International Rescue Committee
Côte d'Ivoire: Strategy Action Plan

A Wade / IRC

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

Issued June 2016

IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of the global strategy, IRC2020 (see right), is to make measurable improvements in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power. Therefore, the IRC will make investments to have more effective programs, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly and better respond to beneficiaries' needs.

Mission The mission of the IRC is to help people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and gain control of their futures.

Vision The IRC will lead the humanitarian field by implementing high-impact, cost effective programs for people affected by crisis, and by using our learning and experience to shape policy and practice.

Outcomes ⌃ HEALTH ⌃ SAFETY ⌃ EDUCATION ⌃ ECONOMIC WELLBEING ⌃ POWER

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR EVERYONE WHILE NARROWING THE GENDER GAP

Objectives Effectiveness | Best use of resources | Scale & Reach | Speed &Timeliness | Responsiveness | Research & Development

CÔTE D'IVOIRE OVERVIEW

Civil war in 2002 left Côte d'Ivoire in a fragile socio-economic situation, which was further compounded by the 2010-2011 post-election crisis. Today, social services are often of poor quality and limited availability, which augments growing inequality and jeopardizes the country's return to long term stability.

Despite strong economic growth in recent years, many populations are still at risk. Rural communities and women and girls are often deprived of healthcare and education, and have a lower quality of life. In addition, women and girls are highly vulnerable to gender-based violence.

While many services like healthcare are nominally free, corruption, poor availability, and facility mismanagement often forces patients to pay for services to which they are entitled. These financial barriers to services disproportionately impact women and children, who usually do not have control over household expenditures.

As a result, a large part of the population is uneducated, in poor health, vulnerable to violence or exploitation, and with limited economic opportunities.

The IRC's new strategy for Côte d'Ivoire illustrates its commitment to improving the health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power of crisis-affected people in Côte d'Ivoire.

IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC's new strategy in Côte d'Ivoire will prioritize improving health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power (see Figure 1). The IRC aims to reach 2.1 million people in Côte d'Ivoire by the end of 2020, specifically targeting women and girls, unemployed youth, returnees and other vulnerable groups.

The IRC will work to improve healthcare, particularly for children under five and pregnant women. Initiatives to train health workers on community-based epidemic surveillance, engage populations on safe sanitation practices, increase access to potable water and strengthen the capacity of healthcare facilities aim to protect and treat communicable diseases.

To increase the safety of women and girls, survivors of gender-based violence will be supported through the IRC's holistic gender-based violence response model. This will be complimented by social and economic empowerment for women and direct outreach to men to transform harmful gender norms.

To ensure education services function and are safe, the IRC will continue to promote enrollment, improve facilities, pilot literacy and numeracy methodologies and build management committees' capacity. IRC will also implement programs aiming to eliminate child labor and strengthen business and technical capacities of youth and adults.

The IRC will enable crisis-affected and other vulnerable groups, particularly women, to generate revenue and build assets through employment and self-employment. Business skills and job training will help beneficiaries find jobs and establish stable sources of income.

The IRC will also aim to improve local and civil society governance by allowing beneficiaries to contribute to public service management and promoting women's empowerment and inclusion.

The IRC's commitment to gender equality strives for equal outcomes for women and girls, and men and boys. To narrow the gender gap, the IRC will incorporate gender-focused programming into all activities.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Priority Outcomes in Côte d'Ivoire	Examples of Future Programs
HEALTH	> Children are protected from and treated for communicable disease	> Train community health workers on key preventative health issues > Improve health centers' capacity to treat and respond to disease
SAFETY	> Women and girls are equally safe from harm as men and boys where they live, learn, and work	> Improve access to services and support to social centers to ensure holistic care for survivors of gender-based violence
EDUCATION	> Girls and boys enroll in and attend safe, functioning and responsive education services	> Promote enrollment and build capacity for new and current teachers > Pilot new literacy and numeracy promotion methodologies
ECONOMIC WELLBEING	> People generate income and assets	> Promote Village Savings and Loans, cash distribution, and a combination of grants and credits (semi-credit)
POWER	> People influence decisions that affect them collectively	> Leverage scorecard methodologies to enable beneficiaries to provide feedback on community service delivery

COMMITTMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize impact and achieve the priority outcomes, the IRC in Côte d'Ivoire is making new investments to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, reach more people in more places, be more responsive to beneficiaries and partners, and react more quickly when crisis strikes. The IRC made the following commitments to strengthen programming and improve the lives of the people it serves in Côte d'Ivoire.

Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact

Effectiveness

> Implement an enhanced monitoring and evaluation system to better generate evidence of effective programs

> Conduct analyses to identify gender gaps in programs and carry out corrective measures

> Focus on achieving priority outcomes, using identified evidence and theories of change to design and implement effective programs

Best Use of Resources

> Improve procurement and supply chain systems to obtain better quality products more quickly, and at lower prices

> Systematically assess cost per beneficiary and incorporate findings into projects

Scale & Reach

> Expand program implementation through local partners to increase IRC's geographic reach, while leveraging local experience and resources

Responsiveness

> Establish formal feedback mechanisms across all program areas, such as satisfaction surveys and focus groups with beneficiaries, partners, and staff

> Conduct institutional gender audit to inform a gender equality mainstreaming initiative that is responsive to the needs of women and girls
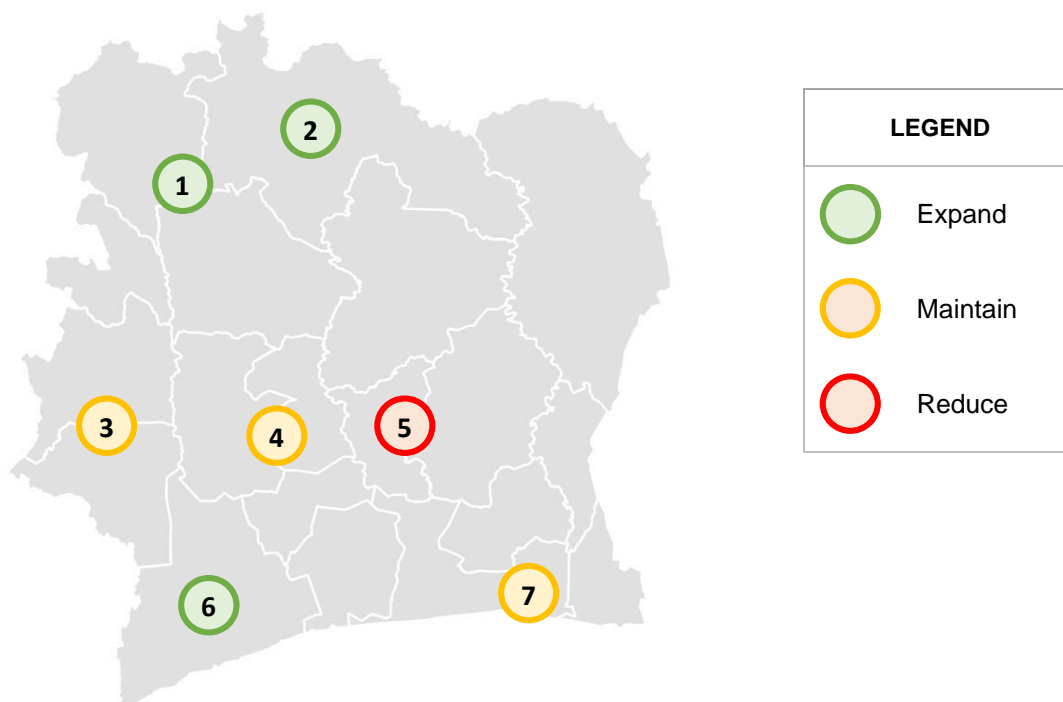
Speed & Timeliness

> Identify concrete exit criteria for each priority outcome to ensure a timely withdrawal by 2020

IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC will maintain, expand, and reduce its presence in sites across Côte d'Ivoire based on an analysis of where the greatest need is and where the IRC can create the biggest impact.

Figure 3: The IRC's Geographic Transitions in Côte d'Ivoire

	Location	Geographic Transition
1	North-west	Expand interventions in health, education, economic wellbeing and power in Bagoue, Folon, Kabadougou, Worodougou, Bere and Bafing
2	North	Launch education and economic wellbeing interventions in Poro and Tchologo
3	West	Continue to serve beneficiaries with interventions in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing and power in Tonkpi, Guemon, and Cavally
4	Center-west	Begin interventions to improve economic wellbeing, while continuing health programming in Haut-Sassandra, Marahoue and Goh
5	Center	Progressively reduce existing programs in line with needs on the ground
6	South-west	Launch programs to promote safety, while expanding existing interventions in education across Nawa, Gbokle and San Pedro
7	South	Continue to provide essential services in health and promote safety in Agneby-Tiassa and Abidjan

J Soha / IRC

The IRC in Côte d'Ivoire

✉ Louis Falcy, Country Director
Louis.Falcy@rescue.org

🌐 Rescue.org/where/Ivory_Coast

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE