



MULTI-HAZARD SURVEILLANCE TOOL FOR WEST AFRICAN COASTAL COUNTRIES

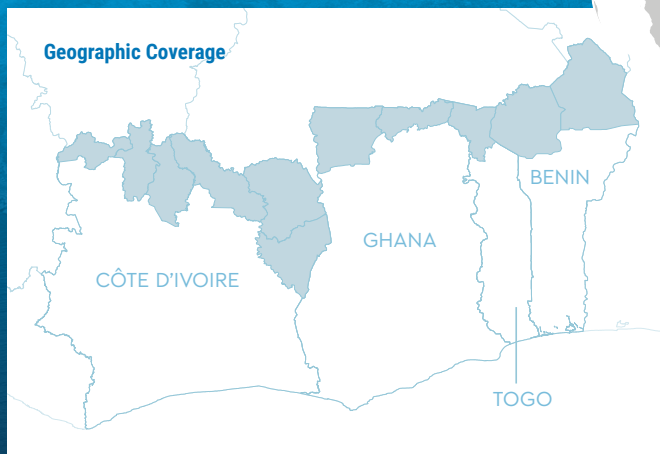
Benin - Côte d'Ivoire - Ghana - Togo
As of 30 September 2023

Key information on the changing context (August – September 2023)

With regard to developments in the humanitarian situation, the months of August and September were characterized by climatic phenomena that had an impact on the humanitarian ecosystem and access difficulties. In August and September 2023, violent episodes increased compared to the previous monitoring period, which is consistent with the fluctuations recorded so far in the region.

Livestock theft, perpetrated by a variety of actors and intermediaries, is on the increase in all cross-border areas between Sahelian and coastal states, with the potential to reinforce inter-community conflicts and tensions. Livestock theft could also be indicative of the activities of non-state armed groups in the area.

- In **Benin**, heavy rains have affected the roads connecting the south to the north of the country, making access difficult. Following the coup d'état in Niger on July 26, 2023, the borders between Benin and the country remain closed. Although Benin has agreed to apply a humanitarian exception to the closure, no humanitarian convoys transited to Niger during the monitoring period.
- The security situation remains stable in northern **Côte d'Ivoire**, where very few security incidents have been recorded since 2022.
- **Ghana** saw a sudden rise in the number of incidents in August-September, after a lull between June and July. These were mainly armed attacks resulting in the death of at least 11 civilians and injuries to at least 15 others.
- The decline in the number of security incidents observed in northern **Togo** since March 2023 has continued for the period August and September 2023.



Administrative areas

Benin : Atacora, Alibori

Côte d'Ivoire : Folon, Bagoue, Poro, Tchologo, Bounkani, Gontougou

Ghana : Upper West, Upper East

Togo : Savanes

Key numbers* (january 2021 - september 2023)

	Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo
# Social unrest	128	20	15	14
# Violent Incidents	228	26	37	37
# of people 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.



Insecurity : Between January 2021 and September 2023, 515 incidents, including 177 instances of social unrest and 328 instances of violence, were reported in the northern regions of Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.



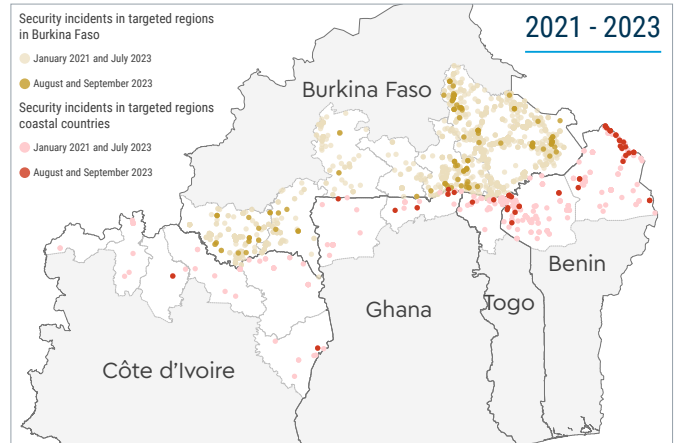
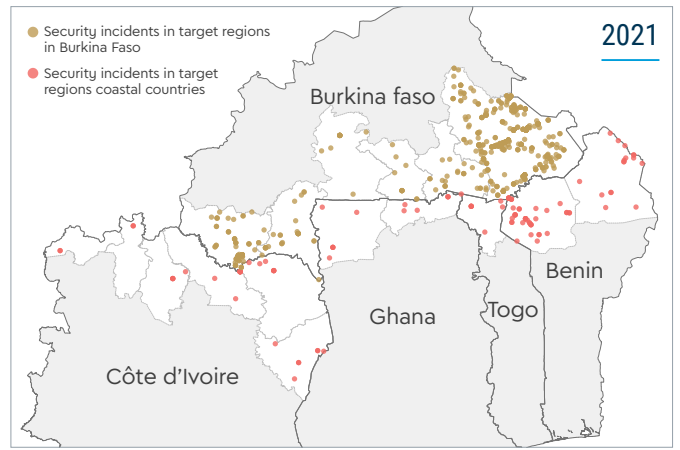
Gender-based violence (GBV) : According to Benin's Ministry of Social Affairs, demand from women and girls for specialized GBV services increased by around 43 per cent during the period covered by this report (August and September) compared with the previous period (June and July).



Plant cover : For the 2023 winter growing season, biomass production was below average in almost all coastal countries.

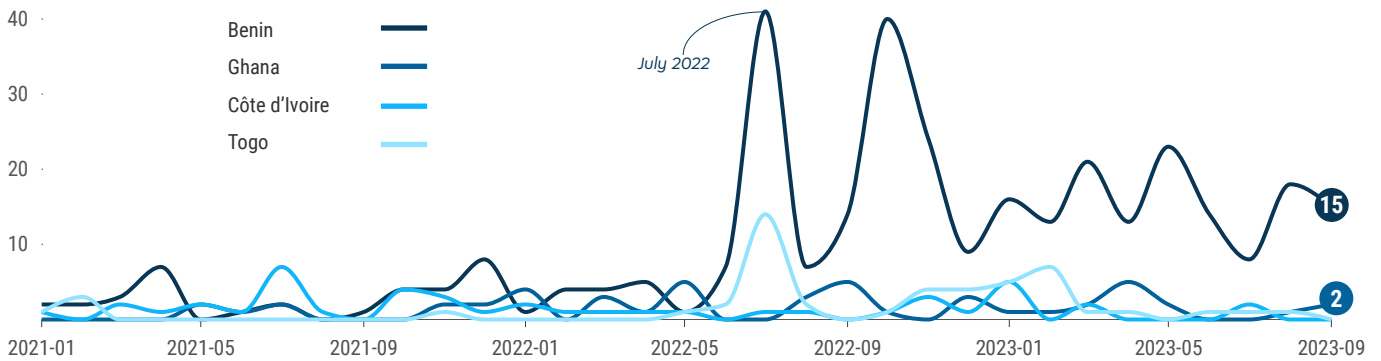
Security incidents: trends¹

Between January 2021 and September 2023, 515 incidents, including 177 instances of social unrest and 328 instances of violence, were reported in the northern regions of Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Between August and September 2023, violent incidents increased compared with the previous monitoring period (June and July 2023). This trend is consistent with the fluctuations observed since the beginning of 2023. Benin continues to record a high number of violent incidents compared with the other countries covered by the analysis. Violence by non-state armed groups targeting civilians persists in the northern regions of the country. Clashes between these armed groups and the security forces are regularly reported. The security situation remains stable in northern Côte d'Ivoire, where very few security incidents have been recorded since 2022. Sporadic reports of violence in this part of the country are not always attributed to non-state armed groups. Ghana saw a sudden rise in the number of incidents in August-September, after a lull between June and July. The death of several people in a bus ambush in the Upper East Region, an area marked by both communal violence and the presence of non-state armed groups, raises a number of questions. The modus operandi and motives behind this incident are questions that will need to be clarified. The trend in security incidents is stable in Togo. Since March 2023, very few attacks have been reported in the north of the country, even if the human toll is often high.

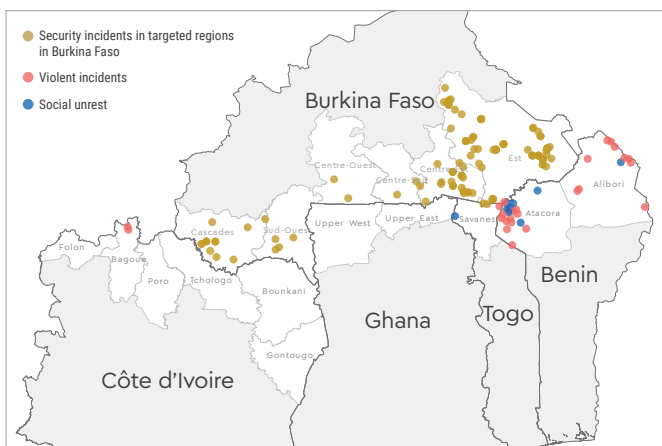


¹ Source of data on security incidents: ACLED. Analysis by ACAPS.

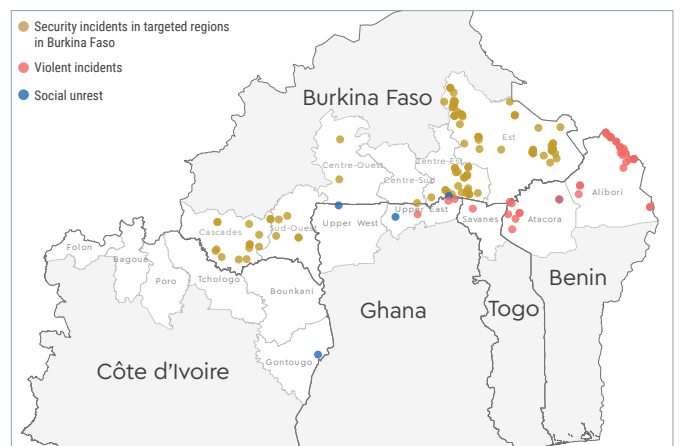
Evolution of episodes of violence, by country



June and July 2023



August and September 2023



Security

This section examines the evolution of security incidents in coastal countries for the periods between June - July 2023 and August - September 2023. The terms “social unrest” and “violence” are used to distinguish between demonstrations, popular uprisings and incidents

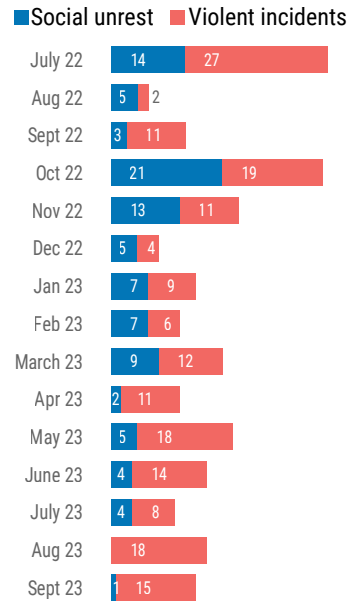
involving forces of law and order, societal challenges and violent events such as attacks by armed groups, community conflicts or kidnappings.

Benin

During the period August and September 2023, 33 violent incidents were recorded, compared with 22 in June and July. This increase, which illustrates the variations in the number of security incidents from one month to the next, is reflected in the proliferation of violence by non-state armed groups against civilians, which accounted for 73 per cent of incidents. Clashes between non-state armed groups and security forces make up the remainder of violent incidents.

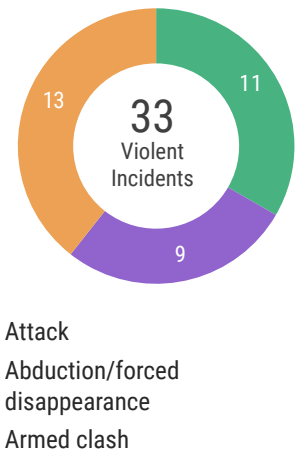
Whereas over the last four months most incidents were recorded in Atacora, the pattern reversed in August-September, with 75 per cent of violent incidents reported in Alibori department.

Trends in security incidents



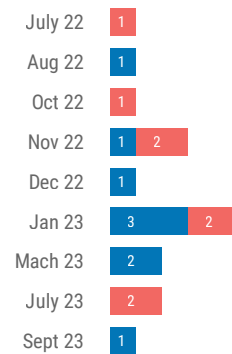
Types of episodes

of violence (August and September)



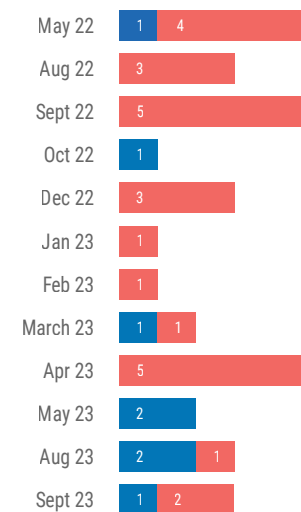
Côte d'Ivoire

While two security incidents were reported in June-July, no incidents were recorded between August and September. Activity by non-state armed groups in northern Côte d'Ivoire has remained low-intensity since January 2022.



Ghana

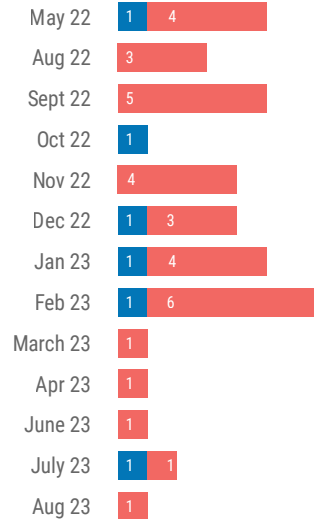
After a period of calm between June and July, three violent incidents attributed to unidentified armed groups were reported in August-September. These were mainly armed attacks resulting in the death of at least 11 civilians and the wounding of at least 15 others. The attack on a civilian bus in the Upper East region was one of the most striking events of the period under review, although the perpetrators have not yet been identified.



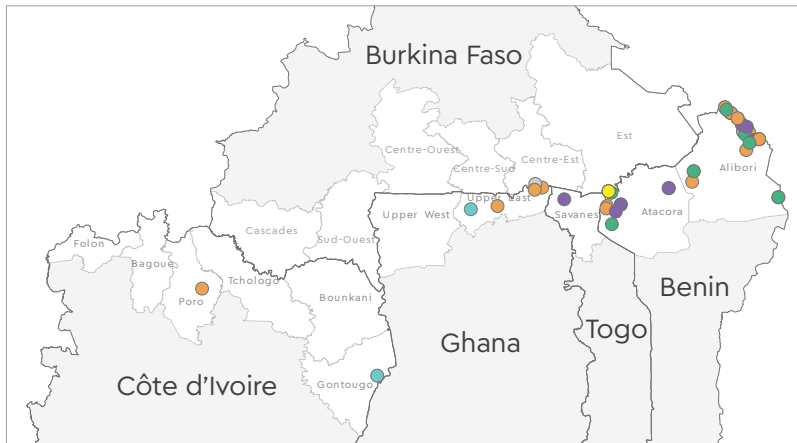
 **Togo**

The decline in the number of security incidents observed in northern Togo since March 2023 is confirmed for the period August and September 2023. Only one security incident was reported during the period. This involved a clash between a non-state armed group and security forces.

■ Social unrest ■ Violent incidents



Security incidents by type between August and September 2023

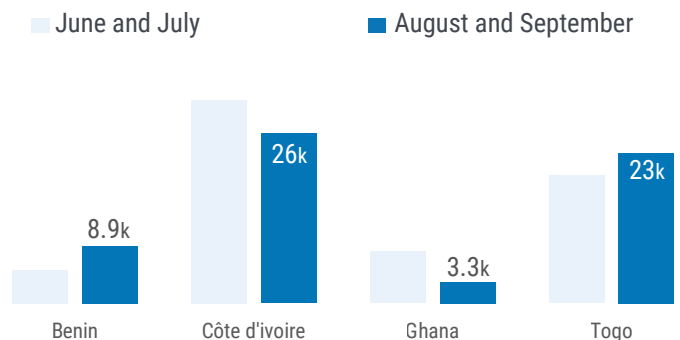


 **Displacement dynamics**

Refugees²

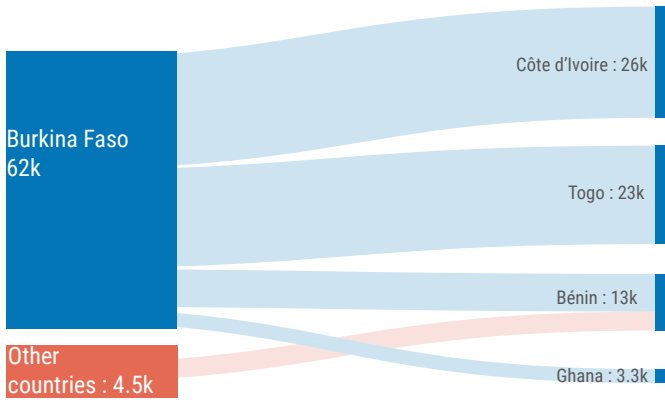
Data for the August and September period shows an increase of 22 per cent in the number of refugees and asylum seekers registered in the northern areas of the coastal countries. As of 30 September, some 66,915 refugees and asylum seekers were registered, compared to 54,929 persons as of 31 July. These figures include the registration of more than 4,500 Togolese having fled to Benin, as well as a small number of Malians and Nigeriens registered in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin respectively. The number of registered Burkinabe refugees and asylum seekers increased significantly, particularly in Benin, going from 2,527 at the end of July to 8,958 individuals at the end of September, as well as in Côte d'Ivoire where 26,569 persons were registered at the end of September, compared to 21,273 at the end of July. The total number of Burkinabe refugees and asylum seekers registered at the end of September stands at 62,374.

Refugees from Burkina Faso by country



² Analysis and reference data provided by the United Nations High Commissariat for Refugees (UNHCR)

Origin of refugees and asylum seekers³



	Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo	Total
Burkina Faso	8,958	26,569	3,326	23,521	62,374
Other countries	4,541	-	-	-	4,541
Total	13,499	26,569	3,326	23,521	66,915

Internal Displacement⁴

The Displacement Tracking Matrix, by the International Organization for Migration, reported **18,429** internally displaced persons (IDPs) in **Togo's** Savanes region following data collection between June and July 2023. This corresponds to an estimated total of **4,206** displaced households.

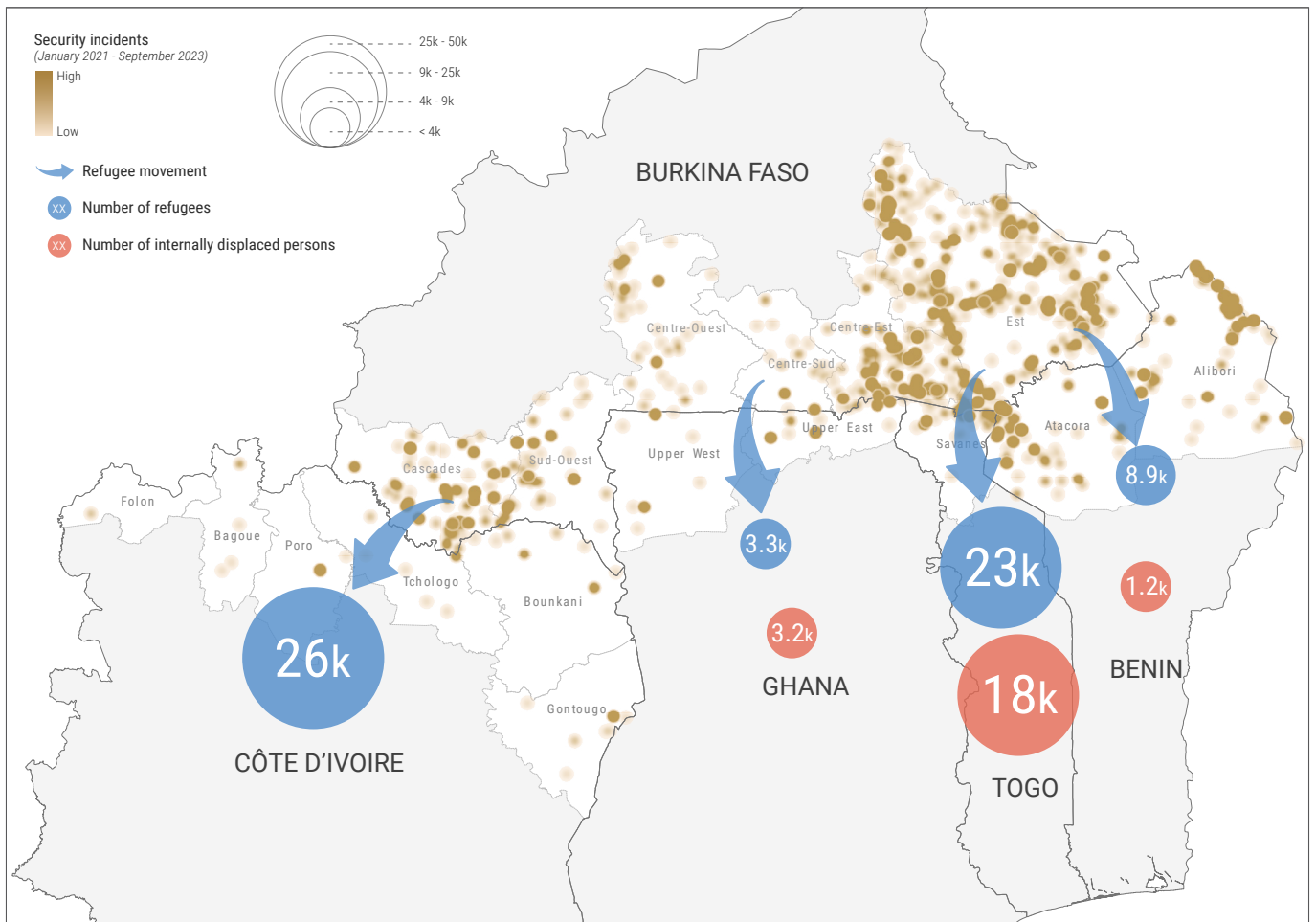
In **Benin**, according to the Ministry of Decentralization and Local Governance, in October 2022, **1,231** IDPs were reported in the Commune of Matéri.

On April 21, 2023, a total of **3,158** IDPs were reported by the **Ghana** Immigration Service, located in the Zebilla (802 IDPs), Pulmakom (255 IDPs) and Bawku/Missiga (2,131 IDPs) regions in the north of the country.

As of September 30, 2023, in **Côte d'Ivoire**, no internal population displacements have been officially recorded by local authorities.

	Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo	Total
	1,231	0	3,158	18,429	22,818

Breakdown of refugees from Burkina Faso and IDPs in coastal countries



³ Analysis and reference data provided by the United Nations High Commissariat for Refugees (UNHCR).

⁴ Analysis and reference data provided by the regional office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Access to health services⁵

Côte d'Ivoire

During the months of August and September 2023, the Folon, Bagoué, Poro and Tchologo regions of Côte d'Ivoire were faced with challenges concerning their health facilities. Several facilities were non-functional: 9 in Bagoué (10%), 12 in Poro (8%) and 10 in Tchologo (14%). The main cause of non-functionality is lack of equipment. In addition, a large number of people depended on these facilities for their care: 546,246 in Bagoué, 1,101,682 in Poro and 615,712 in Tchologo. In terms of refugees, Folon saw its number increase from 354 to 399, Bagoué from 158 to 173, Poro from 517 to 629 and Tchologo from 13,879 to 14,407 in August and September. No attacks on medical facilities were reported during this period. However, the influx of asylum seekers, especially in Ouangolodougou in Tchologo, represented a major challenge.

Togo

In Togo's Savanes region, a complex situation is affecting the health sector. During the months of August and September 2023, although the 109 health facilities spread across the region's seven health districts (Cinkasse, Kpendjal, Kpendjal-Ouest, Tône, Oti, Oti-Sud and Tandjouare) were operational and did not suffer direct attacks, they felt the consequences of the prevailing insecurity, armed clashes and mine explosions. These events have had a major impact on community members. The Kpendjal health district is the most affected, and is following a similar trend to that observed in other areas of the Kpendjal-Ouest, Tône and Cinkassé districts. This has had a noticeable impact on vaccination campaigns in the region, particularly in Kpendjal. In fact, for the first half of 2023, there was a significant drop in vaccination rates compared with the same period in 2022. Vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B and haemophilus influenzae type b (DTP-HepB-Hib) among infants aged 11 months fell from 104 per cent in 2022 to 90 per cent in 2023. DTP-HepB-Hib vaccination among 32-month-olds fell from 109 per cent in 2022 to 93 per cent in 2023. Vaccination against measles and rubella among 1-year-olds (RR1/Anti-amoebic Vaccine [AAV]) has fallen from 93% in 2022 to just 73% in 2023. In addition, the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons who are housed in households rather than in camps, is also putting a strain on the region's health services, particularly those located near the border with Burkina Faso. Reference health centres, such as the Centre Hospitalier Régional in Dapaong, are also significantly impacted. These centres are receiving an increasing number of destitute patients, underlining the growing pressure on the region's health infrastructure.

Acces to Education⁶

In Benin, there were 11 schools closed at the end of the reporting period (22 having reopened at the start of the new school year, compared with the situation in June when 33 schools were closed with 4,321 pupils affected):

- 9 are primary schools and 2 others are alternative education centres; 7 schools are in Alibori (5 primary schools and 2 alternative education centres) and 4 in Atacora.
- 1,030 pupils are affected (including 411 girls) by this closure, including 587 pupils (243 girls) in Alibori and 443 (168 girls) in Atacora.
- 28 teachers affected, 12 in Alibori and 16 in Atacora.

Violences basées sur le genre⁷

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

Benin

According to Benin's Ministry of Social Affairs, the demand for specialized gender-based violence (GBV) services by women and girls increased by around 43 per cent during the period covered by this report (August and September) compared to the previous period (June and July). 57 per cent of survivors were survivors of psychological violence and 22 per cent of physical aggression. Cases of harmful traditional practices continue to be reported among the main GBV issues: forced marriage of widows, abduction and cases locally referred to as "heritage/cultural violence". Available data also indicate that women and girls face various forms of economic violence.

Togo

Between August and September, the most common forms of GBV reported to the services of UNFPA-supported listening centres and integrated multi-sectoral service delivery centers ("one-stop centres") were: psychological violence (34%), denial of resources, opportunities or services (23%), physical violence (20%), sexual violence (17%) and "institutionalized" violence, i.e. harmful practices supported by pre-established social

⁵ Analysis and reference data provided by the World Health Organization (WHO).

⁶ Analysis and reference data provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

⁷ Analysis and reference data provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

or cultural norms or legal systems (6%). 88.5% of cases were reported by women and girls. As regards the context in which the violence took place, no change of context was mentioned. Factors from the previous reference period could be considered valid/applicable: the majority of reported cases were intimate partner violence. The most recurrent risk factors are population movements due to the security context in neighboring countries, social and cultural norms, and negative coping mechanisms.

Food Security⁸

Benin

In Benin, prices for some cereals have risen by more than 20 per cent compared with the same period in 2022. These include sorghum (+22%) and maize (+21%). Generally speaking, cereal prices fall from July to December. In 2023, the trend is upward for maize, with prices up 13 per cent between June and July. In August 2023, the price of maize reached 246 CFA Francs, a price never recorded in the last ten years. Prices remain relatively high compared with the average for the last five years, given the disruption to international and regional markets caused by restrictions on cereal exports from certain neighboring countries and the closure of borders with Niger. In the Alibori and Atakora regions bordering Niger and Burkina Faso, maize prices were up 52 per cent and 47 per cent respectively on the five-year average in September 2023.

Côte d'Ivoire

In September 2023, food prices were relatively stable on the Côte d'Ivoire markets monitored by WFP. In terms of annual variation, relative price falls of 1 per cent, 12 per cent and 20 per cent were recorded for imported rice, cassava and maize respectively. The relative falls are explained by government support through subsidies and good forecasts for agricultural production, especially for manioc. The decrease is also explained by the high prices of the previous year. At the same time, prices for local rice, groundnuts and palm oil rose by 6 per cent, 24 per cent and 38 per cent respectively. However, prices remain high compared with the five-year average. Prices of cereals such as corn, local and imported rice rose by 10 per cent, 20 per cent and 23 per cent. Prices could continue to fall in the coming months if market supplies remain at acceptable levels.

Ghana

The economic situation in Ghana remains volatile. Headline and food inflation rates are very high at 38 per cent and 49 per cent respectively in September 2023. Nevertheless, there has been a slight drop in these rates compared with January 2023, when the peak was reached after a continued increase since May 2021. In combination with these inflations, the cedi continues to lose value in relation to the US dollar: nearly 45 per cent compared with September 2022. This factor continues to increase the prices for imported products, and has a parallel impact on the government's trade balance. However, prices remain extremely high compared with the five-year average. In July 2023, cassava was up 353 per cent, while local rice, maize and millet were up more than 150 per cent. This volatile situation is likely to continue, putting pressure on household budgets and on the cost of the food basket.

Togo

1,500 households were sampled in the World Food Programme's (WFP) food security survey, of which 957 were in the Savanes region (including 215 internally displaced households and 287 externally displaced households). Household food insecurity appears to be of greater concern in the prefectures of: Kpendjal, Kpendjal-Ouest, Binah, Tône, Tandjaore, Oti, Oti-Sud, Assoli and Cinkasse. Displaced households face greater food security challenges than other population groups, with the highest level of food insecurity among IDPs (88.9%) and externally displaced persons (88.7%). For permanent residents and host populations, the level of food insecurity is estimated to be 77.4 per cent. This means that these populations can only meet their minimum food requirements by using irreversible coping strategies, leading to significant loss of livelihoods or large food deficits. Reducing the number of meals is the strategy most commonly used by households in the Kara and Savanes regions (50%) to cope with a lack of food or money to buy food. In total, households claim to have used a range of emergency strategies, namely the sale of the last female animals (21%), begging (7%), and 2 per cent of households claim to have mortgaged or sold their house or arable land due to a lack of food or money to buy food.

⁸ Analysis and reference data provided by the World Food Programme (WFP)

Plant cover anomalies in the northern zone of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo⁹

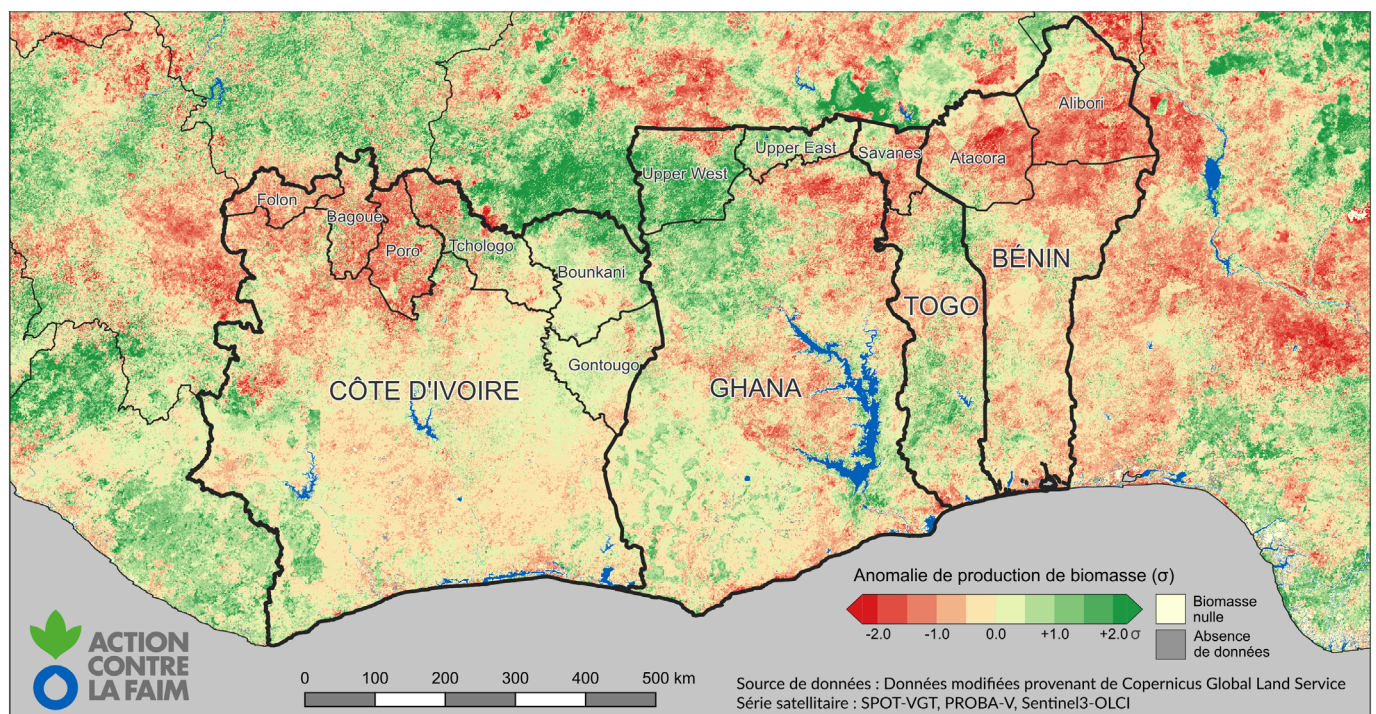
For the 2023 winter growing season, biomass production is below average in almost all coastal countries. The lowest yields were recorded in the north-western part of Côte d'Ivoire and in Benin as a whole. The Poro region in Côte d'Ivoire recorded a negative anomaly with 91 per cent of production, or -1.4σ (standard deviation). In Benin, all the regions covered had negative anomalies of less than -1.0σ .

The highest yields were recorded in the Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana border area, notably in Upper West at 111% ($+1.6 \sigma$) and in Bounkani at 106% ($+0.8 \sigma$).

Despite biomass production being lower or much lower than in previous years, the northern zone of the coastal countries continues to have the potential to receive transhumants from Sahelian countries, enabling this biomass to be used for livestock production. However, growing insecurity and institutional instability in Sahelian countries, resulting in the closure of borders restricting cross-border transhumance, limit this geographical complementarity.

Full details of the analysis are available on : sigsahel.info

Biomass production anomaly August and September 2023 in target regions



Pays	Region	Area (km ²)	Anomaly 2019	Anomaly 2020	Anomaly 2021	Anomaly 2022	Anomaly 2023
Benin	Alibori	26,321	+0.4 σ (103%)	-0.4 σ (097%)	-1.0 σ (093%)	+1.1 σ (108%)	-1.2 σ (091%)
	Atacora	20,290	+0.3 σ (102%)	-0.5 σ (097%)	-0.8 σ (095%)	+0.8 σ (105%)	-1.2 σ (092%)
Côte d'Ivoire	Bagoue	9,817	+0.2 σ (101%)	-0.7 σ (096%)	-0.4 σ (098%)	+1.0 σ (106%)	-1.0 σ (094%)
	Bounkani	21,904	-0.2 σ (099%)	+0.2 σ (102%)	+0.6 σ (105%)	+2.2 σ (116%)	+0.8 σ (106%)
	Folon	6,809	-0.2 σ (099%)	-0.9 σ (094%)	-0.9 σ (094%)	+0.4 σ (103%)	-1.1 σ (092%)
	Gontougo	15,790	+0.6 σ (104%)	-0.3 σ (098%)	+0.2 σ (102%)	+1.7 σ (113%)	+0.4 σ (103%)
	Poro	12,735	-0.2 σ (099%)	-0.8 σ (095%)	-0.1 σ (099%)	+0.6 σ (104%)	-1.4 σ (091%)
Ghana	Tchologo	17,806	+0.2 σ (101%)	+0.5 σ (103%)	+1.0 σ (106%)	+2.1 σ (112%)	-0.2 σ (099%)
	Upper East	8,698	+1.0 σ (107%)	+0.7 σ (105%)	+0.9 σ (106%)	+2.0 σ (114%)	+0.5 σ (104%)
Togo	Upper West	18,993	+0.1 σ (101%)	+0.6 σ (104%)	+0.1 σ (100%)	+2.7 σ (118%)	+1.6 σ (111%)
	Savanes	8,737	+1.1 σ (107%)	-0.4 σ (097%)	-1.3 σ (091%)	+0.9 σ (107%)	-0.8 σ (094%)

⁹ Analysis and reference data provided by Action Contre la Faim (ACF).



GRANIT was conceived in 2021 in Dakar on the initiative of the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Coordination (OCHA), IOM and REACH, with the support of Regional Clusters, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations.

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 targeted 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.

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

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

It is updated every two months. Border areas (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. Analyze the links between negative biomass anomalies in central Sahelian countries and the frequency of conflicts/land disputes in coastal countries.
- iv. Monitor regularly population movements in targeted countries.
- v. Complete data collection 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. 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



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Benin - Côte d'Ivoire - Ghana - Togo
As of 30 September 2023



Please scan for the latest updates

The content of this publication is limited to the analysis of available data.

It does not reflect the position and/or opinion of the agencies, actors and other members of the GRANIT.

ACLED is the source of all the data related to incidents in this document.