

Community Rehabilitation and Weakening of the State in a Post-conflict Situation: Experience with two IO in the Former NWC Zones of Côte d'Ivoire

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For nearly a decade, Côte d'Ivoire, a West African country formerly considered as a model of political and economic stability has joined the circle of the states sharing their territory and resources with an armed rebellion. Analyzed as the result of social inequalities and a shared sense of political, economic and social exclusion of certain categories of populations, this rebellion has opened the way for the deeper socio-political and military crisis the country has been facing. Indeed, besides giving rise to a partition of the territory into two zones and the establishment of a "rebel" governance in the areas under control of the insurgents, its major impact is to have seriously eroded locally the government authority. Moreover, according to official statistics, that crisis strongly reinforced the precariousness of the populations in those areas. Also, to face this situation, during the crisis and, later, when the government began its comeback after the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, most of the projects against poverty to lead in this part of the national territory were conceded to some international organizations (IOs) and local NGOs. These non-state organizations introduced various multisectoral projects promoting social cohesion through the social and economic reintegration of particularly vulnerable and exposed populations. Based on the experience of two of these organizations working in western Côte d'Ivoire, the purpose of this communication is to understand, through the analysis of the interactions of actors involved, how the fragility of a state, in the case of Côte d'Ivoire, when justifying certain types of intervention, particularly in the field of community post-crisis rehabilitation gives rise to field actions that contribute to sustainably delegitimize the government authority. This analysis is based on a review of actual practices of providers in the fight against poverty, the constraints and logics of their intervention, as well as the nature of their interactions with segments of the state involved in initiated projects.