



The Civil Affairs Section is a key element in the efforts made by the UNOCI to help the Government of National Reconciliation to restore the authority of the State throughout Cote d'Ivoire, by facilitating, inter alia, the return of the government agents in the zones where they were previously in service.

The promotion of political and social dialogue between the various actors and the restoration of confidence, are key-elements to guarantee the durability of the administration redeployment. They constitute parts of the mandate of the section, which permanently keeps in touch with the government authorities, political leaders, representatives of the civil community, as well as traditional and religious leaders.

In addition, the section keeps in touch with the bilateral and multilateral donors, to ensure the financing of capacities reinforcement programmes.

UNOCI, through this section, has already supported projects undertaken by the National Committee monitoring the redeployment of the administration for the return of 6,000 government employees in the West of Cote d'Ivoire out of some 23,000 civil servants displaced by the war. The return of civil servants to the north of is yet to be done. According to Government officials, their redeployment largely depends on improvement in the security situation.

The principal interlocutors of the Civil Affairs Section are the Government of National Reconciliation, the Forces Nouvelles, as well as the bilateral and multilateral donors, in particular the European Union and the United Nations agencies.

In addition, the section comprises a unit in charge of Quick Impact Projects.

The "Quick Impact Projects" programme or "QIPs" is a community rehabilitation programme which aims to support local communities. Its main objectives are :

- to create favourable conditions to re-establish peace while contributing to the greater comfort of local communities affected by the conflict;
- to allow, conjunction with the local communities, the implementation small rehabilitation projects, financed by UNOCI, which will benefit the local population.
- to reinforce the capacity of absorption in significant zones, while bringing a response to the urgent needs of populations, in particular in the fields of education, health, sanitation and basic infrastructure.

While being beneficial to all members of the community, the QIP' S contribute in a significant way to the process of stabilization, reconciliation and integration of vulnerable groups in most of the areas affected by the war in Cote d'Ivoire.

A RADIO FOR TIASSALE



The local radio in Tiassale. © ONUCI / Ky Chung

In a country where the radio does not reach many parts of the territory, proximity radio stations play a crucial role in the access to information by rural populations.

However, very often, these radio stations lack most basic technical elements.

In an attempt to help proximity radio stations reach the populations in the most remote parts of the country, the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) inaugurated a radio station in Tiassale on 14 April 2005 - a project which was jointly funded by the

United States embassy. UNOCI spent \$15,000 in the implementation of the programme through its Quick Impact Projects (QIPS) while the United States donated about \$20,000. UNOCI's QIPS programme has also financed the rehabilitation of two schools and provided equipment for health centres, in Tiassalé - a town of some 60,000 inhabitants located at a hundred kilometres in the north of Abidjan.