



MISSION STORIES

Women's NGO provides northern town with medical aid

At the invitation of an Ivorian women's NGO, Solidarité Bienfaisance, an ONUCI team traveled to the town of Tafiré on 9 October to attend the handover of a donation of medicinal drugs to the local hospital.

Located east of the ancient town of Kong in northern Côte d'Ivoire, Tafiré used to be an important crossroads, the last overnight stopover for truckers headed for the border with Burkina Faso. Unfortunately, as in the rest of Côte d'Ivoire, the crisis that has gripped the country over the past three years has made life more difficult for the population. Today the places where the trucks used to park are deserted and the town retains but a shadow of its past glory.

The praise singers of Tafiré



Members of ONUCI's staff attended the handing over ceremony seated among a crowd of children and adults. Dr Fatoumata Traoré, a member of the Directorate of the Force Nouvelles, was there as well, but as patron of Solidarité Bienfaisance. She stressed the importance of initiatives that encourage rural women to take their destinies in hand rather than wait for external help, and alleviate people's suffering with the means at their disposal.

The traditional libations were followed by a delightful performance by the town's fanfare and dancers. Then, after speeches by representatives of the political and military authorities of the region, the women of Solidarité Bienfaisance handed over the boxes of medicines and impregnated mosquito nets to the doctors of Tafiré to loud applause from the townspeople.

Young dancers from Tafiré



Amid the difficult situation in which Cote d'Ivoire finds itself today, women are increasingly making their voices heard. However, rather than simply calling for the burden borne by women, the first victims of war throughout the world, to be lightened, the members of Solidarité Bienfaisance demonstrated on 9 October that they were able to organize actions in the field to ease the difficulties faced by all: men and women, young and old.



Produced by the UNOCI Office for Public Information. October 2005.

UNOCI Photo/PIO, October 2005.

Disclaimer - This publication is for information only and is not an official document of the United Nations. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations or the United Nations Mission in Cote d'Ivoire.