

Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs)



Key Findings

2016-2020



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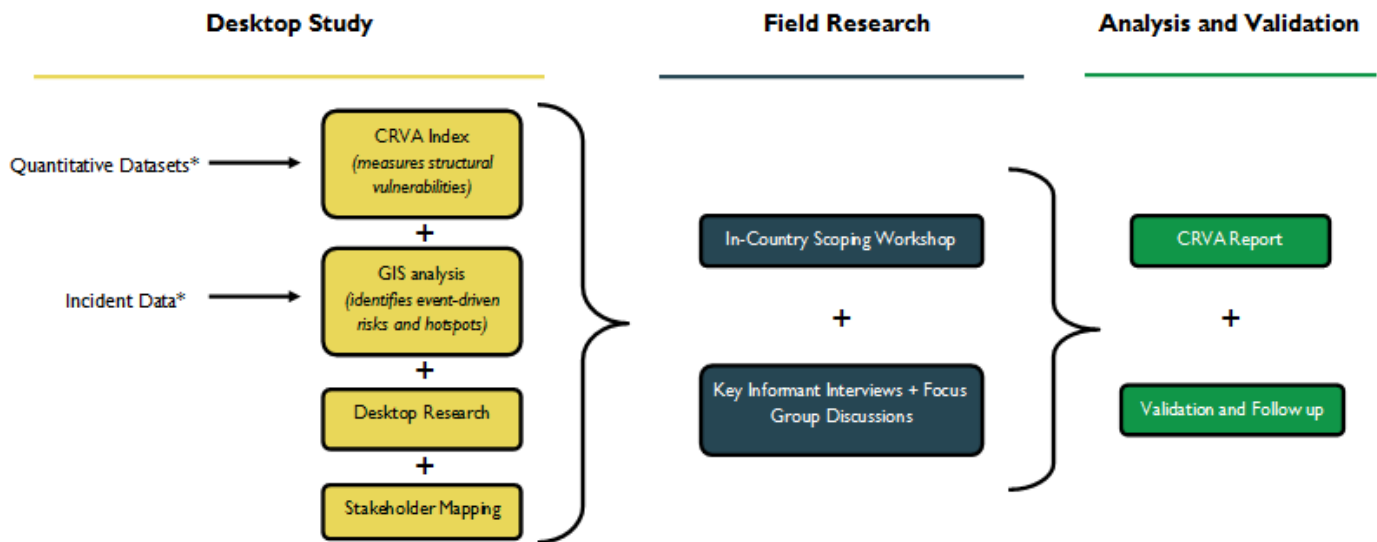
Introduction

Between 2016 and 2019, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) conducted Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs) in the fifteen ECOWAS Member States, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa (REWARD) project. The resulting CRVA Reports assess structural vulnerabilities, event-driven risks, and resilience factors across five areas of human security: **1) Politics and Governance, 2) Economics and Resources, 3) Population and Demographics, 4) Rule of Law, and 5) Security.**

The findings of the CRVA Reports will primarily be used to inform and optimize early warning and response activities within ECOWAS and the in-country National Coordination Center for Response Mechanisms (NCCRMs), and can also be used by external national, regional, and international actors (including governments, donors, and civil society actors) to inform their work. However, it is important to note that the CRVA Reports are not intended to serve as definitive, unchanging assessments of the ECOWAS Member States. Rather, these reports aim to document the salient risks, vulnerabilities, and resilience factors on the ground at the time of research. Due to the ever-shifting dynamics of conflict risks and vulnerabilities, the CRVA process is intentionally iterative and the reports should be regularly updated.

The CRVA Process

The CRVAs rely on a holistic and integrated methodology which draws on quantitative datasets, geospatial data from ECOWAS Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN) and the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), stakeholder network analysis, and qualitative desktop and field research. A detailed explanation of the CRVA methodology, as well as a full list of all quantitative and incident data sources, is included in each CRVA Report.



*Quantitative dataset sources include ECOWARN Situation Reports, Global Integrity, the Economist Intelligence Unit, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Transparency International, Freedom House, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, World Bank, and others.

*Incident data sources include ECOWARN Incident Reports, ACLED, and other conflict event databases.



BENIN

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in December 2017 in the departments of Alibori, Borgou, Littoral, and Plateau.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process found higher vulnerability in the areas of Economics & Resources and Population & Demographics relative to other categories. Key sources of vulnerability include economic dependence on the Nigerian economy, youth unemployment, economic marginalization of women, regional disparities in infrastructure and service provision, environmental degradation, and demographic and migration pressures. Perceptions of corruption, bias toward the wealthy and politically connected within the justice system, dissatisfaction with recent political and economic reforms by government, and security threats such as criminality and farmer-herder conflicts were also identified as negatively impacting human security in Benin.

While each region has unique dynamics, cross-cutting vulnerabilities at the subnational level include poor access to justice, inequalities between rural and urban areas, youth unemployment, perceptions of ineffectiveness among security forces, and the underrepresentation of youth and women in politics. Additionally, economic dependence on agriculture and concerns about environmental degradation are ongoing vulnerabilities.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, there are strong social and institutional resilience factors for effective dispute resolution and peacebuilding in Benin. NGOs, civil society organizations, women's groups, and the media have played a critical role in awareness-raising, advocacy, and peacebuilding initiatives. Religious leaders, council of elders, and other leaders have also proven effective in mitigating some of the risks and vulnerabilities identified in this report. Non-state security actors such as neighborhood watch groups are viewed as contributing positively to security in the country. Finally, in challenging economic environments, the Nigerian market and the informal sector have proven vital in securing livelihoods.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Economics and Resources

- Lack of economic diversity, leading to a dependence on subsistence agriculture
- Exposed to vulnerability in the Nigerian economy
- Porous borders
- Informal trade
- Regional disparities in development and infrastructure
- Unemployment and underemployment, especially for youth
- Inadequate economic empowerment of women
- Impact of Naira fluctuation on CFA



Population and Demographics

- High rate of youth unemployment
- Population growth
- North-South divide
- Youth bulge
- Low rate of family planning
- Occurrence of early marriage
- High rates of teenage pregnancy
- High illiteracy
- Land tenure issues
- Climate change



Politics and Governance

- Underrepresentation of women and youth in political decision-making
- North-South divide
- Manipulation of regional identities by politicians
- Perceptions of nepotism and corruption



Rule of Law

- Poor access to justice
- Lack of popular knowledge of legal provisions
- High cost of legal services
- Lack of resources in the judicial system
- Perceptions of executive interference, corruption and bias in the judicial system
- Underrepresentation of women in the justice system
- Overcrowded and under resourced prison system



Security

- Perceptions of corruption among security forces
- Lack of resources for security forces
- Porous borders
- Transhumance-related conflicts
- High rates of youth unemployment and poverty

Event-Driven Risks



Economics and Resources

- Illicit economic activity and cross-border smuggling
- Economic recession in Nigeria and neighboring countries
- Border closure between Benin and Nigeria
- External shocks to Nigerian economy
- Outbreak of crop diseases and pest infestation
- Food insecurity
- Inflation



Population and Demographics

- Natural disasters, such as flooding and unpredictable rainfall patterns
- Disease outbreak
- Migration for opportunities abroad
- Rural to urban migration
- Disparity in development
- Land-based conflict
- Environmental degradation
- Consistent coastal erosion



Politics and Governance

- Insufficient communication around the use of new voter identification cards (RAVIP vs. LEPI)
- Perceived manipulation of ethnic identities



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption within the judicial system
- Incidents of mob justice
- Incidents of impunity



Security

- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Criminality, such as drug trafficking and cross-border smuggling
- Inter-religious conflicts
- Resource-based conflicts, particularly between herders and farmers
- Terrorism
- Maritime insecurity

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Economics and Resources

- Subsidies for agriculture
- Economics reforms
- Fight against corruption
- Vibrant informal sector
- Cross-border economic activities
- Re-exportation economic system
- Micro-finance schemes



Population and Demographics

- Implementation of city planning measures
- Culture of religious tolerance
- Social cohesion between ethnic groups



Politics and Governance

- Civil society organizations (CSOs) and media outlets
- Successful political transitions



Rule of Law

- Local and traditional leaders involved in dispute resolution
- Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms
- Existent legal provisions to strengthen the rule of law



Security

- Joint patrol of gendarmerie and the police
- Sanctioning of security officers found guilty of misconduct
- ECOWAS Maritime Security Architecture
- Community policing
- Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in the Lake Chad Basin
- Agence Béninoise de Gestion Intégrée des Espaces Frontaliers (Beninese Agency for Integrated Management of Border Spaces)

Recommendations



Economics and Resources

- Support the regulation of environmentally detrimental practices; strengthen environmental protection laws; implement emergency response plans for natural disasters
- Promote civic engagement and public education around government reform agendas
- Support and expand microfinancing and vocational training, particularly targeting youth and women
- Economic diversification reforms
- Promote and integrate the growth of small scale industries nationwide
- Strengthen capacity for border security and custom services
- Reinforce agricultural production capacity



Population and Demographics

- Invest in rural development to improve infrastructure and service provision
- Standardize curriculums; fully fund rural schools to ensure that they have adequate supplies and staff; promote initiatives for girls' education
- Support CSO initiatives for culturally-sensitive promotion of family planning



Politics and Governance

- Sensitize the public on implementation of the Recensement Administratif à Vocation d'Identification de la Population (RAVIP) ID card
- Promote civic engagement and public education around government reform agendas
- Strengthen good governance and institutions
- Promote inter/intra community dialogue to strengthen social cohesion



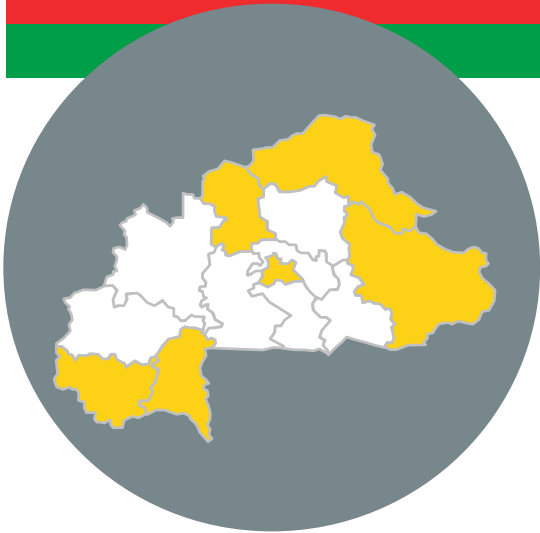
Rule of Law

- Encourage and expand initiatives to involve religious leaders or community leaders in dispute resolution
- Support initiatives to raise awareness around gender-based violence (GBV), with particular emphasis on outreach to women
- Provide legal aid services to improve access to justice
- Strengthen the principle of separation of powers
- Promote gender sensitive policies to ensure a higher representation of women in the justice system



Security

- Promote collaboration between defense and security forces
- Support bi- and multi-lateral training programs to enhance the capacity of the security forces
- Promote trust-building between local communities and security forces
- Popularize and add resources to the "Ligne Verte" hotline to better support victims of violence and abuse
- Work with regional and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity and trafficking networks
- Organize a multi-stakeholder forum to explore potential solutions to transhumance-related conflicts
- Strengthen capacity for border security and custom services



BURKINA FASO

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in May 2017 in the regions of Cascades, Centre, Est, Nord, Sahel, and Sud-Ouest.

Fieldwork conducted during the CRVA process in Burkina Faso found that the country has made significant democratic reforms since the leadership transition in 2014. However, it is important to consolidate those gains to avoid stagnation or backslide, as many local stakeholders expressed a lack of understanding or trust in the political process. There are also vulnerabilities in the security sector, which has a history of mutinies and a widespread reliance on the *Koglwéogo* self-defense groups to protect communities from violence and crime. Natural resource management was also highlighted as an important factor with human security implications, especially surrounding the formal and informal mining industry, and local tensions between farmers and pastoralists. Finally, the issue that has perhaps received the most international attention relates to the spillover of conflict from neighboring Mali and the rise of violent extremism, especially along the northern border.

While each region is unique, the CRVA process found that key cross-cutting vulnerabilities across regions include sensitivity to price volatility, concerns about rapid population growth, a lack of gender equality in politics and policy-making, and the importance of professionalization and capacity building for the public security forces.

Despite the vulnerabilities and risks detailed here, however, there are strong social and institutional resilience factors for effective dispute resolution and peacebuilding. These include a variety of practices and mechanisms, including the role of traditional, community, and religious leaders, as well as of civil society and development actors.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Population and Demographics

- Insufficient management of water resources and access to land
- Demographic changes: population growth and rural-urban migration
- Large youth population
- Environmental degradation, including water pollution, due to mining activities
- Low capacity of health and education services, especially family planning and maternal health



Politics and Governance

- Lack of popular civic education
- Under-representation of women in politics
- Lack of state presence and public services in some regions (esp. health/education/family planning/maternal health) leading to a sense of exclusion or abandonment
- Insufficient oversight of the security sector
- Perceptions of patronage, corruption or bias of politicians and government institutions



Economics and Resources

- Dependency on commodity prices; undiversified economy
- High levels of unemployment, poverty, and inequality
- Illegal mining activity
- Food insecurity/low agricultural output
- Weak implementation of environmental protection policies
- Ineffective implementation of land tenure



Security

- Inadequate natural resource management contributing to inter-communal conflicts
- Spillover of conflict from neighboring countries
- Porous borders
- Underequipped security forces
- Reliance on non-state security actors for community policing, who are nevertheless also factors of resilience
- Criminality



Rule of Law

- Perceptions of corruption and impunity within the justice system
- Under-representation of women in the judicial system

Event-Driven Risks



Population and Demographics

- Movements by IDPs and refugees
- Environmental pressures (impact of floods and drought on agriculture and food security)



Politics and Governance

- Elections
- Attempted coups d'état
- Constitutional/electoral reforms



Economics and Resources

- Fluctuations in global commodity prices
- Expropriation of land owners for mining activities



Security

- Conflict between groups over access to arable land and other natural resources
- Terrorist attacks; spillover of conflict from neighboring countries
- Conflict over land use; herder-farmer conflicts



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption within the court system
- Human rights violations
- Incidents of mob justice

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

- Traditional and customary leaders; religious leaders
- Application of customary laws for conflict mitigation
- Development and awareness-raising activities by civil society organizations, international donors, and government agencies
- Existence of gender frameworks and legislation
- *Koglwéogo* and *Dozo* groups
- Co-existence between religious groups; inter-religious dialogue
- Cultural practice of the 'joking relationship' (ritualized banter that stabilises social relationships)
- Security Sector Reform (SSR) initiatives
- Government conflict mitigation initiatives, including the Ministry of Territorial Administration's Directorate for Conflict Management and Prevention
- Role of the vibrant informal economy in supporting livelihoods
- Government initiatives to support farmers and small-scale producers
- Microfinance activities, particularly to support women's groups
- Efforts to strengthen state institutions to improve governance

Recommendations



Population and Demographics

- Leverage existing frameworks of inter-religious dialogue to promote social cohesion
- Support programs to promote cooperation, social cohesion and dispute resolution between local communities and refugee populations
- Invest in rural development to improve infrastructure and service provision
- Support CSO initiatives for culturally-sensitive promotion of women's health, including family planning
- Support reforestation efforts



Politics and Governance

- Implement sensitization programs on civic responsibilities, with particular emphasis on women and youth
- Allocate greater resources to the High Council for Reconciliation and National Unity (HCRUN) and other mechanisms for reconciliation
- Improve the management of future electoral processes to promote transparency and help prevent incidents of electoral violence
- Support initiatives for good governance and transparency at the local and national levels
- Promote meaningful implementation and enforcement of the gender quota law



- Support programs to promote women's political participation and leadership
 - Strengthening of State Institutions to improve good governance
-



Economics and Resources

- Support and expand microfinancing and vocational training, particularly in support of youth and women-led initiatives
 - Develop and improve infrastructure for the transformation and storage of agricultural products and access to market
 - Create awareness and enforce regulations to minimize the negative environmental effects of illegal mining, charcoal-burning, overgrazing, and deforestation
 - Support macroeconomic reforms to diversify the economy
 - Allocate resources to expand infrastructure for roads and public services
 - Within the mining sector:
 - Regulate informal small-scale mining licensing and provide stronger oversight
 - Strengthen land tenure legislation to protect vulnerable populations from forced displacement
 - Ensure that large-scale mining companies are adhering to international best practices on business and human rights, with mechanisms in place for affected communities to seek redress
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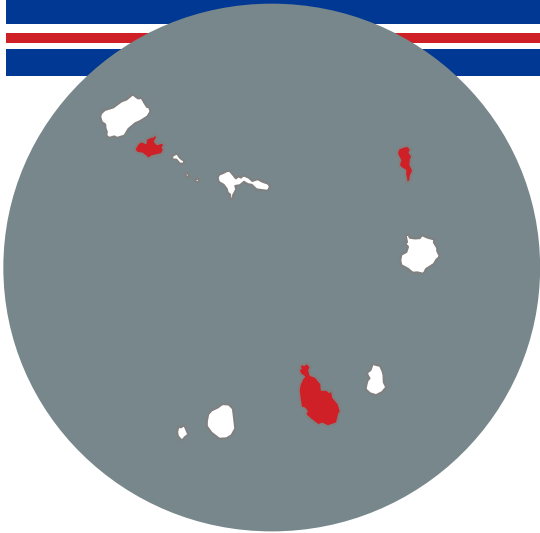
Security

- Implement security sector reform (SSR) initiatives, including training and oversight of *Koglwéogo* and *Dozo* groups
 - Enhance the operational and institutional capacity of the security forces
 - Promote initiatives to build trust between local communities and security forces
 - Enhance cooperation among local, regional, and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity
 - Secure forestry training
-



Rule of Law

- Promote transparency and efficiency in the formal justice system
- Create programs that provide oversight and protect women's rights in both the traditional justice mechanisms and the courts



CABO VERDE

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in January 2018 on the islands of Sal, Santiago, and São Vicente.

Fieldwork conducted during the CRVA process found that, although Cabo Verde scores relatively high compared to other ECOWAS member states, the country remains vulnerable in the areas of Rule of Law, as well as Economics and Resources. Key sources of vulnerability include low capacity within the judicial system to process cases in a timely manner; economic dependence on tourism, foreign remittances, and foreign direct investment (FDI); disparities between the islands of the archipelago in terms of infrastructure and service provision; and vulnerability to climate change and environmental pressures. In addition, criminality, drug and human trafficking, low capacity of the security forces to secure the country's maritime borders, gender-based violence (GBV), and pressures on urban infrastructure and services due to migration were identified as negatively impacting human security in Cabo Verde.

Despite these challenges, Cabo Verde possesses significant resources and resiliencies to mitigate risks stemming from these vulnerabilities. The country has strong legal frameworks and independent institutions in place, although inadequate resources at times hinder effective implementation, particularly within the judicial system and security sector. The Cabo Verdean government has also taken strides to invest in areas such as infrastructure, education, and healthcare, and as a result the country has a strong foundation for economic growth and the wellbeing of the population.

Ensuring equitable and sustainable economic development, promoting the empowerment of women and youth, and responding to climate change and evolving regional threats will be critical for Cabo Verde's stability moving into the future. However, by leveraging the country's considerable strengths, Cabo Verde is well-positioned to respond to these challenges.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Rule of Law

- Slow judicial processes
- Poor access to justice for vulnerable populations
- Perceptions of corruption, impunity and bias in the political and judicial systems
- Gender-based violence (GBV)/ violence against women and girls
- Low capacity of the judicial system



Economics and Resources

- Economic dependence on foreign remittances, foreign direct investment, and tourism
- Limited access to financing and credit, particularly for youth and women
- Regional disparities between islands and rural-urban inequalities
- Limited arable land and low levels of agricultural production
- Geographic vulnerability to climate change and drought
- Low soil fertility
- Low levels of annual precipitation



Politics and Governance

- Regional disparities in government services and presence across islands
- Perceptions of corruption among politicians
- Underrepresentation of women in political decision-making
- Disengagement of youth from political processes



Security

- Geographic location and composition
- Inadequate capacity and resources for security forces to secure maritime domain
- Criminality, including drug and human trafficking
- Transit route for illegal migration



Population and Demographics

- Demographic growth, primarily due to movements from smaller to bigger islands
- Unemployment
- Regional disparities in healthcare spending and services
- Environmental pressures, such as drought, volcano, and flooding
- Large deportee/returnee population

Event-Driven Risks



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption



Economics and Resources

- External events that could create a downturn in tourism and foreign investment
- Natural disasters
- Environmental pressures such as drought and the effects of climate change
- Food insecurity
- High cost of living
- Price volatility



Politics and Governance

- Incidents of corruption and mismanagement



Security

- Incidents of criminality, including child abduction, homicide, rape, etc.
- Cases of gender-based violence (GBV)
- Increase in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and human trafficking
- Illegal maritime activities



Population and Demographics

- Tensions between local and immigrant populations
- Sex tourism
- Unequal population distribution among the islands adding significant pressure on infrastructure and services

- Teenage pregnancy
- Disease outbreak, including Zika and dengue fever

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Rule of Law

- Judicial independence
- Strong legal frameworks
- Law against gender-based violence (GBV)
- Action plan to combat gender-based violence (GBV)
- The National Rehabilitation Program for Men Perpetrators of Gender Based Violence Crimes



Economics and Resources

- Employment opportunities created by the growth of the tourism industry
- Infrastructure and development programs
- Remittances from diaspora communities
- Irrigation systems



Politics and Governance

- Government programs in the areas of poverty reduction, affordable housing, and healthcare
- NGOs, civil society organizations, and community associations
- The media as a source of information and public awareness-raising
- A strong public administration with e-governance system
- Culture of peaceful political transitions



Security

- Bi- and multi-lateral training and capacity-building programs for security forces
- Proximity policing
- Maritime Security Operation Center (COSMAR)



Population and Demographics

- Social cohesion and culture of tolerance
- High literacy rate
- Social welfare services for vulnerable populations
- Vibrant tourism sector
- “Casa para todos” (Housing for All) assistance program
- Support from NGO programs to combat vulnerabilities

Recommendations



Rule of Law

- Support initiatives to improve trial processing timeframe and decrease backlogs of cases within the judicial system
- Support initiatives to improve access to justice for vulnerable populations, including affordable or pro bono legal representation
- Support prison reform initiatives by the Ministry of Justice to bring detention processes and prison conditions into compliance with international standards
- Reform the justice system to enforce prosecution of acts perpetrated by teenagers



Economics and Resources

- Help local farmers to invest in mechanized and climate-adaptive approaches for agricultural production
- Strengthen and expand access to credit and financing for women and youth entrepreneurs, such as through micro-finance initiatives
- Invest in infrastructure development in rural and underserved areas
- Support initiatives within government, civil society, and the private sector to enhance the country's preparedness for and resiliency to the threats of climate change, particularly sea level rise and changing rainfall patterns



Politics and Governance

- Establish a national education campaign to encourage women and youth to run for office
- Adopt best practices from other African countries on increasing political representation of women
- Support civic education programs, particularly those targeting youth and women
- Support transparency and anti-corruption initiatives



Security

- Support bi- and multi-lateral training assistance programs, with support from regional and international partners, to enhance the institutional and operational capacity of the security forces
- Work with regional and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity and trafficking networks, including strengthening border controls
- Support CSOs working on criminality prevention programs, particularly those engaging with the youth population

- Support services and rehabilitation programs for victims of gender-based violence (GBV), child abuse and human trafficking, and train members of the security forces and judicial system on referrals to these services



Population and Demographics

- Support civil society organizations, NGOs and INGOs in raising awareness on key issues like GBV and child abuse through culturally-sensitive programs
- Invest in social service provision in rural and underserved areas, particularly in the area of healthcare
- Support initiatives to enhance human and technical capacity for specialized healthcare, particularly in peripheral or underserved islands
- Support CSOs, government and schools in carrying out sexual and reproductive health education, particularly programs targeting teenage populations



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in August 2016 in the districts of Abidjan, Bas-Sassandra, Montagnes, Vallée du Bandama, and Zanzan.

Fieldwork conducted during the CRVA process in Côte d'Ivoire found that the country has made progress in restoring security and reviving economic growth following the post-electoral crisis of 2010-2011, but continues to face challenges in areas such as Politics and Governance. Historical political and social divides between the North and South of the country remain salient, and trends of political factionalization and competition continue. The CRVA process also highlighted the need for greater reconciliation and social cohesion, and better implementation of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programs.

Reflecting the country's vulnerability in the area of Politics and Governance, participants in the fieldwork primarily identified political events such as rallies, elections, and the constitutional referendum as potential event-driven risks in Côte d'Ivoire. The CRVA fieldwork was conducted prior to the constitutional referendum, which was held in October 2016. While many respondents in the field expressed concern around not being adequately sensitized on the content of the draft Constitution, the authorities maintained that the reforms aimed to implement a modern and balanced law that guarantees the rights and responsibilities of all Ivorians. Some of the contents of the new text broadened the executive power of the President while also making provisions for a senate and a new position of vice president. The reforms also eliminated age limits and the controversy of the eligibility criteria that contributed to governance and election crises in the past.

In addition to political concerns, Côte d'Ivoire faces internal and external security pressures, including regional terrorist threats, cross-border issues, and criminality. Economic and demographic pressures were also highlighted in the fieldwork, namely youth marginalization, poverty and poor infrastructure. While each region is unique, the CRVA process found that key cross-cutting vulnerabilities include land and resource competition, incomplete or flawed processes of DDR, youth marginalization, political polarization, and voter non-participation.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, Côte d'Ivoire has made significant progress in recent years. The CRVA process revealed that civil society groups (particularly youth and women's groups), traditional leaders, religious leaders, political and administrative authorities, and international organizations are sources of resilience at both the regional and national levels.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Politics and Governance

- Perceived North/South divide
- Polarization between political groups
- Succession crisis since death of Houphouët-Boigny
- Poor implementation of the DDR process
- Perceptions of mistrust in political institutions
- Perceptions of ethnic bias in the public sector



Security

- History of politicization of the army
- Porous borders
- Limited capacity of public security forces
- Criminality
- Maritime insecurity



Population and Demographics

- Uncontrolled and irregular cross-border migration
- Competition for land/access to natural resources
- Lack of clarity around land tenure and ownership
- High proportion of youth population (youth bulge)
- Perceptions of youth marginalization
- Education sector crisis

- Environmental pressures, including flooding, landslides, coastal erosion and the effects of climate change
- Uncontrolled urbanization
- Poor sanitation
- Gender-based disparities in school enrollment and retention rates
- Unemployment and increase in crime rates
- Unprofessionalism of some health workers



Economics and Resources

- Competition for land/access to natural resources
- Lack of public understanding of land tenure and ownership laws
- Illegal mining and logging
- Commodity-dependent economy
- Poverty and unemployment, especially in rural communities
- Road infrastructure under construction
- Environmental pressures, including flooding, landslides, coastal erosion, and the effects of climate change
- Corruption and governance issues



Rule of Law

- Perceptions of corruption and bias in the judicial system
- Lack of judicial independence
- Poor access to justice for vulnerable groups
- Limited prosecution of gender-based violence (GBV)/rape cases
- Perceived ineffectiveness of Commission on Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation to address post-conflict grievances
- Limited capacity of judicial institutions, especially in rural areas
- Culture of impunity

Event-Driven Risks



Politics and Governance

- Electoral processes
- Political rallies
- Constitutional Referendum and the lack of sensitization and understanding of its goals and vision
- Political marginalization



Security

- Inter-communal conflicts, including clashes between herder/farmer communities
- Mutiny among divided security forces
- Smuggling and illicit activities



Population and Demographics

- Gang violence (microbes, “gnambro”)
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Electoral processes
- Poor implementation of the DDR process
- Inadequate reintegration of ex-combatants
- Violent extremism and terrorism

- Clashes between farmer and herder communities
- Inter-communal conflicts over land tenure and access to natural resources
- Tensions stemming from uncontrolled and irregular cross-border migration
- Disease outbreak
- Pressures on urban infrastructure and services
- Forceful eviction



Economics and Resources

- Disruptions to agricultural production due to climate change (e.g. flooding, drought, change in rainfall patterns)
- Clashes between farmer and herder communities
- Inter-communal conflicts over land tenure and access to natural resources
- Deforestation
- Environmental pollution, including water, air and soil due to illegal mining activities
- Land acquisition for agro-businesses
- Labor protests
- Disruptions of agricultural supply chains due to poor roads
- Commodity price fluctuations



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption
- Mob justice/vigilantism
- Shortcomings within the traditional justice systems

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Politics and Governance

- National government institutions, such as the Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme and le Programme National pour la Cohesion Sociale (PNCS)
- Vibrant Civil Society Organizations
- Traditional and religious institutions
- Youth and women's groups
- International organizations



Security

- Government/local and administrative authorities
- Role of security forces and border agents
- Security sector reform (SSR)
- Conflict early warning mechanisms



Population and Demographics

- Vibrant civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Vibrant Youth and Women's groups
- Programs for family planning and reproductive health
- Presence of international institutions and organizations
- Existing laws on land tenure
- Existing ministries and government programs targeting youth and women
- Improvement in health system and structure
- Reforestation



Economics and Resources

- Economic reforms
- Private sector investments
- Infrastructure development
- Programs to improve access to financing and credit for vulnerable groups
- Afforestation and reserve protection programs
- Positive impact of communal and religious leaders
- National institutions such as l'Agence Foncière Rurale and Projet d'appui à la politique foncière (LPIIP)
- Existence of anti-corruption institutions and laws
- Vibrant informal economy



Rule of Law

- Justice sector reform
- Vibrant civil society organizations (CSOs) and media institutions
- Role of traditional and religious leaders

Recommendations



Politics and Governance

- Support initiatives to prevent electoral violence and promote transparency and accountability ahead of the 2020 elections
- Promote good governance, accountability and transparency initiatives
- Encourage dialogue among political groups to enhance social cohesion
- Improve representation of women and youth in political decision-making
- Promote consensual reform of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI)



Security

- Strengthen the PNCS, and similar bodies, for the effective promotion of social cohesion and ethnic diversity

- Support and provide adequate resources to relevant government institutions to effectively carry out security sector reform (SSR) and DDR activities
- Enhance capacity for security institutions and cross-border collaboration among the Mano River countries to improve regional security
- Promote trust and effective communication amongst security forces and between security forces and local populations for enhanced security in the prevention and the fight against violent extremism
- Promote a culture of peace, led by traditional and religious institutions and civil society
- Strengthen human rights bodies, such as the Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme and relevant agencies
- Build capacity of civil society groups for the promotion of tolerance and culture of peace
- Support programs to engage disaffected youth
- Strengthen collaboration with regional and international partners



Population and Demographics

- Strengthen ministerial and government support programs to engage disaffected youth, such as investment in youth employment and job creation programs
- Encourage and engage the relevant stakeholders for better governance of natural resources including land-tenure and ownership reforms so as to boost economic development and strengthen social cohesion
- Build capacity of traditional and religious actors and CSOs for community-based conflict resolution and mediation
- Ministry of Construction, Urban Development and Housing to enforce compliance of laws on urban development and planning and promote the enforcement of building codes
- Strengthen health infrastructure and human resources
- Invest in programs to encourage girls' education and women's economic empowerment



Economics and Resources

- Support programs to promote youth employment and vocational training
- Improve governance and management of natural resources
- Encourage public and private sector investment for better governance to boost economic development and equity in resources distribution
- Strengthen the capacity of national institutions and agencies in charge of land and natural resources management such as l'Agence Foncière Rurale for the implementation of the land-tenure reform projects such as the Projet d'appui à la politique foncière (LPIIP) by investing in modern technology for monitoring and streamlining land registration and processes with a focus on the rural areas
- Make the anti-corruption institutions/agencies and laws functional and inclusive
- Invest in sustainable programs to strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change and environmental pressures



Rule of Law

- Build the capacity of CSOs and traditional and religious institutions for mediation and conflict prevention
- Promote good governance, accountability and transparency initiatives
- Improve access to justice for vulnerable groups, particularly in rural areas, through the provision of free and affordable legal services
- Strengthen the transitional justice system in the country



THE GAMBIA

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in December 2017 in the municipalities of Banjul, Kanifing, Central River, and West Coast.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process found higher vulnerability in the areas of Politics & Governance and Rule of Law relative to other categories. Key sources of vulnerability include a history of political oppression and human rights abuses, migration pressures, youth unemployment, and political polarization along ethnic lines. Gender-based discrimination, inadequate access to healthcare and other social services, criminality, and demographic issues such as early marriage and an underutilization of family planning were also identified as negatively impacting human security in The Gambia.

As the CRVA field research was conducted less than one year after the ECOWAS-brokered political transition which brought President Adama Barrow to power, there remain significant opportunities and challenges for building cohesion and resilient institutions within The Gambia. The field research highlighted some of the delicate issues which the Barrow administration must navigate in this critical period of transition in the “New Gambia” - namely, implementing reforms in the security and judicial sectors, ensuring accountability for past abuses, and providing opportunities for national reconciliation. These areas will be critical to promoting the rule of law and improving perceptions of government legitimacy. Securing women’s rights and promoting economic and political empowerment for youth and women is also essential, particularly given the country’s large and growing youth population.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, there are strong social and institutional resilience factors for effective dispute resolution and peacebuilding in The Gambia. NGOs, civil society organizations, women’s neighborhood associations and the media have played a critical role in awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives. Local and traditional leaders are important actors in dispute resolution and are often preferred over the police or the formal justice system. Fieldwork participants also highlighted the importance of social resilience factors, namely a culture of religious tolerance, inter-faith and inter-ethnic marriages, and practices such as “joking relationships”, as well as the heterogenous nature of the society, in mitigating conflict in The Gambia.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Politics and Governance

- History of weak state institutions
- Lingering perceptions of corruption and lack of transparency
- Underrepresentation of youth and women in political decision-making
- History of polarization along ethnic lines



Rule of Law

- Perceived lack of judicial independence
- Dichotomy between customary and Sharia law (Khadi Court)
- Poor prison conditions
- History of human rights abuses by security forces
- Inadequate protection of women’s rights
- Gender-based discrimination within customary and Sharia law
- Poor access to justice for vulnerable populations
- Low capacity of the judicial system
- Backlog of court cases/trials
- Corruption within the court system



Security

- Porous borders
- Inadequate access to quality public services, including education and healthcare
- Perceptions of corruption among security forces
- History of human rights abuses by security forces
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW)
- Geographic location of the country/ Casamance conflict in southern Senegal
- History of politicization of the security and defense forces along ethnic lines

- Poor governance of security sector
- Gender-based violence (GBV)



Population and Demographics

- Rural-urban migration
- Inadequate access to quality public services, including education and healthcare
- Rural-urban disparities in development and infrastructure
- High rate of youth unemployment
- Early marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)
- Low rate of family planning
- Illegal migration



Economics and Resources

- Lack of a diversified economy
- High prices of basic commodities
- Illicit economic activities, including cross-border smuggling
- Poor infrastructure development
- Environmental degradation and climate change

Event-Driven Risks



Politics and Governance

- Electoral processes
- Future TRRC process or trial proceedings, should they be perceived to target specific ethnic, political or religious groups
- Political tensions between ethnic groups
- History of instrumentalization of state institutions for political expediencies



Rule of Law

- Mob justice
- Inadequate protection of women/girls' rights
- Human rights violations



Security

- Social uprising/insecurity by loyalists of the previous administration, especially in the Western region
- Criminality (illegal logging, narcotic drugs/arms trafficking)
- Tensions or clashes between pro-Jammeh and ECOMIG forces
- Withdrawal of ECOMIG forces
- Election-related violence
- Resurgence of conflict in Senegal's Casamance region



Population and Demographics

- Security threats from “back way” returnees
- Polarization of group identities along ethnic lines
- Increased tension between religious groups
- Loss of manpower as a result of migration



Economics and Resources

- Food insecurity
- Natural disasters
- Land and resource-based conflicts
- Conflict between farmers and herders

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Politics and Governance

- Political reforms
- Efforts at national reconciliation (TRRC)
- Youth organizations
- Civil society organizations (CSOs) and media outlets
- Media and radio programming
- Strong popular will for social cohesion
- Political transition



Rule of Law

- Local and traditional leaders (*alkalos*) involved in dispute resolution
- Alternate dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms
- Justice sector reforms
- National Agency for Legal Aid
- The use of customary and some provisions of Sharia law



Security

- Security sector reform
- ECOWAS Mission in the Gambia (ECOMIG)
- The role of civil society
- Support from the international community and regional actors
- Bilateral cooperation with neighboring countries



Population and Demographics

- Culture of religious tolerance, supported by inter-faith marriages and “joking relationships”
- Heterogenous communities
- National policies for family planning and social welfare
- Women’s associations (*yayi kompins*)
- Lower import taxes



Economics and Resources

- Vibrant tourism sector
- Reliance on subsistence farming
- Vibrant fishing sector
- Remittances from the diaspora community

grams, particularly at the primary through secondary levels

- Invest in infrastructure development and service provision in rural areas, particularly in the areas of healthcare and education

Recommendations



Politics and Governance

- Establish a national education campaign to encourage the political participation of women and youth
- Strengthen the effective implementation of gender policies
- Support a transparent and inclusive transitional justice process with the aim of promoting accountability for past abuses under the Jammeh administration
- Support civic education programs, particularly those targeting youth
- Build and strengthen institutions to enhance accountability and transparency
- Support the implementation of the findings of the TRRC to strengthen social cohesion



Economics and Resources

- Support and expand microfinance programs and vocational training, particularly for youth and women
- Provide social and economic reintegration support to vulnerable “back-way” returnees
- Assist local farmers with investment in modern and climate-adaptive agriculture



Rule of Law

- Support initiatives to improve access to justice for vulnerable populations
- Support prison reform initiatives to adhere to international standards
- Sensitize religious and traditional leaders on the protection of women’s rights
- Empower women about their legal rights particularly around land tenure and ownership



Security

- Maintain bi- and multi-lateral training assistance programs to enhance the institutional and operational capacity of the security forces
- Strengthen the interactions among ECOMIG troops, Gambian security forces, CSOs and local communities to build trust for improved security
- Work with regional and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity



Population and Demographics

- Support the promotion of culturally-sensitive programming around family planning, gender-based violence (GBV), and female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)
- Invest in girls’ education and literacy pro-



GHANA

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in October 2017 in Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Volta, and Western regions.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process found higher vulnerability in the areas of Politics & Governance and Population & Demographics relative to other categories, due to political polarization, widespread perceptions of corruption, rural-urban and regional disparities in development, and concerns around a growing youth population. Security risks, including land- and resource-based conflicts, chieftaincy disputes, criminality, and tensions around government efforts to curb *galamsey* (illegal small-scale artisanal mining), were also identified as negatively impacting human security in Ghana.

While each region has unique dynamics, cross-cutting vulnerabilities at the subnational level include youth unemployment, the underrepresentation of women and youth in politics, criminality, concerns around environmental degradation stemming from the extractives industry, and perceptions of corruption within government institutions and security forces.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, there are strong social and institutional resilience factors for effective dispute resolution and peacebuilding in Ghana. NGOs, civil society organizations, and the media have played an important role in awareness-raising, good governance, and peacebuilding initiatives. Building on a strong constitution and legal framework that enshrines key rights and protections, government-mandated bodies such as the National Peace Council and Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), among others, play an important role in peacebuilding and offer services to vulnerable populations. Ghana's culture and history of inter-group coexistence is also viewed as a vital foundation for peace and a key source of resilience.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Politics and Governance

- Perceptions of mistrust and lack of transparency of government institutions
- Perceptions of corruption
- Polarized political system along party and regional lines
- Perceived 'winner takes all' political system
- Perceptions of nepotism
- Uneven regional distributions of resources and development
- Under-representation of female lawmakers in Parliament
- Under-representation of women and youth in political decision-making
- Lack of clarity around land tenure of ownership
- Poor chieftaincy succession planning



Population and Demographics

- Gender-based violence (GBV) and child abuse
- Population growth and migration
- Land- and resource-based tension
- Early marriage
- Teenage pregnancy
- Low rate of family planning
- Inadequate access to quality public services, including education and healthcare
- Increase in population
- Poor infrastructure, including housing, electricity, water, roads, etc.
- Drug abuse
- Child labor



Security

- *Galamsey* operations
- Porous borders
- Perceptions of corruption and malpractices among security forces
- Illicit activities such as drug trafficking and proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW)
- Communal tensions



Economics and Resources

- Rural-urban divide and regional disparities in development and infrastructure
- High rate of youth unemployment
- Reliance on natural resource extraction and primary commodities
- Rising cost of living
- Barriers to financing, credit, and land ownership for women
- Environmental degradation, including *galamsey* operations, and negative effects of climate change on agriculture



Rule of Law

- Slow judicial processes
- Lack of resources in the judicial system, (manual filing system)
- Limited police capacity, particularly in rural areas
- Perceived lack of independence of the judiciary
- Backlog of court cases
- Inadequate training for judicial staff
- Barriers to justice, including accessibility and affordability
- Perceptions of corruption in the judicial system
- Culture of silence around gender-based violence (GBV) reporting
- Under representation of female lawmakers



Population and Demographics

- Natural disasters
- Effects of climate change, including changing rainfall patterns, flooding, and drought
- Coastal erosion
- Disease outbreaks



Security

- Tensions with Operation Vanguard
- Land- and resource-based conflicts, including herder-farmer violence and clashes with land guards
- Chieftaincy disputes
- Increase in criminality as a result of *galamsey* activities (illegal mining activities)



Economics and Resources

- Tensions/clashes between local communities and mining companies
- Food insecurity



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption
- Vigilante/mob justice
- Impunity around gender-based violence (GBV) crimes

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Politics and Governance

- Rights and protections enshrined in the 1992 Constitution
- Consolidated democratic gains through peaceful and successful political transitions
- Vibrant civil society organizations (CSOs) and media
- Government-mandated bodies such as the National Peace Council, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), and Domestic Violence & Victim Services Unit (DOVVSU)

Event-Driven Risks



Politics and Governance

- Election violence
- Clashes between politically-aligned vigilante groups
- Politicized inter-communal conflict
- Tension/conflict related to attempted secessionism in Volta Region
- Marginalization of people with disabilities
- *Galamsey* operations (illegal mining activities)



Population and Demographics

- Culture and history of peaceful relationships between ethnic and religious groups
- Initiatives and programs to promote girls' education
- Government funded public secondary education (public senior high schools)
- School feeding program for primary schools



Security

- Community-based neighborhood watch and vigilante groups
- Actions of security and defense forces to maintain law and order and to protect the population
- Participation of Ghana Security Agencies (police and the army) in peacekeeping operations



Population and Demographics

- Invest in infrastructure development and service provision in rural areas
- Reform the government administration for land titles and registration to reduce land disputes
- Invest in girls' education and literacy programs
- Build the capacity of health services to promote women's health services and family planning
- Encourage the implementation of the action plan of the government on gender policy



Economics and Resources

- Efforts to modernize land tenure and registry systems
- Government- and private-sponsored infrastructure and development projects
- Government efforts to curb *galamsey* operations, including Operation Vanguard and local-level initiatives
- Economic reform implemented by the government
- Investment in women and youth empowerment initiatives
- Initiatives to build the capacity of the private sector to invest in local economic development projects
- Modernization of agriculture and extractive industries



Security

- Empower the National and Regional Peace Councils to play a more active role in resolving chieftaincy and succession disputes
- Build the capacity of traditional and religious institutions to arbitrate and mediate disputes at the grassroots level
- Invest in improving the governance of the traditional chieftaincy system to mitigate conflict arising from succession
- Support bi- and multi-lateral training assistance programs, with support from regional and international partners, to enhance the institutional and operational capacity of the security forces
- Work with regional and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity and trafficking networks, including strengthening border controls.
- Invest in information sharing to promote trust and effective communication between security forces and local populations for enhanced security
- Leverage more interfaith actors to mediate communal conflict
- Include more women in formal conflict early warning and security decision making structures



Rule of Law

- Role of traditional and religious institutions in conflict mitigation
- Capacity building of security forces and judicial staff
- Reform of the judicial system

Recommendations



Politics and Governance

- Empower women and youth to run for political office
- Encourage inclusive policies to strengthen women's participation in political processes
- Establish a national multi-stakeholder group on dialogue to engage civil society and security forces to address the issue of youth vigilante groups
- Political parties to disband or reorient their vigilante groups as agents for peace
- Encourage government to implement the proposed reform of the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) from nominated positions to elected positions to improve accountability and transparency in governance.



Economics and Resources

- Increase investment in vocational training and entrepreneurship to create opportunities for youth and women
- Modernize the economy to attract competitiveness and investment in the private sector for economic development
- Increase investment in the manufacturing sector to create new jobs and trade opportunities
- Promote investment to modernize the agricultural sector, including subsidies for local farmers to enhance agricultural output
- Invest in alternative livelihood programs



- to curb illegal mining
- Promote good governance of natural resources through effective oversight, transparency, and accountability



Rule of Law

- Build the capacity of religious and traditional leaders in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) at the grassroots level in compliance with national laws
- Encourage recruitment of women in the judicial sector
- Invest in public awareness campaigns to educate women and vulnerable groups on the legal provisions
- Strengthen the role of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) in fighting corruption
- Expand civic education to build trust and transparency in the judicial system
- Strengthen knowledge management and retention through investment in electronic case filing systems



GUINEA

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in August 2017 in the regions of Boké, Conakry, Faranah, Kankan, Kindia, Labé, Mamou, and Nzérékoré.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process in Guinea found that the country has made progress since transitioning to civilian rule in 2010. However, due to the history of political instability marked by two coups in Guinea, there are ongoing concerns around the effectiveness of security sector reform (SSR) efforts and the potential for future military interference in politics, particularly given the rising tensions around rumors regarding the possibility of constitutional reform to allow a third term for President Alpha Condé. Increasing ethnic polarization and delays in the implementation of the Agreement on Inter-Guinean Dialogue of 20 August 2015 and the Accord of 12 October 2016 are also contributing to tensions in the lead-up to the legislative and presidential elections. Natural resource management and land tenure were also highlighted as important factors, particularly surrounding the mining and timber industries. Finally, chronic poverty, lack of economic opportunity, and inadequate infrastructure including road, water, and electricity were also highlighted as key concerns.

While each region has unique dynamics, cross-cutting vulnerabilities at the subnational level include unemployment, especially for youth, food price increases, and lack of resources and capacity when it comes to the training of local security forces. An understaffed judiciary, and inadequate social services in the education and healthcare sectors were also highlighted.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, there are strong social and institutional resilience factors for effective dispute resolution and peacebuilding in Guinea. These include the mediating role played by prominent community figures such as religious leaders, elders, and opinion leaders, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society members.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Economics and Resources

- Food insecurity
- Inflation and rising food prices
- Dependence on primary commodities
- High levels of poverty
- High youth unemployment
- Undiversified economy (reliance on mining of raw materials and subsistence agriculture)
- Weak governance of natural resources
- Poor infrastructure (roads, electricity, water, sanitation)
- Reliance on imported commodities
- Underdeveloped private sector and SMEs
- High cost of living
- Deforestation and environmental degradation



Population and Demographics

- Land- and resource-based conflicts
- Lack of social infrastructure
- Poor access to social services (including healthcare and education)
- High emigration of youth
- Rural-urban migration
- Cultural barriers to family planning
- Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), gender-based violence, and child marriage
- Large unemployed youth population
- Development gap between rural and urban areas
- Lack of adequate waste management system
- Unplanned urbanization
- High illiteracy rate



Politics and Governance

- Ethnic and political polarization
- Perceptions of corruption within the political system
- Underrepresentation of women and youth in political decision-making
- Weak institutions
- Perceptions of corruption
- Bad governance
- Lack of separation of powers
- Contentious and politicized electoral management institution
- History of military coup d'états
- Weak implementation of decentralization policies



Politics and Governance

- Road accidents
- Crackdown on the media
- Conflict between farmers and herders
- Communal conflicts

- Elections
- Attempts to extend presidential mandate
- Coups d'état
- Electoral violence
- Demonstrations
- Non-implementation or backsliding of the political agreement of October 2016



Security

- Abuses by security forces
- Inadequate resources and training for security forces
- Porous borders
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons
- Drug trafficking
- Criminality



Security

- Land- and resource-based conflicts
- Conflicts between ethnic groups
- Violent political protests
- Land conflicts
- Security crackdown during protests/demonstrations
- Communal conflicts
- Self-defense groups



Rule of Law

- Lack of trust in the formal justice system
- Lack of adequate resources and staffing within the judiciary
- Perception of corruption and impunity in the judicial system
- Lack of infrastructure for the judicial system
- Failure to respect due process
- Lack of judicial independence
- Poor prisons and detention conditions
- Backlog of court cases including long period of detention without trial



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption within the court system
- Mob justice
- Violations of human rights
- Interference in legal processes

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Economics and Resources

- Vibrant informal sector
- Reform of the mining sector
- Subsistence farming
- Available micro-finance institutions
- Abundant water resources

Event-driven Risks



Economics and Resources

- Fluctuations of global commodity prices
- Economically-driven social grievances/tensions/protests
- Capital flight
- Protests due to the poor governance of the mining sector
- Tensions/conflict between communities and mining and logging companies



Population and Demographics

- The "joking relationship" (Parenté à plaisanterie)
- Inter-marriages
- Strong social cohesion
- The role of religious and traditional leaders
- Vibrant civil society
- Presence of regional and international organizations



Population and Demographics

- Disease outbreaks
- Social tensions/unrest
- Flooding



Politics and Governance

- Civil society groups, including NGOs and women's and youth groups
- Civic education initiatives
- Political dialogue

- Support from the international community including regional actors
- Influence of religious and traditional institutions



Security

- Traditional leaders and local opinion leaders
- Religious leaders
- Joint border cooperation with neighboring countries
- Security sector reforms
- Religious tolerance
- Alternative dispute mechanisms



Rule of Law

- Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms
- Role of religious and traditional institutions
- The role of rights organizations
- Le Médiateur de la République (Mediator of the Republic)
- Legal aid services

Recommendations



Economics and Resources

- Support and expand microfinance programs and provide training, particularly for women- and youth-led initiatives
- Lend greater support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and strengthen/formalize the informal sector
- Support micro and macroeconomic activities for economic diversification
- Develop infrastructure to process raw materials to boost local economies
- Increase governance in the mining sector and support the regulation to curb environmentally detrimental practices surrounding both large- and small-scale mining operations
- Within the mining sector:
 - Strengthen land tenure legislation to protect vulnerable populations from forced displacement
 - Ensure that large-scale mining companies are adhering to international best practices on business and human rights, with mechanisms in place for affected communities to seek redress
 - Promote community dialogues with government and private sector representatives



Population and Demographics

- Support the promotion of culturally-sensitive programming around family planning, gender-based violence (GBV), and female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)
- Finance and expand afforestation programs to combat environmental degradation
- Promulgate and enforce environmental policies
- Strengthen health emergency preparedness and response mechanism to address disease outbreaks
- Engage local actors, including youth and women's groups, in ongoing education around health and hygiene best practices
- Build and maintain a sustainable waste management system
- Support social and economic initiatives to engage Guinea's youth population, particularly vocational training and job creation programs
- Sensitize the population on customary and classic law on land tenure and ownership



Politics and Governance

- Reform and de-politicize the election management institutions
- Promote civic education initiatives targeting youth and women
- Encourage and promote good governance initiatives
- Promote the implementation and enforcement of gender policies including best practices to increase political representation of women and youth



Security

- Support bi- and multi-lateral training collaboration to enhance the institutional and operational capacity of the security and defense forces
- Encourage collaboration between CSOs, security forces and local communities to enhance peace and security
- Partner with regional and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity



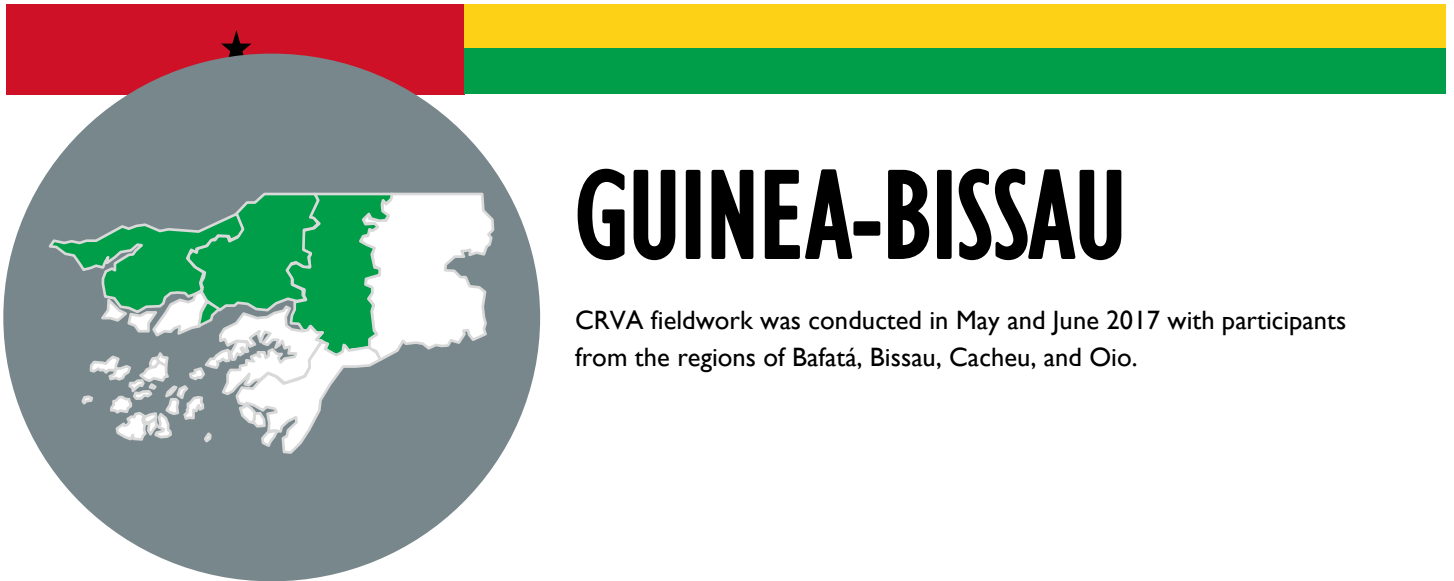
Rule of Law

- Support traditional mechanisms for conflict resolution, including training for religious, traditional, and community leaders
- Support mediation initiatives for conflict resolution
- Develop/support prison reform initiatives to bring detention processes and prison conditions into compliance with international standards



Rule of Law

- Provide adequate resources (financial, material and human) to the judicial system for enhanced capacity
- Enact and strengthen legislation and law enforcement for the prosecution of gender-based violence (GBV) crimes
- Strengthen and build capacity for law enforcement agencies to efficiently address cases of human rights violations
- Support programs to raise awareness around GBV and mechanisms for redress in both the formal and traditional justice systems
- Improve access to justice for vulnerable populations, particularly women



GUINEA-BISSAU

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in May and June 2017 with participants from the regions of Bafatá, Bissau, Cacheu, and Oio.

Fieldwork conducted during the CRVA process in Guinea-Bissau found that the country is currently experiencing a political impasse, which began in August 2015. After a military coup in 2012 and the establishment of a transitional government, Guinea-Bissau eventually held free and fair elections in April 2014, electing José Mário Vaz as president. In August 2015, President Vaz dismissed Prime Minister Domingos Simões Pereira, and then appointed and dismissed three more Prime Ministers between August 2015 and November 2016. Political gridlock has spread throughout the government, with serious consequences for governance and the economy. Fieldwork participants expressed concern that the situation could erupt into violence, especially during elections. Chronic poverty, unemployment, and lack of economic opportunity were also highlighted as key concerns throughout the country. In addition, natural resources management was cited as a contentious issue, especially pertaining to fishing and the cashew industry.

While each region is unique, the CRVA process found that key cross-cutting vulnerabilities include natural resource mismanagement, a lack of economic opportunity, a weak justice system, sensitivity to price volatility, and a lack of resources for public security forces.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, the fieldwork also identified social and institutional resilience factors that promote effective dispute resolution and peacebuilding. These include social cohesion between ethnic and religious groups, as well as local justice mechanisms involving traditional, community, and religious leaders. The ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) was also cited as having a positive impact on peace in Guinea-Bissau.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Rule of Law

- Allegations of corruption and impunity in the justice system
- Lack of trust in formal justice mechanisms
- Lack of resources for formal justice system
- Poor prison infrastructure and conditions, including overcrowding
- Inadequate inclusion of women in the formal justice system
- Lack of independence of the judiciary
- Alleged politicization of the justice system
- Weak enforcement of criminal penalties



Politics and Governance

- Political and institutional fragility
- Lack of transparency and accountability
- Perceptions of corruption and nepotism within the public sector
- Weak state presence and poor provision of public services
- Underrepresentation of women and youth in political decision-making process
- History of military interference in politics
- Cyclical political stalemate
- Politicization of state institutions



Economics and Resources

- Poverty, unemployment
- Unequal distribution of resources
- Lack of infrastructure (roads, water, electricity)
- Undiversified economy/dependency on single cash crop (cashews)
- Low agricultural output
- Resource mismanagement and exploitation
- Weak private sector
- Illicit economy on the Bijagos Islands



Population and Demographics

- Rural to urban migration
- Low capacity of health and education services
- Cross-border migration
- Weak education system and infrastructure
- Environmental degradation
- Food insecurity
- Unfavorable climatic conditions
- Early marriage and pregnancy



Security

- Under-equipped security/defense forces
- Porous borders
- Perceptions of corruption within the security forces



Population and Demographics

- Conflict between groups over access to land and other natural resources
- Salinization of ground water and rice fields
- Gender-based violence (GBV)



Security

- Withdrawal of ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB)
- Farmer/herder disputes over land access
- Political violence related to elections and institutional impasse
- Attempted coup d'état
- Inconclusive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process (DDR)
- Increased criminal activities (including drug trafficking and illegal logging)
- Diminished public trust in the police institutions
- Political protests
- Human rights violations
- Abuses by security forces

Event-Driven Risks



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption or impunity within the court system
- Violation of code of criminal procedure especially cases of police playing the role of the judiciary
- Prison break
- Increased criminal activities (including drug trafficking, illegal logging)
- Abuse of power
- Diminished confidence/trust in the judicial system



Politics and Governance

- Electoral process
- Military coup attempts
- Political instability
- Delayed/Non-implementation of Conakry Agreement
- Street demonstrations/protests
- Arbitrary and selective imprisoning of political rivals
- Violation of civil rights
- Weak coordination among international partners to resolve the ongoing political stalemate



Economics and Resources

- Fluctuating commodity prices
- Illegal fishing and logging activities
- Farmer/herder conflicts over land access

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Rule of Law

- Role of traditional and religious leaders
- Access to Justice Centers (CAJs) and civil society initiatives to improve access to the legal justice system
- Initiative for justice sector reform, supported by the UN system and partners
- Gender Law
- Anti-human trafficking law
- Strong civil society organization (CSO) networking



Politics and Governance

- Signature of Conakry Agreement



Economics and Resources

- Microcredit and other lending initiatives, particularly for women
- High price of cashew nuts



Population and Demographics

- Interfaith dialogue
- Adoption of the measures to curb female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)



Security

- Presence of ECOMIB, United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), African Union (AU), European Union (EU), and Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)
- Implementation of the Defense and Security Sector Reform program (DSSR)

Recommendations



Rule of Law

- Promote efficiency and transparency within the formal justice system
- Support programs to improve access to justice
- Build mediation and arbitration capacity for traditional and religious leaders
- Strengthen existing mechanisms to protect women's rights in both traditional justice mechanisms and courts
- Support initiatives to expand access to justice and provide free legal assistance to vulnerable populations
- Carry out awareness-raising campaigns around the legal system and citizen's rights, especially in rural and underserved communities
- Promote sensitization and awareness programs on human rights



Politics and Governance

- The government and regional and international partners should work to create a conducive political atmosphere for the implementation of the Conakry agreement, including constitutional reforms
- Monitor elections to help prevent instances of electoral violence and promote transparency
- Facilitate dialogue among political actors to break the stalemate
- Provide training and resources to encourage greater political participation of women
- Support the creation of fora for youth engagement and inclusion in political decision-making
- Carry out awareness-raising campaigns with emphasis on civic education for youth
- Expand social service provision in rural regions and build trust with local communities
- Support initiatives for good governance and transparency at the national and local levels

- Expand and strengthen accessibility to microfinancing programs and training, particularly for youth- and women-led



Economics and Resources

- initiatives, as well as for small-scale farmers
- Strengthen small and medium enterprise initiatives (SMEs)
- Invest in modern and sustainable agriculture, to help small-scale farmers and herders adapt to climate change
- Increase investment in modern technology and agroindustry to increase capacity for food processing and preservation
- Allocate resources to improve and expand infrastructure and social amenities
- Enact economic reforms and implement policies for economic diversification
- Enforce policies on economic integration to encourage the free movement of goods and people
- Adhere to international instruments to curb illegal fishing and help protect marine ecosystems
- Support the creation of a community resource management office to help resolve disputes over land and resource allocation



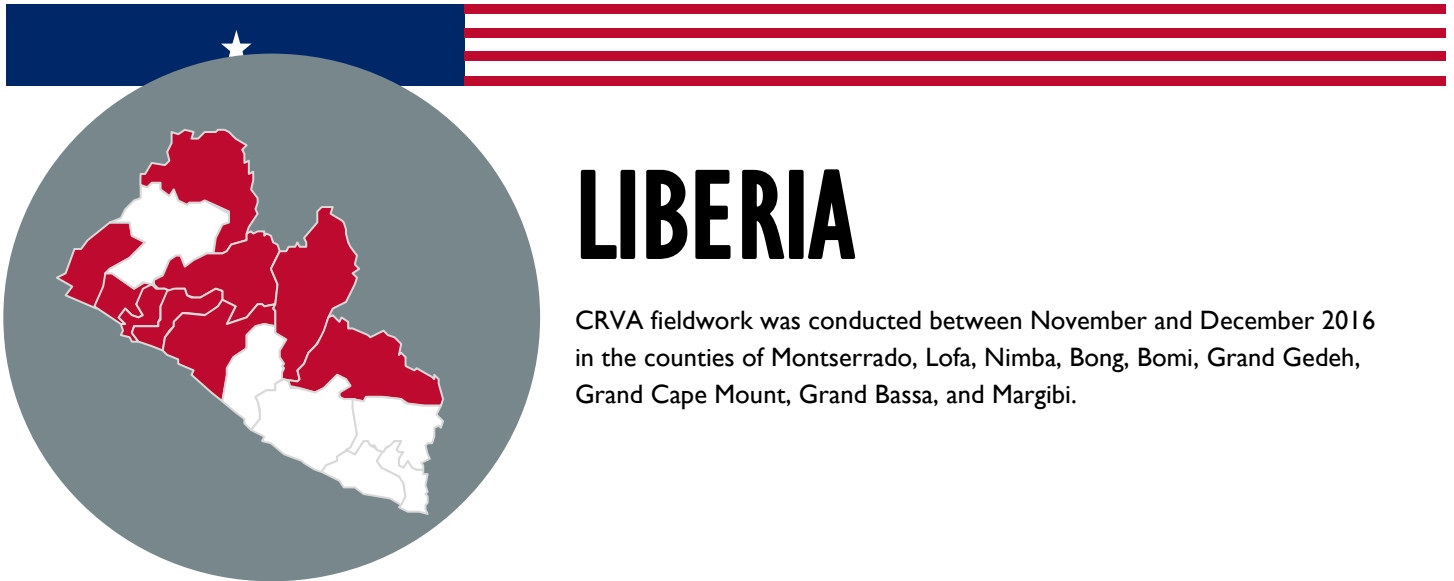
Population and Demographics

- Support vocational training and job creation initiatives to engage youth, particularly in rural areas
- Increase spending on education and healthcare, particularly in areas outside Bissau
- Prioritize teacher training programs to increase number of qualified teachers in rural areas
- Promote girls' education
- Support awareness-raising activities around issues such as domestic violence, early and forced marriage, and teenage pregnancy
- Enforce existing legal protections around gender-based violence (GBV) and female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Support inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue to improve social cohesion



Security

- Encourage the implementation of security sector reform (SSR)
- Enhance the institutional and operational capacity of the security and defense forces for improved security
- Encourage initiatives to enhance collaboration between local communities and security forces to improve security
- Build the capacity of the security forces to conduct maritime patrols on the Bijagos islands to curb illicit activities



LIBERIA

CRVA fieldwork was conducted between November and December 2016 in the counties of Montserrado, Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Bomi, Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, and Margibi.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process found that, despite the success of democratic governance over the past 14 years, Liberia still faces a number of significant structural vulnerabilities and latent security threats.

The most serious of these challenges relates to economics and resources. During 14 years of civil war, Liberia's economy collapsed: the GDP fell by over 90 percent as commercial activities and production ground to a halt and most foreign investors and businesses left the country. Post-civil war, this economic fragility was again exacerbated by the outbreak of the Ebola virus in mid-2014. Ebola infected an estimated 10,675 Liberians and claimed 4,809 lives, destabilizing both the health and security sectors in the country. This crisis also coincided with a marked depression in international commodity prices. As a result, GDP growth in 2015 was only 0.3 percent. To expedite the recovery of the Liberian economy, international institutions have granted extensive debt relief packages and disbursed millions of dollars in aid money.

In addition to ongoing economic challenges, Liberia faces humanitarian crises on multiple fronts. The two civil wars displaced more than 1.3 million Liberians. With the help of United Nations (UN) organizations, refugees began returning home in 2005 to Lofa County, the area hit hardest by conflict. Following the controversial presidential elections in neighboring Côte d'Ivoire in late 2010, Liberia experienced a massive influx of Ivorian combatants across the porous shared border, resulting in a refugee crisis that persists today. Sexual and gender-based violence, which were used as weapons of war during the years of the civil conflict, continues to be prevalent in Liberia, despite the cessation of hostilities more than a decade ago.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, the relative political stability and the absence of war in Liberia have resulted in the conclusion and withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping mission (UNMIL). While this step will assist in transferring the responsibility for national security to the Liberian security forces, the drawdown nonetheless increases the potential for any latent threats to rise to the surface and disrupt peace during this time of transition.

Structural Vulnerabilities

- Poverty and unemployment, including youth and women unemployment
- Poor road infrastructure
- Lack of access to essential services (water, electricity, education)
- Food Insecurity
- Undiversified economy
- Limitations of government business regulations and enforcement
- Low level of intra-national economic integration at county level
- Low level of economic integration at the regional level
- Lack of uniformity in civil service salary scheme due to the absence of a national policy
- High level of discrimination among citizens based on class system
- High rate of capital flight inhibiting local economic development



Economics and Resources



Population and Demographics

- High price of healthcare
- Drug abuse
- Large youth population (youth bulge)
- Land tenure and ownership issues
- High maternal mortality rates, especially in rural areas
- Ethnically diverse population with history of inter-ethnic grievances
- Transboundary water insecurity
- Environmental pressures, including flooding, fire, and drought
- Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)
- Early marriage
- Low number of gender-based/sexual violence (GBV) cases litigated in court
- Factionalized political parties



Politics and Governance

- Limited access to voting process in rural areas
- Limited representation of women in national legislature
- Low capacity of government institutions
- Perceived lack of patriotism/ Elitism
- Lack of uniformity in civil service salary scheme due to the absence of a national policy
- High level of discrimination among citizens based on class system



Politics and Governance

- Political violence and protests
- Polarizing political rhetoric
- Electoral fraud
- Government corruption
- Elections (security, roads, voter confusion/skepticism/apathy)



Security

- Limited capacity of police deployments, training and equipment
- Porous borders
- Poor implementation of the DDR Process
- High rate of criminality



Security

- Withdrawal of military and police component of UNMIL before the 2017 elections
- Rape and gender-based violence
- Impunity of former combatants
- Inadequate Security Sector Reform (SSR) Initiatives
- Ethnic/communal tensions
- Inflammatory speech on radio and broadcast media
- Mob/vigilante justice
- Legacy of the Memories of the Civil war
- Drug and arms trafficking
- Drug abuse



Rule of Law

- Poor law enforcement (logistics, equipment)
- Impunity
- Local controversy over international businesses, e.g. land concessions and employment practices
- Low capacity of law and order institutions, particularly in rural areas
- Incomplete or inadequate post-conflict reconciliation and reintegration of ex-combatants



Rule of Law

- Mob justice/vigilantism
- Land grabbing
- Perception of corruption
- Culture of silence around gender-based violence

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

Event-Driven Risks



Economics and Resources

- Disruptions to agricultural supply chains from lack of road access
- Economic shocks from volatile commodity markets
- Protests related to economic governance and unemployment
- Limited GDP growth as a result of low foreign investment and regional integration
- Dollarization (USD) of the economy



Economics and Resources

- Support from donor community
- Youth clubs and public works projects
- Remittances from the diaspora
- Extractive industry transparency initiatives
- Natural resources governance initiatives



Population and Demographics

- IDPs and cross-border population movements
- Exposure to regional health pandemics
- Clashes between groups over water/ livelihood resource access
- Reduced agricultural production from environmental disasters and pandemics



Population and Demographics

- Mano River Union (MRU)
- International Community support
- Environmental Protection Agency
- CSOs, especially Women's groups
- Existence of a National Gender Policy
- Youth organizations



Politics and Governance

- Female political representatives
- Youth representation in government
- NEC Liberia
- Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission



Security

- Peacebuilding Office
- Religious leaders
- Women networks
- Community peacebuilding, including traditional conflict resolution practices
- Community Watch
- Memories of the Civil war as a deterrent
- Legacy of UNMIL and ECOWAS representations
- National Small Arms Commission



Rule of Law

- Emerging CSOs
- Existence of national infrastructures for conflict resolution
 - Palaver hut
 - Peace Committees at the county and community levels
 - Peacebuilding office
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)
- Independent National Commission of Human Rights
- Land Commission

Recommendations



Economics and Resources

- Increase investment in road infrastructure to link counties to urban centers
- Support programs to address unemployment
- Encourage platforms for dialogue between business leaders and local communities, particularly around extractive operations
- Strengthen natural resources governance initiatives such as corporate social responsibilities, EITI etc.
- Promulgate regulations promoting local content
- Invest in development of social and economic infrastructures, especially energy health, water and education
- Enact policies to promote equal opportunities
- Enact policies for a fair wage system



Population and Demographics

- Encourage the full implementation of the provisions of the National Gender Policy
- Promote sustainable environmental policies for natural resource management
- Expand provision of social services in rural areas
- Encourage the use of radio programming in rural areas to share critical information around elections, health concerns, and

weather reports

- Support programs to engage unemployed or dissatisfied youth
- Encourage the inclusiveness of the economy



Politics and Governance

- Enhance the capacity of women and youth to participate in political decision-making
- Encourage local electoral commissions to disseminate information around elections
- Enact policies to promote equal opportunities
- Enact policies for a fair wage system
- Strengthen the Anti-Corruption Commission and transparency measures



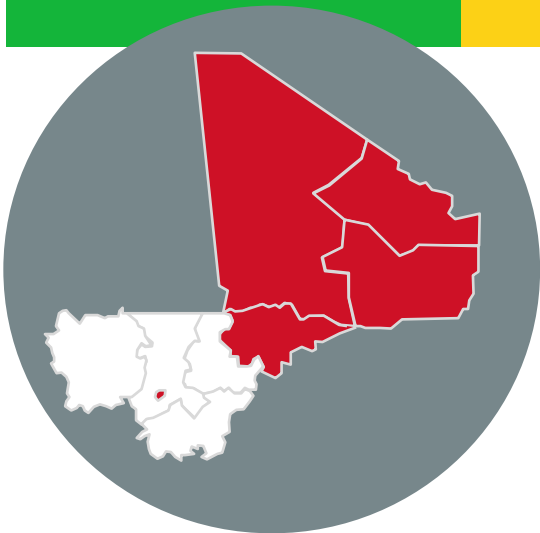
Security

- Enhance the operational and institutional capacity of the police forces and expand police presence in underserved rural areas
- Strengthen security and customs protocols at border crossings, in partnership with neighboring countries
- Promote the culture of peace through the conflict sensitive messaging in the media
- Enhance NatCom's capacity to implement the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons



Rule of Law

- Capitalize on the strength of traditional leaders and religious communities for dispute resolution and mediation
- Implementation of the recommendations of the TRC
- Strengthening due diligence and judicial processes for improved rule of law
- Facilitate access to justice through the provisions of legal aid services
- Provide adequate resources to strengthen the effectiveness of the Land Commission



MALI

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in October 2016 with participants from the regions of Bamako, Gao, Kidal, Mopti, and Timbuktu.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process found that security is a central concern across the country. The proliferation of armed groups, weak state presence in the north and center of Mali, cross-border conflict issues, and conflict surrounding land disputes were cited as vulnerabilities. These security issues have exacerbated population and demographics issues, which is the most vulnerable area in the country. Violence has displaced thousands of people. Additionally, Mali has experienced rapid population growth and environmental pressures, such as flooding and drought.

Mali has also faced political challenges. In March 2012, Malian soldiers deposed President Touré in response to his inability to quell the Tuareg rebellion. Mali held its first post-coup democratic elections in 2013, considered largely free and fair. After repeated postponements due to insecurity, Malian local elections were held in November 2016, which were characterized by pockets of violence, and less than 30 percent voter turnout. Nonetheless, Mali strengthened its democratic institutions during the 2000s, including a secular constitution with minority religious groups being protected by law, media freedom, and a recent push to increase female political representation. Despite these emerging resiliencies, fieldwork found that there is a perceived lack of confidence in government, especially regarding the disparate levels of governance in the northern regions of the country.

Despite significant security and governance challenges, civil society organizations have been active throughout the country. Some groups are actively providing health, youth, and refugee services. Traditional leaders have also played a role in mitigating conflict and mediating disputes. Moving forward, Mali has significant challenges to overcome, especially continued insecurity in the north and growing population pressures.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Population and Demographics

- Large youth bulge and rapid population growth
- Adverse climate conditions (drought, flooding, pest infestation) exacerbated by climate change
- Harmful socio-cultural practices
- Caste system
- Cross-border migration
- Internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- Low capacity of health services, particularly maternal and reproductive health



Security

- Ongoing insecurity in Northeast
- Porous borders and regional security pressures
- Large ungoverned land mass and harsh terrain of the Sahara Desert
- Weak presence and capacity of security and defense forces
- Inefficient coordination among multiple security actors
- Proliferation of weapons
- Slow implementation or backsliding of the 2015 Peace Agreement
- Spillover effects from regional conflicts



Politics and Governance

- Weak state presence in the north and center of the country
- Perceptions of corruption and nepotism in government
- Lack of confidence in government institutions
- Manipulation of ethnic identities and tribal affiliations
- Embezzlement of public funds
- Low representation of women and youth in politics and decision-making



Economics and Resources

- History of military coups
- North-south and urban-rural development disparities
- Illicit economies, including drug trafficking and trans-Saharan arms trade
- High levels of poverty, especially concentrated in the north-east
- Unequal distribution of wealth
- Food insecurity and malnutrition
- Low participation of women in the formal economy
- High unemployment rates
- Forced marriage
- Undiversified economy - vulnerable to exogenous shocks



Rule of Law

- Lack of trust in judicial institutions
- Low capacity of law enforcement agencies
- Limited government presence to provide law and order
- Perceptions of corruption in the judicial system
- Lack of state authority in the northern and central parts of Mali

Event-Driven Risks



Population and Demographics

- Displacement and return/reintegration of refugees
- Competition over access to scarce natural resources
- Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)
- Climate change and drought/flood cycles



Security

- Recurrence of rebellions in northern Mali
- Slow implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)/ security provision of the Peace Agreement
- Proliferation of armed/militia/terrorist groups
- Land-based and inter-communal conflicts
- Attacks on UN personnel and compounds
- Armed attacks on soft targets such as hotels
- Reported public security force abuses



Politics and Governance

- Elections
- Slow implementation of the Algiers Peace Agreement
- Chieftaincy and succession issues



Economics and Resources

- Exogenous commodity shocks
- Labor protests



Rule of Law

- Crime
- Mob justice/vigilantism

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors

- Moderate religious leaders
- Civil society groups, including NGO and humanitarian actors
- Women's organizations
- Community leaders
- UN peacekeeping Mission (MINUSMA)
- France anti-terrorism strategy in the Sahel region

Recommendations



Population and Demographics

- Support programs to address youth unemployment (including private sector and training institution collaboration for employment, training, and vocational skills and entrepreneurship, youth entrepreneurship funding, etc.
- Provide greater support and programming to women and children who have been displaced and affected by violence
- Good governance of natural resources including land tenure and ownership laws



Security

- Government should create a collaboration framework between security actors to better address underlying vulnerabilities and risk factors
- Sanction violators of the Peace Agreement
- Full implementation of counter terrorism measures and security provisions of the Peace Agreement



Politics and Governance

- Support national-level dialogue efforts between signatories of the Peace Agreement to resolve outstanding disagreements
- Sanction violators of the Peace Agreement
- Encourage renewed engagement between regional and international organizations and the Malian government to align strategies in addressing root causes of conflict

- Take necessary measures to fast track the implementation of the peace agreement to ensure peaceful elections
-



Economics and Resources

- Expand access to basic social services
 - Improve access to humanitarian services
 - Improve access to micro-credit services especially to women, youths, and vulnerable population
-



Rule of Law

- Support informal mechanisms for dispute resolution and traditional tools of conflict mediation, particularly in underserved areas
- Strengthen the application of the rule of law



NIGER

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in January 2018 in the regions of Diffa, Tahoua, Tillabéri, Agadez, Zinder, and the capital district, Niamey.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process in Niger found high levels of vulnerability across all of the CRVA Index's five categories compared to other ECOWAS member states, especially in the areas of Economics and Resources, Population and Demographics, and Security. Key sources of vulnerability include food insecurity, dependence on subsistence agriculture, population growth, internal and external migration, and the political and economic implications of the 2018 Finance Law. Insecurity has further exacerbated economic vulnerabilities throughout Niger, especially the presence of Boko Haram in the Diffa region and extremist violence along the shared borders with Mali and Algeria. In addition to extremist violence, criminality, illicit economic activity, porous borders, and conflict between farmers and herders continue to undermine peace and human security in Niger.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, however, there are social and institutional resilience factors for peacebuilding, economic growth, and good governance in Niger. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) have been involved in initiatives to alleviate poverty and improve food security. Additionally, NGOs have invested in basic social services, as well as spearheading awareness-raising campaigns around issues such as family planning, early marriage, and migration. Traditional and religious leaders have contributed positively to security by spreading peace messages to local communities. Self-defense groups, vigilante groups, and village monitoring groups also play an important role in the maintenance of peace and security for communities throughout the country.

Ensuring sustainable economic development and food security for the country's large and growing population, while addressing the pressing security issues along Niger's borders, will be critical for the country's stability in the future.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Economics and Resources

- Increases in the price of basic goods
- Over reliance on subsistence agriculture and livestock herding
- Economic dependence on high-value extractives, such as uranium and petroleum
- Suspension of economic activities in some regions due to security concerns, particularly in the Lake Chad Basin
- Poor governance and management of natural resources
- Youth unemployment
- Food insecurity



Population and Demographics

- Population growth
- Underutilization of family planning due to cultural barriers
- Youth bulge
- Poor urbanization and pressures on urban services and infrastructure
- Inadequate social services, particularly healthcare and sanitation
- High rate of child marriages
- High illiteracy rate



Security

- Tensions between farmers and herders over access to natural resources (water and land)
- Growing threat of terrorism
- Porous borders
- Growth of illicit economic activities, especially drug and human trafficking
- Trans-national threats
- Arms proliferation
- Perceptions of limited space for the opposition in governance matters
- Contentious electoral management institutions



Politics and Governance

- Perceptions of corruption
- Low levels of popular trust in the political system
- Perceived lack of judicial and legislative independence from the executive
- Underrepresentation of women and youth in political decision-making
- Legacy of military coup d'états
- Perceptions of bad governance
- Perceptions of limited space for the opposition in governance matters
- Contentious electoral management institutions



Politics and Governance

- Protests, particularly around the 2018 Finance Law
- Electoral violence Arrests of high profile politicians
- Suppression of civil liberties
- Suppression of freedom of expression



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption
- Violations of civil rights



Rule of Law

- Low levels of judicial and legislative independence
- Perceptions of corruption and bias within the judicial system
- Slow judicial processing times

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Economics and Resources

- Availability of micro-credit programs for women and youth
- Ongoing economic reforms
- Support from international partners

Event-Driven Risks



Economics and Resources

- Rising prices due to the 2018 Finance Law
- Disrupted trade and supply routes
- Effects of climate change, such as drought and changing rainfall patterns
- Conflicts between farmers and herders over water and land access
- Illicit economic activities
- Animal disease outbreaks affecting livestock and pest infestation of crops



Population and Demographics

- Culture of religious tolerance
- Strong policies against female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)
- Vibrant NGO community
- Humanitarian agencies



Population and Demographics

- Tensions or conflicts between ethnic groups
- Disease outbreak
- Health concerns affecting women and girls, such as Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF)
- Refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)



Security

- Neighborhood watch groups
- The National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH)
- Counter-insurgency measures
- Programs to counter violent extremism
- State of emergency as a measure to stabilize the Diffa region
- Presence of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)
- Security collaboration between Niger and bi- and multi-lateral partners



Security

- Attacks by armed groups, particularly Boko Haram and other extremist groups, such as Group to Support Islam and Muslims (GSIM) and Islamic State in Greater Sahara (ISGS)
- Radicalization
- Herder-farmer conflicts
- Rising levels of criminality
- Human rights violations resulting from the state of emergency in the Diffa, Tillabéri, and Tahoua regions
- Presence of foreign security forces



Politics and Governance

- Presence of NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs)
- The role of community radio stations in providing civic education and raising awareness around governance issues
- Inter-faith dialogue
- The role of the high authority for the fight against corruption
- Equal pay for men and women
- Free medical services for pregnant women and children
- Youth parliament platform
- Ombudsman



Rule of Law

- Traditional chiefs, religious leaders and community leaders involved in dispute resolution
- Existence of the customary law
- Ombudsman

Recommendations



Economics and Resources

- Help local farmers to invest in more mechanized and climate-adaptive approaches for agricultural production, such as the government's 3N (les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens – Nigeriens feed Nigeriens) program; Promote initiatives within government, civil society, development partners, and the private sector to enhance preparedness for the threats of climate
- Improve and expand access to credit and financing for women and youth entrepreneurs
- Invest in infrastructure development in rural and underserved areas
- Create and promote alternative livelihood programs, particularly in the Diffa and the Agadez regions to combat illicit economic activities.
- Invest in initiatives to expand girls' education



Population and Demographics

- Support government, civil society organizations, NGOs and INGOs in raising awareness on issues of family planning and child marriage
- Invest in social services and infrastructure in rural and underserved areas. Support initiatives to enhance the human and technical capacity of the healthcare system
- Support vocational training and job creation initiatives for the country's large and growing youth population
- Support and sustain inter-group dialogue across political, ethnic and religious lines to promote social cohesion
- Promote girl-child education



Security

- Strengthen collaboration between national, regional, and international partners in addressing larger regional trends of insecurity
- Support bi- and multi-lateral training assistance programs, to enhance the institutional and operational capacity of the security forces.

- Provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and IDPs,
- Work with displaced populations, local communities, and security forces to promote trust and encourage relationship-building.
- Promote community policing and cross border cooperation between security and defense forces and the local population to improve security



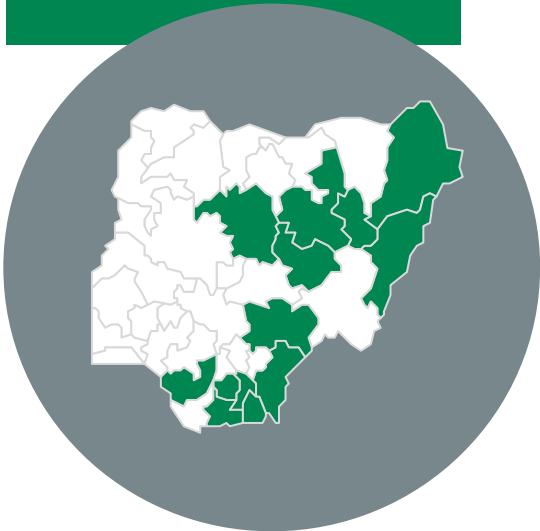
Politics and Governance

- Establish a national education campaign to encourage women and youth to run for office, led from the top of the government and the leadership of political parties.
- Adopt best practices from other African countries on increasing political representation of women
- Support civic education programs, particularly those targeting youth and women, run by CSOs and government.
- Support local and national transparency and anti-corruption initiatives, particularly around management of royalties from mining, oil, and other natural resources.
- Reform and strengthen electoral management bodies



Rule of Law

- Support initiatives on sensitization and education of civic and legal rights, particularly for women and youth.
- Provide training on gender-based violence (GBV) and women's rights to religious, traditional and local leaders involved in alternative dispute resolution.
- Promote transparency and anti-corruption initiatives and reforms within the judiciary.
- Support programs that improve access to justice for poor and vulnerable populations



NIGERIA

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in September 2017 in the states of Abia, Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Cross River, Delta, Imo, Gombe, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process in Nigeria found high levels of vulnerability in the area of Security, due to the Boko Haram insurgency in the North, communal and pastoral issues in the Middle Belt, and militancy and cult violence in the Niger Delta. Additionally, the fieldwork revealed ongoing vulnerabilities in the area of Politics/Governance, including political violence, perceptions of corruption and low confidence in the electoral system. Violence during election periods, particularly in the Niger Delta, is an ongoing concern. Issues around oil exploration, such as environmental degradation and the growth of illegal oil bunkering, are also ongoing vulnerabilities in the country.

Vulnerability and risk factors differ across regions, depending on history, location, and demographic makeup. While each region has unique dynamics, cross-cutting vulnerabilities at the subnational level include youth unemployment, poverty, the underrepresentation of women and youth in politics, poor infrastructure, and uneven allocation of resources.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, there are strong social and institutional resilience factors for effective dispute resolution and peacebuilding in Nigeria. NGOs and civil society organizations have played an important role in peacebuilding initiatives, awareness raising campaigns, and economic development programs. Vigilante groups, community-based groups, and the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) are also viewed as key sources of resilience and security.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Security

- Political violence
- Cultism
- Criminality
- Gender-based violence
- Proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW)



Population and Demographics

- Tensions between ethnic and religious groups
- Population growth; low rate of family planning
- Forced and early marriage
- Food insecurity
- Climate change and environmental degradation



Politics and Governance

- Underrepresentation of women and youth in political decision-making
- Ethnic and religious polarization during elections
- Perceptions of clientelism, nepotism, and lack of transparency in public and private sectors
- Political manipulation of youth and women



Economics and Resources

- High rate of youth unemployment
- Poor infrastructure and inadequate access to social services, including education and healthcare
- Lack of resources for the judicial system
- High rate of poverty
- Impacts of economic recession
- Barriers to financing and credit for women



Rule of Law

- Perceptions of corruption, bias, impunity and ineffectiveness within the judiciary and security forces
- Lack of resources for the judicial system

Event-Driven Risks



Security

- Boko Haram insurgency and counter-insurgency activities
- Herder-farmer conflicts



Population and Demographics

- Displacement due to conflict
- Conflicts between ethnic and religious groups
- Land- and resource-based conflicts



Politics and Governance

- Elections and political violence



Economics and Resources

- Economic recession



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Security

- Vigilantes, community-based groups and the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF)
- Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) in the Lake Chad Basin
- NGOs and civil society organizations' activities
- Local, traditional and religious leaders
- Anti-cult initiatives
- Peacebuilding and dialogue programs
- Youth-focused training and empowerment programs
- Finance and credit programs targeting women and youth
- Media Sensitization

- Deployment of Nigerian security forces into volatile areas
- Government initiatives to address farmer-herder conflicts
- Implementation of national CVE action plan
- Existence of herders and farmer associations for the promotion of dialogue



Population and Demographics

- Existence of legal texts and normative frameworks on gender, equity, and women's rights
- Government initiatives to curtail desertification through afforestation programs
- Actions of local, regional, and international actors to address food insecurity



Politics and Governance

- Policy initiatives such as the Federal Character Commission to enhance inclusion in governance and political processes
- Existence of legal frameworks, policies, and institutions to tackle corruption
- Existence of community-based traditional and religious institutions



Economics and Resources

- Existence of vibrant informal economic sectors
- Existence of social safety net initiatives

Recommendations



Security

- Enhance collaboration among local, regional, and international partners, to address larger regional trends of insecurity and extremism
- Partner with CSOs, security forces, and local communities to build trust and encourage relationship-building
- Equipping of and training to security forces and vigilante groups on operational best practices and human rights standards, particularly around elections
- Enhance the operational and institutional capacity of the police and military forces, including improved training
- Facilitate sustained dialogue and interactions between communities
- Promote awareness-raising activities around domestic and sexual violence



Population and Demographics

- Support vocational trainings and job creation initiatives to engage the youth population
- Build infrastructure and promote enabling environments for business development and growth
- Facilitate sustained dialogue and interactions to bridge political, ethnic, and religious divides
- Expand access to education, affordable healthcare and other social services, particularly for women and youth
- Promote awareness-raising activities around domestic and sexual violence, forced marriage, FGM/C, and family planning



Politics and Governance

- Support initiatives for good governance and transparency at the local and national levels
- Promote youth and women's involvement in political decision-making
- Carry out awareness-raising campaigns with an emphasis on civic education for youth and women
- Expand government visibility and social service provision, particularly healthcare and education
- Support inter-group dialogue across ethnic, religious, and regional lines



Economics and Resources

- Support and expand microfinancing and training programs, particularly in support of women- and youth-led initiatives
- Support small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- Support sustainable agriculture initiatives and environmental rehabilitation projects, particularly around increasing resilience to climate change and enhancing food security



Rule of Law

- Promote efficiency, independence and transparency within the formal justice system
- Support programs that provide oversight, provide legal assistance to vulnerable populations, and protect women in both traditional justice mechanisms and in the courts



SENEGAL

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in September 2017 in the regions of Dakar, Diourbel, Kédougou, Kolda, Kaolack, Saint-Louis, Sédhiou, Tambacounda, and Ziguinchor.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process in Senegal found high levels of structural resilience in the areas of Politics/Governance, despite some reported unrest during the 2017 legislative elections. The decades-long low-level separatist movement in the Casamance region is currently in a lull period, although it remains to be seen how the recent power transition in neighboring Gambia will affect negotiations and regional dynamics of the conflict, given the relationship between former Gambian president Yahya Jammeh and the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC).

Natural resource management and land tenure were also highlighted as important factors, particularly surrounding the mining and timber industries, with impacts on smuggling and cross-border tensions. Finally, inequality with regards to economic development, infrastructure, and service provision were highlighted as key concerns.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, there are strong social and institutional resilience factors for effective dispute resolution and peacebuilding in Senegal. There is a long history of ethnic and religious coexistence in the country, partly due to the mediating role played by prominent community figures, especially religious leaders, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society organizations, and locally-driven cross-border committees working on a variety of issues. Microfinance and *tontine* initiatives are also effective in promoting economic resilience for women in the country.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Rule of Law

- Alleged corruption and impunity in the justice system
- Low level of popular knowledge of legal rights and existing legal instruments
- Alleged lack of independence of the judicial system
- Low level of trust in formal justice mechanisms
- Inadequate or limited access to the justice system by women due to cultural barriers
- Delays in the judicial process



Population and Demographics

- High rate of youth unemployment
- Low rate of family planning
- Disparities between rural and urban areas in terms of social services and infrastructure
- Limited access to social services, especially healthcare
- Emigration of youth to Europe
- Immigration into Senegal from surrounding countries
- *Enfant talibé* phenomenon and weak enforcement of child protection measures
- Environmental degradation
- Land competition



Economics and Resources

- Price volatility for staple foods
- Food insecurity
- Poverty
- High rates of youth unemployment
- Limited opportunities for vocational training
- Rural-urban inequalities
- Illicit economic activity, especially drug trafficking

- Barriers to credit and land access for women
- Environmental degradation
- Increasing competition for land
- Adverse climatic conditions, including drought and the effects of climate change
- Overfishing and illegal fishing
- Perceived lack of transparency in the mining and extractive sectors
- Inadequate transportation infrastructure
- Limited access to food preservation and processing infrastructure
- Economic impacts of Casamance conflict (including decline in tourism and agriculture, closure of businesses)



Economics and Resources

- Controversy around the start of Astron zircon extraction operations
- Drug trafficking
- Illegal logging
- Land Grabbing
- Decline in fishery resources
- Land and resource based conflicts
- Money Laundering



Security

- Crime, including armed banditry
- Cross-border and maritime tension and disputes between fishing communities
- Failure of mediation or withdrawal of Sadio-led MFDC faction from negotiations
- Renewal of hostilities by MFDC factions
- Incidents of cattle rustling
- Smuggling of small arms and light weapons (SALW)
- Terrorism and radicalization threats
- Drug cultivation and trafficking



Security

- Under-staffed and under-resourced security forces
- Perception of corruption in security forces
- Crime, including armed banditry
- Networks of drug trafficking, smuggling and prostitution
- Porous borders
- Cross-border and maritime tensions
- Poor communication between security forces and local communities
- History of grievances and perceptions of marginalization among local communities in the Casamance region



Politics and Governance

- Political protests
- Electoral violence
- Politicization of religious leaders



Politics and Governance

- Perceptions of corruption within the political system
- Underrepresentation of women and youth in political decision-making
- Limited or inadequate provision of health, education, and social services



Rule of Law

- Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms
- Religious, traditional, and customary leaders
- Free legal counsel “Maisons de Justice”
- Existence of the “Médiateur de la République”
- National Office for the Fight against Fraud and corruption (OFNAC/CENTIF)

Event-Driven Risks



Rule of Law

- Violent protests against the justice system
- Politicization of high profile cases
- Under-reported gender-based violent crimes
- Incidents of corruption within the court system



Population and Demographics

- Cohesion among ethnic and religious groups
- Contribution of immigrants and diaspora to the local economy (remittances)
- Existence of social safety net and social security measures such as free health care for the elderly and infants
- The roles of the “Badienou Gokh” in supporting pregnant women
- Campaign to reduce FGM and child marriage



Population and Demographics

- Disease outbreaks
- Malnutrition and food insecurity
- Tensions around natural resources management
- Coastal erosion
- Floods and droughts



Economics and Resources

- Establishment of community development programme (Programme d’Urgence de Developpement Communautaire PUDC)
- Ongoing construction of feeder roads to ease access to markets
- Implementation of the EITI
- Presence of GIABA Regional Office to fight organized crime and financing of terrorism



Security

- Professionalism of security and defense forces
- Proximity policing
- Community policing
- Existence of non-violent religious ideology (Confrerie des Mourides et de Tidianiyya)
- Legacy as one of the West African countries that did not experience military coup
- Participation of the security and defense forces in peacekeeping operations in neighbouring countries
- Existence of women platforms intervening in the Casamance
- Reconstruction programmes through government agencies and international stakeholders



Politics and Governance

- Vibrant civil society groups, including NGOs, women, and youth groups
- Existence of the 2010 Parity Law making the country the most progressive in terms of Gender in the region
- Vibrant media
- Highly influential religious leaders in maintaining social cohesion
- Long-standing inter-religious dialogue/ tolerance
- Availability of Gender progressive laws including equal parental authority

Recommendations



Rule of Law

- Encourage and expand the use of alternative dispute resolution and mediation mechanisms
- Raise awareness around gender-based violence (GBV) crimes within the traditional justice systems
- Support programs to raise awareness and support victims of GBV
- Strengthen and improve access to justice
- Strengthen transparency and accountability in the justice system
- Strengthen the independence of the justice system



Population and Demographics

- Support culturally-sensitive programming to address female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) and family planning
- Support vocational training and job creation initiatives to engage the youth population
- Assessment of educational curricula to ensure adherence to the needs of the country
- Increase coordination between ministries and actors charged with child protection
- Strengthen current anti-enfant talibé initiatives and the anti-trafficking national plan
- Strengthen the implementation of child protection instruments
- Modernization of Islamic education “Daara” and integration to the main-stream education



Economics and Resources

- Support and expand microfinancing and training programs, particularly in support of women- and youth-led initiatives
- Support small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- Strengthen the implementation environmentally sustainable policies to address climate change
- Develop programmes to diversify the economy
- Ensure that large-scale mining companies are adhering to international best practices on business and human rights, with mechanisms in place for affected communities to seek redress
- Promote collaboration between government and the private sector to encourage investment



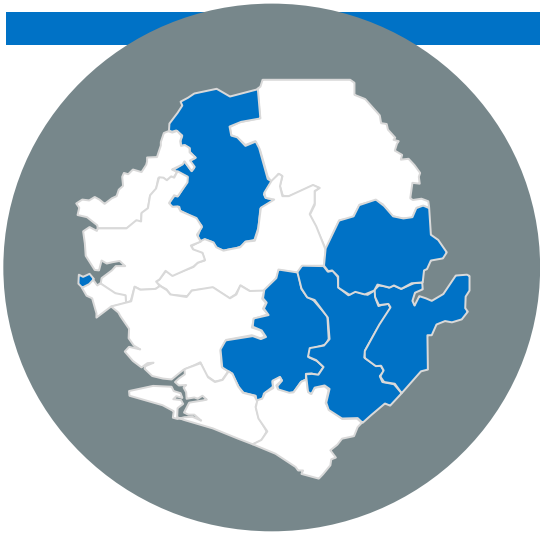
Security

- Support bi- and multi-lateral training assistance programs to enhance the institutional and organizational capacity of the security forces
- Encourage partnership between CSOs, security forces, and local communities to enhance security
- Work with regional and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity and violent extremism
- Establish cross border dialogue platforms between Senegalese-and Mauritanian communities to address underlying tensions due to transhumance, fishery and potentially to the newly-discovered gas fields
- Monitor upcoming elections to promote transparency



Politics and Governance

- Promote initiatives to strengthen good governance and transparency
- Promote the implementation and enforcement of the Gender Parity Law
- Support programs to train and engage women in political decision-making



SIERRA LEONE

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in November 2017 in the districts of Bo, Bombali, Kenema, Kono, and Western Area/Freetown.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process in Sierra Leone found higher vulnerability in the areas of Population & Demographics and Economics & Resources relative to other categories. Key sources of vulnerability include demographic and migration pressures, youth unemployment, environmental degradation, poor management of natural resources, and regional disparities in infrastructure and service provision. Widespread perceptions of corruption, political polarization along ethnic and regional lines, tensions ahead of election periods, and security threats such as criminality and land-based conflicts were also identified as negatively impacting human security in Sierra Leone.

Vulnerability and risk factors differ across regions, depending on history, location and demographic makeup. While each region has unique dynamics, cross-cutting vulnerabilities at the subnational level include corruption, perceptions of bias in the allocation and management of infrastructure and public services, low levels of trust in the security forces, and the underrepresentation of youth and women in politics. Additionally, a lack of economic benefit from natural resource extraction for local communities and concerns about environmental degradation are ongoing vulnerabilities.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, there are strong social and institutional resilience factors for effective dispute resolution and peacebuilding in Sierra Leone. NGOs, civil society organizations, women's groups and the media have played a critical role in awareness-raising, advocacy, and peacebuilding initiatives. Government programs to increase access to justice, such as the Legal Aid Board, and community-police partnership structures have also proven to be effective in mitigating some of the risks and vulnerabilities identified in this report. The collective memory of the country's 11-year civil war has also come to be a powerful societal deterrent to violent conflict.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Population and Demographics

- Population growth
- Rural to urban migration
- High rate of youth unemployment
- Internal migration to Freetown
- Early marriage
- Teenage pregnancy
- Child labor
- Limited access to women's health services in rural areas
- Cultural barriers to family planning including the practice of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)
- Inadequate access to quality public services, including education and healthcare
- Poor urban planning



Economics and Resources

- Rural-urban divide and regional disparities in development and infrastructure
- Price volatility
- Reliance on exports
- High prices of basic commodities
- Rising cost of living
- Undiversified economy
- Child labor
- Illicit economic activities, including drug trafficking
- Environmental degradation and climate change



Politics and Governance

- Political polarization along ethnic and regional lines
- Perceptions of corruption and lack of transparency among state institutions
- Underrepresentation of youth and women in political decision-making
- Weak governance of natural resources

- Poor application of decentralization policies
- Weak presence of the state at the local levels



Rule of Law

- Perceived lack of judicial independence
- Perceptions of corruption and bias within the justice system
- Lack of resources for the justice system
- Poor access to justice for vulnerable populations
- Clash between customary and official law around land tenure and ownership
- Gender-based discrimination within customary law



Security

- Perceptions of corruption and bias among security forces
- Inadequate resources for the security sector
- Lack of clarity around land tenure and ownership
- Porous borders
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW)
- Legacy of the civil war, which has weakened state institutions and promoted the culture of violence

Event-Driven Risks



Population and Demographics

- Drug abuse
- Natural disasters
- Disease outbreaks
- Food insecurity
- Infant and maternal mortality
- Low provision of social services
- High rate of emigration



Economics and Resources

- Low rate of economic productivity
- Disease outbreaks
- Price volatility
- Rising cost of living



Politics and Governance

- Misinformation and hate speech on social media, especially during election cycles
- Poor delivery of basic social services
- Violence against political parties
- Discrimination against supporters of political opposition parties



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption within the judicial system
- Tension from the lack of clarity around land tenure and ownership
- Incidents of mob justice



Security

- Criminality and illicit activities
- Land- and resource-based conflicts
- Tensions and violence during election periods
- Cross-border disputes

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Population and Demographics

- Existence of growing civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs
- Traditional and religious leaders
- Culture of religious tolerance and practice of inter-faith marriages



Economics and Resources

- Microfinance programs and economic cooperatives to promote women's economic empowerment
- Actions of local, regional, and international actors to address food insecurity
- Remittances from migrants and the diaspora
- Cross-border trade
- Licensed small-scale mining



Politics and Governance

- Vibrant media
- Existence of growing civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs
- Lessons learned from civil war as a deterrent to violent conflict



Rule of Law

- Legal Aid Board and initiatives to increase access to justice
- Existence of legal texts and normative frameworks on gender, equity, and women's rights
- Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (ADR)
- Reliance on traditional and religious institutions for conflict resolution
- Existence of regulatory framework on land use



Security

- Community-police partnership boards, Provincial Security Committee (PROSEC) and District Security Committee (DISEC)
- Security sector reform (SSR)

- The legacy of the UN peacekeeping operations and the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL)

Recommendations



Population and Demographics

- Invest in rural development to improve infrastructure and social services provision
- Support schools to standardize curriculums and ensure they meet national standards; ensure rural schools have adequate staff and supplies
- Support culturally-sensitive programming to promote women's health services and family welfare
- Establishment of rehabilitation centers to address drug abuse
- Strengthen the implementation of the legal frameworks to address FGM and protection of women through
- Encourage female education to empower them to advocate for positive social change including the eradication of harmful cultural practices to women's health and wellbeing



Economics and Resources

- Support and expand microfinance programs and vocational training to support women- and youth-led initiatives
- Support the regulation of environmentally detrimental practices surrounding large- and small-scale mining operations; support reforestation initiatives and strengthen environmental protection laws
- Strengthen land tenure legislation to protect local communities from forced displacement
- Ensure that contracts negotiated with international companies comply with social corporate responsibility processes established by the government
- Enforce development control and urban planning code
- Ensure that large-scale mining companies adhere to existing environmental protection policies.
- Promote more transparency and accountability in the governance of extractive industries with emphasis on economic and social justice



Politics and Governance

- Engage stakeholders and officials to ensure free and fair elections and an inclusive electoral process
- Expand sensitization campaigns designed to prevent politically-motivated violence
- Encourage women's political involvement and continue to advocate for a gender quota
- Empower community-based organizations to advocate for social, political inclusion of women and youth in decision-making
- Empower and fund local and community-based institutions to drive the process of development
- Sensitize government on the need to hold "Les Etats Generaux" on the governance of natural resources, particularly the mining sector. This is intended to work on creating a centralized system of governance and management of natural resources



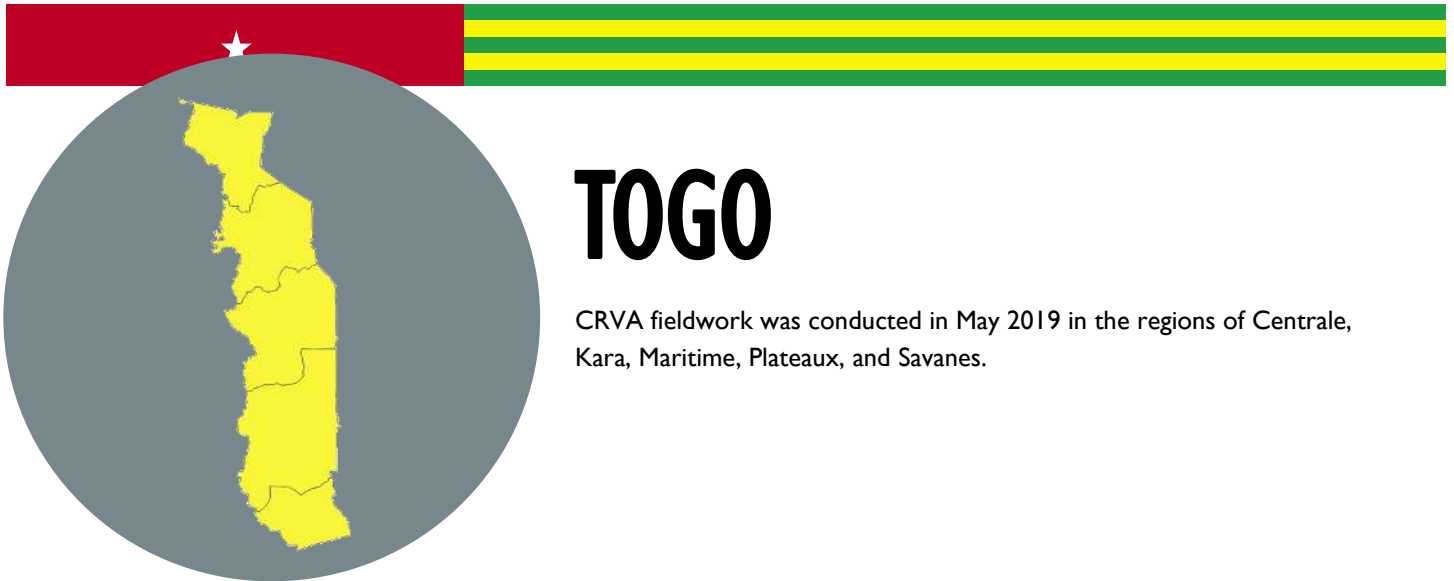
Rule of Law

- Strengthen mechanisms of alternative dispute resolution as incentives for social cohesion
- Raise awareness around gender-based violence (GBV) crimes within the formal and traditional justice systems
- Support programs to raise awareness and protect victims of GBV
- Strengthen and expand programs to improve access to justice particularly for vulnerable populations



Security

- Support bi- and multi-lateral training assistance programs to enhance the institutional and organizational capacity of the security forces
- Create a partnership between CSOs, security forces and local communities to enhance cooperation and trust building on security matters
- Enhance the operational and institutional capacity of the police and military forces, including improved training
- Work with regional and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity and extremism
- Provide logistical support and training to security forces ahead of elections



TOGO

CRVA fieldwork was conducted in May 2019 in the regions of Centrale, Kara, Maritime, Plateaux, and Savanes.

Field research conducted during the CRVA process found higher vulnerability in the areas of Rule of Law and Politics & Governance relative to the other categories, due to perceptions of bias, impunity, and corruption in the judicial system; a low capacity and slow judicial process; a history of irregular/postponed elections; perceived bias in the government and public sector based on ethnicity or public affiliation; and the perception of a highly polarized political process. Informants also identified theft and road banditry, gender-based violence, drug and human trafficking, and tensions from transhumance as factors negatively impacting human security in Togo.

Although each region has its own unique vulnerabilities, fieldwork revealed several crosscutting subnational vulnerabilities including the youth bulge and youth unemployment, land and boundary disputes, and disengagement of youth and underrepresentation of women in politics. Additionally, informants in all geographical regions highlighted the pressures resulting from climate change as a national concern.

Despite these vulnerabilities and risks, there are strong social and institutional resilience factors that mitigate the aforementioned challenges. Local religious and traditional leaders fill judicial gaps by carrying out forms of alternative dispute resolution and convening leaders in committees to discuss general and transhumance-related peacebuilding. Building off local practices, NGOs, CSOs, ECOWAS, and the government have increased national peacebuilding efforts by teaching conflict resolution and addressing past and present gaps in governance and justice. In addition, KIIs highlighted the importance of multinational financial institutions and the Togolese government in supporting growing local economies and ensuring women and youth are engaged in that economic growth.

Structural Vulnerabilities



Rule of Law

- Perceptions of corruption, impunity and bias in the judicial system
- Slow judicial processes
- Access to justice for poor and vulnerable populations
- Low capacity of the judicial system, including backlog of cases
- Understaffed, under-resourced and inhumane conditions in prison system



Politics and Governance

- Perception of highly polarized political process
- Perception of bias and favoritism in government and public sector based on ethnic or political affiliation
- History of irregular/postponed elections
- Underrepresentation of women at the ministerial level
- Disengagement of youth from political processes



Economics and Resources

- Political unrest impacting investment
- Perceptions of Corruption
- Climate Change
- Pollution of Waterways and Fisheries
- Illicit Economy



Population and Demographics

- Youth Unemployment
- Perceived disparities in healthcare and education spending and services in urban versus rural areas
- Environmental pressures, such as irregular rains and drought
- Youth Bulge
- Poor infrastructure in rural areas, including roads, clinics, schools



Security

- Perception of security sector bias in some regions
- Criminality, including drug and human trafficking
- Political violence around elections/campaigns
- Transhumance-related conflict issues
- Land based disputes

Event-Driven Risks



Rule of Law

- Incidents of corruption, including bribing judges
- Incidents of excessive force, particularly during periods of political unrest



Politics and Governance

- Incidents of corruption or mismanagement
- Polarizing elections
- Use of hate speech during political campaigns



Economics and Resources

- Environmental pressures and the effects of climate change
- Food insecurity
- Price volatility
- Land and Boundary Disputes



Population and Demographics

- Tensions between ethnic groups over land competition
- Child trafficking
- Teenage pregnancy
- Effects of climate change, such as soil erosion
- Effects of unsustainable or unsafe extractives practices, such as pollution of waterways and fisheries



Security

- Incidents of criminality, including theft and road banditry.
- Cases of gender-based violence (GBV), including domestic violence
- Increase in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and human trafficking
- Tensions arising from transhumance

Social and Institutional Resilience Factors



Rule of Law

- Local and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms
- Religious institutions



Politics and Governance

- Office of the High Commissioner for Reconciliation and Strengthening National Unity (HCRRUN)
- ECOWAS Community Court of Justice
- WANEP-Togo
- Police and gendarmerie (in some regions)



Economics and Resources

- Female representation in National Assembly
- Women's Political Parties
- Civic Education NGOs
- Office of the High Commissioner for Reconciliation and Strengthening National Unity (HCRRUN)

- Women/Youth entrepreneurs
- Women/Youth Microcredit and Micro-finance Schemes
- Religious Institutions
- NGOs and INGOs
- Multilateral Financial Institutions
- National Inclusive Financial Fund



Population and Demographics

- NGOs and INGOs (i.e. Compassion International, Peace Corps, GIZ)
- Religious Institutions
- Multilateral Institutions (AfDB, ECOWAS)
- National Agency for Food Security of Togo (ANSAT)



Security

- Peace and Transhumance Committees
- Religious Institutions
- INGOs and NGOs
- Office of the High Commissioner for Reconciliation and Strengthening National Unity (HCRRUN)

Recommendations



Rule of Law

- Strengthen mechanisms of alternative dispute resolution as incentives for social cohesion
- Support CSOs, NGOs, and INGOs on initiatives focusing on remediation for gender-based violence (GBV)
- Invest in civic education initiatives on women's and youth rights
- Advance transparency and anti-corruption initiatives and reforms within the judiciary
- Strengthen and expand programs to improve access to justice, particularly for vulnerable populations



Politics and Governance

- Engage stakeholders and officials to ensure free and fair elections and an inclusive electoral process
 - Support local and national transparency and anti-corruption initiatives
 - Empower women and youth to run for political office
 - Encourage inclusive policies to strengthen women's participation in political processes
-



Economics and Resources

- Civil society, NGOs and financial institutions should expand micro-financing that support women's businesses.
 - Develop and enforce existing regulations on environmental degradation
 - Improve and expand access to credit and financing for women and youth
 - Create and support alternative livelihood programs
-



Population and Demographics

- Invest in infrastructure development and service provision in rural and underserved areas
 - Support government, civil society organizations, NGOs and INGOs in sensitization campaigns on teen pregnancy
 - Support vocational training, job creation, and income-generating initiative for growing youth population
 - Reform the government's administration on land tenure to provide clarity
-



Security

- Build the capacity of traditional and religious institutions to arbitrate and mediate disputes at the grassroots level
- Work with regional and international partners to address larger regional trends of insecurity and trafficking networks, including strengthening border controls
- Create partnerships between state and non-state security actors to enhance cooperation and trust building on security matters
- Support women-led and community-based initiatives on peace promotion, and advocacy

