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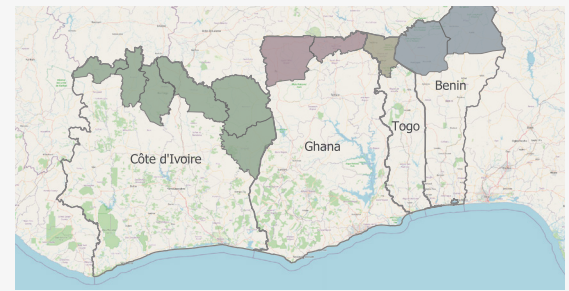
Context

The coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea (Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo) have been experiencing deteriorating security conditions since 2019 in connection with the expansion of the crisis affecting the central Sahel. Several trends observed in 2022 confirm the acceleration of this phenomenon. On the one hand, attacks in the southern areas of Burkina Faso increased by 178 per cent between January 2021 and July 2022¹. This has resulted in the displacement of thousands of Burkinabè refugees to northeastern Côte d'Ivoire and northern Benin. In addition, since the beginning of 2021, numerous incursions by non-state armed groups have been reported in countries bordering southern Burkina Faso. Forests on its southern border are reportedly used as safe bases, and the presence of dense forest areas limits access and affects the ability to monitor the situation¹. The number of attacks has increased in recent years. The number of attacks increased significantly in Benin and Togo between May and July 2022², while the number of security incidents also increased in Côte d'Ivoire, albeit by a small amount.

This increase in insecurity is combined with the presence of inter-community tensions and a deterioration of food security in areas where agriculture and livestock are the main sources of livelihoods for local populations. A possible increase in incursions by non-state armed groups could expose civilians to protection risks, to the gradual closure of basic services, and could cause significant population movements.

In addition, an increase in the number of cases of human rights violations has been recorded in all four coastal countries, namely : limitations on press freedom, increased threats to internal security and political stability, increased discrimination, and more virulent discourse in the public domain.

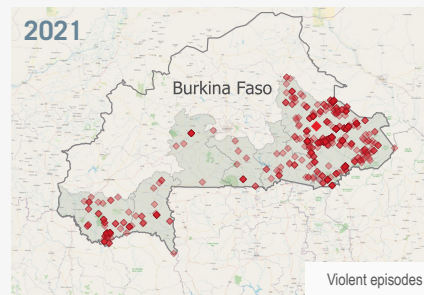
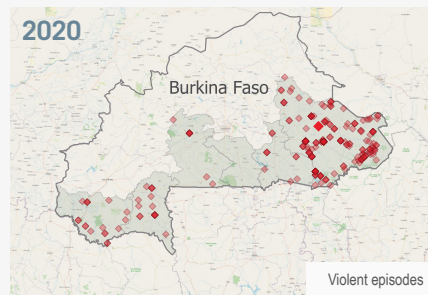
Geographic Coverage



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

Key numbers³ (January - July 2022)

	Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo
# Social unrest	6	2	3	0
# Violent Incidents	34	6	11	9
Population at risk, as a % 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%)

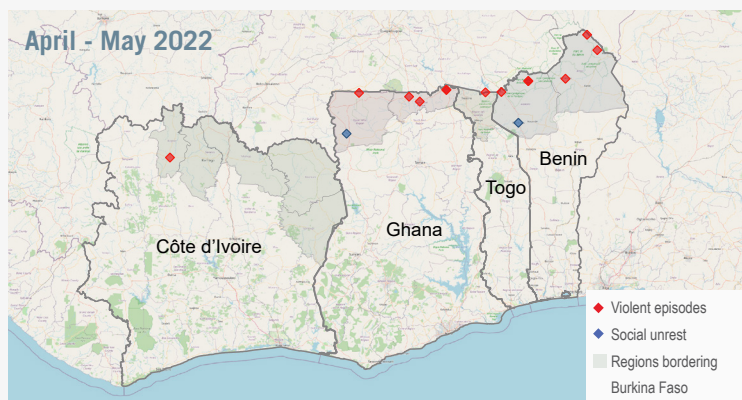
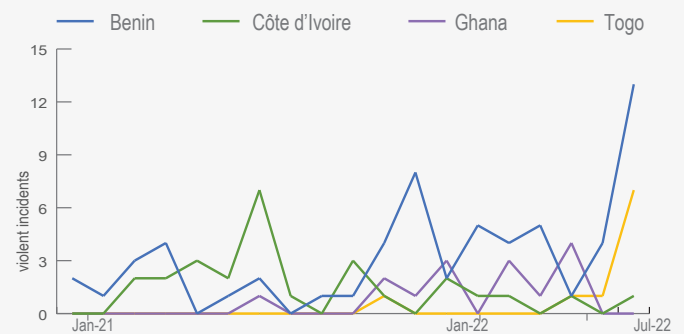


Evolution of security incidents³

Between January 2021 and July 2022, 157 incidents were reported in the northern regions of Benin, Togo, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire along the border with southern Burkina Faso, including 28 in the June-July 2022 period. This represents a 115% increase in the number of security incidents compared to the April-May 2022 period.

In 2022, of 71 (60 violent incidents and 11 social unrest incidents) incidents reported during the first seven months of the year, 88 per cent were incursions by non-state armed groups. Benin remained the country most affected by attacks, with 40 incidents recorded, followed by Ghana with 14 incidents.

Evolution of episodes of violence, by country



¹ The source for all figures related to security incidents shown in the report is ACLED.

² <https://www.africanews.com/2022/05/11/eight-soldiers-killed-in-togo-terrorist-attack-government/>

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

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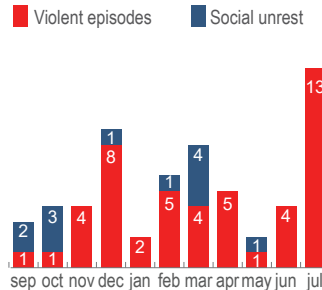
* Insecurity

This section examines the evolution of security incidents in coastal countries for the periods April-May through June-July 2022. The terms social unrest and violence are used to distinguish demonstrations, popular uprisings, and incidents involving law enforcement and societal challenges from violent events such as attacks by armed groups, communal conflicts, or kidnappings, among others.

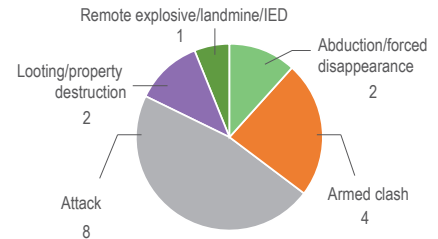
Benin

Benin witnessed a significant increase in the number of violent episodes between June and July 2022, with 17 incidents recorded, compared to the April-May 2022 period when only seven incidents occurred, an increase of 143 per cent. The types of violence were diverse and included: armed attacks against security forces or civilians (resulting in the deaths of five people), kidnappings, and the use of improvised explosive devices. Most incidents were committed by a non-state armed group in the border areas with Burkina Faso (Alibori, Atakora).

Monthly number of security incidents

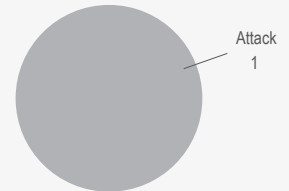
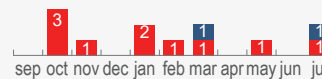


Types of episodes of violence (June - July 2022)



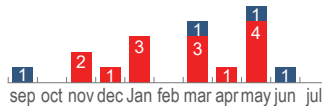
Côte d'Ivoire

After witnessing a relatively large number of security incidents between late 2021 and early 2022 (nine security incidents reported between October 2021 and March 2022), the northeast regions of Côte d'Ivoire experienced a relative lull in 2022. For the period between June and July 2022, only one incursion by non-state armed groups was recorded.



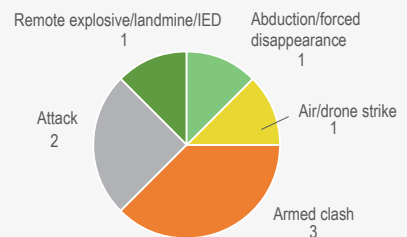
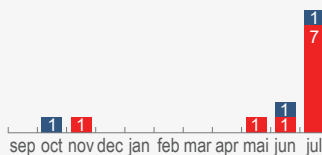
Ghana

In northern Ghana, between June and July 2022, a period of calm was recorded. No security incidents were reported. This is in stark contrast to the previous months, when the number of recorded episodes of violence increased sharply (13 incidents reported between January and May 2022, divided between attacks, incursions by non-state armed groups, and intercommunal clashes).

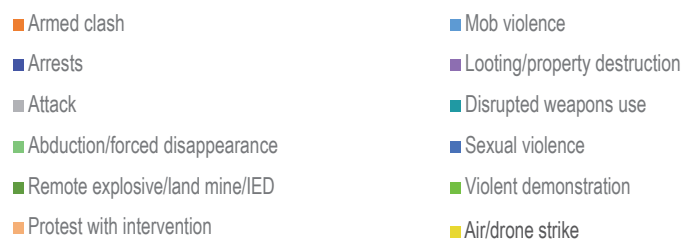


Togo

After witnessing the first attack on its territory in May 2022, Togo became the epicentre of the crisis, with one episode of violence observed in June 2022 and seven in July 2022. These included incursions or attacks by non-state armed groups, armed clashes in which dozens of civilians were killed, a drone attack against security forces, and improvised explosive device attacks. These incidents were attributed to the same non-state armed group conducting incursions into Benin.



Security incidents, by category



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Movement dynamics

Refugees⁴

Despite multiple national operations and some joint operations by Burkinabè and Ivorian forces to restore peace, the security situation in Burkina Faso continued to deteriorate rapidly. Attacks targeting civilians and accompanied by serious human rights violations have repeatedly taken place in Burkina Faso. This has forced the civilian population to flee to coastal countries in ever-changing flows.

Overall, during the months of June and July, an increase of approximately 10 per cent⁵ in forced displacement movements from Burkina Faso to coastal countries was observed, compared to the April-May 2022 period.

In particular, there were movements of displaced Burkinabè to the Savanes region in northern Togo, linked to persistent insecurity in the Est region of Burkina Faso. Between the end of May and 31 July 2022, Togo's National Agency for Civil Protection (ANPC) recorded 1,868 displaced Burkinabè who had moved to the northern part of the country, in Dapaong, Mandouri,

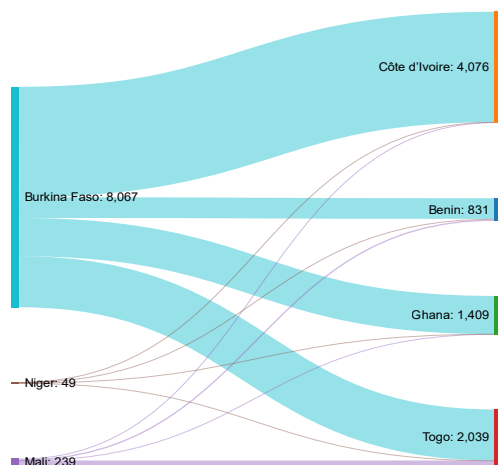
and Katindi (Tone and Kpendjal Prefectures)⁶.

In Benin, an increase in movements from Burkina Faso was also observed during the past period. Some 565 new Burkinabè asylum seekers were registered in the commune of Tanguitea, in the Atacora department, in the northwest of the country, by the National Commission for Refugees (CNR). These asylum seekers are in addition to the 192 Burkinabè refugees already registered in 2021 in the commune of Materi, in the same department.

In Côte d'Ivoire, no population movement from Burkina Faso was recorded during the reporting period, as of 31 July 2022.

Finally, there were new inflows of Burkinabè into northern Ghana. As of 31 July 2022, the total number of arrivals was approximately 1,400.

Origin of refugees and asylum seekers⁴



In view of the prevailing security instability in the central Sahel region, an increase in the influx of Burkinabè refugees to coastal countries could be anticipated.

Country of provenance	Host country				Total
	Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo	
Burkina Faso	757	4,042	1,400	1,868	8,067
Mali	48	30	8	153	239
Niger	26	4	1	18	49
Total	831	4,076	1,409	2,039	8,355

Internal displacements⁶

For the first time, internal displacement was recorded in Togo. According to the IOM country office and the Togolese ANPC, during the period up to 31 July 2022, 2,915 internally displaced persons (IDPs) fled attacks and incursions by non-state armed groups in the north of the country. These IDPs resided primarily in the regions of Cinkasse, Tone, West Kpendjal, and Kpendjal.

⁴ Analysis and baseline data made available by UNHCR regional office. Data includes UNHCR registered and unregistered persons

⁵ The number of refugees increased from 3,534 reported on May 30, 2022, to 3,903 on August 17, 2022, according to

the UNHCR database.

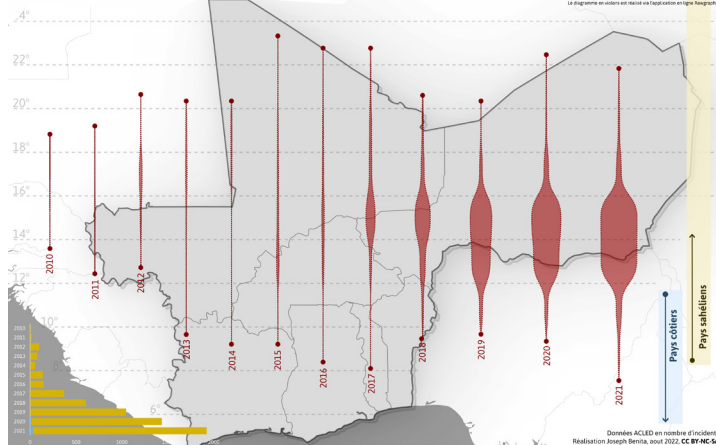
⁶ Analysis and baseline data made available by the IOM regional office.

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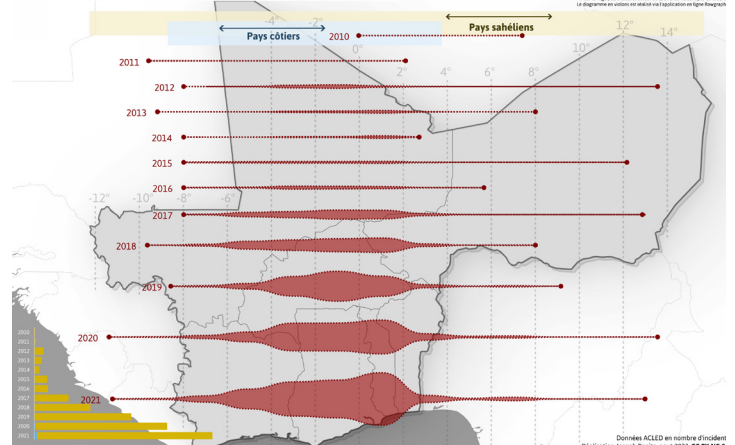
Expansion of the violence

These maps show the expansion of violence by non-state armed groups from the central Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) to the four coastal border countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo)

Distribution and evolution of violence by North-South armed groups in the central Sahel and coastal countries from 2010 to 2021



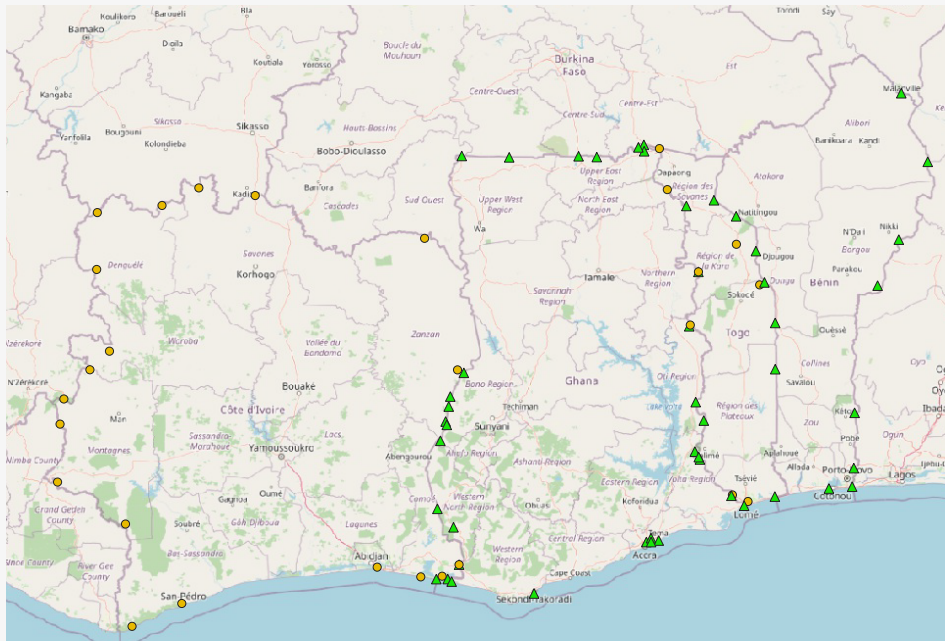
Distribution and evolution of violence by West - East armed groups in the central Sahel and coastal countries from 2010 to 2021



Border status⁷

The operational status of COVID-19-related borders in the coastal countries is in line with the status of other West African countries. The borders in Benin and Ghana are fully operational and open for entry and exit. The borders in Côte d'Ivoire and Togo are partially open: The land borders in Côte d'Ivoire are only open to commercial traffic. In contrast, all borders in

Togo and airports in Côte d'Ivoire are partially operational due to covid-19 vaccination requirements. In addition to the closure of borders related to COVID-19, Togo and Benin unilaterally closed their borders with Burkina Faso at the end of 2021 due to community and agropastoral conflicts.



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

⁷ IOM

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Food security

To ensure a complete follow-up of the situation, the section on the food security context is reutilised although no major changes are to be reported

The latest Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis conducted in March 2022 shows that hunger and malnutrition are on the rise in the four coastal countries covered by this analysis. In the current period (March-May 2022), approximately 2.3 million people are food insecure (Phase 3-5) in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. This includes nearly 80,000 people classified as emergency (Phase 4) and represents a 35 per cent increase from 2021. CH estimates are also well above the five-year average (+387%).

For the projected period (June-August 2022), the situation is expected to improve slightly due to the seasonality of the area, but an estimated 2.2 million people will remain food insecure, including 41,000 people in emergency (Phase 4). These projections are also well above last year's figures (+46%) and significantly higher than the 5-year average (+335%). For Benin, the estimates for 2022 are the highest figures recorded since the beginning of the CH exercise.

The deteriorating food and nutrition situation is due to a variety of mutually reinforcing factors. Food prices have generally trended upward since the beginning of 2021, and in March 2022 were well above the five-year

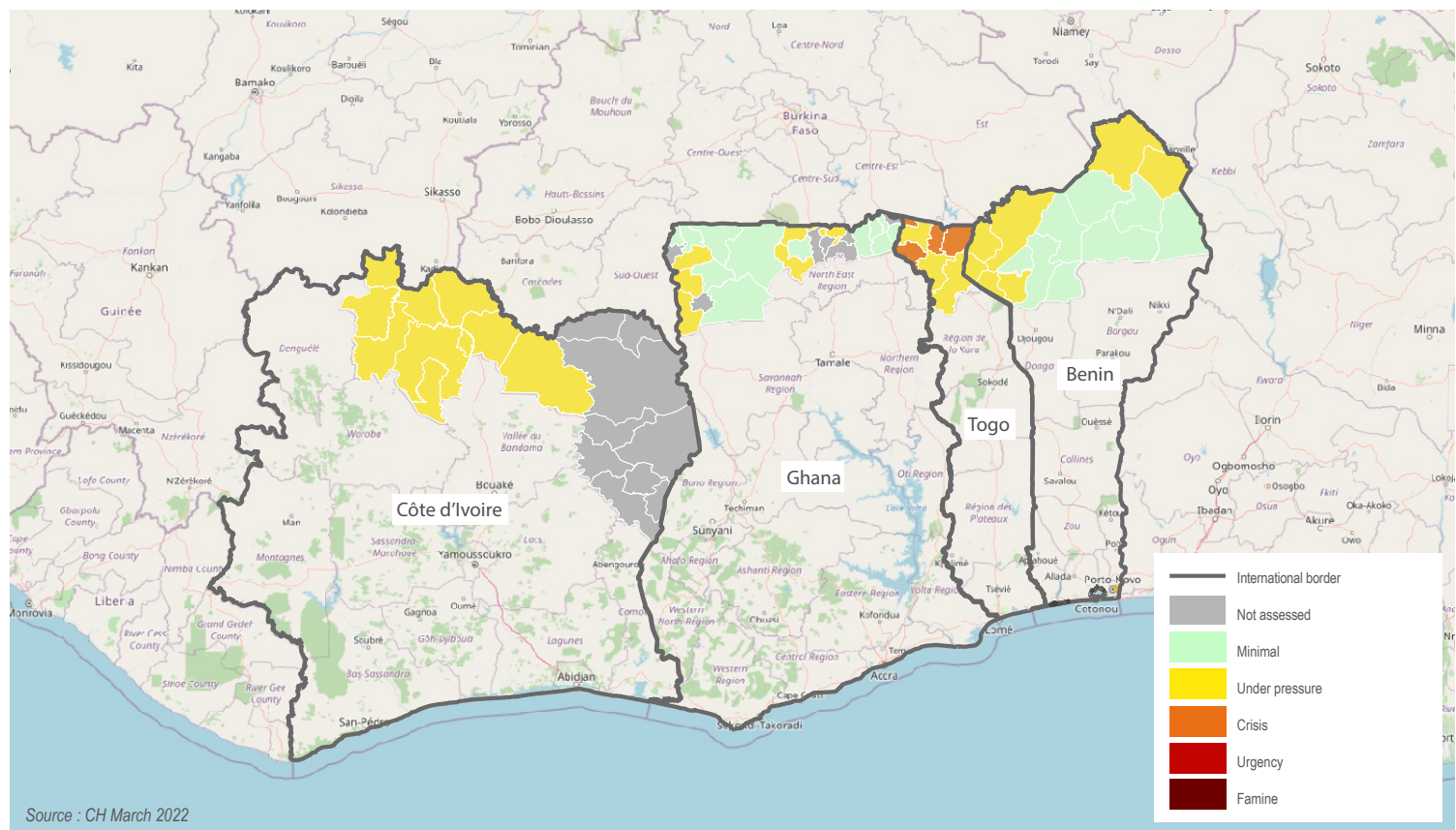
average. Macroeconomic factors also play a major role in food insecurity, as countries are still recovering from the socioeconomic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in a 3 per cent increase in extreme poverty between 2020 and 2021 according to a study conducted by ECOWAS, ECCAS, and WFP. While the initial economic outlook for 2021 and 2022 was slightly more optimistic than the previous period, countries are struggling with high debt and will face significant economic challenges in responding to the food crisis in 2022.

The seasonal climate outlook indicates that the 2022 rainy season will be erratic and below normal, which could negatively impact agricultural production during the 2022-2023 season, limiting food availability and access for vulnerable people. The coastal region is also likely to experience further increases in food prices and disruptions in the supply of agricultural commodities (including fertilizer) due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

A deteriorating security situation is an additional aggravating factor. The upsurge in violence primarily reflects a spill over of the security crisis from the central Sahel, as the northernmost border areas of the littoral states host smuggling and trade routes that play an important role for members of non-state armed groups.

Attacks have begun to target local communities, increasing the risk of displacement and disruption of agricultural livelihoods.

Projected food and nutritional security (June – August 2022)



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Community relations and human rights

This analysis covers the period from January to July 2022 and is based on media monitoring, ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project) data, the monthly human rights early warning report of the OHCHR⁸ (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) and the EMM (European Media Monitoring) platform. This analysis is provided in relation to areas of risk to internal security and inter-communal dynamics that may potentially contribute to a deterioration in the human rights, protection and security situation, in accordance with the risk framework of the Integrated Prevention Platform (Regional Monthly Review⁹). During the reporting period, 25 news articles related to insecurity in the four coastal countries under analysis were compiled.

Benin

Increased risk factors “actions of non-state armed groups”, “communal violence” and “discriminatory practices based on religion or belief”

According to information gathered from ACLED and EMM, communal violence is becoming a growing concern, with Benin becoming the centrepiece of the strategy of non-state armed groups to exploit communal fractures. Indeed, Benin has seen the greatest expansion of ethnic tensions of the four coastal countries and the greatest number of inter-communal conflicts.

Community violence and attacks by non-state armed groups contribute to the weakening of inter-community dynamics and increase the risk of stigmatization of certain groups in Benin.

With respect to human rights, OHCHR notes that Benin faces increasing risks to internal security, social cohesion, and inter-community dialogue.

Côte d'Ivoire

As Côte d'Ivoire strengthened security on its border with Burkina Faso and joint military operations between the two countries were being prepared in the north of the country, some population groups reported that they were being targeted as supporters of the insurgents and harassed by security forces. Thus, hostility in the north toward these groups could increase with the joint military operations.

Increase in the risk factor “Discriminatory practices on the basis of ethnic origin” in the north of the country

Ghana

Increase in the risk factor “Discriminatory practices on the basis of ethnic origin”

According to data from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), during the reporting period, Ghana was the West African country most affected by social unrest. The OHCHR also noted threats to political and institutional stability, according to reports in several media outlets. There were also cases of arbitrary arrests, including of journalists. Freedom of speech and of the press were threatened with restrictions (Ghana dropped from 31st to 60th place in the World Press Freedom Index between 2021 and 2022).

OHCHR considers Ghana to be the country with the greatest threat to freedom of expression in West Africa. In addition, Ghana has seen an increase in cases of gender-based violence and sexual harassment in recent months.

Togo

In June and July 2022, Togo witnessed the largest increase in the number of attacks by non-state armed groups against civilians and security forces of the four coastal countries.

The recent spate of border raids in countries south of the Sahel has confirmed concerns about the expansion of non-state armed groups from the Sahel region into coastal countries. Civil society actors warned that violence in the north was escalating, leading to a spike in community tensions and the exploitation of social divides by armed groups. ACLED has already documented more than a dozen incidents of xenophobic demonstrations.

In addition, OHCHR reports high rates of food insecurity and malnutrition in the country, which could generate further violence, tension, and instability. Indeed, OHCHR indicates that there are growing challenges to internal security, linked to the high rates of poverty and marginalization in the country.

Increased risk factors “actions of non-state armed groups and “discriminatory practices based on religion or belief”

⁸ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

⁹ 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.

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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 [§]	Topic	Sector	Source	Countries for which data is available	Variables	Equivalent indicator [†]	Equivalent indicator code [‡]	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	

[§] All indicators are analysed for the covered period.

[†] Existing equivalent indicators in standard databases.

[‡] Indicator code taken from standard databases

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Information on indicators

Indicator [§]	Topic	Sector	Source	Countries for which data is available	Variables	Equivalent indicator [†]	Equivalent indicator code [‡]	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