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Support to the Mitigation of Destabilizing Effects of Transnational Organised Crime (M-TOC)

The Challenge

Transnational Organised Crime (TOC) is a key issue in the West African Region. It involves different activities including illicit trafficking in drugs, human beings and firearms. TOC leads to resulting crimes such as laundering of criminal assets/money and terrorism financing. The threat from organised crime in West Africa is substantial, challenging the progress towards good governance, rule of law and ultimately compromising economic and human development. In the ECOWAS Region, TOC groups and traffickers benefit from the trade and market integration in the region, inadequate state capacities, porous borders, and corruption. With the increased political instability, non-state armed groups (both criminal and violent extremist) are consolidating territorial influence and expanding into new areas of operation which has increasingly affected the northern border regions of coastal states such as Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

A multidimensional understanding of TOC is required in order to develop comprehensive approaches to address this dangerous trend in the region.

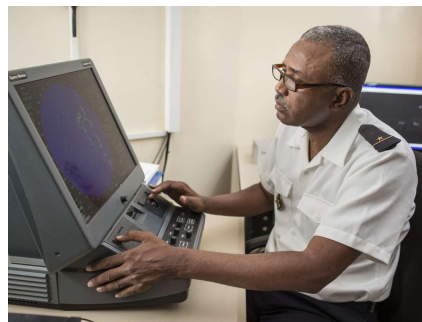
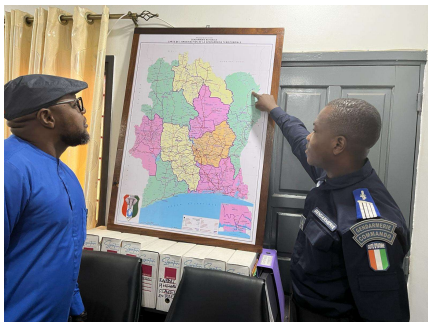
Our Approach

Funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, the “Support to the Mitigation of Destabilizing Effects of Transnational Organised Crime” (M-TOC) project aims at strengthening stability in border regions through targeted measures against TOC. In a unique integrated approach, this project combines traditional security responses with bottom-up community resilience measures while drawing on a body of research developed on the intersection of illicit economies and instability.

Project name	Support to the Mitigation of Destabilizing Effects of Transnational Organised Crime (M-TOC)
Commissioned by	The German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt)
Implementing partners	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC)
Project region	Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Burkina Faso
Political Partner	Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Duration	01/2024 – 12/2025
Financial volume	€ 4,5 million

To achieve its objectives, M-TOC carries out activities in three strategic areas:

- 1: Criminal Investigation into destabilizing TOC cases
- 2: Strengthen Community Resilience against TOC
- 3: Improve Knowledge Base on TOC through Research and Investigative Journalism





Phidelia Amey
 Head of Project
phidelia.amey@giz.de



ence on illicit economies by providing alternative livelihood options while increasing awareness on the long-term risks and threats of the involvement in organized-crime networks and armed groups. Through the project's engagement of law enforcement agencies in addressing security related grievances and promoting mediation measures in border communities, the project seeks to disrupt the incentives of communities to seek organized crime networks and armed groups as providers of security.

To increase the knowledge-base of key state and non-state actors on the potential destabilizing effects of illicit economies in the region, the project supports research institutions in conducting research projects and publications for national, regional and international audience. Finally, the project partners with investigative journalists to expose the impact of TOC on communities and thereby strengthen the role of journalism in promoting accountability and driving positive change in the Region.

M-TOC partners with law enforcement agencies to effectively investigate and prosecute transnational organised crime and increase the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation in identified illicit economy hubs. To mitigate the risks of counterproductive impacts on the affected communities, the project implements a conflict-sensitive and human-rights based approaches to LEA conduct in response to illicit economies.

The project conducts community-based resilience interventions in close partnership with community-based organisations to disrupt the link between local communities as well as individuals and organized-crime networks or armed groups. It targets the depend-

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Registered office: Dag-Hammarskjöld Weg 1-5
 D-65760 Eschborn
 Germany
 T: +49 (0)61 96 79-11 75
 F: +49 (0)61 96 79-11 15

On behalf of: The German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt)

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