

## ACTIVITIES REPORT SUMMARY

### **END OF FOUR (4) DAYS CROSS-BORDER MANAGEMENT & UNDERSTANDING ECOWAS PROTOCOL ON FREE MOVEMENT AND TRANS-BORDER SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA REPORT SUMMARY**

*Activity 1.2.4: Organize trainings in border management for administrative authorities, security forces/agencies and communities' leader*

**REPORT TITLE: Cross Border Engagement between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to reinforce Social Cohesion and Border Security – Phase II (PBF)**

**GRAND GEDEH COUNTY FIELD ACTIVITIES REPORT**

**SUBMITTED BY: Jonathan T. Roberts, IOM Cross-Border Field Coordinator, Grand Gedeh County**

**DATE: September 4<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**Activities Date: August 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> & August 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**

**LOCATION: Gleo Tempo & Bhai POE**

#### **I PARTICIPANTS**

- Jonathan T. Roberts – IOM Field Coordinator- Grand Counties- Liberia (Facilitation & Activities Lead)
- Philip P. Mawamon – LIS Deputy County Commander for Operation, Grand Gedeh County (Co-Facilitator)
- Ebrahimi B. Morris- LIS County Border Patrol Commander- Grand Gedeh County- Co- Facilitator
- Local County Authorities- District Commissioners, Paramount Chief, Traditional Council Head, Heads of Security Agencies (LIS/BPU, LNP, LDEA, LRA, CUSTOM), Cross- Border Women Representatives, Youths Representatives, Community dwellers and other stakeholders.

#### **II Specific Objectives**

**Outcome 1: Increased Trust Between State Institutions and Target Communities of the Cross-Border Areas.**

**Activity 1.2.4: Organize trainings in border management for administrative authorities, security forces/agencies and communities' leader.**

The main purpose of hosting the project activities are:

- To strengthen greater understanding among LIS Officers, Stakeholders and other Border actors on border safety and management
- To strengthen stakeholders, security actors and cross-borders women knowledge on understanding Ecovas protocol on free movement and trans-borders security in West Africa
- To strengthen the capacity and understanding of the cross-borders actors in enhancing peace and addressing issues related to security and social cohesion in cross-border areas.



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**III Expected Results:** At the end of these activities, meetings and training workshops it is anticipated that:

- Number of local authorities, security forces, border management officials and key government actors with improved knowledge on border management and conflict prevention enhanced.
- Improve coordination, collaboration and information sharing among borders security actor and stakeholder.
- The capacity and understanding of the cross-borders actors strengthened in enhancing peace and addressing issues related to security and social cohesion in cross-border areas.
- Citizens and security actors understanding of Ecowas free movement protocol and trans-borders security in West Africa enhanced

#### **IV BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

The border between Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire is extremely porous with innumerable illegal crossings which has historically been a corridor for frequent political instability, security threats, cross-border attacks, and inter-ethnic tensions in the last decade. Further, these bordering regions has experienced and continued to be vulnerable to recurrent inter-tribal and inter-community conflicts for land ownership and disposition of forest rights as well as political crises in both countries. These proximal bordering communities (Tai and Toulepleu on Cote d'Ivoire side and Gleo Tempo and Bhai Joezson forest in Grand Gedeh counties on the Liberian side) which are characterized by a vast dense forest area on both sides, have been fluid and serve as hideouts for dissident groups in the past decades. Political instability or civil conflicts in both countries have fuelled security threats and increased influx of refugees and other illegal migrants along the border region for political and socio-economic asylum. Past governments of both countries have excuse each other for political instability in their respective countries and harbouring of dissident groups with only ad-hoc and unsustainable strategy response to ensure cross-border stability.

Lastly, Cross-border migration and movements are highly fluid with limited knowledge among local authorities, communities and security actors on the relevant ECOWAS and MRU Protocols. For example, the increasing migration of Burkinabe from Cote D'Ivoire and Ghanaian immigrants into the Liberian forests in Grand Gedeh county to grow cocoa and exploit other natural resources including gold and diamond mining continue to breed potential conflicts with strong dissatisfactions between local communities and county officials. Consequently, the Burkinabe are allegedly being brought into the country and harboured by some local county authorities and citizens to help them plant cocoa and coffee (tree crops) farms and cultivate the forest for other form of incomes activities. Though, the illegal migration and cultivation of forests land by the Burkinabe will potentially catalyst inter-community land conflicts in the southeast region, if appropriate short-and-long term measures are not instituted to immediately mediate or address the situation.

Against this background, IOM initiated two days each border management and Ecowas protocol on the free movement of citizens in West Africa to strengthen and Improve coordination, collaboration and information sharing among borders security actor and stakeholder. As well as building capacity and understanding of cross-borders actors in enhancing peace and addressing issues related to security and social cohesion in cross-border areas especially the Gleo Tempo and Bhai regions.



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## **V. Methodology/Approach:**

The initial engagement between Cote d' Ivoire and Liberia to reinforce Social Cohesion and Border Security in Phase II was pursued through one of the specified activities with organizing trainings in border management for administrative authorities, security forces/agencies and communities' leader; Border management and understanding Ecowas protocol on free movement and trans-borders security in West Africa. At both levels of the activities' implementation, the participants included heads of security agencies (LNP, LIS, LRA, LDEA, CUSTOM), local leaders, Cross-border women, and community members (including youth and women groups' representatives).

The first of the four- day's training workshops on border management and understanding Ecowas protocol on free movement and trans-borders security in West Africa in Gleo Tempo and Bhai begun with arrival and registration of participants and followed by presentations and focus group discussions.

The two-day's each activity regularly start at 09:00 with registration and breakfast and ended at 5:00 taking in account social distancing and all related health protocol on CONVID-19

The trainings included, presentations and focus group discussions on Border management and Ecowas protocol in Gleo Tempo and Bhai POE respectively, targeted a total of 60 invited participants. (Male=35, Female = 25)

## **VI. Outcomes from the Gleo Tempo & Bhai Training**

The training started with registration, welcome remarks, and overview of the workshop. And the following expectations were given by the participants:

- That cordial working relationship be established between citizens and the security actors on border management.
- That knowledge on Border management be advance
- That women and youths' participation will be encouraged in cross-border activities.
- That knowledge gained during the training in Ecowas protocol be shared with relevant stakeholders
- That information sharing between the security actors/agencies and the communities will be enhanced and encouraged.
- That issues of illegal border crossings/entries will not be compromised in the communities or at the borders.
- That the local authorities will be prompt in responding to reports of threats and illegal entries emerging from/at the borders.
- That members of the traditional council will collaborate with the security agencies in providing protection at the borders.
- That members of the communities and the local authorities will be encouraged to freely share information of national/security concerns with security actors without intimidation or fear.

## **Key Achievements:**

- The number of local authorities, security forces, border management officials and key government actors with improved knowledge on border management and conflict prevention was enhanced.

- Improve coordination, collaboration and information sharing among borders security actor and stakeholder was highlighted and endorsed.
- The capacity and understanding of cross-borders actors were strengthened in enhancing peace and addressing issues related to security and social cohesion in cross-border areas.
- Participants understanding of Ecowas free movement protocol and trans-borders security in West Africa enhanced.

### **Key Challenges**

- Lack of early warning and early response (EWER) mechanisms and community peace committees to carry out peacebuilding and promote peaceful coexistence
- Women and youths are largely involved with cross-border trade and exchanges, and due to COVID-19 pandemic, cross-border commercial activities have declined significantly, affecting livelihoods and food security of local community dwellers along the border community.
- Most youths are engaged into motorcycle transport business while women are mainly involved with cross-border trade and agriculture activities, but they lack the skills to engage in more productive and income generating activities, thus, playing important roles in cross-border trade and rural economy enterprise.
- The lack of transportation for key local government authorities from remote communities to execute their function at both community and district level

### **VII CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A refresher workshop be conducted after every three (3) months to ensure stakeholders fully understand borders security management and free movement of the Ecowas protocol to avoid illegal migration.
- Increase the numbers of participants and training days
- Organize experience sharing among participants and stakeholders on border management and Ecowas protocol.

### **VIII Way forward**

- Follow-up to ensure appropriate borders management and the Ecowas protocol are adhere to by both security and stakeholders

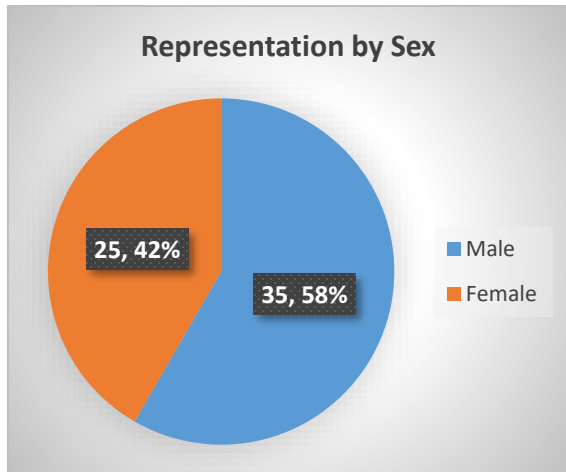
### **Selection Participants' Rationale:**

In order to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the project, participants were drawn from the diverse stakeholders Local County Authorities- District and Commissioners, Paramount Chief, Traditional Council Head, Heads of Security Agencies (LIS/BPU, LNP, LDEA, LRA & CUSTOM), Cross- Border Women Representatives, Disabled Community, Youths Representatives, Community dwellers and other stakeholders to get the anticipated results based on Results Based Management (RBM) mechanism on project management. Henceforth, the participants represented the needed population (stakeholders) to reflect the outputs and outcomes of the project's activities as per the project proposal. The total of 60 participants attended both two days each' training workshop with 25 females and 35 males in attendance.

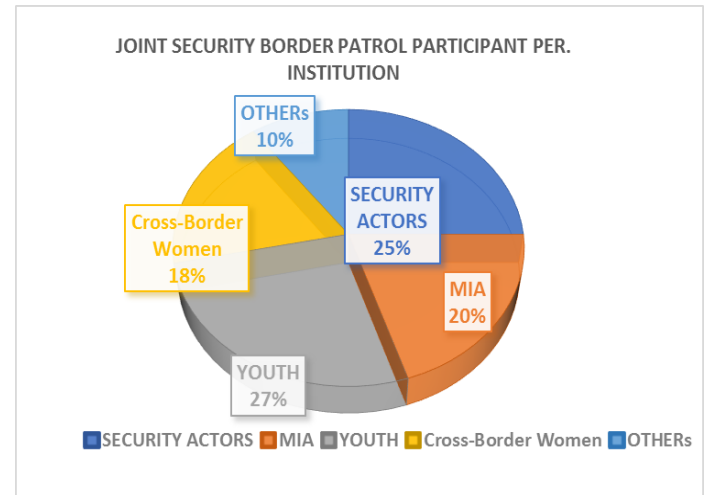


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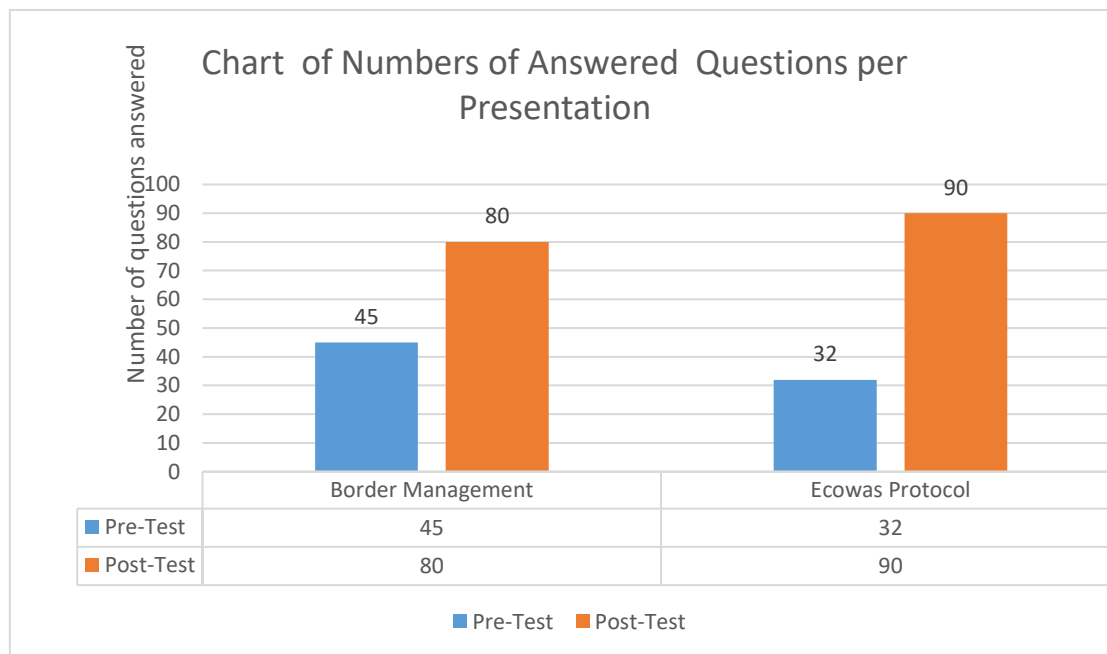
Below is a graphic picture of the participants' representation by sex and institutions.



Males- 35, Females 25



**Institutions: MIA- 12, SSA-15, YOUTH- 16, Cross-border Women OTHER- 6**





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**Some Pictorials of the just ended Border management Training in Tempo & Bhai POE.**  
**August 26-31, 2020**



Participants @ Tempo Training



LIS Facilitator Philip Presentation



Cross section of Participants @ Bhai



Group discussions ongoing @ Bhai