

Rue Belliard 205 box 13  
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium  
+32 (0)2 736 7262 +32 (0)2 732 3033 fax  
brussels@sfcg.org www.sfcg.org



1601 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20009-1035 USA  
+1 202 265 4300 +1 202 232 6718 fax  
search@sfcg.org www.sfcg.org

---

**“Supporting a Conversation with Youth on Leadership”**

**Search for Common Ground in Côte d’Ivoire**

**To the**

**US Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor**

**Grant #: S-LMAQM-08-GR-632**

**Final Narrative Report for the Project Period September 23, 2008-May 31, 2010  
Submitted August 31, 2010**

**Contact Information:**

**Spes Manirakiza**

Country Director  
Search for Common Ground Cote d’Ivoire  
Boulevard Latrille X Rue J 106  
POB: 06BP6426 Abidjan  
Tel: +225-22-42-39-66  
[smanirakiza@sfcg.org](mailto:smanirakiza@sfcg.org)

**Frances Fortune**

Africa Director  
P.M.B 139  
44 Bathurst Street  
Freetown Sierra Leone  
Tel: +232-76-60-30-98  
[ffortune@sfcg.org](mailto:ffortune@sfcg.org)

## I. INTRODUCTION

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) has just completed its 18-month project in Côte d'Ivoire, "Supporting a Conversation with Youth on Leadership." The project was supported by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor via agreement number S-LMAQM-08-GR-632. The project fit within SFCG's established programmatic framework in Côte d'Ivoire of enhancing youth leadership and promoting inter-communal tolerance.

This initiative was guided by the goal of *strengthening youth capacity to mitigate conflict and promote tolerance* and had three key objectives, namely:

- To increase youths' knowledge and skills of conflict resolution concepts and techniques as well as democratic principles and values, including diversity and tolerance;
- To build youths' confidence to play a key role in preventing manipulation and violence around the democratic process; and
- To promote and depoliticize the dialogue among diverse youth groups.

The project targeted a broad spectrum of Ivorian youth, including: members of political parties, youth opinion leaders, youth representatives from different religious and ethnic groups, youth associations with outreach activities, and the general youth population at-large through media programming. The project primarily targeted select towns in the Administrative Regions of Vallée du Bandama, des Lacs, Moyen-Cavally, Bas-Sassandra; des Savanes, and 18 Montagnes and the Abidjan metropolitan area. SFCG's approach combined national-level leadership initiatives with activities that are specifically tailored to the regional level.

This report serves as the final report for the project. It summarizes all of the activities implemented over the course of the eighteen months, while also presenting its overall results and outcomes. The project underwent a mixed team evaluation led by an external consultant, and this report also captures the key findings.

## II. COUNTRY CONTEXT

Despite the political tensions and violent protests that have shaken the country during the months of January and February 2010, the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire is back on track. The final steps towards the organization of presidential elections continue at a staccato rhythm, and the peace is still fragile.

The last months have been marked by a notable advance in the transition with the reopening of the demobilization process for excombatants in the North. 600 of 1200 ex-combatants have since started the disarmament and demobilization process, which should be over at the end of August. Former combatants will have to choose between returning to civilian life or entering into the national armed forces. In addition, the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) has been extended until the end of the year in order to finalize the electoral process and ensure the effective

holding of free, fair and transparent elections. It will continue providing support for the demobilization and disarmament process and the deployment of the public administration throughout the territory.

At the political level, despite the establishment of the new government and a new Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), the electoral process has been hampered at several times. The Ivorian authorities reiterated their intention to hold presidential elections before the end of the year, which raised questions about the date and whether the President's mandate would again expire and launch new tensions in the country. Finally, after several months of uncertainty, the CEI proposed October 31st for the presidential elections, which was confirmed by the government. Verification of the voter list began in late July, advancing another important step in the preparations. This process ended on August 25<sup>th</sup>, after having faced significant demand for the removal of names from the list. FPI, the party in power, submitted a list of 60,000 names to be eliminated from the voter rolls, contesting their nationality. The CEI allowed ten days to file any additional claims on the revised list, which just completed. The publication of the final voters' lists should take place in the coming weeks.

### III. ACTIVITIES

Over the course of this project, SFCG carried out media and outreach activities, both aimed at engaging youth around important issues of leadership and non violence with an eye on the political context. The outreach efforts included 25 workshops focused on defining important characteristics and traits of effective leaders, as well as developing strategies to reinforce these qualities in the youth in Cote d'Ivoire. By engaging youth to take part in this process, the project allowed for ownership of the issues being addressed. The workshops were followed by 22 dialogue exchange sessions to reinforce and build off the lessons already learned. In the third step, the participating youth leaders were charged with the responsibility of taking what they learned, and disseminating that information to other youth in their communities. This process allowed for the youth to give input into what a good leader should entail in different contexts, and it also gave the youth leaders responsibility around these issues by replicating the trainings to their peers. Seven youth projects were implemented through this approach.

Participatory Theater was a second tool used for project activities. Seven theater troupes were trained, and they carried out 21 performances among them. The performances not only reinforced some of the issues presented in the training, they also acted as a way to present less traditional and more delicate subjects in a participatory manner. The performances mirrored situations in the lives of the youth, and presented clear and sound methods of addressing such issues, while offering the participants a chance to give input in the process.

Throughout the life of the project, SFCG employed a media campaign to complement the outreach activities. The messages presented in the media component of the project aligned with those of the outreach activities, supporting the different themes relevant to youth in the current Ivorian context. The media component of the project consisted of the production and broadcasting of four radio programs targeting different audiences that captured important issues facing youth, and presented them in an engaging and inclusive manner. 96 radio magazines programs and 48 radio drama programs were produced over the 18 months.

Highlights of these activities are produced in the section below. More detailed information has been provided through the quarterly reports previously submitted.

## A. Outreach Activities

### 1. Youth and Non-Violence Workshops and Manual Distribution

Over the course of the project, SFCG conducted 25 training workshops for 500 youth in the seven targeted regions. 25 participants were selected for each workshop, including 15 young men and 10 young women. This gender approach sought to reflect both the importance of including women within the project as well as the dominant participation of young men in political demonstrations and violence in Cote d'Ivoire.

The workshops were guided by the training manual developed for the project. The manual provided a resource for the project participants that they could use after the workshop as they engaged their peers in conflict resolution and non-violence activities. 1,500 copies were printed, with a copy of the manual provided to each of the 500 training participants. An additional 254 manuals were distributed to community youth associations, training centers, and educational facilities working with youth or on conflict resolution. 650 copies will be distributed to selected youth in the seven locations as the upcoming elections draw closer. The remaining 100 will serve as an ongoing resource for SFCG's partners in conflict transformation and youth engagement in Cote d'Ivoire. The manual is attached as an annex, and also available on SFCG's website. (<http://www.sfcg.org/programmes/cote/pdf/Youth%20Conflict%20Transformation%20Manual.pdf>)

The workshops allowed for youth to gain a better understanding of how to prevent, address, and resolve conflicts in their communities. Additionally, the youth leaders taking part in the workshops learned about different aspects of leadership including what characteristics make a good leader and why. The aim of this approach was to give ownership of these issues to the youth, and empower them to make a difference in an efficient and productive manner. The workshop also allowed a framework and space for youth to publicly express themselves around these issues and denounce bad behavior and practices taking place in their community. During these sessions, youth were encouraged to develop innovative ways against both preventing but also responding to negative actions taking place within their communities. On a broader level, the workshops shed light on negative actions such as corruption, and political manipulation while providing methods of addressing them. At the end of the training, the youth leader

Project Activities were carried out in the following locations:

**Région des Savanes :**

Korhogo  
Waraniéné  
Tioroniaradougou  
Lenivogo

**Région de la Vallée du Bandama**

Bouaké  
Djébonoua  
Brobo  
N'gatakro

**Région du Bas Sassandra**

Sassandra  
Bassa  
Sago  
Dakpadou

**Région de 18 Montagnes**

Zélé  
Quartier 13  
Man  
Gouékangouiné

**Région des Lacs**

Yamoussoukro  
Lolobo  
Kokrenou  
Kami

**Région de Moyen Cavally**

Guiglo  
Zouhan  
Goya  
Zéaglo

**Région des Lagunes**

Abidjan  
Port-Bouet  
Yopougon  
Campus

participants collaborated to develop a plan of action for their community to implement the techniques and lessons learned during the training.

Trainings were planned to be held in all of the targeted communities. However, after the significant challenges faced in organizing genuine and meaningful sessions in Abidjan, SFCG strategized and decided to focus outside of the capital, where youth were more open to the project vision. In Abidjan, SFCG found that the youth were too extremely polarized, and they viewed their participation in the training as a validation of their beliefs rather than an opportunity to learn new ideas and approaches. Further, many of the influential youth are directly linked into the political machine, receiving cash payments and other benefits that would be difficult to overcome through a voluntary training program. Facing these challenges, SFCG determined to focus on youth in other urban areas, and how to sever their negative relationships with national political machinery. This approach was applied through the remaining activities, with notable success across the regions.



**Youth during an SFCG Workshop on Conflict Resolution**

## **2. Follow up and Exchanges Sessions**

In the next step of the project, SFCG conducted 22 follow on exchange sessions that encouraged the continued discussion of the themes presented during the trainings. They also provided an opportunity for the youth leaders to ask questions and attain feedback on the lessons learned from the trainings in the context of their lives and communities. The main goal of these exchange sessions was to foster dialogue amongst and between both youth and women of different political, ethnic and social backgrounds with regard to political tolerance. Participants in the exchange sessions utilized this space to share ideas and draw from each others' experiences and challenges. They also gave SFCG the opportunity to monitor the results and sustainability of the workshops by working in close collaboration with the participants.

## **3. Participatory Theater Training**

In order to prepare for the Participatory Theater component of the project, SFCG held two trainings for 7 different theater troupes. One was held in Daloa for the theater troupes operating in the western part of the country, and one in Yamoussoukro for the other parts of the country. Taking place in September 2009, the project held two participatory trainings for 35 actors each, highlighting techniques of participatory theater and conflict transformation. In these trainings, SFCG staff worked with local actors to identify themes appropriate for diverse audiences that would spark dialogue between youth and adults across religious and social groups.

Trainings were designed to meet the following objectives:

- To equip artists with skills and techniques in participatory theater and conflict transformation, in order to promote tolerance and social cohesion; and
- To inform theater troupes of the major problems present in inter-ethnic communities, particularly between youth and persons of different religious and political backgrounds

Participants identified the following themes and strategies as guidelines for future performances:

- Using participatory theater to transform conflict
- Analyzing positions and interests in conflict
- Practical exercises in concentration, relaxation and improvisation
- Creating a theatrical piece with spontaneity and humor
- Presenting sketches
- Collecting feedback from audiences after a performance
- Techniques for creating a song related to the theatrical performance
- Interaction between actors and the public; and the role of a director

In addition to adult actors, the program also launched youth theater groups, and helped youth prepare for upcoming performances by creating an advisory committee and holding several planning sessions. SFCG staff worked with youth to market performances effectively, sending out announcements to local government, civil society, and international organizations. Thanks to their hard work, these performances enjoyed wide participation of approximately 600 audience members.

#### 4. Participatory Theater Performances

During the project life, the targeted adult and youth theater troupes conducted 21 participatory theater performances across the regions. In general, the performances were scheduled to coincide with follow-on activities after the training, using this participatory tool to further engage young people grouped in associations and other networks.

Theater performances featured locally-relevant themes ranging from land conflict and vote-rigging to corrupt practices in allocating local market stalls. In each instance, troupes performed before large audiences of several hundred people, and invited these audience members to play an active role in the performance.



**Theater groups perform for audiences in Yamoussoukro**

The performances were warmly received, and audience members agreed that actors had done an excellent job of addressing local realities and context in each village. Following the performances, both participants and spectators joined together to discuss the issues presented in the performances and to discuss local responses – particularly youth-based responses – to promoting local peace. The groups' enthusiasm often motivated immediate calls for action, including appeals to representatives of local humanitarian organizations to help communities support vulnerable groups.

## 5. Supporting Youth Initiatives

To motivate the youth participants in sharing what they learned through the workshops, SFCG supported community-level projects led by the participants in the different locations. These activities began with a replication of the trainings that they received so that their peers also understood the principles and benefits of non-violence and constructive engagement. The youth facilitators used the manual distributed to them as the guide for the restitution training. This approach helped formalize the discussions with their friends, providing legitimacy to what they were saying and offering in terms of new way of thinking. The manuals offered a level of proof that the youth facilitators had indeed learned



**Youth leader restitution training**

concepts and skills in conflict resolution, and what they were sharing was drawn from a credible source. It further reinforced their leadership and the perception of this leadership within their community, legitimizing them as mediators among the youth.

By employing this approach, youth participants practiced the leadership training that they received, and they were able to engage youth to take part in addressing the central issues facing young Ivorian citizens today. Within these sessions, the youth used tools like the participatory theater discussed above, presenting situations and consequences in dynamic formats that young people could easily relate to. SFCG also provided copies of its television program *l'Equipe*, which complements the radio drama described below. SFCG has produced episodes of *l'Equipe* on relevant thematic issues like peaceful cohabitation, non-violence, and the importance of youth in a community. Copies of the DVDs permitted young people to watch the programs and then discuss what they saw and how these problems play out in their own lives.

Beyond the restitution trainings, participating youth leaders also undertook a number of other initiatives that apply the principles and skills that they learned. Several concrete examples are provided below:

**Tiazalé:** A conflict had erupted over access to transportation in this community outside of Sassandra. The problem derived from an argument between the Drivers' Union in nearby Sago and the taxi drivers in Sassandra, and it resulted in transportation not being available for residents of Tiazalé who wanted to travel between the towns. Tensions were growing, and arguments broke out regularly between the two groups, and also within the frustrated community. The youth leaders decided to apply the skills that they had learned, and to try to resolve the problem. The youth used dialogue as well as participatory theater to display the interests that were at the root of the problem. After several weeks of effort, the two groups of transporters came to an agreement, and the problem was resolved.

**Domobly:** Youth participants from Domobly organized an initiative to hold a public forum for other youth in their village. The forum took the form of a debate session, addressing different prevalent

issues facing the community. The themes primarily focused on land conflict, which is the most divisive issue in the village. Land disputes in this area have been exacerbated in recent years because of the emergence of rubber as a cash crop. A large number of youth want to grow rubber trees, and with a shortage of land, it causes problems. The specific topics include:

- Land parcel boundaries;
- Issues around inheritances of land;
- Illegal sale of land and the conflicts that ensue; and
- Breaking village rules and regulations

**Guiglo:** In Guiglo, the youth participants held a “solidarity day” event in late March 2010. The day consisted of different activities including an exchange session, two soccer matches, and a participatory theater performance. As Guiglo is located in the forest region, it is home to different types of conflict that have emerged in the recent years. The national crisis begun in 2002 has negatively affected the communities within the region. The theme surrounding the event was titled “forgetting the past, uniting together to fight for our future.” The participating youth held the event with four central objectives:

- Encouraging youth to find alternatives to violence in response to conflicts;
- Reduce the amount of mistrust between youth and divided communities in Guiglo;
- Raise awareness around political, ethnic, and religious tolerance; and
- Increase awareness around the need for citizens to collaborate for the development of their communities; and

At the conclusion of the event, youth from different communities and previously divided communities expressed their appreciation for the event, even organized to meet to play football in the future. They also agreed to meet around the possibility of creating a committee on how to manage future conflicts.

**Bassa:** In Bassa, youth participants also held a solidarity event in March 2010, which 300 people attended. The event consisted of exchange sessions that addressed the theme of co-existence between the local population and the Fanti people. As the Fanti originate from Ghana and are prevalent in the fishing industry, youth who have high levels of unemployment blame the foreign group from taking opportunities from them. Conflicts have emerged on a frequent scale as a result of this.

The exchanges provided a space for the two groups to talk about their differences, as well as the behavior exhibited. Additionally, it allowed for reconciliation to take place. The Fanti people were so pleased with the initiatives and the discussion that took place that they offered to teach the other youth how to fish. This proposition was warmly received from the other youth. Following the exchange sessions, a theater performance took place on similar themes to reinforce the lessons learned during the discussions.

**N’Gattakro:** In N’Gattakro, the youth participants decided to organize an event featuring participatory theater performances around the theme of inter religious tolerance. Throughout the community, clashes and disputes have taken place between Muslims and Christians. The Dioula Muslims and the Bouale Christians have had increased tensions, which have resulted in violence and ten recent deaths. The objective of the theater performances was to bring together youth from both sides to learn about political manipulation that leads to ethnic or religious violence. Leaders from both communities thanked the youth for their contribution and acknowledged the enthusiasm from youth in both groups.

## MEDIA ACTIVITIES

To complement the outreach activities, SFCG produced 96 radio magazine programs and 48 radio drama programs, divided among six different programming strands: *Unis Dans Nos Differences*, *Passerelle*, *Enfants en Action*, *Dignité des Femmes*, *Woro Woro Tour* and *L'Equipe*. These programs air nationwide on SFCG's partner radio stations, which have grown to a total of 36 over the course of the project period.

### 6. Radio Magazines

***Unis Dans Nos Différences (United In Our Differences):*** Throughout the project life, SFCG produced and broadcast 49 *Unis Dans Nos Differences* programs. They revolved around a number of different themes, all of which encouraged the active participation by youth in areas of civic and social engagement. Overall, the program aims to promote a culture of tolerance and understanding. Specifically, some of the themes addressed during the project included:

- Case studies and examples of peaceful elections;
- Youth contentions and concerns related to the display of voters list;
- Dispute and conflict management;
- Managing the electoral dispute: Concerns and suggestions from youth;
- Political tolerance, and how it is exemplified in different target communities;
- The exit strategy of the DRL-funded project, and youth participants' commitment to continue promoting non-violence and
- Contribution of the youth in the electoral process

***Passerelle (The Bridge):*** SFCG also produced and broadcast 35 *Passerelle* programs in support of the project objectives. While *Unis Dans Nos Differences* is more of a news and features program based on thematic issues, *Passerelle* takes the specific approach of integrating content from different regions of the country, thus creating a virtual bridge between areas that have been divided by the crisis. Throughout the project, voices from youth in the North were placed next to voices from the Southwest, from the zones controlled by the Forces Nouvelles with those on the government side, thereby creating a dialogue and highlighting the similarities that unite youth despite their diverse backgrounds. Specific topics addressed over the eighteen months included the electoral process, voter registration, political manipulation, the importance of non-violence in an elections context, tolerance, and positive social change. The program was also employed to discuss and explore the themes associated with ethnic differences.

When President Gbagbo dissolved the government and the National Election Commission in February 2010, tensions grew in urban towns across the nation and youth began to display their frustration in the streets. To contribute to preventing violence and its destructive consequences, SFCG produced a series of *Passerelle* programs that captured the voices of young people encouraging their peers about the importance of non-violence, and urging them not to be manipulated into exacerbating the crisis by the politicians. Project monitoring found that the programs were highly appreciated, with respondents citing the programs as influencing them to stay out of the streets.

***Enfants en Action:*** SFCG dedicated 10 of its programs produced by children for children to also look at these issues. *Enfants en Action's* target audience goes up to 20 years old, and the project sought to also

reach young people who were moving out of adolescence and becoming vulnerable to political manipulation and influence. Specific topics addressed included:

- Tolerance among youth—looking at realities
- The importance of democracy in the youth milieu
- The role of children in conflict resolution
- Educating youth and children about tolerance
- Tolerance and respect for diversity in school
- Young people in Yamoussoukro: a case study in diversity

**Dignité des Femmes:** While the project largely targeted young men as they are the most susceptible to participation in violence and other negative behavior, SFCG recognized the importance of also reaching out to young women. In addition to engaging at least 10 young women in each of the trainings, SFCG also produced two radio programs for the project that specifically targeted a female audience. One program looked at opportunities and obstacles to young women’s leadership, with a case study featuring Guiglo. The second program examined young women’s peace initiatives, highlighting examples from Soubré and Sassandra.

## 7. Radio Drama

Radio drama has been proven through audience surveys and other research to be an entertaining and effective format for effecting behavior change, including among youth. SFCG complemented its magazine programming with two radio drama series: *Woro Woro Tour*, which is SFCG’s most popular program in Cote d’Ivoire, and *L’Equipe*

**Woro Woro Tour:** Started in 2005, *Woro Woro Tour* has the objective of creating a platform for the interaction between behaviors and norms. It is a soap opera with episodes in short sketches that bring out individual responsibilities in the installation of peace in Côte d’Ivoire. The scenes take place in a “woro woro”, or a communal taxi, with a driver Koffi Mory and his passengers who relate everyday happenings interwoven with conflicts. The sensitization is done in the common ground perspective by searching for common interests despite differences in opinions and point of views.

In addition to SFCG’s programming, one of its radio partners who participated in the youth workshop was inspired to create a radio program for youth on his own station, Nobel FM in Djébonoua, outside of Bouaké. Nobel FM launched a twice-weekly program called Espace Jeunes or Youth’s Space, and the 25 young people who had participated in the SFCG training were invited to be regular guests, facilitating discussions on different themes drawn out of the manual. This initiative demonstrated two important results for the project: 1) it created a public space where young people could constructively talk about issues of concern to them and reach an audience of thousands of people, and 2) it helped the youth realize the value of radio as a

30 *Woro Woro Tour* episodes were dedicated to supporting the objectives of the Youth and Non-Violence project. The broad themes addressed youth leadership and demonstrated what youth leaders should engage themselves in. It acted as a strong tool against political manipulation of youth, warning of promises by politicians for the purposes of gaining the popular vote. In this regard, the programming discussed accountability and transparency as well as holding political parties and politicians responsible for their actions or inactions. Episodes of the program also looked at tolerance and the value of having diversity in a group. As discussions about the elections context grew, *Woro Woro Tour* reflected this political dynamic, illustrating ways in which people supporting different parties could constructively

discuss their perspectives and agree to disagree, with respect for each others' beliefs. Episodes also looked at the duties and responsibilities of a leader, examining different levels of leadership, including within associations, communities, and unions, beyond just the focus on the national level politics.

**L'Equipe:** This second radio drama was added to the project activities after the launch in order to further target a youth audience given the appeal of football, particularly with young men. SFCG produced 18 episodes of *L'Equipe* in total. The storyline dramatized cooperative ways of overcoming ethnic, religious and socioeconomic divisions, reflecting the desire of all Ivoirians to live together in peace. The full list of themes for *Woro Woro Tour* and *L'Equipe* are attached in Annex.

## IV. RESULTS

At the end of the eighteen months, SFCG met and/or surpassed the majority of its targets. Despite the correct number of workshops planned, it fell short on the total number of workshops that took place. This was because the last three sessions planned for Abidjan were cancelled based on the serious problems encountered with the participants in the first round. On the other hand, the radio program targets were exceeded. Because of a miscalculation during a transition phase of the reporting staff, the previous narrative reports listed an incorrect number of programs produced, with the total figure underrepresented. The following chart captures the accurate number of proposed versus produced outputs for the project.

Result	Proposed Outputs	Total Outputs Produced
Training workshops on youth and non-violence	700 participants in 28 workshops	500 participants in 25 workshops
Follow-up sessions on youth engagements	21 sessions	22 sessions
Theater troupes trained	7 troupes trained	7 troupes trained
Theater performances held	21 theater performances held	21 participatory theater performances held
Radio magazines produced	78 radio magazines	96 radio magazines
Radio drama programs produced	36 radio programs produced	48 drama programs
Copies of conflict transformation manuals printed and distributed	1500	754 manuals distributed
Youth initiatives supported	7 youth initiatives developed	7 youth initiatives supported

To capture its final achievements against the proposed results and indicators, SFCG conducted internal monitoring as well as commissioned an evaluation. After initial challenges with the last-minute cancellation of the original evaluator, SFCG selected a mixed evaluation team that combined an international evaluation expert with the Country Director from SFCG's Guinea's program. This approach permitted a more transparent review of the project's progress, while also facilitating learning among the organization's programs. This team was particularly relevant as SFCG's Guinea program had just finalized an evaluation of a very similar youth and non-violence project supported by USAID's Conflict Management and Mitigation Office the month before.

The following chart captures SFCG’s own monitoring against the proposed indicators, conducted during the last month of the project.

Outcomes	Proposed Quantitative Target	Interim Monitoring Results	Evaluation Findings
Youth in key leadership positions are better prepared with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote conflict management, prevention and tolerance as Côte d’Ivoire is in the midst of political crisis.	100% of conversation participants answered yes and listed examples to the question: “Has the workshop provided you with new skills and knowledge around conflict management and democratic principles?”	100%	Workshop participants demonstrated significant knowledge gains. 89% of youth leaders described pertinent steps to mitigate conflict and promote tolerance.
Youth in key leadership positions particularly, as well as youth generally, are more committed to playing a positive role in preventing and managing conflict, thereby being more prepared to resist manipulation and incitement to violence.	70% of survey participants answered yes to the question: “Have you participated in an activity with the goal of preventing or managing a conflict in the past year?”	65%	59% of surveyed participants and 65% of women confirmed that they had participated in a conflict-management activity within the year. These may be underreported, as 64% of youth leaders reported having engaged in youth dialogues on governance or social issues. Interviewees insisted they had put SFCG training into action, from listening better to organizing local dialogues and “peace clubs” to address issues of governance and democracy.
Youth leaders are better prepared to engage in dialogue around issues rather than personalities and stereotypes with youth from diverse backgrounds.	50% of youth leaders who participated in workshops and exchanges answered yes to the question: “Have you engaged in dialogue around governance, economic or social issues with youths from other backgrounds over the past year?”	55%	64% of youth leaders reported having engaged in youth dialogues on governance or social issues.

<p>The general population, including youth and elders, have a broader perspective on youth's value as citizens and the possible roles they can play in decision-making and development in Côte d'Ivoire.</p>	<p>100% of the population, disaggregated by age, can list at least one positive role that youths can play in the decision-making and development in Côte d'Ivoire?</p>	<p>85%</p>	<p>70% of beneficiaries surveyed and 77% of youth leaders knew a young citizen's main responsibilities. By contrast, just 21% of the broader population could list a positive role that youth could play in decision-making and development. Much change is needed with regards to the public's attitude of the potential for positive youth contributions to non-violent peace-building. SFCG's radio programs have had a very positive effect in terms of improving openness and expanding dialogue on participatory citizenship to include the voices and actions of youth.</p>
--	--	------------	--

The final evaluation took a more qualitative approach, using focus group discussions with direct participants and youth beneficiaries; key informant interviews; and random community surveys to capture information about the project and its achievements. The evaluation team, comprised of the external evaluator, the internal co-evaluator, the DM&E Manager, and two program interns, collected data in project sites around Sassandra and Bouaké. The full methodology is documented in the report that is attached. The lead evaluator's CV is also attached in annex.

Overall, the evaluation commended the project, finding it yielded positive results. It documented concrete knowledge and skills that the participants gained, and they were able to clearly cite how they applied those concepts to their lives and their peer group. It noted the initiatives undertaken by the youth, and their newfound understanding of how collaboration and solidarity could work to their advantage, realizing that politicians do not have their interests at heart.

The following section outlines the results proposed and the achievements made towards each result.

**1. Youth in key leadership positions are better prepared with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote conflict management, prevention and tolerance as Côte d'Ivoire is in the midst of political crisis.**

Overall, both the response captured by SFCG monitoring and evaluation staff in conjunction with the final assessment has found that the project increased the level of knowledge and skills of participating youth in the target areas. In this regard, the assessment found that:

- All project's activities (conversation workshops, follow-up sessions, support to peace initiatives, interactive theater and radio programs) were highly valued and appreciated by the beneficiaries. Youth feel that they have considerably **improved their knowledge and practical skills** in conflict transformation and leadership.
- Gained knowledge has been **optimized by a pragmatic strategy**, guiding and supporting youth in their initiatives. In this regards, the follow-up sessions were very useful. The interaction of the project's components (trainings, exchange sessions, support to peace initiatives, radio programs and interactive theater) has reinforced the project's effectiveness.
- Youth who participated in the project's activities have developed an excellent set of skills expected from youth leaders: the ability to stand for their rights as citizen, the ability to resist negative pressures (political manipulation) and the ability to relate to other young people and members of their communities. SFCG's project has provided youth with **self-transformation tools**, allowing them, in their own words, to gain maturity and to develop the critical thinking skills necessary to fight against political manipulation and violence.

Additionally, SFCG DM&E staff found that the participatory theater reinforced the lessons learned in the exchange sessions for youth and positively affected the participants' comprehension of the material.

**2. Youth in key leadership positions particularly, as well as youth generally, are more committed to playing a positive role in preventing and managing conflict, thereby being more prepared to resist manipulation and incitement to violence.**

Both the evaluation and the information recorded throughout the project indicated that youth leaders were more committed to work against violence. Several instances of this were also displayed in consultations with youth leaders and youth groups. The evaluation noted the following key points that strengthened this finding:

- By applying conflict resolution techniques that they had learned in SFCG's workshops, youth have demonstrated that they had **internalized these new knowledge** and skills. **59% of surveyed youth** confirmed that they had participated in an activity with the goal of preventing or managing a conflict in the past year.
- The project did not only address political violence, but also a **wide range of conflict drivers** in targeted areas. The evaluation identified many different types of conflicts for which youth strove for peaceful resolution (familial, personal, scholar, political, identity, land, leadership, social and religious conflicts). The project has thus contributed to enabling youth to actively engage in peaceful conflict prevention and resolution

Youth leaders throughout the target areas also displayed a willingness to play a role in non violence and the involvement of youth in peaceful democratic processes. An example of this is displayed in some anecdotal evidence below:

“During the recent protest marches of the opposition, there is a politician who came and asked the youth of his political party to go burn down the house of his political rival. But in the youth members of his political faction, there were youth who had been trained to political manipulation. Instead of committing this crime, they went to report this to the village chief and the commander of the Forces Nouvelles. The matter was dealt with, and it was the youth group that made the difference. One of the solutions found by the young people who have benefited from the training was to go to the home of the political leader in question to make sure that he was secure. Youth also enacted a solidarity walk, where the village chief met with the youth. The lesson I learned is that through training with SFCG we have managed to avoid incidents of violence.”

- Konan Sylvain Djébonoua, Youth Leader

### 3. Youth leaders are better prepared to engage in dialogue around issues rather than personalities and stereotypes with youth from diverse backgrounds.

According to the evaluation:

- Youth have thus developed new abilities to **influence their immediate environment** (with their peers and within their communities) in a positive manner, toward non-violence and attitude changes. Thus far, their influence in other spheres of decision-making (e.g in municipal, departmental or regional institutions) remains limited.”
- There has been significant progress toward depoliticizing dialogue among youth and promoting tolerance. The project has contributed to **raise awareness** about political violence and manipulation. **64% of surveyed youth leaders** who participated in SFCG’s workshops confirmed that they had engaged in a dialogue around governance, economic or social issues with youths from other backgrounds over the past year.

"Recently there have been outbreaks of violence throughout Côte d'Ivoire because of the dissolution of the government and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) by the President of the Republic. This did not please some political parties. And as usual, it is the youth who have been in the streets. Here in Bouake, we who have received training from SFCG and right away we set up a platform which represented the different local youth groups. We have young people who are in politics, we have young people who belong to various student unions, traders, young people from different areas and we objected."

– Abdul Kader Sogodogo, Youth Leader in Bouake

- Although there is **not much network connectivity** between youth in practice (their initiatives remain isolated), they have demonstrated awareness of interdependence and a shared view on their role as a major actor in the democratic process. They understood that they need to find a way of expressing their group needs in a way that cannot be ignored.
- In Bas-Sassandra and Vallée du Bandama, youth leaders and their peers decided to attend together all political events in their villages and home towns, avoiding unnecessary confrontation between them and focusing on obtaining the positive aspects of various leaders’ messages. They now assert their right to be informed on political leaders’ programs and intentions.

- **SFCG's radio programs** have had a very positive effect in terms of openness and dialogue. They gave voice to people from very different political, ethnic and social backgrounds, and with an important geographic diversity.

**4. The general population, including youth and elders, have a broader perspective on youth's value as citizens and the possible roles they can play in decision-making and development in Côte d'Ivoire.**

SFCG has reinforced its partnership with local youth organizations (e.g in Bouaké with local NGOs). Although the evaluation found that the coordination with other international partners or local authorities was limited, participation with local authorities and members of the community was high throughout the project. Youth led activities also involved the community on a large scale, with high levels of participation from civil society and the population at large. The assessment found that:

- **SFCG's radio programs** have had a very positive effect in terms of openness and dialogue. They gave voice to people from very different political, ethnic and social backgrounds, and with an important geographic diversity.

The full report with additional findings related to coherence, relevance, and effectiveness as well as recommendations for improvement is attached.

## **V. CHALLENGES**

Among the operational challenges associated with this project, one of the central challenges was that of the general socio-political context. The project was conducted in a context of very strong manipulation of youth throughout the country, and especially in Abidjan. Abidjan is the economic capital of the country, and generally all of the youth movements are directed from Abidjan. SFCG discovered how strong the extremism has become in Abidjan when organizing the first workshop for youth leaders in the capital. SFCG found that the participants had entirely no intention of listening to their peers or engaging in an open discussion, despite those conditions set on their participation. Instead, they considered their invitation to participate as an acknowledgement of the correctness of their political views, and were citing their selection as evidence to legitimize their behavior. In a second strategy to engage them and break down some of these barriers, SFCG organized a series of participatory theater performances that reflected the negative effects of this extremism. Again, rather than recognizing the problems with this situation, instead they again interpreted the theater performance in a way that underlined their own position, even if that was not what actually played out on the stage. Through continued discussions and consultations, SFCG came to realize that the financial benefits of political allegiance are too strong in Abidjan among the targeted participants, and decided that it would be more strategic and more effective to focus on more rural areas, where youth were less under the direct supervision of national politicians and thus more free to participate in dialogue activities.

Other challenges such as logistical arrangements and gaps in communication made it difficult to carry out certain activities. Also, arranging and coordinating with youth was a challenge for these reasons as well. Overall, despite the challenges, SFCG staff carried out the implementation of the activities set forth under this grant.

## **VI. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The final financial report is attached.

## **VII. ANNEXES**

- 1. Youth and Non-Violence Training Manual**
- 2. List of Drama Programs Produced**
- 3. Case Study: Youth and Non-Violence in Sassandra**
- 4. Final Evaluation Report**
- 5. Evaluator Clotilde Gouley CV**