

Infrastructure for Peace project – PID 00062326
“Appui à la consolidation d’une infrastructure de paix au Togo”
Annual Report 2015

Introduction

More than six months after the election, the political environment is rather calm. The opposition parties that have participated in the 2015 electoral process are quiet absent from the political scene. Even the opposition leader, Jean-Pierre Fabre, has resumed his duty as MP at the National Assembly. However a number of issues remained. The constitutional and institutional reforms have not been addressed before the election and might come back on the table when it is time for the local and/or legislatives elections. By late 2014, President Faure Gnassingbe has appointed members of the High Commission for Reconciliation and Reconstruction of National Unity (HCRRUN), which will be responsible for implementing the Justice, Truth and Reconciliation commission’s recommendations. Ms. Awa Nana Dabouya, a former African Union judge is presiding the HCRRUN.

Overall, the political process remains fragile and could be easily undone if not addressed through comprehensive actions aiming at strengthening national capacity for prevention and mediation of conflict and the establishment of a sustained infrastructure for peace. Until now, insider mediation and negotiation capacities developed mostly with UNDP’s support remained limited because of mistrust among stakeholders. The CO has recently engaged in national consultations on building peace infrastructure to improve political communication between stakeholders, which is for now limited to verbal arguments rather that constructive problem-solving scheme. This includes the media also, which remains divided, highly politicized and unable to play the neutral objective role of diffusing tensions among political and social actors. The recent events in Mango is a testimony of how fragile the situation remains and gives much sense to the EU/UN and infrastructure for peace initiatives.

1. Infrastructure for Peace project: “Appui à la consolidation d’une infrastructure de paix au Togo)

The infrastructure for Peace project has been developed in 2014 given the fact that the country's capacity to prevent, respond to crises and dialogue are relatively low at all levels. To the that regard the CO’s CPAP (Country Programme Action Plan) 2014-2018 has chosen to strengthen the resilience to conflicts of Togo by supporting the development and implementation of a strategic approach to establishing a sustainable infrastructure for peace (I4P). The I4P project is based on conflict prevention initiatives already carried out which resulted in the 2013 legislatives elections and on ongoing programs and projects. UNDP intends to maintain this momentum with the I4P project which aims at building on realized progress and supporting the establishment of an effective peace infrastructure in Togo. The project revolves around the following: a/ support the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CVJR); b/ provide the country with capacity for early warning mechanisms and conflict prevention and insider mediators national; c/develop a strategic framework for a gender-sensitive peace infrastructure. The I4P project has been signed in March 2014 between the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, the Ministry of Human Rights and UNDP. The overall budget for a 2-year (2014-2016) duration is 3M\$US to which, BPPS, EU/UN and UNDP are contributing. However, implementation has started in late 2014 and will result on a prolongation of the project probably until end of 2017. The I4P project has started in late 2014 with activities aiming at preventing electoral conflicts, as 2015 would be an electoral year and given that, elections in the country has a history of electoral violence.

2. Activities for 2015

Implementation of planned activities has started in November 2015 given the fact that the political situation was marked by the presidential election, which was held on April 25, 2015. The new Prime Minister and his government took office in June 2015 and Annual Work plans have been signed in July 2015 while funds for the EU/UN project have been effectively received in August 2015. During the months of November and December 2015, four main activities have been conducted:

- i/ hosting of national consultations on building peace infrastructure;
- ii/ training sessions on capacity building in conflict prevention, mediation, communication and leadership;
- iii/ training session on media and conflict prevention;
- iv/ capacity building of women organizations on prevention, management, processing and mediation of conflicts and sustainability of peace infrastructure.

i/ National consultations on building peace infrastructure

The CO has rolled out its activities by hosting national consultations on building infrastructure for peace. The national consultations targeted government officials, independent institutions, MPs and political parties. The CO has relied on University structures, civil society organizations and foundations to carry out the consultations under the guidance of an international consultant hired on a short-term basis. National consultation workshops and awareness campaign to build a sustainable infrastructure for peace have been held in the 7 major cities of the country (Lomé, Kpalimé, Tsévié, Atakpamé, Sokodé, Kara and Dapaong) in early November to mid-December 2015. The Center for Public Law of the University of Lomé was responsible for conducting the national consultations. The overall objectives of the exercise were to:

- Raise awareness and discuss with all concerned citizens about the process of national reconciliation and peace in order to create conditions for establishing an inclusive framework for dialogue and cooperation thus playing a mediating role in prevention and early warning systems;
- Putting actors and beneficiaries at the same level of information infrastructure sustainable peace in Togo;
- Collect opinions, approaches and recommendations of the population on the infrastructure of peace for better orientation;
- Encourage ownership and Togolese participation in building the architecture of the peace process.

Table 1.
Number and repartition of participants
in the national consultations

Cities	Number
Dapaong	67
Kara	70
Sokodé	67
Atakpamé	63
Tsévié	61
Kpalimé	61
Lomé	101
Total	490

490 people participated in the 7 workshops all over the country. The Center for Public Law of the

University of Lomé has conducted a survey to determine the participants' perception on the workshops. The following tables inform on some statistics collected via surveys.

Table 2.
Repartition of surveyed participants
by venue

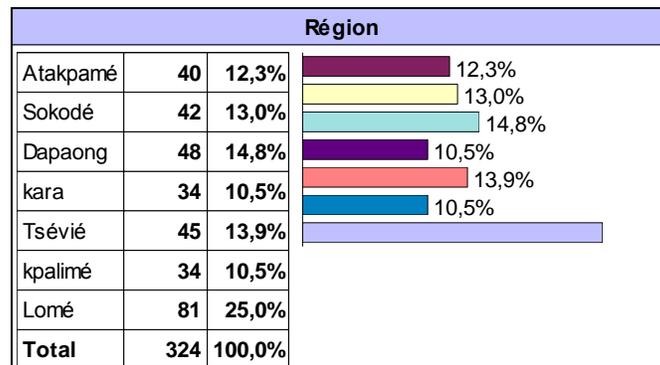


Table 3
Repartition of surveyed participants
by sex

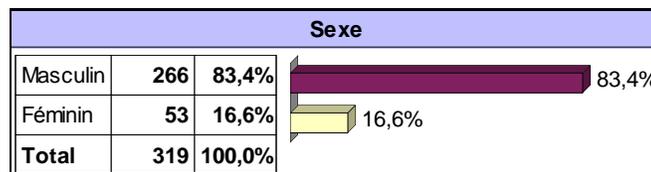


Table 4.
Repartition of surveyed participants
by age

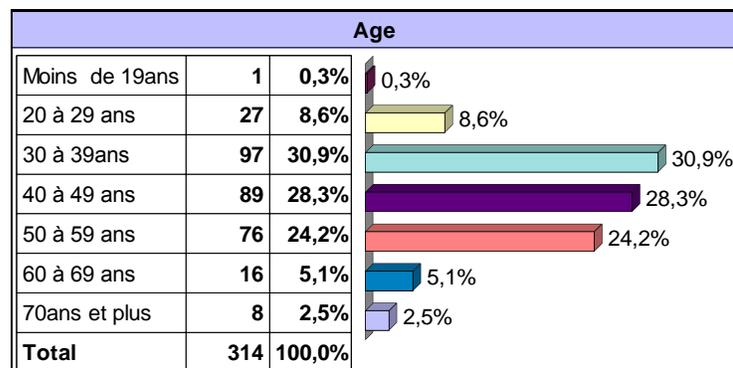


Table 5.
Repartition of surveyed participants
by level of education

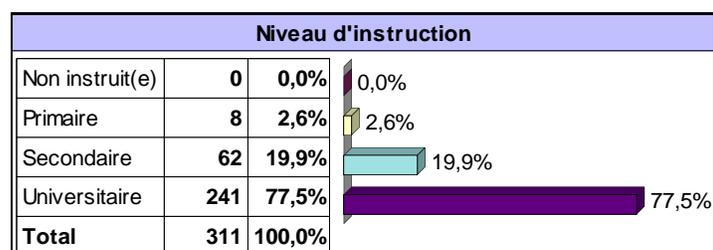


Tableau 6.
Perception of role of women
in peace infrastructure

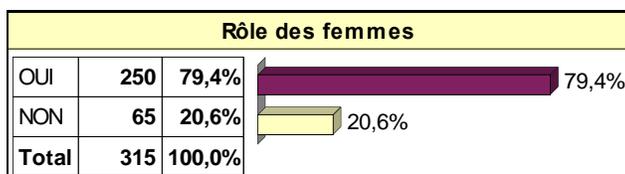
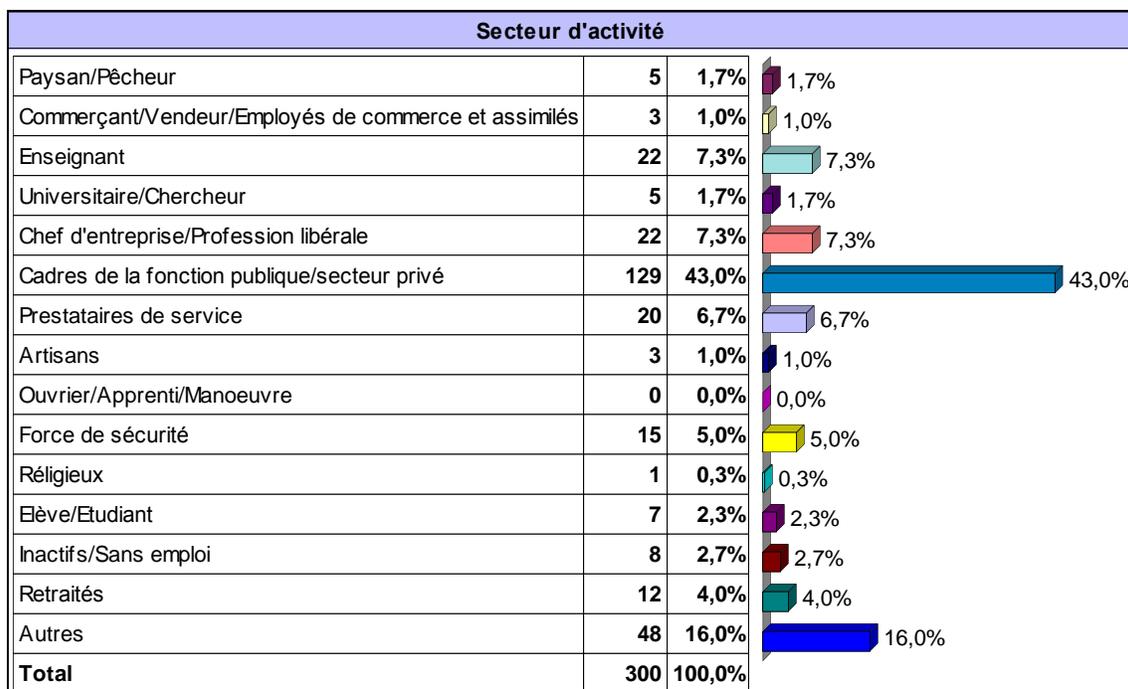


Table 7.
Repartition of surveyed participants
by socioeconomic sector



The first phase of the national consultations has been well received by all participants. Attendees are cognizant of conflict prevention and mediation. 80% of participants think that women's role in infrastructure for peace are very relevant. Topics developed are very comprehensive as shown in table below.

Table 8.
Workshops Topic discussed during the national consultations

Topic	Lecturer	Institution
I4P and EU/UN Project	Prof. Dodzi Kokoroko	Center for Public Law, University of Lomé
Assessment of Reconciliation process	M. Wella Mazamesso	Center for Public Law, University of Lomé
Challenges of Peace Consolidation In Togo	M. Kossi Kalipe	Center for Public Law, University of Lomé
Gender and Peace Consolidation	Mr. Kodjo Junior	Center for Public Law, University of Lomé

Date	City
2 – 3 November 2015	Kara
5 - 6 November 2015	Sokodé
9 – 10 November 2015	Atakpamé
12 – 13 November 2015	Tsévié
16 – 17 November 2015	Kpalimé

ii/ Training on capacity building in conflict prevention, mediation, communication and leadership

The training sessions on capacity building in conflict prevention, mediation, communication and leadership were geared towards religious and local leaders, the media, civil society and security forces. The sessions were held from 16 to 25 November 2015 in Sokode (69 participants), Notsé (70 participants) and Lomé (56 participants). The Piscare Foundation has been tasked to deliver the sessions. Overall, 195 participants attended the sessions. The overall objectives were to:

- Enable participants to enhance their capacity for preventing and mediating conflicts in the context of the establishment of a functional early warning system;
- Master the techniques of inclusive mediation and conflict prevention;
- Acquire the necessary tools to act as a focal point in the context of an efficient and functional early warning;
- Familiarize participants with means of communication for conflict prevention.

Topic	Lecturer	Title/Institution
Introduction to Social Complexities	Mr. Moustapha Gueye	Professor, Center for Science and Information Techniques Studies, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal.
Conflicts Tree: Exploration of causes, manifestations and effects	Ms. Claudine Aniyaho	High Commission on Reconciliation and National Unity
Emotional intelligence: Key competencies for mediation, negotiation and conflict management	Mr. Moustapha Gueye	Professor, Center for Science and Information Techniques Studies, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal.
Existing Framework for Promoting Peace: CVJR and HCRRUN	Ms. Claudine Aniyaho	High Commission on Reconciliation and National Unity
Environment, Natural Resources and Conflict prevention	Mr. N'Sinto Lawson	Piscare Foundation
Methods of Conflict management	Mr. Babale	Piscare Foundation
Electoral Conflict Prevention	Mr. N'Sinto Lawson	Piscare Foundation
Preventing Conflicts by protecting Human Rights	Mr. Babale	Piscare Foundation

The group discussions conducted during the training sessions on capacity building in conflict prevention, mediation, Communication and leadership revealed the existence of stereotypes in

Togolese society. Also, participants have shown their inability to listen to others, leading to misunderstandings and deconstructive interpretations. The discussions also revealed a lack of emotional intelligence. Other observations showed a tendency to systematically refer to the past, which prevents from building the future. It has been also observed a lack of a continuous training on non-violent communication. Finally, participants showed a lack of knowledge of legal framework, which leads to conflicts especially in terms of environmental protection and natural resources.

Table 11.
Number and repartition of participants
in the Training on building capacity for conflict prevention, mediation,
Communication and leadership

Cities	Number
Notsé	70
Sokodé	69
Lomé	56
Total	195

iii/ Training session on media and conflict prevention

Beside the national consultations and the training sessions on building capacity for conflict prevention, mediation, communication and leadership, the CO has organized training specifically geared toward the media. The workshop was held in Lomé on December 2 to 4. The training workshop has registered 51 participants from various professional backgrounds: media professionals, lawyers, members of the High Commission for Audiovisual and Communication (HAAC), communication officers of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister Office, the Ministry of Communication and communication advisers to the Ministry of Territorial Administration. The overall objectives were to:

- Strengthen the capacity of media for conflict prevention and management;
- Strengthen the capacity of media on their role, responsibility and behavior in times of conflict;
- Provide information processing tools to media institutions;
- Provide the specific mechanisms of media prevention, management, resolution, transformation, and mediation of conflicts of any kind;
- Promote good practice in information management in times of crisis;
- Promote the engagement of the media on issues relating to conflict prevention and peace building;
- Building constructive relationships and increase cooperation and communication between the media, civil society and government.

Table 12.
Topic discussed
Training on Media and conflict prevention

Topic	Lecturer	Title/Institution
Rights and responsibilities of the media	Mr. François Hounake	Professor of Public Law, University of Lomé
Understanding Conflict	Ms. Michele Pepe	Journalist, Consultant in Communication, Security and Gender, Ivory Coast.
Media Conflict management	Dr. Moustapha Gueye	Professor, Center for Science and Information Techniques Studies, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal.
Peace Consolidation	Dr. Moustapha Gueye	Professor, Center for Science and Information Techniques Studies, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal.

Over the 3-day workshop, participants were divided in groups to discuss sub-topics such as the criminalization of freedom of the press, the independence of media regulation bodies, the independence and impartiality of media professionals, causes, types and stages of the conflict; the role of women in conflict; prevention mechanisms, management, resolution and transformation of press freedom; the tragic consequences of violent conflict and media roles and the challenges of information management.

Table 13.
Number and repartition of participants
in the Training on Media and conflict prevention

Cities	Number
Lomé	51
Total	51

iv/ Training on capacity building of women organizations on prevention, management, processing and mediation of conflicts and sustainability of peace infrastructure

The last leg of the 2015 activities has dealt with the organization of a workshop exclusively geared to women groups and aiming at equipping women for the prevention, management, processing and conflict mediation, a prerequisite for the sustainability of peace infrastructures. The West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) has been tasked to deliver the training sessions. The overall objectives were to:

- Strengthen women capacity on the specific mechanisms for the prevention, management, resolution, transformation, and mediation of conflicts of all kinds;
- Inform women on their potential in terms of initiatives either conventional or traditional for prevention and conflict mediation;
- Strengthen women capacity on the implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the UN Security Council;
- Encourage women to demystify cultural prejudices and societal stereotypes about their role;
- Favor the involvement of women in the process of peace consolidation through peace infrastructures.

Table 13. Topic discussed Training on building capacity of women organizations on prevention, Management, processing and mediation of conflicts And sustainability of peace infrastructure
Session 1: Understanding the concept of conflict
Session 2: Impact of traditional and religious mechanisms of conflict resolution on social peace
Session 3: Understanding resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the General Assembly of the United Nations
Session 4: Negative impacts of cultural prejudices and stereotypes on women emancipation
Session 5: Actions for peace consolidation: case studies

Overall, 40 women participated in the workshop held in the city of Notsé from November 16 to 18, 2015. The innovative aspect of this training resided in the fact that, the sessions were split in 2 parts. In the first part, the women attended session 1 to 4 in the town of Notsé while in session 5, the women were given 15 days from November 20 to December 4 to back to there communities and retribute the training to grass local root organizations. Small subventions of 200\$ to 500\$ were given to 17 teams of 2 to 4 women to organize the restitution sessions in their localities. A number of topics have been

suggested to the 17 teams in advance to help working group sessions: the impact of tribalism, violent communication, cultural diversity, inter and intra group conflicts, lack of tolerance.

As of yet, reports are not available on the sessions held in the localities. The workshop has been well appreciated by the women groups of Notsé. They clearly identified the methodology used in the session on the workshop assessment and evaluation form as the take out of the training.

Note on the 2015 Programme and next steps

Through the 4 main activities conducted in 2015, nearly 800 (776 in total) people of organizations have been reached. This figure does not take into account the segment that has been reached by restitution sessions as, final activity reports are not yet available (case of training of women in Notsé as noted earlier in the present report). Almost all branches of society have been involved: government officials, independent institutions, MPs and political parties, religious and local leaders, the media, civil society and security forces, women groups and the media.

The 2015 initiatives have revealed to be of utmost significance for the country and for development partners like the UN and European Union. While Togo's development agenda is advancing fast, the political process remains fragile and could be easily undone if not addressed through comprehensive actions aiming at strengthening national capacity for prevention and mediation of conflict and the establishment of a sustained infrastructure for peace.

On the development agenda, the World Bank released last December the new edition of the Doing Business Report (2016). This global study evaluates the quality and evolution of the business climate across 189 economies. Togo has gained two places compared to 2015 Doing Business report ranking 150th compare to 152nd Place in 2015. This improvement is mainly due to the three reforms carried out this year, namely: entrepreneurship indicators; access to electricity; and border trade.

Also, the Minister of Economy, Finance and Development Planning presented to the government the conclusions of the Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank that took place in early October in Lima, Peru. The IMF and the world Bank are satisfied with the significant progress made by Togo in governance and economic reforms. The IMF and World Bank have indicated their willingness to support the country as part of a new economic and financial program whose conditionalities will be discussed at the next IMF mission to Togo.

The country has equally witnessed a cumulative improvement of the business climate efforts. Togo has gained 15 places in the Doing Business rankings in 2014, the 3rd most reforming country in the world and has ranked 152th in Doing Business 2015 and 150th in Doing Business 2016.

Given all of this, development partners (UN, EU and others) need to rely on a peaceful environment to deliver their assistance to the country.

Globally, in 2016, the CO will focus on strengthening the infrastructure for peace initiated in November 2015 by pursuing the insider mediation training as mechanism for lasting peace. The Co will also support the Ministry of Territorial Administration to foster the development of the decentralization agenda. The CO will also support the Ministry in strengthening the electoral commission capacities (organizational reform) in the light of the 2018 local and legislatives elections. Lastly, UNDP will assist HCRRUN in the implementation of the strategic plan and a particular attention will be given to the institutional and constitutional reforms as part of the recommendations of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. This is key to help build peace in the country.

It is worth mentioning here that the CO has supported the High Commission on Reconciliation and the Strengthening of National Unity (*Haut Commissariat à la Reconstruction et au Renforcement de l'Unité*

Nationale, HCRRUN) to develop a strategic plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. The office has facilitated workshops between HCRRUN and vital forces of the country to elaborate and validate the commission's 3-year strategic plan (2016-2018). The strategic Plan is ready and will be presented to the Government. It is assorted with 47 millions USD budget for the next 3 years. This budget includes financial retributions to victims of human rights abuses and political repressions from 1958 to 2005.

In conclusion, 2016 will look at a three-fold plan of activities. 1/ supporting the High Commissariat on Reconciliation and Reconstruction of National Unity (HCRRUN); 2/ consolidating the gains made in 2015 by assisting/accompanying groups that have benefited from the various workshops; 3/ conducting sensitization campaign to foster awareness on peace infrastructure.

3. Programmes challenges in implementation

At the programmatic level and as stated before, 2015 was an electoral year. Development programmes started very late in the year (July-August 2015 for some projects) as national partners and institutions were working more on electoral matters than the development agenda. However, in an effort to rationalize initiatives given the lack of resources, the CO has convinced national partners to agree on a 2-year work plan instead of an annual work plan. To that regard, in 2015, work plans have been signed for 2015 and 2016. As a result, implementation will start much earlier than usual.

4. Elements of Visibility

Visibility has been addressed through communication tools such as banners and event displays panels that refer to the European Union (Use of the EU Logo) as partner and contributor to the various events conducted. Further, formal institutional invitation letters (more than 150) to participants (government, civil society organizations, EU delegation) have mentioned the EU as partner. Opening speeches from UNDP officials have also stressed EU participation in the activity. In 2016, the UNDP website will host a link to access information in the EU/UN programme where all audiovisual productions and materials will be posted.

5. 2015 Budget and Expenses

Budget allocated to the peace consolidation programme (infrastructure for peace and EU/UN project) totaled 723,072\$ for the year, of which 593'073\$ for the I4P project and 130'000\$ for the EU/UN project. As of 31 December 2015, 673'572 \$ have been spent in total. The overall amount of the I4P project has been expensed while spending on the EU/UN project reached 80'500\$, leaving a balance of 49'500\$. These financial figures are temporary as the CO's finance team is still clearing the 2015 accounts. Final figures for the year 2015 will be released later on when the finance department is done with the clearing process. Currents temporary figures are shown in Table 14. The available balance of 49'500\$ on the EU/UN project will be committed and spent in the first to second quarter of 2016.

**Table 14.
Summary of 2015 Project Spending
In US Dollars**

Activities	I4P 2015 Expenses	EU/UN 2015 Expenses	Total 2015 Spending
National Consultations	203,004	0	203,004
Training of religious, security, prefectures and community leaders in 30 prefectures.	124,562	23,000	147,562
Training of women groups	22 370	0	22,370
Training of newspapers and broadcast media and press agents on peace building and conflicts prevention	61,126	12,500	73,626
Supporting the Peace and Development Adviser	0	45,000	45,000
Other I4P Activities	182,010	0	182,010
Total Spending	593,072	80,500	673,572
2015 Allocated Budget	593,072	130,000	723,072
Available Balance	0	49,500	49,500