

Côte d'Ivoire Program Summary – February 2006

Access to basic services in Côte d'Ivoire has continually deteriorated since the conflict began in 2002, particularly in the northern and western regions. Services are unavailable or unaffordable due to the lack of service providers and infrastructure as well as a declining economic environment that has led to increased poverty, resulting in acute needs in the areas of water and sanitation, health, and food security. Since 2003, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5 million to support the provision of humanitarian assistance in Côte d'Ivoire. In FY 2005, USAID/OFDA contributed more than \$2 million in programs to address humanitarian needs in the country and provided an additional \$626,250 for regional projects. USAID/OFDA's Principal Regional Advisor for West and North Africa regularly visits Abidjan, most recently in January following the violence against humanitarian organizations in Guiglo.

WATER AND SANITATION

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), an estimated 60 percent of the population lacks access to safe water and more than 54 percent of the population does not have adequate sanitation systems. With a \$500,000 grant from USAID/OFDA, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is repairing water pumps and installing latrines in 255 villages in the region around Man. IRC is also forming water and hygiene committees for pump maintenance and hygiene promotion. USAID/OFDA also provided \$397,000 to Action Contre La Faim (ACF) to implement similar water pump repairs for more than 200 villages in Korhogo Department in the north.

HEALTH

The provision of basic social services is very low and continues to be a major issue of concern. Access to healthcare has significantly decreased, especially in the north and west, during the three years of conflict. The U.N. World Health Organization reports that the majority of medical personnel have relocated, fled, or are unable to go to work due to insecurity, making the goal of creating self-sufficiency in meeting basic healthcare difficult. With a grant of \$363,000 from USAID/OFDA, Save the Children/UK (SC/UK) operated mobile health clinics in the area west and south of Guiglo to provide vaccinations, pre-natal care, mother-child health, and general primary care, serving up to 60 patients per day. Unfortunately, SC/UK's office and equipment were destroyed during the violence in Guiglo on January 17, 2006, and SC/UK's staff evacuated, halting implementation of the grant.

FOOD SECURITY

Continued political instability has seriously affected food security in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly in the west. USAID/OFDA has provided \$400,000 to the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to assist more than 11,000 households with seeds, tools, and fertilizer and is working with local farm groups to produce and multiply quality seeds. USAID/OFDA has also provided \$200,000 to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to help establish a food security surveillance mechanism to assist in tracking food security countrywide. WFP provides food aid to approximately 700,000 people in Côte d'Ivoire. However, following the recent violence in Guiglo, WFP has stopped operations.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

To help meet the needs of the more than 500,000 people internally displaced in Côte d'Ivoire, USAID/OFDA has provided \$178,090 to OCHA to support an IDP and protection advisor, who has spearheaded the creation of a protection network composed of U.N. agencies, NGOs, the U.N. Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as an observer. The protection network aims to establish a mechanism to enable U.N. agencies and international organizations to respond more systematically and coherently to the protection needs of IDPs and vulnerable Ivoirians against violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.