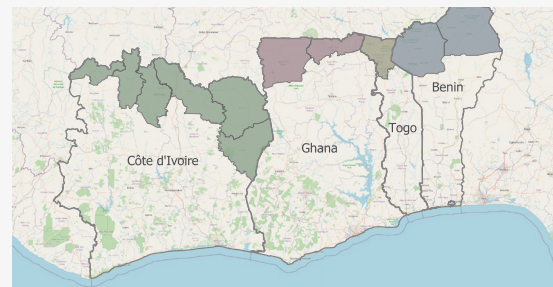


The content of the document contains analysis of available data.  
It does not reflect the opinion of GRANIT member agencies, organisations, partners and actors.

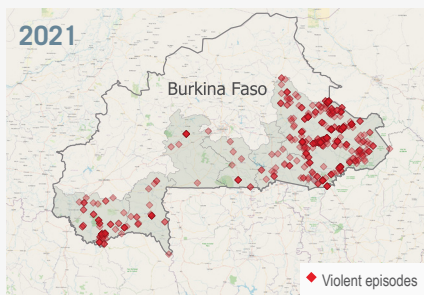
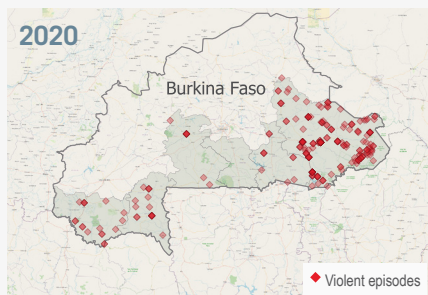
## Context

The coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea (Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo) have seen, over the past two years, a deterioration in their security conditions. This is a result of the expansion of the crisis affecting Central Sahel. Two trends witnessed over the first five months of the year 2022 confirm this evolution. On the one hand, attacks in southern Burkina Faso have increased by 143% between January 2021 and May 2022<sup>1</sup>, triggering the forced displacement of thousands of Burkinabè refugees to north-eastern Côte d'Ivoire and northern Benin. Furthermore, a significant number of incursions by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) have been recorded in Burkina Faso's southern neighbours since early 2021- attacks have become more frequent in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin since the start of the year 2022 and in May 2022<sup>2</sup> for the first time hit Togo. In addition to a rise in insecurity, the four coastal States are subject to intercommunal violence and worsening food security conditions, in areas where agriculture, farming and herding are the populations' main livelihood. Any future increase in attacks and incursions by NSAGs risks exposing local populations to higher protection risks, closure of basic services and large movements of populations.

## Geographic Coverage



Administrative areas : Benin (Alibori, Atacora) ; Côte d'Ivoire (Savanes, Zanzan) ; Ghana (Upper East, Upper West) ; Togo (Savanes)



## Key numbers<sup>3</sup> (January - May 2022)

	Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo
# Violent Incidents	17	5	11	1
Population at risk, of population as a whole	1.9M out of 11.9M (16%)	2.9M out of 22.9M (11%)	2.1M out of 29.3M (7%)	1.1M out of 11.9M (9%)

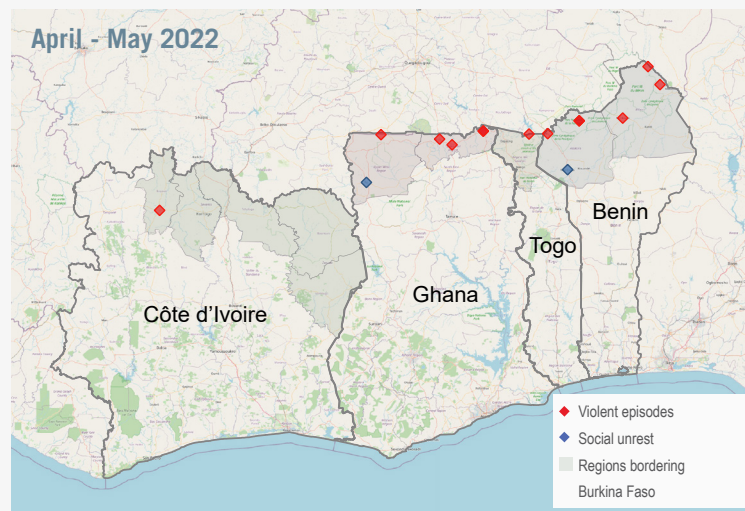
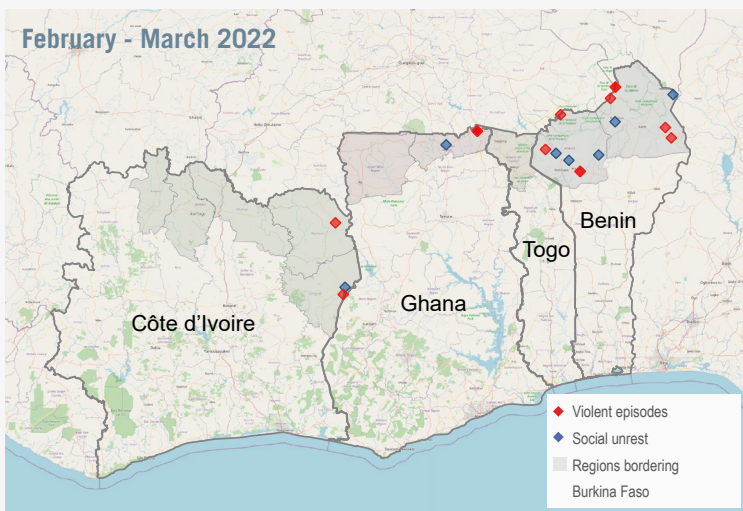
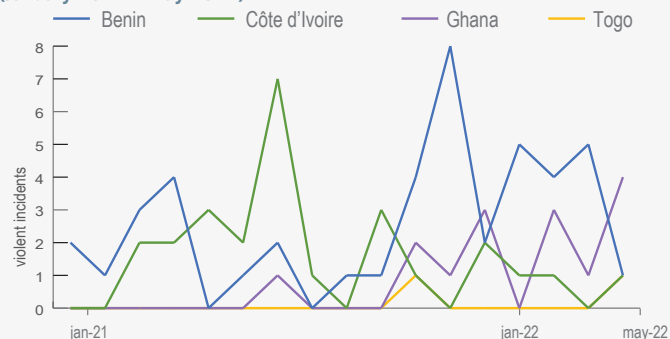
## Evolution of security incidents<sup>3</sup>

Between January 2021 and May 2022, 129 violent incidents were reported in the northern regions of Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, bordering Burkina Faso's southern border. Of the 86 incidents recorded in 2021, 61% were attacks by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), with Benin and Côte d'Ivoire the most affected countries.

In 2022, as of May, 79% of reported incidents were made up of incursions by NSAGs. Benin remained the most affected country, followed by Ghana.

NSAGs are presumably seeking to branch out and expand their activities to the coastal countries, using the thick forests found in the south of Burkina Faso as a secure base. This would constitute a significant trend in 2022, and the density of the forest areas would limit humanitarian access and hamper the ability to monitor the situation<sup>4</sup>.

## Monthly number of episodes of violence, by country (January 2021 – May 2022)



<sup>1</sup> The source for all figures related to security incidents shown in the report is ACLED.  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.africanews.com/2022/05/11/eight-soldiers-killed-in-togo-terrorist-attack-government/>

<sup>3</sup> This includes the following regions: Alibori, Atacora in Benin; Savanes, Zanzan in Côte d'Ivoire; Upper East, Upper West in Ghana; Savanes in Togo.

<sup>4</sup> *Idem*, note 2

The content of the document contains analysis of available data.  
It does not reflect the opinion of GRANIT member agencies, organisations, partners and actors.

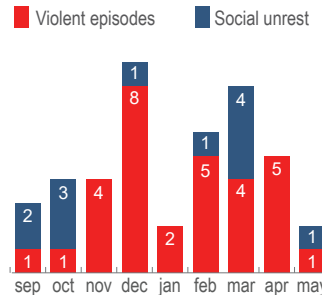
## Insecurity

This section presents trends in violent security incidents in Gulf of Guinea coastal countries between September 2021 and May 2022. The term “social unrest” refers to social challenges including violent demonstrations, popular uprisings, and incidents involving police and security forces, while “violent episodes” refers to instances of violence including attacks by armed groups, communal conflicts or kidnappings.

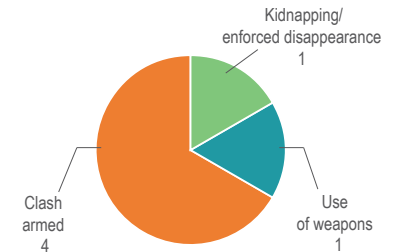
### Benin

Between September 2021 and May 2022, Benin saw a large rise in violent incidents; most incidents are episodes of violence. The peak in violence was recorded in December 2021, although violence continued throughout 2022. Cases of violence refer primarily to attacks and use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by a single armed group, which primarily operates in Benin’s northern regions of Alibori and Atakora.

Monthly number of security incidents

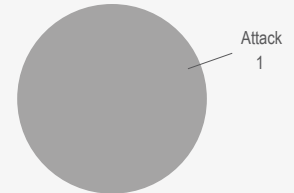
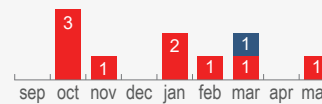


Types of episodes of violence (April-May 2022)



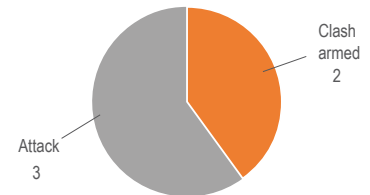
### Côte d'Ivoire

The number of recorded violent incidents in northern Ghana rose progressively between September 2021 and May 2022. Episodes of violence include attacks and incursions by NSAGs and intercommunal conflicts. Four violent episodes were recorded during the month of May 2022 alone.



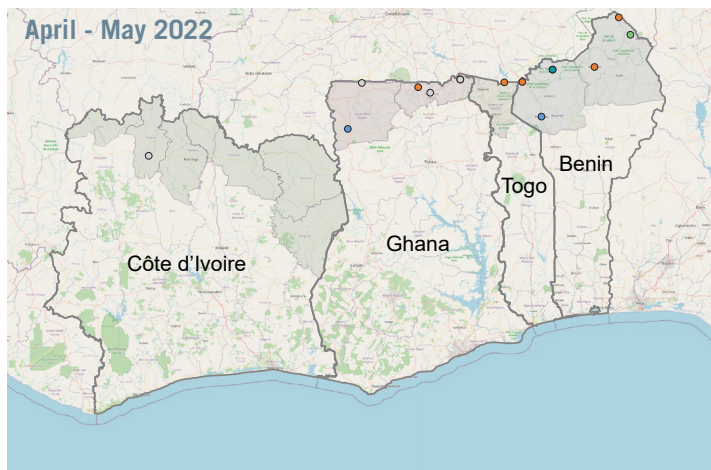
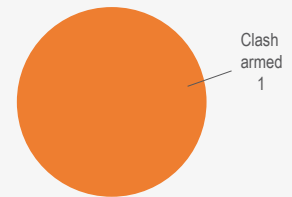
### Ghana

The number of recorded violent incidents in northern Ghana rose progressively between September 2021 and May 2022. Episodes of violence include attacks and incursions by NSAGs and intercommunal conflicts. Four violent episodes were recorded during the month of May 2022 alone.



### Togo

The country witnessed three security incidents over the reported period, including one episode of violence in May 2022, an incursion by the same NSAG which has committed attacks in Benin. It is the first attack perpetrated by this armed group in Togo.



### Security incidents, by category

- Armed clash
- Mob violence
- Arrests
- Looting/property destruction
- Attack
- Disrupted weapons use
- Abduction/forced disappearance
- Sexual violence
- Remote explosive/land mine/IED
- Violent demonstration
- Protest with intervention

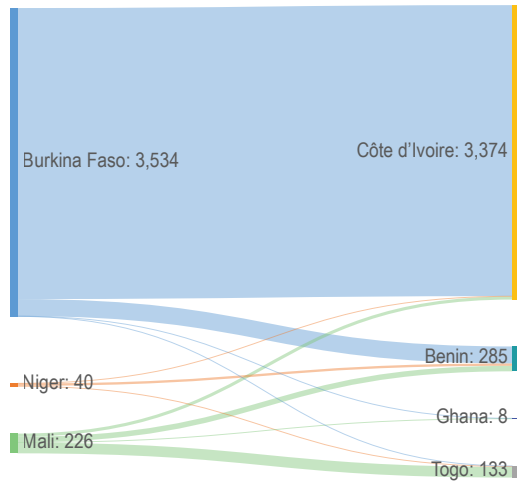
The content of the document contains analysis of available data. It does not reflect the opinion of GRANIT member agencies, organisations, partners and actors.

## Displacement trends

The Central Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) faces a grave security, humanitarian and protection crisis which has forced millions to flee their home. While the majority of displaced persons are internally displaced within the boundaries of their countries of origin, displacement movements towards the coastal countries have also been recorded.

An uninterrupted influx of refugees from Burkina Faso has thus reached Côte d'Ivoire since May 2021. As of 30 May 2022, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has recorded over 3,000 Burkinabè refugees, most of whom are women and children. In Benin, UNHCR identified and registered 190 Burkinabè refugees.

### Country of origin and destination of refugees present in the Gulf of Guinea<sup>4</sup>



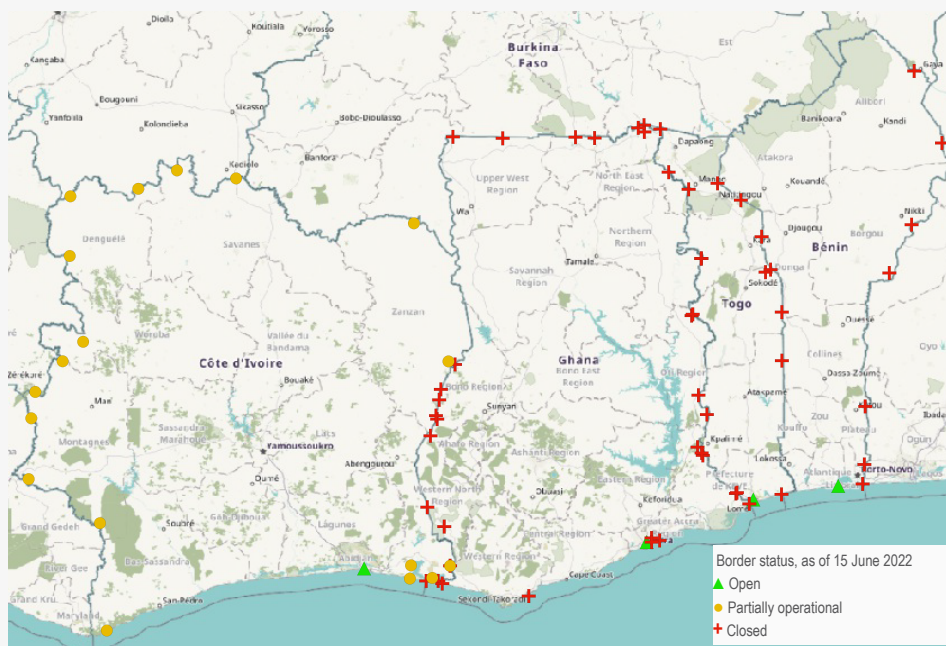
Given current security trends and reigning instability in the Central Sahel, an increase in the flow of Burkinabè refugees to coastal countries should be expected.

Country of provenance	Host country				Total
	Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo	
Burkina Faso	195	3,335	3	1	3,534
Mali	63	36	5	122	226
Niger	27	3		10	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>3,374</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>3,800</b>

### Border status<sup>5</sup>

COVID-19 related operational statuses of borders in the coastal countries are very different from border closure statuses in other West African countries. Land borders in Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo and Ghana are all still officially closed to traffic or severely restrictive of entries and exits. They are the only West African countries that have not fully or virtually reopened their

land borders. In the four countries, airports are open to commercial traffic. In addition to COVID-19 border closures, Togo and Benin in late 2021 both unilaterally closed their borders with Burkina Faso due to agropastoral and communal conflicts.



Country	Border type	Closed	Open	Partially operational	Total
Benin	Airport	0	1	0	1
	Land border	14	0	0	14
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	Airport	0	1	0	1
	Land border	0	0	18	18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Ghana	Airport	0	1	0	1
	Blue border	2	0	0	2
	Land border	31	0	0	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	
Togo	Airport	0	1	0	1
	Land border	6	0	0	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>75</b>

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR (as of June 2022)  
<sup>5</sup> IOM

The content of the document contains analysis of available data.  
It does not reflect the opinion of GRANIT member agencies, organisations, partners and actors.

## Food security

The latest analysis done by the Cadre harmonisé (CH), conducted in March 2022, shows that hunger and malnutrition are on the rise in all four coastal countries. During the period March – May 2022, approximately 2.3 million individuals were suffering of food insecurity (Phase 3-5) in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. This includes close to 80,000 classified as being in a situation of 'urgency' (Phase 4) and represents a 35% increase when compared to 2021. The CH estimates are also higher than the five-year average (+387%).

For the projected period (June – August 2022), the situation is expected to improve slightly thanks to seasonal changes, although it is estimated that 2.2 million individuals will be food insecure, including 41,000 in a situation of 'urgency' (Phase 4). These projections are much higher than figures from the same period of the last year (+46%) and significantly higher than the five-year average (+335%). 2022 estimates for Benin are the highest ever recorded in the country since the start of the CH.

The deterioration of the food and nutrition security situation is a result of mutually reinforcing factors. Since early 2021, the price of food goods has trended upwards and, in March 2022, was vastly superior to the five-year average. Macroeconomic factors also play a major role in food insecurity

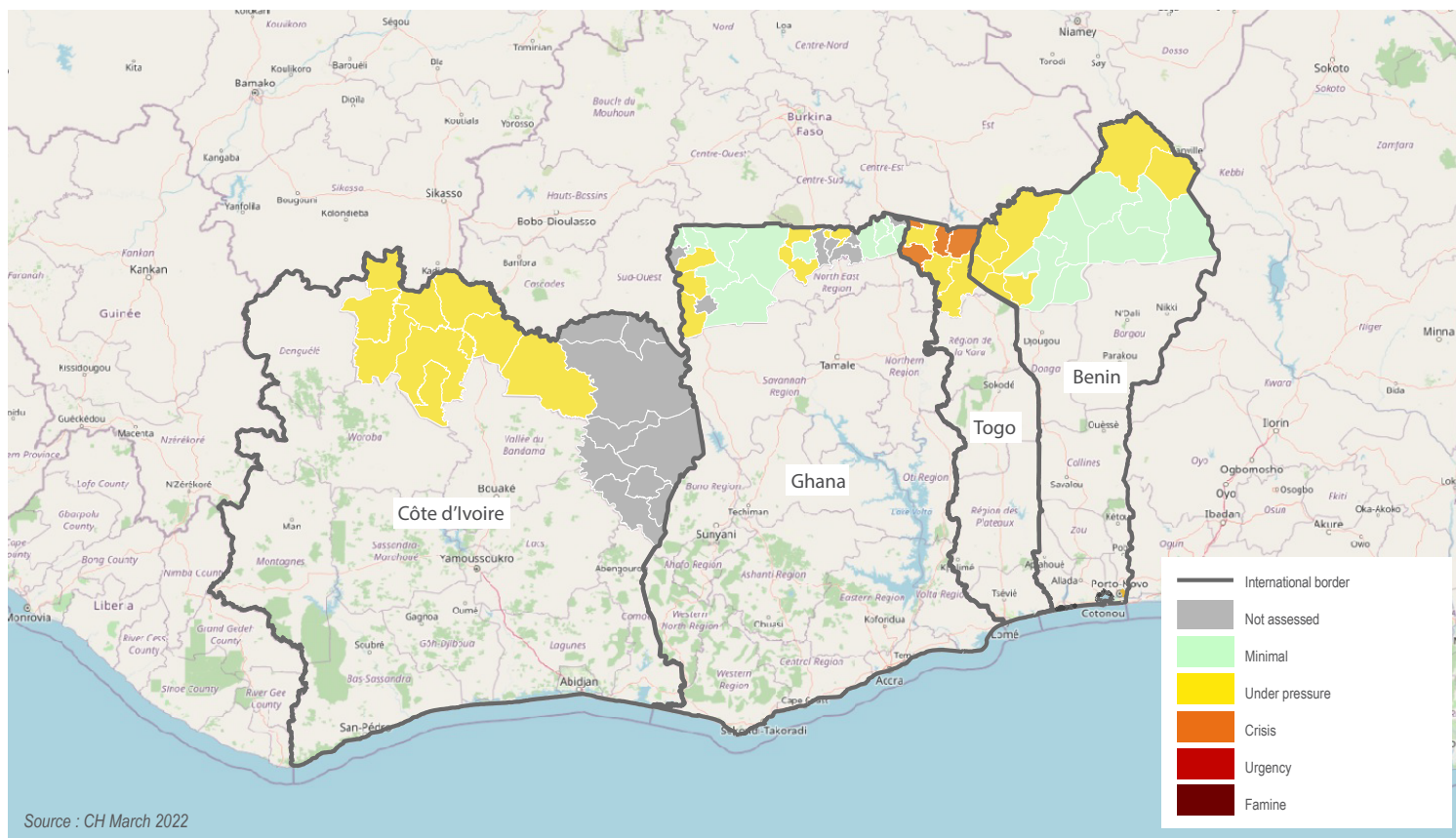
as countries still recover from the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, which led to a 3% increase in extreme poverty between 2021 and 2021, according to an ECOWAS/ECCAS/WFP study. While the economic outlook for 2021 and 2022 was slightly more optimistic, coastal countries are in the grips of high debt levels and will have to address large economic challenges to respond to the food crisis expected to take hold in the region in 2022.

Seasonal climatic outlook show that the 2022 rainy season will be irregular and rainfall lower than usual. This could negatively impact agricultural production during the 2022/2023 harvest, limiting access to food for the most vulnerable. Coastal countries are also at risk of experiencing continued rise in food prices and disruptions to food supply and agricultural input (especially in fertilizers) as a result of the war in Ukraine.

Deteriorating security conditions is another aggravating factor behind rising food insecurity. The increase in the number of violent incidents indicates a spillover of the Central Sahel crisis, as the coastal countries' northernmost regions are crossed by trade and contraband routes which are important to non-State armed groups (NSAGs).

**Local communities have started being targeted by NSAG attacks, raising the probability of population displacement and disruption to livelihoods.**

### Projected food and nutritional security (June – August 2022)



*The content of the document contains analysis of available data.  
It does not reflect the opinion of GRANIT member agencies, organisations, partners and actors.*

## Community relations and human rights

This analysis covers the period ranging from January to May 2022. The European Media Monitoring (EMM) system, ACLED data and the OHCHR<sup>7</sup> monthly human rights monitoring report are its primary sources. The analysis examines the situation in areas where risks to internal security and volatile community relations may lead to protection, security and human rights violations. The analysis uses OHCHR's Regional Monthly Review as its analytical framework. For the covered period, the analysis identified 25 media articles relating to insecurity in the four coastal countries of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo.

### Benin

**Increase in risk factors “Activities by non-State actors and militias”, “communal violence” and “discriminatory practices based on religion or belief”**

According to ACLED and EMM data, intercommunal violence is growing and becoming more of a concern. Benin is at the core of non-State armed groups' strategy to exploit divisions and fractures between communities. Of the four coastal countries, Benin is the country which recorded the largest expansion in inter-ethnic tensions and inter-community conflicts.

First, Benin recorded multiple herder-farmer conflicts between January and May 2022. Agropastoralist often intersect with community tensions between the mostly Fulani herders and farmers of other ethnic groups. Second, a number of inter-ethnic conflicts have been recorded, often originating in the fight for control, which led to multiple deaths.

In addition, northern Benin has been subject to two dozen armed attacks against government forces between late 2021 and mid-2022. According to ACLED, this represents the highest number of attacks in the country since Benin started facing incursions by non-State armed groups (NSAGs).

Communal violence and attacks by NSAGs against security and defense forces fragilize community relations and raise the risk of stigmatization of certain communities in Benin.

Reports by OHCHR indicate that, with respect to the human rights situation, Benin is the country where, between January and May 2022, freedom of expression was the second-most at threat in West Africa.

### Côte d'Ivoire

As Côte d'Ivoire bolsters its security apparatus along its border with Burkina Faso, certain communities in the country's northern regions have been targeted and labelled as supporting NSAGs and insurgents and harassed by security forces. Hostility towards these communities is growing.

Human rights groups are warning that abuses by security and defense forces could backfire and push members of these communities to join NSAGs and facilitate recruitment into NSAGs amongst these communities.

OHCHR underscores the importance of monitoring the situation and worrisome trend of discriminatory practices against certain minority groups in Côte d'Ivoire and many other countries in West Africa.

**Increase in risk factors “discriminatory practices based on ethnic affiliation”**

### Ghana

According to OHCHR, freedom of the press and freedom of expression are at risk in Ghana, with restrictions looming ahead. Freedom of the press is increasingly being limited and arrests of journalists have multiplied in recent months. Ghana thus dropped from 30th to 60th in the World Press Freedom Index between 2021 and 2022. OHCHR identifies Ghana as the West African country where freedom of expression is most at risk.

Furthermore, Ghana has witnessed an increase in gender-based violence and sexual harassment in recent months.

### Togo

In May 2022, Togo witnessed its first attacks by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) against security forces.

Recent cross-boundary raids by NSAGs in coastal countries' northern regions are confirming concerns that NSAGs are seeking to expand their violent activities in countries south of the Sahel. Civil society organizations are warning against the rise in violence in these areas, which is conducting to an increase in communal tensions as NSAGs exploit, harness and exacerbate inter-community divisions. ACLED has already counted a dozen demonstrations with xenophobic undertones.

**Increase in risk factors “Activities by non-State actors and militias” and “discriminatory practices based on religion or belief”**

<sup>6</sup> The Regional Monthly Review (RMR) is a risk monitoring framework adopted by the United Nations. The RMR is based on a combination of development, political, human rights and humanitarian data and analyses. It seeks to inform decision-making with respect to early warning action and prevention of violence in countries in crisis or at risk of facing a crisis. <sup>7</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

*The content of the document contains analysis of available data.  
It does not reflect the opinion of GRANIT member agencies, organisations, partners and actors.*

## The Granit

The Regional Intersectoral Analysis Group (GRANIT) conducts collaborative and joint analyses of current or emerging humanitarian crises based on data and the technical and sectoral expertise provided by United Nations agencies, NGOs, and other regional organizations.

The GRANIT, initiated and led by OCHA, IOM and REACH, serves as a forum of technical and sectoral experts and information management officers, with the aim to provide holistic, multidimensional and intersectoral regional analysis of humanitarian crises and thus inform crisis response and preparedness.

## Methodology

The monitoring and early warning tool follows the evolution of the situation in the target countries, in this case the Gulf of Guinea's four coastal countries of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. The situation monitoring is developed by a group of information management and sectoral experts working within the framework of the GRANIT.

The analysis focuses on the northern regions of the four countries (Alibori, Atacora in Benin; Savanes, Zanzan in Côte d'Ivoire; Upper East, Upper West in Ghana; Savanes in Togo) to limit the scope of coverage.

The quality of the analysis provided is impacted by the completeness and data availability. The tool is updated on a bi-monthly basis.

## Possible further analysis

1. Monitoring of the security situation along border communities in southern Burkina Faso and northern Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo
2. Improve analysis and disaggregation of security incident analysis, with the goal of providing better understanding of internal dynamics in coastal countries and inform response, preparedness and monitoring
3. Explore links between negative biomass anomalies in Central Sahel countries and frequency/magnitude of armed conflicts and land disputes in coastal countries
4. Monitor population displacement in target countries
5. Complete data collection with analysis of other identified indicators to make the tool more complete and offer more comprehensive understanding and better visibility of the evolution of the situation in coastal countries

## Indicators

*The indicators presented in this table refer to the monitoring and early warning tool methodology, developed by sectoral experts and members of the GRANIT. It should be noted that only three of the fifteen indicators below were taken into account in this report, for lack of data availability. The ultimate goal of the report is to include analysis of all fifteen indicators, given data availability.*

Indicator <sup>§</sup>	Topic	Sector	Source	Countries for which data is available	Variables	Equivalent indicator <sup>†</sup>	Equivalent indicator code <sup>‡</sup>	Comments
# Refugees	1.a Population movements		UNHCR Data portal	Côte d'Ivoire; Benin; Togo; Ghana	All refugees	NA		
# Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	1.a Population movements	Protection				Humanitarian Indicator Registry	P6-2	
# girls/boys separated from parents or legal guardians.	1.b Population movements / Protection	Protection	MSNA/DTM			2022 JIAF indicator bank Humanitarian Indicator Registry	69 P1-PC7-1	

<sup>§</sup> All indicators are analysed for the covered period.

<sup>†</sup> Existing equivalent indicators in standard databases.

<sup>‡</sup> Indicator code taken from standard databases

The content of the document contains analysis of available data.  
It does not reflect the opinion of GRANIT member agencies, organisations, partners and actors.

## Information on indicators

Indicator <sup>§</sup>	Topic	Sector	Source	Countries for which data is available	Variables	Equivalent indicator <sup>†</sup>	Equivalent indicator code <sup>‡</sup>	Comments
# Social unrest.	2. Security incidents	Protection	ACLED	Côte d'Ivoire; Benin; Togo; Ghana	Arrests; Excessive force against protesters; Mob violence; Demonstration with law enforcement intervention; Violent demonstration.	N/A		Internal social tensions and violence
# Violent episodes.	2. Security incidents	Protection	ACLED	Côte d'Ivoire; Benin; Togo; Ghana	Abduction/forced disappearance; Air/drone strike; Armed confrontation; Attack; Disrupted use of weapons; Grenade; Remote explosive/landmine/IED; Shell/artillery/missile attack; Wartime sexual violence; Suicide attack; Looting/destruction of property.	N/A		External violence
# medical centres attacked	3.a Availability – accessibility of basic services	Health	National health services			Humanitarian Indicator Registry	P-2	This indicator monitors the number of health centres targeted, to better capture trends in violence
# affected medical centres	3.a Availability – accessibility of basic services	Health	National health services			N/A		This indicator monitors the reduction in activity of health services for conflict-related reasons (e.g. personnel fled, lack of medication)
# (non) functional schools as a result of insecurity	3.b Availability – accessibility of basic services	Education	National database – EiE assessments					
# inaccessible water points because of insecurity	3.c Availability – accessibility of basic services	WASH	WASH assessment					
# inaccessible WASH structures and sanitation infrastructure because of insecurity	3.c Availability – accessibility of basic services	WASH	WASH assessment					
# child headed households	4. Protection	Protection	MSNA			Humanitarian Indicator Registry	P5-2	
Climatic hydrological deficit	5. Impact of climate change	Climate	TerraClimate	Côte d'Ivoire; Benin				
Indice de sévérité de la sécheresse	5. Impact of climate change	Climate	TerraClimate	Côte d'Ivoire; Benin				
Accumulation de précipitations	5. Impact of climate change	Climate	TerraClimate	Côte d'Ivoire; Benin				
Température maximale	5. Impact of climate change	Climate	TerraClimate	Côte d'Ivoire; Benin				

§ All indicators are analysed for the covered period.

† Existing equivalent indicators in standard databases.

‡ Indicator code taken from standard databases