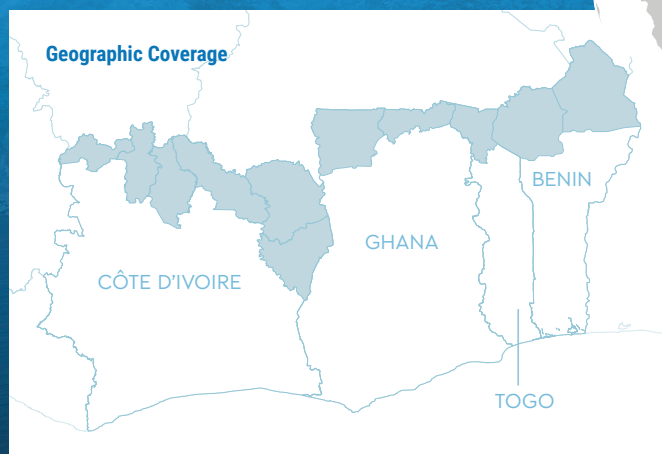# GRANiT
GROUPE RÉGIONAL D'ANALYSE INTERSECTORIELLE

MULTI-HAZARD SURVEILLANCE TOOL FOR WEST AFRICAN COASTAL COUNTRIES

Benin - Côte d'Ivoire - Ghana - Togo
As of 31 May 2023

Geographic Coverage

CÔTE D'IVOIRE • GHANA • BENIN • TOGO

Administrative areas

Benin : Atacora, Alibori
Côte d'Ivoire : Folon, Bagoue, Poro, Tchologo, Bounkani, Gontougou
Ghana : Upper West, Upper East
Togo : Savanes

Key information on developments

context (April – May 2023)

Overall, the security context remained stable during the months of April and May 2023. No significant increase in the number of security incidents was reported compared with previous periods. However, some changes in trends were reported as follows:

— **Benin** has seen an increase in the number of security incidents compared with the period February-March 2023. The new trend shows an increase in the number of incidents in the department of Atacora, which used to benefit from a greater security stability than Alibori.

— In **Ghana**, the number of security incidents have increased and a resurgence of inter-community tensions in the Upper East region have been reported. In the medium term, these tensions could be exploited by non-state armed groups and further deteriorate the security situation.

— **Togo** reported a drop in security incidents compared with the previous two months. Nevertheless, the number of victims of the single recorded attack remains very high.

— In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the situation has remained relatively calm and general attention is focused on finalising the construction of reception sites for Burkinabe refugees, currently accommodated in host communities. The new site could start welcoming the first refugees as of July 2023. In terms of assistance, the authorities have committed to meeting the needs of the internally displaced for three to six months with their own funds[1].

— Finally, a recent study by the ISS (Institute for Security Studies) warns of the risks of involving local communities in implementing measures to prevent violent extremism in Benin and Togo. These risks need to be examined in order to provide appropriate responses that will encourage the local population to participate[2].

Key numbers* (january 2021 - may 2023)

	Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo
# Social unrest	107	11	19	14
# Violent Incidents	170	34	24	33
Population at risk, out of total population	**1.9M** out of 11,9M (16%)	**2.9M** out of 22,9M (11%)	**2.1M** out of 29,3M (7%)	**1.0M** out of 7.9M (13%)

* Includes the following administrative regions: Alibori and Atacora in Benin; Savanes and Zanzan in Côte d'Ivoire; Upper East and Upper West in Ghana; Savanes in Togo.

Population movements: With the exception of Côte d'Ivoire, all the countries in the study area reported new internal movements. The updated figures for Togo show a 62% increase in overall figures, compared with October 2022. More than 12,684 new refugees were reported during April and May 2023, including almost 7,000 from Côte d'Ivoire alone. Security instability in northern Togo prompted 4,800 people to seek protection and refuge in Benin.

Access to basic services: 17 schools were closed in Benin due to the unstable security context, with 11 in Banikoara and 3 in Kérou at risk of closure, directly affecting 4,292 students in the departments of Atacora (1,855 students) and Alibori (2,437 students).

Impact of flooding: the northern regions of the coastal countries are also likely to be affected by the impact of flooding during the next rainy season (June to September). Heavy rainfall is likely to worsen physical access conditions, with an impact on ongoing assistance programmes. Potential flooding in local communities and villages could also result in the destruction of homes and loss of property, damage to basic services infrastructure and loss of agricultural production. This situation is likely to increase the level of vulnerability to which local populations are already exposed.

[1] *"Réfugiés burkinabè en Côte d'Ivoire: de nouveaux sites en construction pour les accueillir",* Bineta Diagne, RFI. 20 june 2023. https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20230620-r%C3%A9fugi%C3%A9s-burkinab%C3%A8-en-c%C3%B4te-d-ivoire-de-nouveaux-sites-en-construction-pour-les-accueillir

[2] *"La collaboration population-État contre l'extrémisme au Bénin et au Togo : une arme à double tranchant"* Jeannine Ella Abatan, ISS. 12 june 2023. https://issafrica.org/fr/iss-today/la-collaboration-population-etat-contre-lextremisme-au-benin-et-au-togo-une-arme-a-double-tranchant?utm_
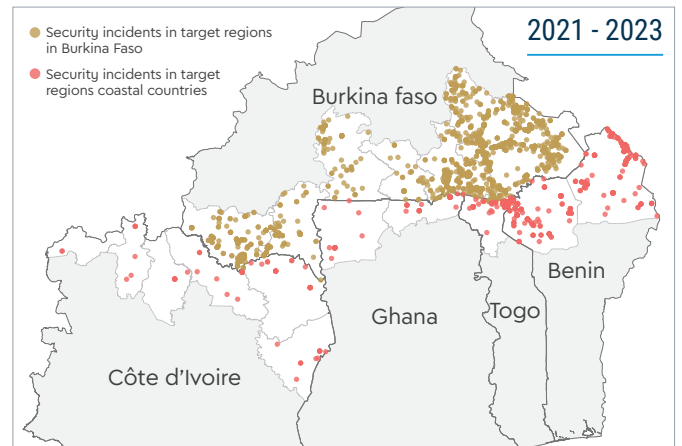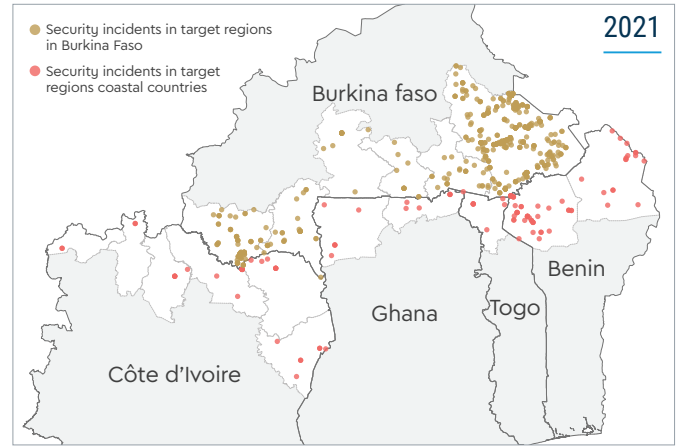
Evolution of security incidents[3]

Between January 2021 and May 2023, 412 incidents, including 151 social disturbances and 261 violent episodes, were reported in the northern regions of Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

Between April and May 2023, the number of violent incidents dropped by one compared with the February-March 2023 period, a stability that contrasts with the fluctuations observed over the last few months in all the areas affected. However, behind this apparent stability, a number of factors point to the volatility of the security situation in coastal countries.76% of the violent events recorded over the April-May period occurred in Benin. However, contrary to the usual distribution of incidents, which almost systematically placed Togo behind Benin in terms of number of incidents, an increase in violent incidents was noted in Ghana, with 20% of events recorded. The resurgence of a decades-old communal conflict in Bakwu (Upper East) is the main driver of this increase. Other attacks also took place in northern Ghana, by unidentified non-state armed groups.

In Togo, despite a considerable reduction in the number of attacks by non-state armed groups in April and May, several civilians were killed in the only attack reported. The security situation continues to be particularly volatile, with a very high risk of attacks on people and property, particularly in areas close to the border with Burkina Faso. The trend remains stable in Côte d'Ivoire, where no violent incidents were reported during the period under review.

[3] Includes the following administrative regions: Alibori, Atacora in Benin; Folon, Bagoue, Poro, Tchologo, Bounkani, Gontougou in Côte d'Ivoire; UpperEast, Upper West in Ghana; Savanes in Togo.
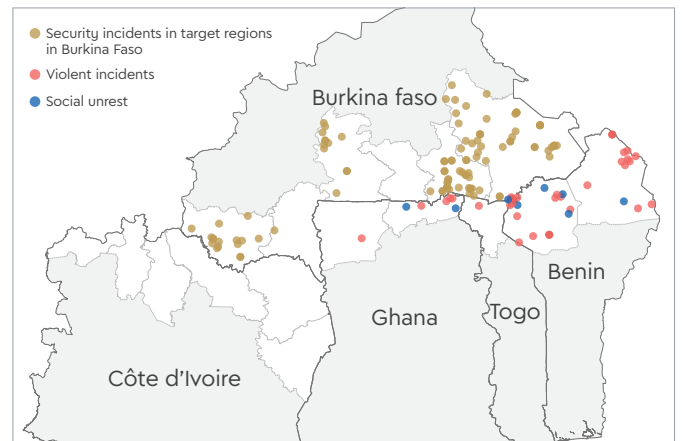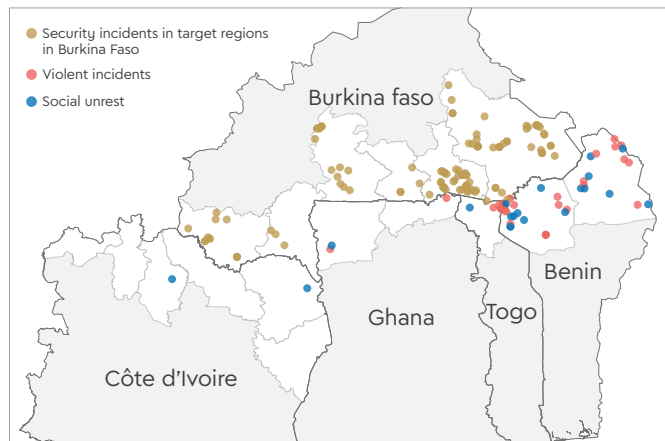

Evolution of episodes of violence, by country
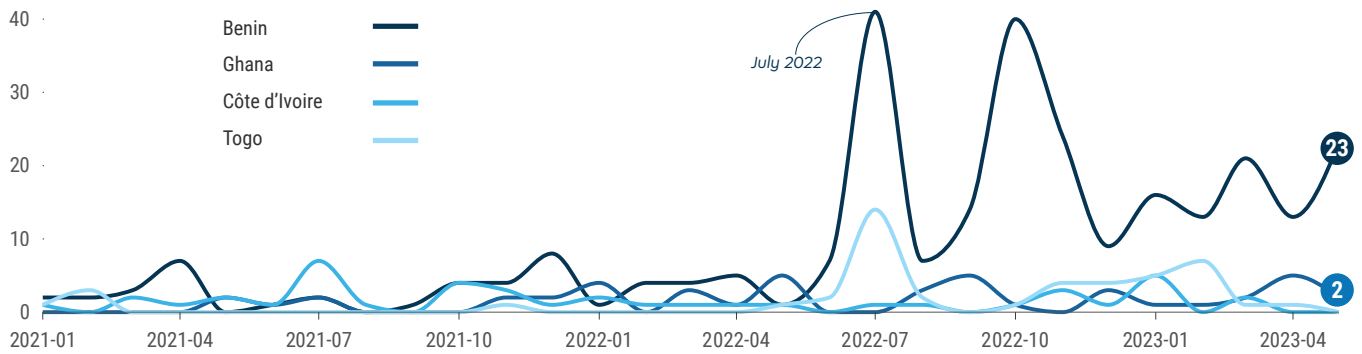
February - March 2023

April - May 2023

✸👤 Insecurity

This section examines the evolution of security incidents in coastal countries for the periods February - March and April - May 2023. The terms 'social unrest' and 'violence' are used to distinguish demonstrations, popular uprisings and incidents involving the forces of law and order, societal challenges and violent events such as attacks by armed groups, communal conflicts or kidnappings.

🇧🇯 Benin

During the period April - May 2023, security incidents in the northern regions of Benin rose slightly, with 19 events recorded, compared with 15 reported between February and March 2023. This increase reflects the regular fluctuations in the number of violent incidents usually observed in the north of the country from one month to the next. Although this is not the largest increase recorded in recent months, it does reflect the gradual deterioration in the security situation in the area. The attacks attributed to armed groups, notably in the localities of Kaobagou and Guimbagou, in May, causing the death of at least 15 civilians, are a case in point.

Reported incidents include kidnappings, violence against civilians, attacks on security forces and the use of improvised explosive devices.

While the department of Alibori usually accounts for more incidents than the department of Atacora, the situation was reversed during the reporting period: 53% of violent incidents were reported in the department of Atacora compared with 47% in the department of Alibori.

🇨🇮 Côte d'Ivoire

The downward trend in the number of violent incidents reported in Côte d'Ivoire since the end of 2022 continues into 2023. While only one violent incident was recorded during the February-March period, no violent incidents were reported between April and May in the north of the country.
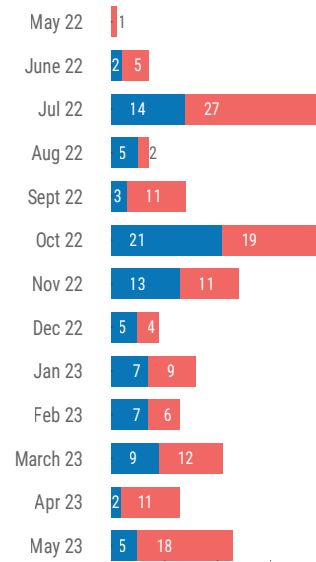
🇬🇭 Ghana

In the border regions of Burkina Faso, five violent incidents were reported during the April-May period, compared with just two between February and March 2023. These were mainly attacks by armed groups and ethnic militias against civilians and security forces. The resurgence of intercommunal violence between the Mamprusi and the Kusasi in Bakwu (Upper East), since December 2022, has contributed in large part to the increase in violence in the north of the country. At least six civilians were killed during the reporting period.

The possibility of this conflict being exploited by armed groups from southern Burkina Faso and an attack by an armed group, leading to the death of an immigration officer, prompted the deployment of the defence and security forces to the Upper East in April. The Upper East and Upper West regions accounted for 80% and 20% respectively of the violent incidents reported between April and May.
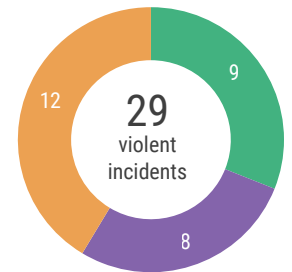
Trends in security incidents
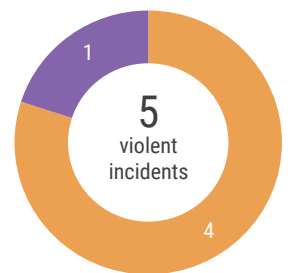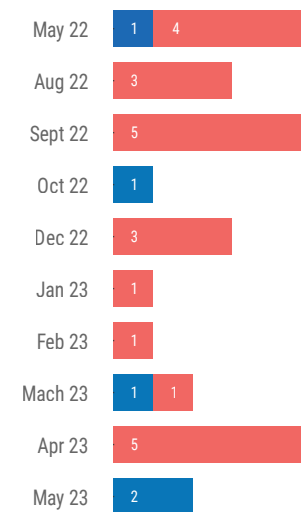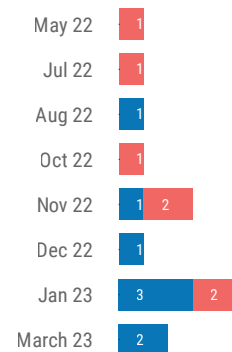
■ Social unrest ■ Violent incidents

Month	Social unrest	Violent incidents
May 22		1
June 22	2	5
Jul 22	14	27
Aug 22	5	2
Sept 22	3	11
Oct 22	21	19
Nov 22	13	11
Dec 22	5	4
Jan 23	7	9
Feb 23	7	6
March 23	9	12
Apr 23	2	11
May 23	5	18

Types of episodes of violence (April-May)

29 violent incidents

- 12 Attack
- 9 Abduction/forced disappearance forced
- 8 Armed clash

■ Attack
■ Abduction/forced disappearance forced
■ Armed clash

Month	Social unrest	Violent incidents
May 22		1
Jul 22		1
Aug 22	1	
Oct 22		1
Nov 22	1	2
Dec 22	1	
Jan 23	3	2
March 23	2	

Month	Social unrest	Violent incidents
May 22	1	4
Aug 22		3
Sept 22		5
Oct 22	1	
Dec 22		3
Jan 23		1
Feb 23		1
Mach 23	1	1
Apr 23		5
May 23	2	

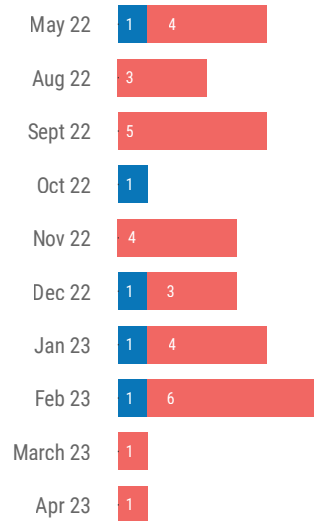5 violent incidents

- 1 Armed clash
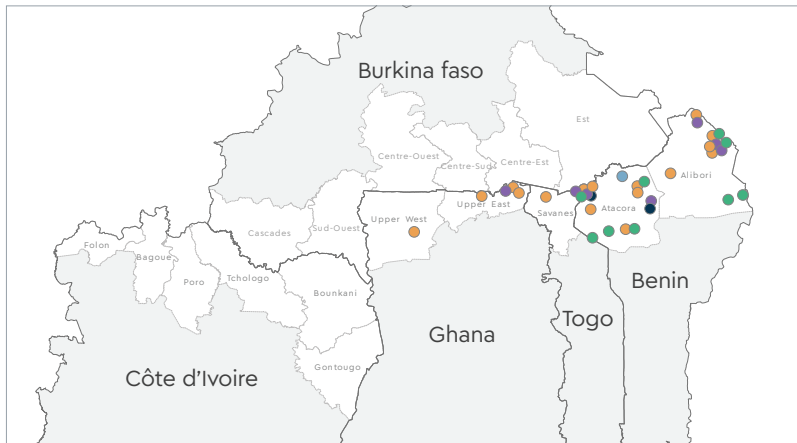- 4 Attack

■ Attack
■ Armed clash

🇹🇬 Togo

Continuing the trend observed in February - March, violent incidents dropped considerably, from eight to just one event recorded in April - May. However, the event in question, attributed to a non-state armed group, caused the death of at least six civilians in the village of Waldjouague (Savanes). During the attack, goods were looted or burned, including several stores that serve as supply points for the surrounding villages on either side of the border. The attack on 20 April 2023 prompted some residents to move to perceived safer locations.

■ Social unrest ■ Violent incidents

	Social unrest	Violent incidents
May 22	1	4
Aug 22		3
Sept 22		5
Oct 22	1	
Nov 22		4
Dec 22	1	3
Jan 23	1	4
Feb 23	1	6
March 23		1
Apr 23		1

1
violent
incident

1

■ Attack

## Security incidents by type between April and May 2023

Incidents by type

- 🟣 Armed clash
- ⚫ Looting/destruction of property
- 🟠 Attack
- 🟢 Abduction/forced disappearance
- 🔵 Disruption of weapons use
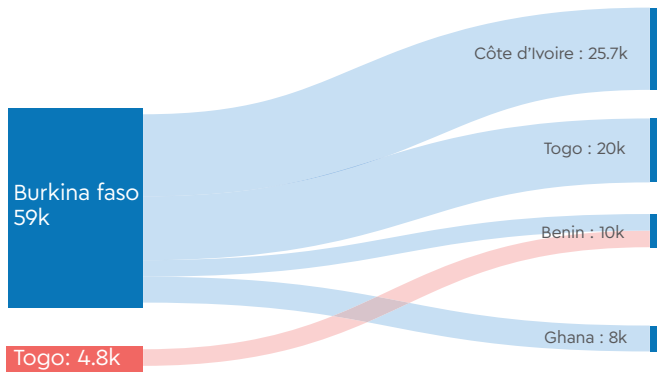
🏃 Movement dynamics

Refugees[4]

While the security situation remains precarious and acts of violence continue to be reported in Burkina Faso, the influx of people fleeing to coastal countries continues, with more than 12,684 new refugees reported during April and May, including almost 7,000 to Côte d'Ivoire. The situation is exacerbated by the spillover of the conflict beyond the borders of Burkina Faso and by attacks on villages in northern Togo, which caused 4,800 Togolese to flee to Benin in search of protection. As at 31 May 2023, the total number of refugees from Burkina Faso in the coastal countries was 59,031, broken down as follows: 25,719 in Côte d'Ivoire, 20,000 in Togo, 8,112 in Ghana and 5,200 in Benin.

Refugees from Burkina Faso by country
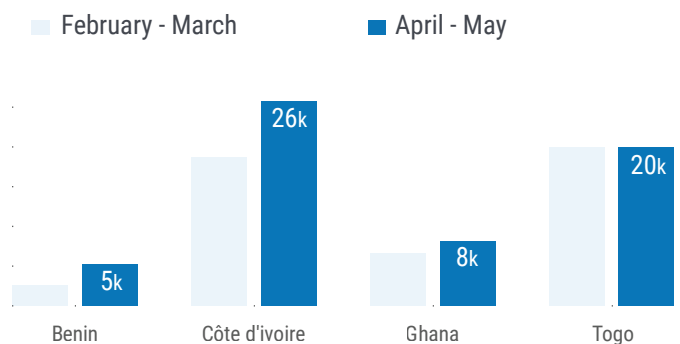
■ February - March   ■ April - May

Country	April - May
Benin	5k
Côte d'ivoire	26k
Ghana	8k
Togo	20k

Origin of refugees and asylum seekers[5]

	Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo	Total
Burkina Faso	5,200	25,719	8,112	20,000	**59,031**
Togo	4,800	-	-	-	**4,800**
Total	**10,000**	**25,719**	**8,112**	**20,000**	**63,831**

Internal displacements[6]

In Benin, according to the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Governance, in October 2022, 1,231 internally displaced persons were reported in the municipality of Matéri.

In Togo, a review of the official data reported on 15 December 2022 by the Association Nationale de la Protection Civile (National Civil Protection Association) shows 6,008 internally displaced persons (1,148 households) in the Savanes region. This represents a 62% increase on the October 2022 figures, which referred to 2,289 IDPs. On 21 April 2023, a total of 3,158 IDPs were reported by the Ghana Immigration Service, with populations in the Zebilla (802 IDPs), Pulmakom (255 IDPs) and Bawku/Missiga (2,131 IDPs) regions in the north of the country.

As at 31 May 2023, no internal population displacements had been officially recorded by the local authorities in Côte d'Ivoire during the period under review.

Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo	Total
1,231	0	3,158	6,008	**10,397**

🛗 The logistical environment[7]

Disability, age, gender: local considerations and access to markets

Areas covered: Prefectural and departmental level: Prefectures of Oti and Oti-Sid, Togo and Departments of Alibori and Atacora, Benin.

🇧🇯 Benin

All the markets evaluated in the two departments have no local considerations preventing access to the markets for people with disabilities (visual, hearing, intellectual, physical, etc.). Gender is not a factor limiting user access to the matkets evaluated in the two departments. Access to matkets is open to both men and women. The markets evaluated have few local limiting considerations based on age; the positive response concerns safety considerations but no restrictions based on beliefs or considerations.

The environment of the markets and their accessibility to disabled people depends on their practicability in the rainy season, the existence of accessibility signs and accessible toilets. Markets that are subject to flooding are not accessible or are only partially accessible to people with disabilities.
Most of the markets evaluated in the two departments do not have accessibility signs.

Toilets are also non-existent in most of the markets evaluated. Where they do exist, they are rarely accessible to people with disabilities. In addition, the level of sanitation of these toilets are often insufficient.

🇹🇬 Togo

There are no local practices/concerns related to disability, gender or age that might prevent any social stratum from using the markets. As a result, the 15 markets assessed in the two prefectures are accessible to all social strata without any discrimination.

Only the markets in Mango, Barkoissi, Sagbiébou and Tchamonga (04/15) are equipped with full ramps to make it easier for people with motor disabilities to get to the markets. Only the Mango and Sagbiébou markets (02/15) have toilets. They are equipped with a men's section and a women's section, but there are no facilities for people with disabilities. None of the 15 markets assessed in the two prefectures has signs indicating the areas, services or buildings

In short, accessibility facilities are largely non-existent in the markets of the two prefectures. Accessibility and the profile of the services offered by the markets are therefore more difficult for people with disabilities or even older people.

Market vulnerability - access to telecoms, internet and electricity networks

In terms of access to telecommunications networks (telephone and internet) and electricity networks, the markets evaluated in Benin (Alibori and Atacora departments) generally have poorer access than the markets evaluated in Togo, bearing in mind that fewer markets were evaluated by the Signal project in Togo. In Benin, several of the markets evaluated, in particular Pentinga, Tchawaringa, Korontière and Tampobrè in the Atacora department and Sendè, Saah, Sori and Ouara in the Alibori department, have neither a telecommunications network nor an electricity network, given their rural and isolated nature. On the other hand, none of the markets evaluated in the prefectures of Oti and Oti-Sud in Togo has electricity, which means that foodstuffs are less well preserved and markets are only open during the day. With the exception of Komongou (Oti-Sud), telecoms coverage is "good" in these markets.

Availability of electricity, internet and telecommunications networks in markets in Togo and Benin[8]
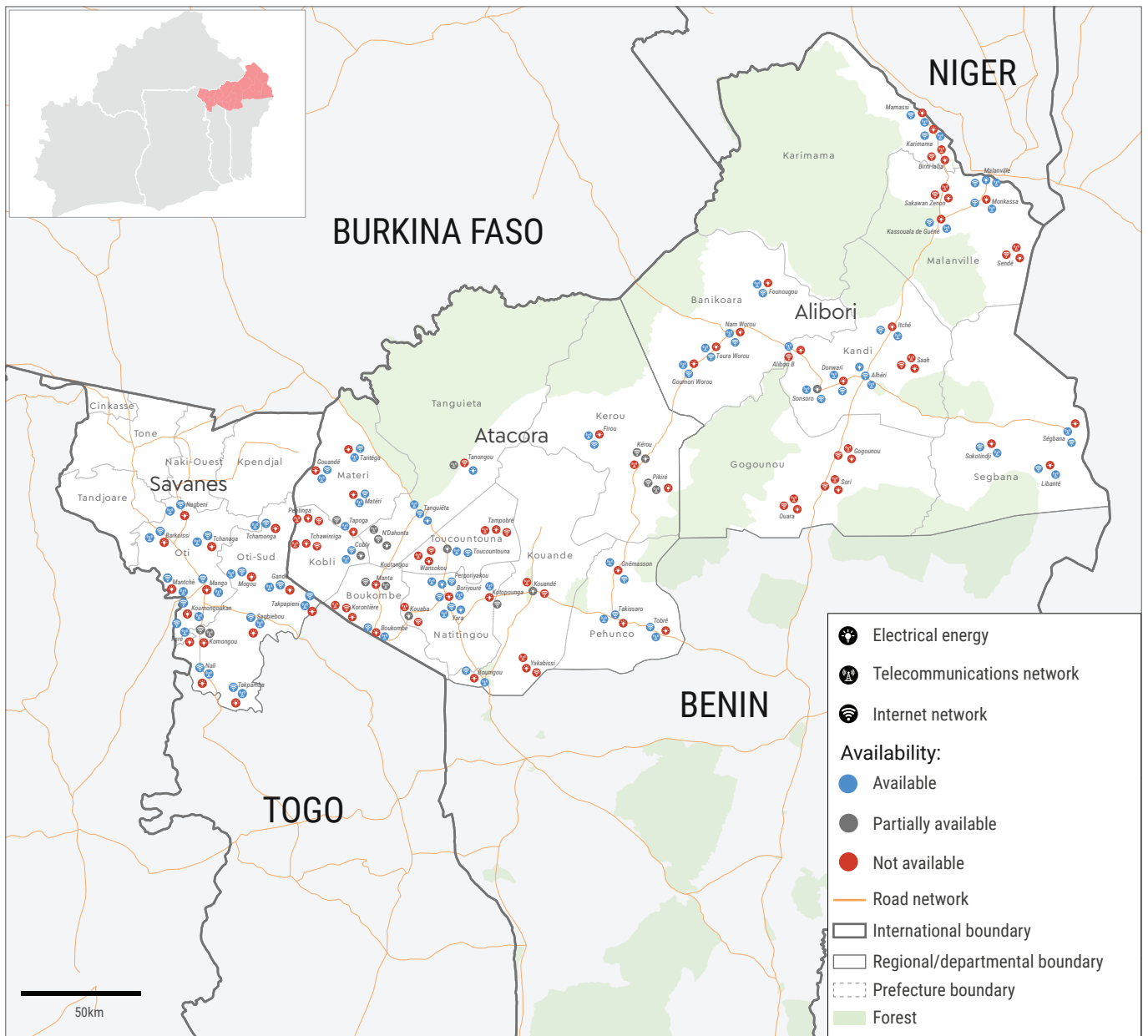
🕴 Gender-based violence[9]

In a context weakened by security instability, the monitoring of protection-related aspects remains a priority to ensure the completeness of multi-risk monitoring.

🟧⬜🟩 Côte d'Ivoire

According to the UNHCR's analysis of protection risks, particularly the situation of refugees in northern Côte d'Ivoire, and the results of the 2022 Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) report, the main findings are as follows:

38% of women in these refugee populations are at risk of protection, including GBV

59% of registered refugees are children, 31% of whom are at risk of protection, including GBV

46% of registered refugees are girls and women of childbearing age (13 to 49).

Main risk factors for GBV identified

— Forced population movements

— Widespread insecurity, threats, intimidation by armed groups

On average, the trend in 2022 in the types of incidents reported varied as follows: 23% of cases were physical assaults, 39% were denial of opportunity or service resources, 18% were sexual assaults, 17% were psychological assaults and 2% were forced marriages. 99% of cases were reported by girls and women, the vast majority of whom were women.

Different types of GBV reported in 2022[10]

3%	23%	39%	2%	15%	17%
Sexual abuse	Physical aggression	Denial of resources	Forced marriage	Rape	Psychological abuse
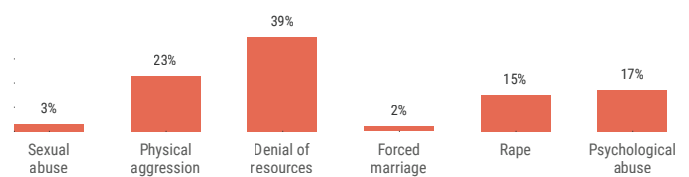
9   *UNFPA*

10 *Annual report of the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) 2022*

GRANiT

GROUPE RÉGIONAL D'ANALYSE INTERSECTORIELLE

The GRANIT was conceived in 2021 in Dakar at the initiative of OCHA, IOM and REACH with the support of the Regional Sectoral Groups, UN agencies and NGOs.

GRANIT seeks to create a forum of technical experts and information managers to pave the way for a regional, holistic and cross-sectoral analytical approach to inform the crisis preparedness and response phases.

Methodology

The aim of the monitoring tool is to track developments in the context in the target countries, using a multi-hazard approach.

To this end, 15 indicators have been selected by the regional group of experts in emergency preparedness and response and GRANIT members.

The assessment of the context is drawn up by the group of experts working with GRANIT.

The quality of the analysis is influenced by the completeness of the available data/information.

It is updated every two months. The border areas of the countries (Alibori, Atacora in Benin; Savanes, Zanzan in Côte d'Ivoire; Upper East, Upper West in Ghana; Savanes in Togo) have been broken down to reduce the study area.

Possible further analysis

i. Regularly monitoring developments in the security context in the southern areas of Burkina Faso and the northern areas of the coastal countries, all along the border.

ii. Improve the analysis and disaggregation of security incidents, gain a better understanding of internal dynamics in coastal countries and better guide monitoring activities and decisions on emergency preparedness and response.

iii. Further analysis of the links between negative biomass anomalies in central Sahelian countries and the frequency of conflicts/land disputes in coastal countries.

iv. Regular monitoring of population movements in target countries.

v. Complete the collection of data to inform the other indicators selected for the multi-risk monitoring tool, in order to have better visibility of changes in the context.

Indicators

These indicators refer to the monitoring methodology developed by sector experts and GRANIT members. It should be noted that only three of the 15 indicators presented below are taken into account in this report. The GRANIT's ambition is to be able to include an analysis based on all the indicators in future reports, depending on the availability of data.

Refugees

Thematic: 1.a Population movements
Source: UNHCR Data portal
Available countries: Côte d'Ivoire; Benin; Togo; Ghana
Variables to monitor : All refugees

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

Thematic: 1.a Population movements
Secteur: Protection
Equivalent indicator: Humanitarian Indicator Registry
Equivalent indicator code : P5

Social unrest

Thematic: 2. Security incidents

Sector: Protection

Source: ACLED

Available countries: Côte d'Ivoire; Benin; Togo; Ghana

Variables to monitor: Arrests; Excessive force against demonstrators; Popular violence; Demonstration with intervention by the forces of law and order; Violent demonstration

Note : Internal tensions/violence

Violent incidents

Thematic: 2. Security incidents

Sector: Protection

Source: ACLED

Available countries: Côte d'Ivoire; Benin; Togo; Ghana

Variables to monitor: Abduction/forced disappearance; Air strike/ 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

Note: External violence

medical centres under attack

Thematic : 3.a Availability/accessibility of basic social services

Sector: Health

Source: National health services

Equivalent indicator: Humanitarian Indicator Registry

Equivalent indicator code: P2

Note : For this indicator, we are interested in the number of centres that have been targeted, in order to gain a better understanding of trends in violence.

# of medical centres affected

Thematic: 3.a Availability/accessibility of basic social services

Sector: Health

Source: National health services

Note: For this indicator, we would like to have an idea of the number of centres that have seen a reduction in their activity due to problems linked to the conflict (i.e. centres where staff have stopped going; lack of medication; etc).

schools (not) operational due to insecurity

Thematic: 3.a Availability/accessibility of basic social services

Secteur: Education

Source: National BoDs / EiE evaluations

MULTI-HAZARD SURVEILLANCE TOOL FOR WEST AFRICAN COASTAL COUNTRIES

Benin - Côte d'Ivoire - Ghana - Togo
As of 31 May 2023

Please scan for the lastest updates