNFCI presented its activities, and the CNS emphasized the importance of civil-military committees. One participant noted:

> *"The approach and open collaboration of Resilience for Peace with the prefectural authorities is a real discovery for me and is welcomed. When I was new in the north, the results of R4P's research enabled me to gain an initial understanding of the situation in my district."*

Fostering Trust between Fulani and State Representatives (R4P3-2215)

This year, R4P supported Fulani communities in organizing 15 resilience activities across northern border communities, as seen in Table 5.

In October 2023, Fulani and Malinké women participated in a dialogue to strengthen collaboration between the two groups in Sokoro. The women organized focus groups during which they discussed disagreements and presented to each other their traditional clothing and cooking. Following this, the group leaders identified corn farming as a joint activity for both groups to undertake. One participant expressed:

Fulani and Malinké gather in Sokoro

> *"Since the cultural day, we have been carrying out activities such as baptisms, weddings and funerals together."*

In December, R4P organized awareness-raising campaigns on social media usage and recognizing misinformation in Bouna, Kong, and Petit-Nassian. A large portion of the Fulani community have a low literacy rate which increases their vulnerability to mis- and disinformation. The Fulani community is often stigmatized for its

Participants in Bouna learn responsible use of social media

alleged involvement with VEOs, and FDS often search their phones and look for incriminating social media interactions during routine checks. Members of the Fulani community led these trainings, including an R4P ambassador from the Network of Influencers for Community Resilience (*Réseau des Influenceurs pour la Résilience Communautaire* – RéICom) in Bounkani. A participant from Téhini said:

> *"Thanks to R4P I can remove myself from unwanted groups and I know how to block my WhatsApp number, thanks to the trainer!"*

Table 5: Fulani activities in Year 3

Date	Location	Activity	Number of participants		Total
			Female	Male	
October 23-24	Sokoro	Dialogue to strengthen collaboration between Fulani and Malinké women	98	0	98
October 20	Tougbo	Awareness raising campaign for Fulani communities on use of social networks, specifically WhatsApp	8	24	32 (11 youth)
October 21	Govitan		9	32	42 (15 youth)
October 23	Kointa		34	21	55 (32 youth)

October 24	Téhini		19	26	45 (21 youth)
	Gogo		11	24	35 (16 youth)
November 13-14	Tougbo	Setting up Fulani sub-prefectural associations to support community leaders.	29	52	81 (36 youth)
November 15-16	Gogo		43	42	85 (33 youth)
November 20-21	Téhini		19	27	46 (31 youth)
December 2-6	Bouna/ Doropo	Responsible social media workshop for Fulani community	38	32	70 (59 youth)
December 7	Kong		10	20	30 (22 youth)
December 8	Petit Nassian		12	25	37 (31 youth)
December 8	Doropo	Assessment of community resilience activities and planning new ones	12	28	40 (17 youth)
December 16	Kimbirila Nord	Raising awareness of benefits of sending children to school	12	38	50 (19 youth)
December 18	Tengrela	Assessment of CPD with FDS and community sports activity	15	30	45 (13 youth)
December 19	Tengrela	Dialogue between Fulani community and local health services	13	26	39 (15 youth)
TOTAL:			**301**	**320**	**621 (276 youth)**

Mobile Service Delivery Clinics for Vehicle Paperwork (R4P3-2231)

This year, R4P continued to support the GUMs in partnership with the Ministry of Trasport and the National Office of State Registration and Identification (*Office national de l'état civil et de l'identification* – ONECI) in the Tchologo,[5] Folon,[6] Bagoué,[7] and Bounkani[8] regions. The GUM gave individuals in these regions access to motor vehicle documents, license plates, and national identity cards. This activity proved

Participant posing with new documents at

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[5] In the Tchologo region, the GUM supported the villages of Kafolo, Sikolo, Bilimono, Nafana, Petit Nassian, and Kong.

[6] In the Folon region, the GUM supported the villages of Goulia, Kimbirila Nord, Tienko, and Minigan.

[7] In the Bagoué region, the GUM supported the villages of Koulousson, Tengrela, Papara, Débété, and Kanakono.

[8] In the Bounkani region, the GUM supported the villages of Youndouo, Ondefidouo, Bouna, Doropo, Tougbo, Gogo, and Téhini.

crucial in bridging a gap in government services with local communities, enhancing confidence in the central government.

The GUM serviced 5,372 individuals and provided 6,976 services, as seen in Table 6 below. The addition of the ONECI to the GUM highlighted the need for communities to obtain their national identification cards, which are needed for registering children for school and voting in elections. R4P also extended its communication channels from radio broadcasts to sending program members to meet with local leaders and chiefs before the GUM.

People traveled hundreds of kilometers to get service, and in other locations, the number of applicants present required technical services to extend their working days to meet demand. Even though crop sales were disappointing this year which limited some people's financial resources to pay for these services, community members remained enthusiastic and urged the GUM to come back next year when sales hopefully improve. A participant in Tengrela explained:

> *"I came to the GUM today and got all my papers very quickly. I am very happy because I was able to do everything here in Tengrela. Before, because of the distance from Tengrela to Korhogo, I could not get my papers done. Now, I got them without having to travel. I am even happier because I will not be giving any more money to the checkpoints to be allowed to pass."*

Following the GUM services in June and July, the localities of Bouna, Doropo, Téhini, Tengrela, and Gogo held license plate installation events. Local authorities gave speeches to the community about the importance of complying with the rules of the road and having the proper registration documents. Authorities also encouraged good relations with FDS and praised communities for their participation in the GUM.

Man receiving his plate in Doropo

Préfecture at ceremony in Téhini

Table 6: GUM participants and services provided in Year 3

Region	Date	Number of people serviced	Number of services provided
Tchologo	May 3-11	1,651	1,888
Folon	May 15-20	848	1,033
Bagoué	May 22-31	803	847

Bounkani	June 2-10	2,070	2,070
	June 12-17		1,138
Total		**5,372**	**6,976**

For a breakdown of GUM services and participants, refer to Annex 5.

d) Natural Resource Management (NRM)

This year, R4P bolstered Natural Resources Management (NRM) via sustainable community mechanisms to prevent and manage conflicts. R4P introduced the innovative concept of cattle night parcs in five villages and towns, reducing the number of conflicts between farmers and herders while promoting their economic collaboration around the parcs' management. Women groups in eight locations secured access to land plots for vegetable farming which were formally guaranteed by community leaders and local State administrations. Finally, R4P continued to support communities in identifying income generating activities (IGA) to help them transition away from illegal gold mining.

Setting up Cattle Parks through Inclusive Community Engagement (R4P3-2111)

Crop damage caused by roaming cattle exacerbates tensions between farmers and herders. When communities install cattle parks, it alleviates damage through securing cattle at night, creates organic soil which women can use for market gardening, and strengthens collaboration between different groups. Additionally, cattle park management committees integrate women and youth voices into key decision making for communities.

This year, communities constructed new cattle parks in Tiéfinzo, Téhini, Flabougou, and Kointa. Across the four sites, 341 participants worked together to prepare plots and construct fences. The Kointa village chief explained:

> *"The cattle park will strengthen social cohesion between our communities and enable us to control all the cattle leaving our village, while at the same time solving the problem of cattle theft, which is a burning issue now. It will also strengthen the bonds between all the communities."*

Fulani community members build cattle park in Flabougou

R4P also supported communities' new and existing cattle parks in developing their management committees which ensure rule compliance, help resolve any conflicts that might arise between farmers and herders and represents all groups in the communities. In Tiéfinzo, an existing management committee was revitalized to include women for the first time, and in Kimbirila Nord, the community committed to

including youth, three women, and two Fulani on their committee.

Expanding and Strengthening Women's Gardening Activities (R4P3-2112)

This year, R4P continued to support women's market gardening activities through advocacy for women's access to farming lands and training opportunities to women's groups. Market gardening creates opportunities for women's economic empowerment through earning additional income by growing and selling crops such as okra, chilies, eggplants, and tomatoes. R4P and the NRM working group helped formalize women's associations and secure plots of land for their market gardening activities across many communities, including Niamoué where chiefs authorized a 12.4-hectare (~30.6 acres) plot of land adjacent to a stream to become the market garden. After the signing ceremony granting a plot of land, the president of the women's association in Sahandala said:

Community members clearing a plot of land in Koguiénou

> "*We are happy to have a space for our market garden. This will enable us to produce enough food to eat and to sell. Currently, each woman owns a small garden behind her house, but they cannot produce enough food. With the acquisition of this plot, things are sure to change. Thank you to R4P and to the sub-prefect.*"

R4P also provided technical assistance to local women's associations to strengthen their market gardening-related skills, such as improved crop irrigation through digging wells.

Revival of Traditional Collective Assistance Mechanisms for Agriculture (R4P3-2113)

Over Year 3, R4P supported six communities in 17 collective assistance group (CAG) activities.

Collective assistance group works together to aid Fulani farmer in harvesting maize

The CAGs mobilized community members from different ethnic groups to assist farmers with clearing land and cultivating groups to strengthen collaboration.

In Kafolo, over 180 members of the Dioula, Senoufo, Mossi, Lobi, and Ghanaian communities worked together to plough a yam field that belongs to the Kafolo village chief.[9] In less than three hours, the participants created more than two thousand yam mounds.

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[9] In hierarchical communities, it is common practice to first collaborate on completing the chief's field before expanding to other members of the community.

After working with the CAG in Sahandala to clear a field, a member of the Lorhon community shared:

"*In two hours, we've done a job that would have taken two months without this support. This proves once again that there's strength in numbers, and working together can strengthen our ties. This activity brought together all ethnic groups living in Sahandala to work together, and this has not always been possible. Thanks to R4P and USAID for this initiative, it brings us closer together.*"

Table 7: CAG activities in Year 3

Locality	Date	Activity
Koulousson	May 17-18	Clearing plot of land
Débété	May 17 -18	Clearing plot of land
Kafolo	May 30 -31	Plow yam field of Kafolo village chief
Sahandala	May 30-31	Tend to mango field of village chief
Koulousson	July 5-8	Support local women's gardens
Débété	July 5-8	Support local women's gardens
Kafolo	July 14-15	Plow and weed the cashew field of the Lobi chief
Sahandala	July 15	Tend to cashew field of Lobi chief
Sahandala	August 16-19	Clear community Mossi chief's land
Kafolo	August 16-19	Support women's association to clear land
Gogo	August 26	Tend to cashew field of Lobi chief
Tiefinzo	August 25-26	Tend to village cashew field and construct new classroom
Tiefinzo	September 23	Cleared land, planted crops, and inspected cashew trees
Gogo	October 11-13	Community mobilizes to clear the Fulani and Malinké chiefs' cashew field
Kalamon	October 20-21	Create collective assistance group
Tiéfinzo	December 1-2	Community mobilizes to harvest Fulani and Malinké farmers' maize and cotton fields
Kalamon	December 22-26	Plan for community assistance group activity

Local Management of Transhumance Corridors (R4P3-2114)

This year, R4P supported community initiatives to facilitate herd movement in Sokolo, Kalamon, and Koflandé, building on community agreements reached during Year 2. The transhumance corridor initiatives were developed in response to herders' concerns, particularly Fulani herders, about conflict arising from cattle movement and access to waterways.

In Year 3, each target community held dialogues which included the prefecture, traditional authorities, and natural resource management state services such as the directorates of MIRAH and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Following the dialogues which gathered 155 community members (including 39 women and 59 youth), herders created maps with routes that were validated by the village chief and other participants who selected those corridors most likely to limit crop damage. In Kalamon and Koflandé, conflict management committees were revived to focus on transhumance

Map of identified transhumance corridors in Kalamon

management with a structure suggested by the Sub-Prefect that includes representatives for herders, farmers, women, and youth.

Despite the community's initial validation of the map created by herders in Sokolo, the village chief refused to accept a transhumance corridor project in his village, fearing that his land would be invaded by nomadic foreigners, who might later monopolize the limited resources. R4P will work with the village chief and organize dialogues to identify the root causes of the conflict and work towards a resolution.

Promotion of Alternatives to Illegal Gold Mining for Young People and Women (R4P3-2115)

Research conducted by R4P indicated that approximately half of women and young people around border areas may be directly or indirectly involved in activities related to illegal gold mining which is a risky but quick way to earn money in a local economy that offers few alternatives. In Year 3, R4P worked with communities to identify and develop IGA and initiatives to support youth and women in transitioning out of illegal mining.

In June 2023, R4P organized a community forum with 86 participants (including 69 women) to analyze and present alternative IGAs with community members and government representatives from Mining Department, Water and Forests, the National Agency for Rural Development Support (*Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Rural* – ANADER), MIRAH, and Agriculture. Following this, R4P supported three community initiatives to transition away from gold mining in Flabougou (poultry farming), Kafolo (market gardening), and Madina (beekeeping). During the

Preparing beehives in Sanzanou

remainder of the year, R4P supported 66 participants (20 women) with the construction of the community poultry farm in Flabougou. In Kafolo, R4P supported the women's association with developing their market garden where they will plant Akpi, a tropical fruit used in traditional African cuisine, and shea trees, whose fruit can be processed into shea butter, and sold at markets. With the support of ANADER, R4P trained 135 community members in Madina and Sanzanou on apiculture best practices, supported them in appointing men and women to their hive management committees, and provided guidance and follow-up on the installation of 22 hives.

Formalizing Cooperatives of Herders, Women and Young People to Access Government Support (R4P3-2116)

During this year, R4P supported eight groups, including one regional group, in formalizing and developing women, youth, and herding cooperatives, which will allow the groups to gain access to financing and support from the state NGOs.

In Kafolo, Sanzanou, Niamoué, and Tougbo, R4P guided women through the formalization process for their women's cooperatives and trained them on how to manage associations, focusing on leadership and conflict resolution skills. R4P also supported women in forming and selecting members of the executive committee. In Sanzanou, women appointed multiple Fulani women to the executive committee. In Kalamon, the '*Kanworo'* youth cooperative held a ceremony to celebrate official registration.

The Federation of Tougbo women's collectives receives a training.

Finally, herder's cooperatives in Téhini, Kimbirila-Nord, and a regional cooperative for six villages including Naguina, Léléh, Tiefinzo, Konéla, Sanzanou, and Kimbirila-Nord brought together cattle owners and herders from multiple ethnic groups to create a discussion framework and better manage conflict and cases of livestock theft. The herder's cooperatives will also contribute to reducing Fulani herders' isolation and potential vulnerability against VEO recruitment.

Management of NRM Local Mechanisms for Conflict Resolution (R4P3-2117)

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From September to December 2023, R4P provided technical guidance to farmer-herder conflict management committees in four communities.[10] The management of farmer-herder conflicts is a key challenge to NRM, and Fulani herders are often excluded from conflict management mechanisms.

In Kointa, Petit-Nassian, and Niamoué, R4P facilitated the re-establishment of farmer-herder conflict management committees, working with the committee on best practices for daily operations and developing mechanisms to improve inclusivity and encourage participation among Fulani herders and women. After the re-establishment in Petit-Nassian, one participant told R4P:

R4P reconvened the Niamoué farmer-herder conflict management committee

"*Thanks to R4P for everything they do for us, the activity helped us understand that we must be careful. If the committee doesn't work well, it can create conflicts that can benefit extremist groups. Thank you for this training, thank you to the project for the awareness it gives us.*"

In Doropo, R4P organized a workshop with 104 participants (five women, 31 youth) to address the rising herder-farmer conflicts resulting from the influx of refugees into northern Côte d'Ivoire from Burkina Faso. Participants identified four priorities including organizing an activity that fosters collaboration between herders and farmers and training herders and farmers on Ivorian natural resource management regulations.

Local Initiatives for the Participative Management of Protected Areas (R4P3-2118)

Tree planting activity in Sahandala

Research conducted by R4P in Year 2 in areas surrounding the Comoé National Park demonstrated that communities and authorities in charge of protecting these areas experienced frequent conflicts. Unresolved land management conflicts expose communities to VE who seek to exploit the park for illicit activities without fear of retribution from bordering communities.

During Year 3, R4P brought together communities and government authorities for more participative management of protected areas. In Kafolo, Koflandé, Sahandala, 364 participants learned how to use beekeeping both as an IGA and a tool to improve the management of protected areas. In Sahandala and Kafolo, communities participated in awareness raising sessions on the advantages of the parks and reserves, identified activities to promote the preservation and protection of reserves, and planted trees to symbolize

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[10] Kointa, Petit-Nassian, Niamoué, and Doropo

peace, cohesion, and social balance between the communities and park and reserve protection officers.

e) Economic Livelihoods

During Year Three, R4P improved access to economic opportunities for youth and women providing over $47,000 in savings and $32,000 in loans via R4P-supported 17 village and loans associations (VLSAs). R4P also provided 62 people with professional apprenticeships, and through its 19 literacy centers, helped educate 575 students.

Develop Fields for Women's Group's Market Gardening (R4P3-2311)

In Year 2, interviews with women indicated that a lack of secure fencing hindered their interest in market gardening due to the high potential for crop damage. This year, R4P supported women's groups in setting up fields for market gardening, including fencing and providing them with gardening tools. R4P's NRM component advised the selection of beneficiary localities to guarantee long-term project sustainability. Altogether, in December and January, R4P mobilized 917 community members, including 636 women, to install fencing for 10 market gardens in strategically chosen locations.

Women in Koulousson fence the garden

Supporting Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) (R4P3-2313/2314)

This past year, VSLAs mobilized a total of XOF 28,957,400 (about $48,100) in savings and granted XOF 19,695,750 (about $32,700) in loans. This marked a significant progression in providing women and youth with access to financing and the opportunity to develop IGAs.

R4P supported 24 VSLA groups this year, as the first 17 groups successfully completed their initial 12-month cycle in June 2023 and seamlessly transitioned into a new cycle. An additional 17 VSLAs were established and embarked on their inaugural 12-month cycle.

Weekly VSLA meeting in Sahandala

R4P helped group members optimize credit utilization by providing VSLA management tools, methodology execution, and basic entrepreneurship training. Beyond financing IGAs through internal credit systems, VSLAs demonstrably contribute to essential expenses such as children's education and during the 2023-2024 school year more than 50% of loans were used for this purpose. Several solidarity initiatives emerged within VSLA groups, such as in Petit-Nassian where the VSLA group "*La solution*" established a communal cassava farm, fostering collaboration and resource pooling among members. The revenue generated will be

directed towards bolstering the group's financial resources, including the loan and solidarity funds. This, in turn, will enhance their capacity to support members' income-generating activities.

VSLAs also contributed to enhancing social cohesion within their communities, as members from different ethnic groups collaborate and support one another. For instance, the president of the Barro VSLA group in Kong, expressed their satisfaction after receiving their share (148,200 FCFA) from the group's pooled fund disbursement in June. These funds will significantly assist their partner in securing a plot of land.

> *"Thanks to my savings, I can finally sleep soundly. This money would be impossible to obtain during the current off-season."*

Apprenticeship Program for Young People (R4P3-2321)

R4P collaborated with the National Chamber of Trades of Côte d'Ivoire (*Chambre National des Métiers de Côte d'Ivoire* - CNMCI), and the AEJ to organize an apprenticeship program for 62 young people (including 12 women). Local representatives of CNMCI helped select master artisan trainers across 18 trades to supervise trainees.

This program specifically targeted young men who, due to limited opportunities, often resort to potentially dangerous activities like gold panning to earn income.

Motorbike mechanic trainees (in green) with their master artisan.

Figure 2: Distribution of trainees by trade and gender
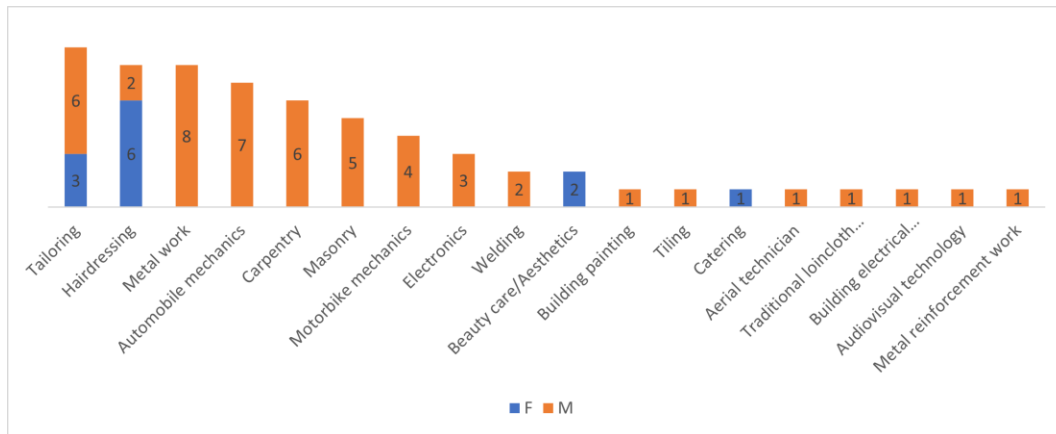
Literacy Centers (R4P3-2341/2342)

Low literacy levels in R4P target areas limit communities' access to information and make them more vulnerable to VEO recruitment. R4P's literacy centers develop student's literacy and numeracy skills. The first cycle with 13 centers in Sokoro, Sanzanou, Téhini, Govitan, Gogo, Doropo, Niamoué, Koflandé, Kong, Kafolo and Sokolo concluded in June 2023.

Out of the 344 students (189 women and 155 men) who enrolled, 228 (136 women and 92 men) successfully completed the first cycle, representing a 66% completion rate. Scheduling conflicts, course completion coinciding with the busy agricultural season, and facilitator absenteeism contributed to learner dropout. Due to increased awareness through literacy classes, mothers from the Fulani community in Doropo decided to enroll seven of their children in formal education.

To support the expansion of literacy centers, R4P conducted training sessions led by literacy advisors from the Primary Education Inspectorate (*Inspection de l'Enseignement Primaire* – IEP) for 30 literacy facilitators, strengthening their pedagogical expertise to better equip them to deliver high quality courses and effectively manage the 19 operational literacy centers. After the success of Cycle 1, R4P launched Cycle 2 to continue education for students who had completed Cycle 1 with 167 advanced students and began a new Cycle 2 with 408 new students (285 women and 123 men). One Cycle 2 student in Téhini shared:

> *"The literacy training has changed my life! Not only have my speaking and writing skills greatly improved, but I have greater self-confidence and note-taking skills for keeping track of my fuel business."*

f) Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

R4P launched its GBV activity component this year, starting off with a GBV situation analysis. R4P began implementing activities and partnered with AFJCI to deliver gender sensitive interventions in the program's target regions.

GBV Kickoff Workshop (R4P3-2411)

In October 2023, EAI and AFJCI organized an internal launching event to introduce the R4P team to the GBV component. This event offered a platform for team members to collaborate, discuss challenges, and explore strategies for integrating GBV prevention into other components. The R4P media team created visuals for the event, and organized media coverage with the Ivorian Press Agency (*Agence Ivoirienne de Presse* – AIP) and partner radio stations.

R4P also organized a capacity-building workshop in Abidjan for 14 participants (11 women) including AFJCI members, legal professionals from Bouna, Kimbirila Nord, and Kong, and R4P staff. During the workshop, participants discussed GBV guidelines in emergency situations, general information about GBV, legal knowledge, and other topics. The workshop also provided training on GBV platforms that legal professionals can use to guide and support survivors. During this workshop, R4P also presented Year 3 studies on the northern region, to raise awareness about the specific challenges faced by that region. In November 2023, R4P's finance manager trained AFJCI on USAID rules and regulations and EAI financial procedures.

GBV Situation Analysis (R4P3-2412)

During this year, the GBV research team met with local groups and leaders to conduct field research to gain a better understanding of how GBV is perceived, and ways to best prevent it and improve access to services for survivors in the Folon region.

The analysis revealed that GBV is a serious and widespread problem in the three R4P regions studied, and it predominately affects women and girls of all ages. One of the biggest concerns is the culture of silence, lack of support/awareness of services, and harmful gender norms. The findings also indicate that post-GBV care services in the three target regions are inadequate and ineffective. Besides the deeply rooted social norms that act as primary barriers to access, the main obstacles to accessing GBV care and support are a lack of funding, a lack of awareness of services, issues of quality of services with potential to do more harm, and some corruption. As a result, many survivors of GBV do not receive the support they need to recover from their experiences and rebuild their lives.

GBV Working Meetings with Local Stakeholders (R4P3-2413)

In January 2024, R4P supported three GBV working meetings, one per region, with local stakeholders. During these initial meetings which were the first step in engaging leaders around GBV issues, R4P presented the objectives of the GBV component. The participants welcomed the project and expressed their willingness to contribute as much as they could. Each meeting brought together 15 stakeholders. In Bouna and Kong, participants were part of various local GBV platforms such as civil society organization members and social workers, and in Kimbirila Nord, participants included community leaders and government agency representatives directly involved in preventing GBV.

Strengthen and engage with local GBV Platforms (R4P3-2414)

In January 2024, R4P organized a series of capacity-building workshops for GBV platforms (28 participants) and community program officers (30 participants). The workshop focused on enabling participants to better understand GBV management principles and empower them to become community leaders in the fight against GBV.

Workshops with R4P Media Ecosystem (R4P3-2415)

This year, the GBV team organized workshops with the program's Media ecosystem to spread awareness of GBV to local communities. In November and December 2023, R4P implemented its 16 days of Activism against GBV awareness campaign where influencers published messages on social media to help reduce vulnerabilities linked to VE. The team also organized roundtables to give communities a space to express their views on issues such as equal opportunities for men and women.

In January, R4P organized a workshop to leverage the R4P media ecosystem to counter GBV through gender-sensitive productions and initiatives. R4P hosted a workshop for the entire media ecosystem for three localities by aligning the training with the media assessment workshop. More

than 50 participants engaged in the GBV awareness-raising training, including representatives of R4P's 13 partner radio stations, 22 influencers, four members of the AIP, two investigative journalists, five program managers, three AFJCI lawyers, and the media team. Refer to Annex 7 for a list of GBV radio broadcasts.

g) Communication and Digital Media

This year, R4P supported 21 journalists through a series of investigative journalism trainings. R4P also produced its first soap opera in Malinké using an innovative approach grounded in local community ownership who produced the recordings with local radio stations. R4P's local media partners (radio and online press) produced 168 media products, nearly 70 percent of which were produced in local languages, generating over 1,900 hours of broadcasting. Finally, R4P's network of social media influencers published 178 posts garnering over 5,800 likes and shares.

Internal workshop on planning tools and media strategies (R4P3-3111)

In April 2023, the R4P media team met in Korhogo to reflect on Year 3 strategies for effective activity implementation. During the workshop, the R4P media and digital communications teams looked back on previous years to develop media reference documents and strategies for strengthening effectiveness. These documents served as a guide for establishing standard models for activities and to guide how activities' content was defined by outlining a set of methodologies and clear timelines.

On-site support to priority partner radio stations for CVE radio productions and community management mechanisms partners (R4P3-3112)

In August 2023, the R4P media team organized a training for six priority radio stations. A total of 80 participants (including 24 women) from partner radio stations, R4P influencers, and Community Action Facilitators (*Animateur d'Action Communautaire* – AAC) strengthened their skills in journalism writing techniques and ethics, producing quality resilience/CVE material (text, editing, story approach), improving their presence on social media, and understanding the technical requirements for both influencers and radio partners. After the training, participants worked together to produce a roundtable production and community videos. The radio stations each produced three roundtables including one on site and two in the communities following a community listening session.

Annual stakeholders' evaluation of R4P media ecosystems (R4P3-3114)

In January 2024, the annual R4P media ecosystem assessment focused on GBV prevention took place in Boundiali, gathering 62 stakeholders. The event highlighted successes, developed action plans, and discussed enhancing the media's role in community resilience against GBV. Challenges encountered during the activity included aligning stakeholders' understanding of GBV and strengthening partnerships.

Participants shared feedback at the end of the session and stressed the importance of improving broadcast quality and coordination among media partners. The involvement of key partners, such

as AIP and Radio Savane, emphasized the media's crucial role in GBV awareness and community resilience. Overall, the event marked a step forward in strategic planning and collaboration to prevent GBV and strengthen community resilience.

Local roundtable radio shows (R4P-3121)

GUM Roundtables

This past year, R4P's regional radio partners, including Radio Kong and Radio Dakan, engaged local communities through roundtables involving GUM representatives, community leaders, and technical officials to discuss the benefits of the GUM and the importance of acquiring vehicle and identity documents. These events allowed for public interaction, with listeners calling in to inquire and offer recommendations live on air. Radio Binkadi showcased its improved technical capabilities, a result of R4P training, by addressing technical issues during these broadcasts and producing radio messages in French and Malinké. These activities culminated in a license plate event covered by Life TV, AIP, and partner radio stations.

Radio Kong hosts roundtable discussion with government representatives

Partner radio stations like Radio Al Bayane and La Voix de la Savane produced various content, including interviews and roundtables, in Youndouo and Ondéfidouo, emphasizing the facilitation of access to administrative services through obtaining vehicle and identity documents. Guests featured a mix of government representatives, civil society members, and local community influencers discussing the topic. A notable roundtable was co-produced by Radio Bouna and La Voix de la Savane in Ondéfidouo, discussing the same theme with local administrative and community leaders. Radios also produced content in multiple languages, including French, Lobiri, and Fulani, broadening the outreach and impact of the initiative.

Distributing research publications (R4P3-312.11)

In November and December 2023, the media team participated in R4P's third Annual Learning Summit in Yamoussoukro. During the ALS, the media team produced four radio programs (Table 8 below), including three on studies that were presented at the summit, and one production with neighboring community members on their community resilience initiatives. This activity enabled R4P researchers who were not present at the ALS to access the presentations.

Table 8: Overview of broadcasts

Date	Theme	Radio
November 29	Dozoya: risks and opportunities for resilience	Radio Binkadi Tengrela
November 29	Dynamics generated by the arrival of displaced persons	Radio Bounkani Fm

November 30	Illegal activities in Folon and risks associated with VE	Radio Binkadi Tengrela
November 30	Community resilience initiatives	Radio Bounkani Fm

Pilot soap opera for radio and social media (R4P3-3122)

Between October and December 2023, R4P produced a soap opera for radio and social media. R4P trained 16 staff, including three women, in the Miguel Sadibo soap opera methodology, focusing on educational entertainment and script adaptation. The casting for local actors was expanded to six locations, involving over 80 youths, leading to the creation of 27 episodes in French, Malinké, and Fulani with local talent.

The casting also spurred interest in literacy classes to improve the reading skills necessary to succeed as an actor. One aspiring actor noted:

Local actors read scripts at the soap opera casting

> *"The fact that I dropped out of school really hurt me today. We had to read scripts for the casting, and I could not do it very well. The trainer recommended literacy classes, and I am going to take them seriously. It is going to be a bit difficult, but I'm going to try."*

In January 2024, 27 episodes were validated by community groups in six areas, marking a successful integration of educational content into entertainment. The episodes will be broadcast by R4P's partner radios in Year Four.

Media coverage and radio broadcasts (R4P3-3123)

In March 2023, R4P reviewed Year Three partnership contracts with 11 local radio partners, addressing previous lessons learned and approving new contracts. Visits to radio stations in Niellé, Togoniéré, and Doropo a few months later identified both challenges and progress. Additional meetings explored partnership opportunities with other radios, like Radio Henri Konan Bédié, due to its broad reach. In June 2023, a monitoring phase showed 11 out of 12 partner stations broadcasted as scheduled, except for Radio Niéllé which experienced technical issues that R4P helped to address.

Producing radio shows and social media content about community resilience (R4P3 - 3124)

Over Year 3, R4P partner local radio stations produced two large-format radio shows. In Kalamon, Radio Al-Bayane produced a report on best practices in conflict management between herders and farmers.

In Sanzanou, Radio Kaniasso produced a report on community resilience around the Mont Manda protected forest. The production event involved 18 participants, including community and religious leaders, representatives of women's market gardening groups, members of the village

forest management committee, members of the bushfire control committee, and two influencers from the Folon region.

Multi-platform advertising campaigns (R4P3-3125)

Supporting NRM activities

In April 2023, the media team, in collaboration with Radio Binkadi and a local influencer, generated greater visibility of R4P NRM activities in Koulousson and Flabougou. The team organized a roundtable in Senoufo for Koulousson on women-led initiatives to enhance agricultural plots. Guests to the roundtable included local leadership and representatives from the sub-prefect of Papara, Ivoire Coton, and the ANADER zone chief.

R4P also covered the signing of a memorandum of understanding that allocated a plot of land to Flabougou's women's group. This event, along with a radio series featuring community stakeholders, underscored the resilience of Flabougou's women against poverty and highlighted the positive impact of market gardening on women in these communities.

Guichet Unique Mobile (GUM)

In March 2023, the R4P media team launched a multimedia campaign to promote upcoming GUM activities, involving radio spots, social media posts, and text messages in various languages across the border region, supported by advertisement posters distributed by community influencers.

From April to June, R4P conducted four multi-platform campaigns to advertise GUMs and NRM activities, utilizing local radio, social media, press releases, and TV segments in collaboration with regional partners and local TV stations, to reach communities in various regions. These campaigns featured radio messages, roundtables, series, reports, and online articles, broadcast in multiple languages with visual aids.

An R4P influencer interviews community member in Flabougou

Overall, R4P produced seven radio spots, five visuals, 17 messages, seven animated visuals, and two posters, effectively promoting GUM activities through diverse media channels and visual aids shared by community influencers.

Developing Media Content for GUM

The R4P media team collaborated with Radio Al Bayane and Radio Bounkani to create various media products to support regional GUMs in Kong, Bouna, and Doropo. In June 2023, Radio Al Bayane produced a series consisting of three roundtables, a radio report, and interviews in French, Malinké, and Koulango, focusing on fiscal responsibility and the benefits of GUMs. Two radio messages were produced in Malinké and French, highlighting the GUMs' advantages with inputs from government and local communities.

Radio Bounkani developed several radio products to complement the GUM activities, including interviews and a studio roundtable featuring a diverse group of participants discussing topics relevant to the region. A total of 14 radio messages were recorded in French, Malinké, Fulani, Lobiri, and Senoufo to raise awareness on helmet safety and the ease of travel facilitated by obtaining identity documents through the GUM.

Media coverage of GUM license plate events

After the completion of each GUM, the R4P multimedia campaign provided coverage of applicants receiving their vehicle license plates in the Bounkani Tchologo, Bagoué, and Folon regions. Obtaining license plates traditionally involved long waits, repeat visits to service providers, and unexplained delays, often more than a year with no satisfactory explanations. Providing license plates within days proved to be a remarkable outcome for GUM participants.

Partner radio stations, including Radio Kong, Radio Dakan, Radio Binkadi, Radio La Voix de la Savane, Radio Bounkani, Radio Téhini and Radio Al Bayane, correspondents from AIP, and television stations including Radio diffusion Télévision Ivoirienne and TV Al Bayane, conducted interviews and featured GUM participants and stakeholders on live broadcasts in Arabic, French, Malinké, and Senoufo. The television broadcasts were also published on the Al Bayane Facebook and YouTube pages.

Internal listening sessions on GUM

The GUM presented an opportunity for local radio stations to produce new formats of radio messages. The media team conducted an internal listening session to review the broadcasts in advance of their release on partner radio station in the Bounkani region and other regional stations aiming to improve support of the GUMs. This activity identified many of the stories highlighting the positive support and mobilization around the GUM.

Amplifying socio-cultural events

To amplify the reach of the Fulani cultural events (activity R4P3-3301), R4P organized a multi-platform campaign in August 2023, to capture and showcase intercultural exchanges. This campaign included radio productions in Malinké and Fulani, social media posts, and follow-up community activities, as seen in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Multi-platform campaign productions

Radio Stations	Productions	Theme
Radio Kaniasso	One Roundtable Three Radio messages One Report One Radio Show	Importance of youth schooling, specifically for young girls
	One Roundtable Three Radio messages One Report One Radio Show	The importance of inter-cultural cohesion
	One Roundtable	Fulani resilience in the Folon region

Tele Al Bayane & Life TV and AIP	Activity coverage	Importance of youth schooling, specifically for young girls The importance of inter-cultural cohesion Fulani resilience in the Folon region
Radio Poro Fm	2- Radio Shows	Importance of youth schooling, specifically for young girls The importance of inter-cultural cohesion Fulani resilience in the Folon region

Community content advisory groups (R4P3-3127)

Resilience in the Fulani community

Over the past year, R4P worked with 17 validation groups to review 40 productions in French,

A community validation group meets to discuss Malinké language content in Sikolo

Malinké, and Lobiri and provide feedback and suggestions before broadcasting. The productions included roundtables and radio magazines related to resilience in the Fulani community, schooling for girls, the advantages of inter-ethnic alliances, and other important topics.

In February 2023, R4P organized three community content advisory group listening and validation sessions in Tengrela on the theme of "Promoting culture as a means of integration," with a focus on the Fulani community. In Flabougou, the listening and validation session exclusively included men and women from the Fulani community.

Post-election assessments

In November 2023, community validation groups reviewed radio productions relating to post-election assessments. The groups reviewed and validated a total of five productions (in the form of round tables and radio magazines) including two in Malinké, one Lobiri, one Koulango, and one French.

ALS research

In December 2023, community validation groups held listening sessions for the four R4P research studies presented and discussed during the ALS before validating them.

Revitalize content advisory groups (R4P3-3128)

This past year, R4P convened a meeting in Korhogo with consultants to discuss the relaunch of community validation groups. In June 2023, the session covered the project's structure, target localities, and existing validation groups. Following the meeting, consultants visited specific

localities, establishing or aiding in the creation of five validation groups in various regional languages plus French under R4P media team supervision.

Consultants formed selection committees in each locality to choose members for these groups, facilitating community validation of the GUM campaign media products. In July, R4P and consultants worked on refining these groups which allow community input on radio productions before broadcasting. The restructuring included forming a management committee, splitting a mixed-language group into separate Senoufo and French groups, and holding a capacity-building session on community validation tools.

Emergency multimedia campaigns (R4P3-3129)

Between July and September 2023, R4P launched two emergency multimedia campaigns.

The first campaign was in response to tensions in Tengrela following an incident in July. The campaign featured broadcasts in Malinké, Sénoufo, and French to counteract misinformation, with contributions from community leaders. These were aired on Radio Binkadi after approval by validation groups. The second campaign, held in August, focused on emphasizing the importance of peaceful elections, with R4P influencers spreading messages via partner radio stations and social media.

In October 2023, following the emergency broadcasts for peaceful elections, R4P organized two roundtable broadcasts to evaluate the elections' impact on social cohesion. The discussions included the role of women and peace leaders' post-election and a review of local elections, expectations, and maintaining social cohesion, featuring content from Radio Bounkani, La Voix de la Savane, and Radio Kaniasso FM.

Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Reconciliation congratulated R4P on its awareness-raising initiatives during the electoral and post-electoral period:

> *"We saw your messages on the internet while monitoring social media to identify organizations or actors who had contributed to raising awareness for peaceful elections. We were very impressed by your approach."*

Investigative journalism training (R4P3-3211)

This past year, EAI conducted a training session for 21 journalists, including four women, on investigative journalism within the context of CVE. This training enhanced their understanding and skills in investigative journalism, focusing on how it can contribute to CVE and building community resilience. The session was enriched by the R4P Action Research Unit (ARU) through a roundtable discussion on Côte d'Ivoire's security context and best journalistic practices related to VE.

Journalists undertook field investigations in October 2023, gathering data and establishing contacts. The trainers supported this process through five follow-up calls to discuss progress and offer feedback to improve content quality. In December 2023, journalists participating in the final

hands-on investigative journalism practice consolidated data collected and began fact checking the information. The research highlighted topics about border dynamics, CVE, and the porosity of northern borders. Some of the practice groups shared their findings on border dynamics in the Tengrela department online with researchers.

A second phase of training was held in January 2024 in Boundiali for 21 participants, advancing their skills in investigative journalism. This phase combined theory and practice, emphasizing the solution journalism approach aligned with community resilience. It also facilitated stronger connections between investigative journalists and R4P researchers, with insights provided by INDIGO CI and the Chaire UNESCO experts.

Publication of investigative journalism productions (R4P3-3212)

In February 2024, R4P hosted community listening sessions to validate the radio programs produced by investigative journalists. The content was validated by a committee composed of trainers, representatives from the investigative teams, and R4P team members. Participants provided comments and guidance on the content and form of the presented radio programs during the listening sessions. Validators ensured that programs complied with the ethics of investigative journalism and Do No Harm principles.

Investigative journalists share experiences with researchers.

Socio-cultural exchanges (R4P3-3301) -Global Fragility Act (GFA)

In August 2023, EAI, in partnership with Aube Nouvelle, conducted cultural activities in Konela and Kimbirila Nord to highlight Fulani communities and foster social cohesion. Discussions led by R4P emphasized the value of education for girls and inter-community cooperation.

Discussions with Kimbirila Nord women led to re-enrollment in literacy programs and additional conversations with the President of Empowered Women, a Hope for Tomorrow, and six Fulani women addressed challenges in education, health, and empowerment, sparking interest in literacy classes. In Konela, activities included participatory theater, film screenings, a mobile library, and children's activities, addressing integration, inter-ethnic collaboration, and education, drawing 183 participants, including 100 youth. The mobile library activity attracted 139 youth. The community also organized clean-up initiatives. The events concluded with storytelling and shared meals, underscoring the importance of living in harmony. One youth participant explained:

> *"I thought it was very important to show our parents why they should send their children to school, especially young girls… Through this awareness campaign, I think the parents understood. By the applause, I think they understood."*

From October to November 2023, R4P facilitated socio-cultural exchanges in Flabougou, Govitan, Sokolo, and Doropo, attracting hundreds and focusing on education, income diversification, peacekeeping, and good governance. These activities included mobile libraries, theater, sports,

culinary exchanges, and health center clean-ups. In Doropo, the focus was on women's role in peacekeeping, while Sokolo emphasized intra-community dialogue. R4P also produced radio content to discuss Fulani dynamics, complemented by roundtable discussions on various themes, enhancing community engagement and awareness.

Leveraging the R4P Community Influencer Network (R4P3-3411; 3421; 3422)

Beginning in March 2023, R4P streamlined its influencer network from 150 to 63 active members, including project ambassadors to bolster community resilience initiatives. Throughout the year, the network actively promoted R4P's goals through consistent social media engagement, focusing on amplifying resilience activities within communities.

In March 2023, the R4P media team held coordination meetings with all influencers to highlight internal changes to the media team, R4P's new approach to working with influencers, and receive feedback from influencers. The media team also held a meeting with the national R4P influencers to review Year 2 results.

Throughout April to June, R4P organized meetings with regional influencer networks to discuss restructuring and reorganization efforts, aiming to enhance the network's impact and reach. These efforts included electing influencer coordinators in targeted regions to improve collaboration and counter misinformation effectively.

R4P influencers and ambassadors actively participated in a communication campaign by creating and sharing various forms of media content, such as videos, infographics, and live broadcasts, particularly focusing on the GUMs initiative in the Bounkani region. This content spanned across platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and WhatsApp, including 37 visual graphics, ten animations, and three videos in French.

In June 2023, influencers also highlighted activities aimed at protecting wildlife reserves, showcasing the community's engagement in NRM. Later that month, in Kong, R4P facilitated a discussion with the local media ecosystem and community members about land transfer to women in Kafolo to bolster local community resilience. This event underscored the importance of community feedback in R4P's initiatives.

From July to September 2023, the influencer network focused on countering fake news and hate speech through social media, supporting R4P activities, and fostering better collaboration. They produced multiple roundtable discussions on various topics and shared content across different platforms to promote R4P initiatives and events.

In August 2023, R4P influencers attended training sessions organized by EAI for priority radios (activity 3112). Following these sessions, R4P brought influencers together for an additional capacity-building training session on digital advocacy and understanding best uses for social media and specific social media platforms, testing new video and video editing software, creating new content, and learning how to better report on an event or story. To support this effort, the R4P media team provided the influencers in all six border regions with new materials for content production, including cell phones, power banks, and tripods.

*Facebook posts for Africa Cup of Nations Action
Campaign to counter fake news*

h) Research and Learning

During Year 3, R4P's research team produced four new studies on VE dynamics and community resilience in northern border communities. The development of a VE resilience index was launched in close collaboration with key government actors like the CNS, the FDS, and the national coordination of intelligence. Finally, to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, R4P conducted outcome harvesting and collected 93 outcomes across all regions and components and furthering the program's ability to document impact.

Continuous Action Research on VE Dynamics (R4P3-1111)

Building on research from Year 2, R4P produced four in-depth analyses to inform program activities. These analyses delved into community resilience dynamics around the Dozos in the Folon region, the rise of refugees arriving in the Bounkani and Tchologo regions from Burkina Faso, the Fulani communities in northern Côte d'Ivoire, VE related dynamics of risks and opportunities related to refugees, and the transborder early warning and rapid response network.

Dozo participants during focus group in Sokoro

Rapid Gap Analyses (R4P3-1112)

Over the past year, R4P conducted research on and produced situational analyses related to conflict mitigation, governance, and resilience on identified information gaps. The two issues researched were the challenges and opportunities of Kong's CPD, and an analysis of internal and external dynamics likely to impact the functioning of the Mixed Committee for Cohesion and Peace (*Comité mixte de cohesion et paix* – CMCP) in Kimbirila-Nord. With the deeper knowledge and

understanding of critical local issues stemming from these rapid issue analyses, R4P improved program activities to align with the findings.

Violent Extremism Index Pilot (R4P3-1113)

This year, R4P began developing the VE Index alongside partners Indigo Côte d'Ivoire and The Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD) who collaborated to prepare research tools for data collection, including questionnaires for focus groups and interviews, as well as a data collection matrix.

Using the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE),[11] EAI completed data collection in the Minignan, Tengrela, and Téhini departments with 2,000 community members responding to the questionnaire which examined attitudes and behaviors related to CVE.

R4P and its implementing partners also developed a steering committee comprised of representatives from USAID and Ivorian government partners. During meetings with the steering committee and implementing partners, participants discussed strategies for enhancing the analysis of data collection outcomes, which will be available to institutions and stakeholders to better inform and guide the actions by the government and international partners in strengthening community resilience.

Research on community resilience and VE dynamics (R4P3-1114;1117)

During Year 3, R4P's research team completed four studies focused on increasing understanding around community resilience and VE dynamics in northern Côte d'Ivoire.

Study on VE Dynamics and the Fulani Community (R4P3-1114)

This study identifies the need for an appropriate political response to the statelessness of younger Fulani born in Côte d'Ivoire, representation that transcends internal tensions, and policies that consider the cleavages within the Fulani community. It emphasizes the importance of understanding the complexities and nuances of intercommunity relations and avoiding stigmatization and demonizing discourse. The report concludes that promoting peaceful coexistence requires a social effort to dissolve negative stereotypes and facilitate communal understanding. R4P organized a webinar in November 2023 to present these findings.

Study on illicit transborder activities in Folon Region (R4P3-1115)

Findings from the study revealed that the Folon region still bears the scars of the decade-long political and military crisis. Several illegal activities, mostly linked to the management of natural resources, are still active, especially as the region borders Mali and Guinea. The study also revealed that, while some activities are clearly linked to VE, others may be linked to VEO financing. The

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[11] The SCORE is a proven and tested methodology that has had results improving the design, management, and results orientation of peace processes in its organic form as a vehicle for improving people's lives and as a tool for using evidence to measure the impact of policy and program interventions.

report is in the finalization and formatting process for publication in Year 4. In February 2024, R4P organized a webinar to present this study.

Study on risk and opportunities of Dozo groups as related to community resilience against VE (R4P3-1116)

The study demonstrated that, while the Dozo do not hold any official role, they are embedded in local security governance, and authorities (including FDS) work closely with them. Dozos are trusted by some groups and perceived as competent to resolve security-related issues based on their local knowledge. However, there are risks related to their participation in security and justice mechanisms, as they do not operate within any legal framework. There have also been allegations of biases toward certain groups such as the Fulani, and human rights abuses allegations related to handling crime suspects. The research highlighted the deadlock whereby dozos do play a key role in security and are needed, but do not and cannot hold any legitimate role within the government. The research was presented at the ALS, through a radio production, and via a webinar.

Assessment of the impact of reopening of borders (R4P3-1117)

The study concluded that, despite the reopening of borders, communities in Doropo, Ouangolodougou, and Tengrela perpetuated habits developed during the border closure including using bypass roads, traveling across borders on motorcycles, and relying on domestic food supplies. Furthermore, informal economy mechanisms and smuggling networks became increasingly more commonplace despite the border opening due to the increased number of FDS checkpoints that are often accused of racketeering. The study also concluded that communities' trust and confidence in administrative and FDS authorities has not changed since the border reopened.

Fulani Youth Assessment (R4P3-1118)

The Fulani Youth Assessment study will be conducted in Year Four.

Publishing of Research Findings, and Policy Recommendations (R4P3-1231)

Research findings and policy recommendations from Year 3 were shared under the Research[12] tab of our website for open access. In addition to the above research studies, R4P disseminated a two-page learning brief on the Early Warning Signals of Violent Extremism in the Northern Border Regions of Côte d'Ivoire. Recordings of webinars (as detailed in R4P3-1232) were made available to the public via the Resilience for Peace YouTube[13] page.

Webinars about R4P Research and Recommendations (R4P3-1232)

As a part of the dissemination of research findings, R4P organized six webinars during this year. The interactive sessions, held in French with English interpretation, presented research and

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[12] https://www.equalaccess.org/r4p-research-r4p/
[13] https://www.youtube.com/@resiliencepourlapaix3551

findings followed by an engaging discussion moderated by the R4P's coordinator for Research-Action, Learning and Reporting.

The webinar on links between VE and illicit activities in the Folon region attracted 116 participants, including representatives from 25 international institutions and governmental organizations, research centers, R4P project partners, and educational establishments.

Webinar Topics Included:

- Artisanal and Illegal Gold Mining in the Norther Border Areas of Côte d'Ivoire.[14]
- Early Signs of Violent Extremism in Côte d'Ivoire's Northern Border Area.
- Effects of Violent Extremism in the Comoé National Park.[15]
- Dynamics of the Fulani community in Northern Côte d'Ivoire.[16]
- Dynamics related to the traditional hunters (Dozo) in Côte d'Ivoire.[17]
- Understanding the links between violent extremism and illicit activities in the Folon region of Côte d'Ivoire.[18]

Fellowship for Graduate Students (R4P3-1233)

The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the Université Alassane Ouattara de Bouaké (CUBUAO) concluded its third year of collaboration with R4P. This collaboration enhanced upstream understanding of the VE and provided valuable research results for policymaking to counter and prevent VE. While acknowledging the need for further development in the training and supervision of R4P students, the CUBUAO team highlighted achievements in students' understanding of violent extremism, research skills, report writing, response to calls for papers, and public speaking capabilities, which could lead to successful doctoral thesis defenses.

Promotion of a CVE Researchers Network (R4P3-1234)

This year, two key activities were planned for R4P's research network: a training seminar on responding to consultancy tenders and a conference on illicit economies in northeastern Côte d'Ivoire. The seminar, led by Professor Francis Akindès, successfully attracted 94 participants online, highlighting significant interest. However, the conference scheduled for November 16,

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[14] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEq0bz1_ih8
[15] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DX2gVV2aZ-s&list=PLDRIi3xyWgilvoqtaK5-anymUAK3KZD3q&index=5
[16] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fu94hYSsXuI&list=PLDRIi3xyWgilvoqtaK5-anymUAK3KZD3q&index=6
[17] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuPlNYOL0gQ&list=PLDRIi3xyWgilvoqtaK5-anymUAK3KZD3q&index=7
[18] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuPlNYOL0gQ&list=PLDRIi3xyWgilvoqtaK5-anymUAK3KZD3q&index=7

2023, was canceled due to the speaker's health issues. Consequently, only one of the two planned activities was completed. Despite these setbacks, the network held a third learning summit in Yamoussoukro to reassess and focus on concrete activities like conferences and seminars. Despite mixed outcomes in its first year, the network is seen as a vital initiative for addressing violent extremism in Côte d'Ivoire and the wider region, with potential to influence public policy against violent extremism through effective strategy implementation.

Annual Learning Summit (R4P3-1311)

In November and December 2023, the R4P research team hosted the ALS in Yamoussoukro gathering approximately 150 participants. This year, the ALS benefitted from the support of the International Organization on Migration (IOM) through the "*Promoting cross-border cooperation for crisis prevention and strengthening state structures to establish or ensure stability in fragile border areas*," project financed by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO). This enabled the participation of senior military, police, and defense officials.

Various national and international partners took part in the ALS including participants from the Folon, Bagoué, Tchologo, and Bounkani regions, as well as international organizations such the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Promediation, Coastal States Stability Mechanism (CSSM), Acting for Life, Littorals Regional Initiative (LRI), International Rescue Committee (IRC), and SeeD. Members of national organizations, administrative and traditional authorities, as well as diplomatic mission representing the United Kingdom, United States of America, and Germany also participated in the event.

The primary objective of the ALS was to update the program's current understanding of the resilience dynamics against VE in northern Côte d'Ivoire, and to identify research and action priorities for stakeholders. To this end, participants discussed context challenges, identified entry points, and developed concrete actions the program could take.

One of the event's key themes was to explore the relationship between the Fulani community and the Ivoirian state since this was the first-time members from Northern communities, particularly members of the Fulani community, interacted directly with government and security forces representatives.

On day one, a senior police official described his fear and distrust of the Fulani community, stating "they must be watched closely." At the end of the third day, participants were asked about their biggest takeaway from the event. The official recognized that his department had indeed stigmatized Fulani community members and shared his takeaway via an apology and an emotional hug with a Fulani leader. This highlighted the impact

Participants at the ALS

of bringing together diverse stakeholders as it helped citizens voice their opinions, and the government gain a deeper understanding of what local populations experience.

Local Stakeholder Workshops (R4P3-1312)

In December 2023, R4P's research team organized six workshops, one in each of the programs' five border regions, with the aim of consulting project stakeholders to inform the Year 4 workplan and strategy. During the workshops, participants shared their views on three topics: the assessment of the Year 3 results, the Year 4 workplan, and findings from the studies presented at the ALS. Over 200 participants including members of the prefectural authorities, customary authorities, community leaders, R4P ecosystem members (community action facilitators, radio stations, NRM working group etc.), agents from decentralized State services and NGOs involved in CVE activities took part in the workshops.

Annual Pause and Reflect CLA Workshop (R4P3-1313)

In February 2024, R4P convened all staff, partners and USAID to the 3rd annual Pause and Reflect workshop in Assinie. The workshop provided an opportunity for R4P staff and partners to reflect on the previous year and share successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

Over the course of three days, participants identified in separate groups necessary adaptations to current strategies and envisioned the post-project legacy. For example, staff suggested adaptations under the NRM component to facilitate the temporary integration of refugees into existing GACs. The workshop also provided an opportunity to review and address survey responses from beneficiaries and stakeholders (below activity R4P3-1317).

Local Coordination on CVE-related Programs by International and Government Stakeholders (R4P3-1315)

In December 2023, the media team organized a meeting between the R4P media ecosystem in Bouna and COGINTA[19] to discuss the possibility of producing broadcasts promoting social cohesion and interactive content. The collaboration involved six local radio stations, which worked together to establish production frameworks and identify topics for future programs with stakeholders from various sectors, including SECUNORD[20] and local governance. This partnership resulted in an agreement to create eight community-focused productions, which will leverage influencers and advisory groups to enhance violence prevention and social cohesion efforts.

Outcome Harvesting (R4P3-1316)

In November 2023, R4P organized a two-week evaluation in the program's five regions to collect data on the project's outcomes. The team interviewed change agents and people directly influenced

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[19] Headquartered in Geneva, COGINTA supports governments to strengthen their approaches to violence and encourages social cohesion.
[20] A European Union-funded project supporting security and preventing terrorist risks in northern Côte d'Ivoire.

by project activities to identify and document effects on the target goals. A total of 93 outcomes were identified and documented. The team then identified gaps and shared recommendations to enhance the impact of the outcomes for Year 4.

SMS Surveys for R4P Stakeholders and Participants (R4P3-1317)

In Year 3, 510 stakeholders and participants responded to 6 different SMS surveys to give their feedback on key activities like the ALS and the GUM. The survey revealed a need to further involve the media component in GBV prevention activities to better inform the public about the issue and the legal avenues for recourse, as well as victim support. For the research component, respondents highlighted limited dissemination of research findings at the community level.
The R4P team developed and presented recommendations for Year 4 during the Pause and Reflect workshop based on identified needs and key takeaways from the survey results.

Restitution Workshops for Selected Studies (R4P3-1321)

In March and September 2023, R4P organized two restitution workshops with CNFCI. R4P shared the results of the study on illegal gold mining in northern Côte d'Ivoire, creating a discussion space to bring together national institutional actors involved in the gold panning sector. R4P also presented findings from the research on the Early Signs of Violent Extremism and facilitated a discussion about the changing dynamics surrounding the arrival of refugees at the northern border.

i) Next Steps

In Year 4, the Resilience for Peace project will continue to strengthen community resilience while ensuring existing mechanisms and processes are sustainable beyond the project's life. The Dutch-funded ICE project will contribute to R4P's Objective 2 and 3 through mapping of CCM-related stakeholders and interventions, stakeholder coordination meetings, online mapping of departmental and decentralized CCMs, developing Early Warning Early Response Mechanism, and other social cohesion activities.

Under the research component, R4P will continue to conduct studies on the dynamics at play in the R4P project's intervention regions to get a nuanced understanding of the vulnerabilities and resilience capacities in communities. The following four studies will be conducted:

- Study on VE as a risk factor for GBV
- Study on transborder cattle theft dynamics
- Exploring the border communities' reluctance toward State-sponsored social services
- Study on local population and FDS interactions at road checkpoints

To ensure that studies and policy recommendations are taken up by relevant local or national stakeholders and included into their strategies and actions, R4P will facilitate targeted restitution workshops at the national and regional[21] levels with government stakeholders to facilitate understanding, buy-in, and reflection about existing practices.

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[21] Folon and Bagoué, and in Bounkani and/or Tchologo

The NRM component will continue to facilitate access to land and encourage innovative farming initiatives for youth and women through market gardening (i.e. Agouti or snail farming). EAI will also support them in seeking partnerships with business stakeholders to sell their products. R4P will continue to support 31 VSLAs which allow members to mobilize savings, finance activities, and help with other financial needs reducing their vulnerability to VE and other threats.

R4P will continue to strengthen inclusive and responsive governance through improved service delivery for all. EAI will facilitate GUM tours in all R4P regions and organize awareness-raising campaigns throughout the year to inform communities (primarily Fulani youth, women, and S/GBV survivors) about One Stop Mobile Clinics.

With GFA funding, R4P will support the formalization of herders and farmers cooperatives led by Fulani youth and women and other minority groups to improve their access to government programs and support. EAI and NRM working groups will continue supporting the set up and/or management of cattle parks. Cattle parks have proven to be efficient community initiatives that bring diverse groups together, strengthening intra and inter-communal collaboration and relationships. EAI will also continue supporting Fulani initiatives that help further integrate Fulani communities with other communities or help build trust with administrative authorities (including the FDS). Still under to equip them with self-confidence, self-advocacy, public speaking, and negotiation skills to strengthen their livelihood activities.

Still with GFA funding, EAI will pilot[22] a leadership training for women and youth groups to equip them with self-confidence, self-advocacy, public speaking, and negotiation skills to strengthen their livelihood activities. If successful, this training will be scaled up to other R4P localities.

Under the GBV prevention and response component, EAI will strengthen S/GBV survivors' access to legal, medical, and psychosocial services by engaging community, local organizations, and local government entities through awareness-raising campaigns and trainings focused on survivor-centered approaches.

To address harmful gender norms and certain conceptions of masculinities, EAI will pilot a positive masculinity curriculum in Bouna with R4P staff and key target groups to be identified in collaboration with the community. The curriculum will be extended to other regions in Year 5 using lessons learned from this pilot.

EAI will continue to work with thirteen partner radio stations to bring greater visibility to R4P activities, generate content on community resilience, and gather feedback from the community. The content will include audio and video formats, and short radio messages in local languages with attention to gender and youth to enhance positive narratives against VE. Video documentaries will be used to capture positive narratives collected during activities in various communities.

Particular attention will be given to Fulani radio productions to reduce marginalization and stigmatization of the Fulani community. EAI will also donate solar radios to the Fulani community that connect directly to R4P radio stations.

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[22] The activity will be piloted in the following localities: Sanzanou, Madina, Kimbirila-Nord, Flabougou, Koulousson, Débété, Sahandala, Sikolo, Kafolo.