



**UN**  
**Volunteers**

inspiration in action

Bimonthly Newsletter

# UNV Flash

## Ivory Coast

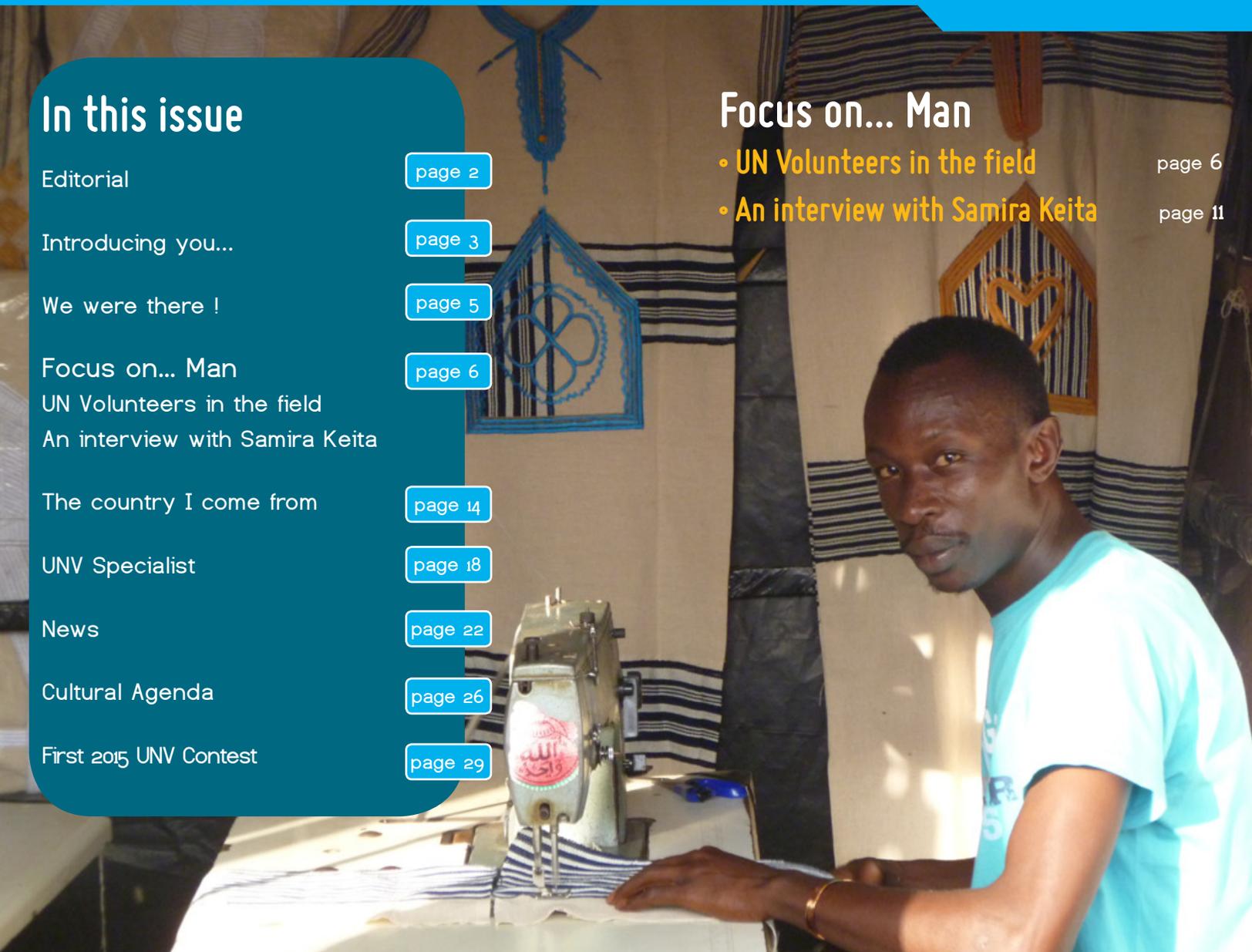
### N° 1

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# Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

The last year has been full of cherished and noteworthy events and facts for UN Volunteers in Ivory Coast, and also for me. In mid-March 2014 I arrived to the UNV Support Office in Abidjan. It took us one year and a never-ending process to fill the vacant post of Advocacy Officer. Luckily, in January 2015, we recruited someone within the mission, Isabelle, and as a result, we are now re-issuing the UNV newsletter. This lengthy process has not been in vain. Our new communication tool is now called UNV Flash Ivory Coast and it is fully created, designed and written by UN Volunteers serving in Côte d'Ivoire and online UN Volunteers supporting us from Tunisia, China, Belgium, France and Canada.

For the past twelve months, I have had the chance to be a direct witness of the contribution of UN Volunteers in this country. Some of my encounters with you left me speechless, motivating me to work harder and harder to support you and ensure you made the most of your volunteer experience. Though my travels were limited, I will never forget a short trip to Man (visiting some Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration projects managed by a UN Volunteer), Yamoussoukro (where three of the most hard-working and friendly UN Volunteers are deployed) and Daloa and Bouake, where I had the privilege to go more than once. Deliberately, I am not mentioning any name in this introduction as it will imply to skip the name of many others, no less important.

The time has come that all these memories are not kept in our individual minds, but shared with the whole world. The commitment of UN Volunteers in Ivory Coast, their motivation, positive energy, enthusiasm and involvement to make a difference in their assignments, as

well as the support and solidarity shown with the new comers through the Buddy Scheme is something remarkable and unforgettable.

I hope that you enjoy this first edition of the new UNV Newsletter and that somehow, it captures a tiny fraction of UN Volunteers' contribution in Ivory Coast. To show the whole of your work will require an entire encyclopedia, and it will become very arduous to read through it. Therefore, I am pleased if you can see just a small piece of the actions of UN Volunteers serving in Ivory Coast.

Before I finish these lines and now that I cannot say it face to face any longer since I am not deployed in Abidjan, let me express publicly my gratitude to all of you for your assistance. I am positive that you will convey your support to the new UNV Programme Manager, Pauline, arriving to UNOCI (United Nations Operation in Ivory Coast) in the incoming days. I hope she can enjoy her Ivorian experience as much as I did, and the reason cannot be other than because of you!

**Enjoy the reading.**

**Mar Brusola**



# About us

## UNV programme :

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

Volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges, and it can transform the pace and nature of development. Volunteerism benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer by strengthening trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens, and by purposefully creating opportunities for participation.

UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for recognition of volunteers, working with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of volunteers, including experienced UN Volunteers, throughout the world. UNV embraces volunteerism as universal and inclusive, and recognizes volunteerism in its diversity as well as the values that sustain it : free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity.

[www.unv.org](http://www.unv.org)

## Online Volunteering :

The Online Volunteering service is one of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme's corporate tools to mobilize volunteers for development.

The Online Volunteering service connects volunteers with organizations working for sustainable human development. Volunteers contribute their skills online to help organizations address development challenges.

### Online volunteers are...

professionals, students, homemakers, retirees, people with disabilities and expatriates from across the globe who support organizations over the Internet. They are people who commit their time and skills over the Internet, freely and without financial considerations, for the benefit of society. What they have in common is a strong commitment to making a real difference to development.

[www.onlinevolunteering.org](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org)

# Introducing you...

## The editorial team!

### UN Volunteers at ONUCI



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## UN Online Volunteers



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**All UN Volunteers who would like to join us or contribute by writing an article are most welcome !**



# We were there !

## Abidjan Seminar on Voluntary Work

This third edition, convened by ESD (Education for a Durable Society), focused on “Volunteering as a valued experience”. It brought together 43 young volunteers embedded in the heart of their communities, and who have built their professional careers thanks to their volunteering experience. Their testimony was complemented by contributions from Mr. N’Dehi, official

correspondent of the CNRJ in Côte d’Ivoire (National Youth Reflection Group ), and from Dr Philippe Ibitowa, a researcher and lecturer in Communications from the University of Cocody, who is also Chair of the Universities of Citizenship and Good Governance (exchange forum). We would like to share with you a few excerpts from his speech:

### “Servant Leadership” by Robert Greenleaf

Within us lies the whole, the community. Our willingness to share is awoken through contact with others. Growing while making ourselves small, helping ourselves through serving others. The individual’s potential is offered for the greater good of the group. And, so as not to crush the others, individual aspirations need to be constrained. There should be no search for rewards, even if these exist: the feeling of having been useful to the group, of having contributed to building its achievements, is what counts.

### The Zulu concept of Ubuntu

“I am what I am because of who we all are.”

“Someone with the Ubuntu spirit is open and available for others, devoted to others, does not feel threatened because the others are capable and kind, for s/he has his or her own self-esteem — and this comes from their knowledge of belonging to something larger. And s/he feels diminished when others are humiliated or belittled, when others are tortured or oppressed.”

Desmond Tutu,  
Nobel Peace Laureate, South Africa

### Main advice points for volunteers

- Be committed and determined.
- Feel competent (know your capacities and develop them, but be aware of your limits; strive for excellence in what you do; all tasks are important, no matter how big or how small).
- Be willing to take things forward, and bring others along.
- Be responsive to your co-workers, through listening but also looking.
- Be alert in your mind, prepare for what may happen, learn to anticipate.
- Always remain a faithful ally.
- Be a team player, with your mind on collaboration.
- Know which good causes are the right ones to support.
- Always keep in mind the general good.



Dr Ibitowa (UNV programme, 2015)

Isabelle Rampa

Project and Capacity Development Officer,  
UNV Support Office



# Focus on... Man



UN Volunteers in the field



Interview with Samira Keita

## UN Volunteers in the field...in Man!

On 16th February, staff from the Volunteer Support Office made a field trip to meet the UN Volunteers at work in the town of Man. We went to their different places of work (the airport, the ONUCI base, the field), and gathered information about their living and working conditions. We then held an information meeting to discuss the new Conditions of Service for International Volunteers in the United Nations system. We also found room in our schedule to enjoy some time together and to visit the famous waterfalls of Man! Thanks to everyone for giving us such a warm welcome!

Map of Ivory Coast<sup>(1)</sup>

N'Sengo John-Eraste Kyambanza (DR Congo) has been volunteering as a DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegrations) Officer in Man since July 2013. Before joining ONUCI, he worked in several NGOs (Non-governmental Organizations) and in MONUC in DRC (United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo), and has also volunteered in UNAMSIL (United Nations



*N'sengo allows to access the reinsertion projects (UNV programme, 2015)*

Mission in Sierra Leone). Together with his colleague and fellow-countryman Jean de Dieu Ntanga-Ntita (also

a former UN Volunteer), they are implementing 27 community-based rehabilitation projects in Man and its outskirts! N'sengo showed us several projects for the reinsertion of ex-combatants and members of different local communities in Bangolo, an area particularly hard hit by the 2002 conflict and by the post electoral crisis of 2011.



If you drive out of Man for three-quarters of an hour due South, you will come across this small

town, where you can now buy your chickens and where you will soon be able to benefit from a range of additional

services provided by the ex-combatants.



*N'sengo explains how the chicken farming project was set up and how it operates. (UNV programme, 2015)*

Let's start with the chicken farming project : this was built in November-December 2014, and was able to receive 1,300 chicks at the end of last

December. This project functions as a cooperative, with produce for sale "on the farm", allowing 17 men and women to work there in shifts.

Let's now proceed to the "multi-service" project currently under construction. This comprises a men's hair-dressers (three clients at a time, so three participants at work), a dry cleaners capable of cleaning 100 kg per day (four participants) and a restaurant with bar and terrace (three participants).

A total of 10 people are involved (ex-combatants and civilians from the local community). With support from the NGO Limpia, they are currently deliberating on the best way to collectively manage their businesses, while taking part in the necessary work of getting them set up.



*Tchiekplin Kango Alexis, representing the NGO Limpia, and Nsengo show us around the future multi-service and explain the project to the Programme Manager of the UNV Support Office, Ms. Mar Brusola Valls (UNV programme, 2015).*



Situated behind the restaurant, you will soon have the Manioc processing unit, which covers everything from crushing the crop, via fermentation and pulverisation in the granulator, to its cooking and conservation. All aspects are catered for, from crop production (four hectares are set aside for this, as well as partnering with local growers), to the commercialisation of the by-products : manioc peel (destined for other community-based reintegration projects cattle and pig-rearing projects in the region) and of the starch (for starching Bazin damask cloth). That means 30 beneficiaries taking part, 15 at a time. Attieke ( manioc semolina ) no longer holds any mystery for us!



*The participants show us where the machines will be installed. (UNV programme, 2015).*



A few steps beyond that, you come across the site of the future fish shop. Consumption of fish has really taken off since the hunting and sale of bush-meat were banned. It is, however, quite a complex matter to bring the fish all the way from Abidjan in good condition and then keep them in a 7-tonne capacity cold store before selling them on the open market.

*The cold room and the commercialization of fish explained to Isabelle Rampa, Project Officer for the UNV Support Office. (UNV programme, 2015)*



*Group photo! (UNV programme, 2015)*



*If you come to Man by plane, you will most likely meet the two other UN Volunteers deployed here. They are responsible for a big part of the functioning of Man's only airport!*



*Albert in the traffic control tower (UNV programme, 2015)*

Albert Cabuyadao (Philippines) joined ONUCI as Air Operations Assistant seven months ago. In the past, he worked for a private company subcontracted by the United Nations, living in several countries such as Timor Leste (4 years), DR Congo (3 years) and Somalia (3 years). Sitting alone in the traffic control tower, he is responsible of all the air traffic operations in Man, which comprises the safety of all UN passengers and crew. As part of his assignment and in order to support the Ivorian government, they also assist private companies travelling to the region to pick up the minerals extracted in the surroundings.



*Jean Baptiste at work (UNV programme, 2015)*

Jean Baptiste Nkurunziza (Burundi) has been serving as a MOVCON (Movement Control) Assistant in Ivory Coast for three and a half years. He is the only staff member from MOVCON deployed in this duty station. Prior to ONUCI, he worked as a national staff with MONUC at Bujumbura (Burundi) and served as a UN Volunteer in MINURCAT (The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad)

**Isabelle Rampa**

Project and Capacity Development  
Officer, UNV Support Office Abidjan

(1) : [http://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fildi%C5%9Fi\\_Sahili](http://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fildi%C5%9Fi_Sahili) modified by Isabelle Rampa



# Interview with Samira Keita

**Name :** Samira KEITA

**Country of origin :** Niger

**Position :** Coordinator Officer

**Posting :** Man

**UN Volunteer :** Since February 2014

**Education :**

Degree in Political Science and International Relations, University of Kent, United Kingdom  
Masters in NGO Management and Development, London School of Economics, UK.



## What were you doing before you became a UN Volunteer?

Straight after graduating, I joined ReliefWeb at the UN OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) office in Geneva, first as an intern, then as a consultant. Then I went back to Niger, where I worked as a consultant for the National Democratic Institute (NDI), an American NGO that works

for the promotion of democracy, enhancing the participation of women in political processes, and strengthening national governance structures. I then worked in Ivory Coast for the Carter Center as an election observer, and for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, IFES.

## What prompted you to become a UN Volunteer?

I wanted to get back into the United Nations system.

*For me, becoming a volunteer was an entry-point : it would allow me to diversify my experience, increase my knowledge of the context in Ivory Coast and work more closely with local communities.*

I was very much attracted to working in the field, hence my decision to accept the posting

to Man. I was strongly motivated by the context in a place like **Man, where the challenges are huge, including lots of tensions and conflicts between and among different communities**. I've always been interested in conflict resolution, so I felt I was in the right place. What also interested me was the proximity of the Liberian border and working with UNMIL (the UN Mission in Liberia) on issues of cross-border security. I immediately got involved in this area of activity.

## What is your role as a UN Volunteer?

I work as a Civil Affairs Officer within the joint office in Man and my role is to support

the government and local communities in the national reconciliation process and to strengthen



social cohesion. This is done through outreach sessions, training, intercommunal meetings, and other kinds of activities that allow the communities to come together to work to find solutions to their mutual concerns. In addition to my Civil Affairs Officer responsibilities, I was also the interim Office Coordinator for a 6 month period. During this time, I had the

additional responsibilities of managing and coordinating the Man office, and to act as the intermediary between the field and regional offices as well as the Mission's headquarters. I also represented the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in my zone in relation to the political, civil, national and local authorities.



*Samira Keita, 2014*

### What does a typical work day involve for you?

I'm often out in the field. Usually, I spend an hour or two in the morning at my desk, and then I'll be at the Town Hall, or the Préfecture, meeting with the traditional leaders or in discussion with local people about the problems they face on a daily basis. We talk about the kind of activities we can undertake together in order to help

them live better amongst themselves. Our whole work is tied up with how people can get on together and achieve social cohesion. We try to reinforce this cohesion through ongoing dialogue, capacity-building training, and training in conflict management and dealing with rumours.

### Do you do mediation work ?

Yes, when we identify conflicts in given areas, we undertake what are called inter-communal dialogues, where we meet with the different parties in conflict and talk with them, first separately and

then together, providing the opportunity for the parties to suggest solutions to their problems. While there are several types of conflict, in my zone they are mostly land issues.

### What do you like about your work ?

What I like best is being in direct contact with the local populations for whom I work. It's the

fact of being constantly alert to their concerns and getting a real idea of what these are about.



### Are there many women in your office?

No, I am the only one.

### Does being a woman make your contact with local people more difficult?

No, on the contrary, the local people have no difficulty coming to see me and they communicate with me in a very direct way.

### Are there other difficulties you face in your work?

I wouldn't call them difficulties, but rather realities that are sometimes different from the ones we know: when you are posted to a sector, you have to get used to the people you will interact with, and give them time to get used to you. Our proximity to them and our regular contact with them allows us to get to know and understand each other, which makes our work a lot easier. Over time, and with a lot of communication, we can meet these challenges.

### Is there a particular achievement that you are proud of in your experience as a UN Volunteer with ONUCI?

Yes, organising and running a capacity-building workshop for traditional leaders in Bangolo. This brought together some 500 customary chiefs and produced some concrete results: the chiefs set up a peace committee. I am proud to have taken part in its creation, on the technical as well as the logistical level.



Samira Keita, 2014

### One last comment?

Yes, I'd like to stress *how enriching the volunteer spirit can be. Anyone who goes through this experience comes out of it stronger and richer, with enhanced capacities and a broader vision of things.*

I'd recommend volunteering to anyone who asked my advice about this experience. It offers a lot of advantages, in terms of acquisition of knowledge as much as contributing to the community.

Etiam Fiagan

Associate Human Resources Officer,  
Recruitment Unit , Abidjan



# The country I come from

## My journey from Bhutan to Abidjan

Sonam Phuntsho, BHUTAN, UN Volunteer

My joy knew no bounds and kept my thoughts in suspense when I suddenly received an email from UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) in Germany during September 2014. I immediately replied expressing my regrets at not being able to join as a UN Volunteer in Ivory Coast, since it would have meant resigning from the very good job I had in Bhutan as an executive electrical engineer.

On second thoughts, I decided that working as a UN Volunteer



This image indicates that walking uphill is a tiresome journey. (Sonam Phuntsho, 2015)

seemed justified in any part of the world, in order to share my 24 years of work experience and knowledge

with other people. It would also bring me a very different professional experience. This is why I made up my mind to travel from Bhutan to Ivory Coast and work in the UN peacekeeping Mission, ONUCI, in Abidjan.

During the pre-departure period in Bhutan, I walked to my villages, met relatives and bade them goodbye, knowing that our life is uncertain. As I would be working in a far-flung African country, relatives and friends came to bid me farewell, hosting grand dinners in residences and hotels.

## BHUTAN, the Land of the Thunder Dragon

BHUTAN is a landlocked country in South Asia, located at the eastern end of the Himalayas. It is bordered on the North and East by Tibet and on the South, West and East by India. The landscape consists of a succession of lofty and rugged mountains and deep valleys. The area covered is 18,147 square miles (47,000 square kilometers)



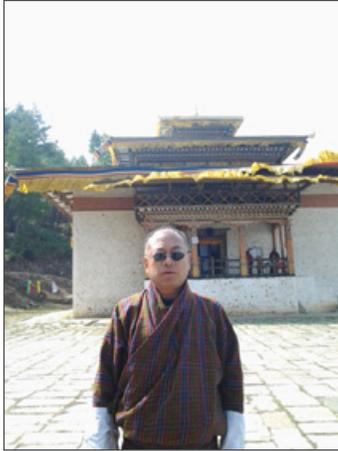
Bhutan regions map (Peter Fitzgerald, 2010)

with population of 733,643 (recorded during in 2014). Bhutan has undergone major changes in government during March 2008, from absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy. The

first elections were held during 2008.

The first party to succeed in winning the elections was the “Druk Phuensum Tsokpa” (DPT) that ran the government for five years from 2008 to 2013. The next elections were won by the “People’s Democratic Party”(PDP).





*Sonam wearing the traditional Gho  
(Sonam Phuntsho, 2015)*



*Sonam's wife, Tenzin Gyelmo, near Tashichho Dzong, wearing the traditional dress : Kera.  
(Sonam Phuntsho, 2015)*

The national language is Dzongkha and the traditional dress is GHO for men and KERA for women. The popular nickname for Bhutanese people is DRUKPAS. The monetary currency is the NGULTRUM, generally abbreviated to Nu.

It was on a Sunday morning, 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2015 that my family came with me from Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, to Paro Airport (65 kilometers). As we said our goodbyes at the Airport, tears rolled down our golden cheeks, signifying our true love for each other. I flew from Bhutan and arrived in New Delhi, capital of India, after a three-hour flight and stopped over for two nights.



*Paro Airport <sup>(1)</sup>*



## New Delhi, INDIA

Halt at New Delhi : every 26<sup>th</sup> of January, India honors the Constitutional Republic Day, and I was lucky to participate in it. It is the third National holiday in India, the two others being Independence Day and Gandhi Jayanti.

The Indian Independence Act of 1947 created the independent dominions of India and Pakistan. India remained a Dominion of the British Crown until 26 January 1950, when the Constitution

of India came into force establishing the Republic of India.

The Chief Guest invited by the Indian government was the 44th President of United States of America, Mr. Barack Obama. There

was a military march-past with the massed bands, Pipe and Drum bands, Buglers & Trumpeters from various Army regiments as well as the Navy and Air Force. The traditional cultural displays

were performed by professional dancers from the different regions. Children also participated in showing different episodes from the glorious history of the country. The heroes of the Nation were honored with Bravery Awards and Medals. National awards were also given to children for acts of selfless sacrifice and bravery.

The grand celebration ended with fly-past of Indian Air Force jets in arrow formation, leaving behind a trail of colored smoke.



*Republic Day in New Delhi <sup>(2)</sup>*

## Dubai Airport

**O**n 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015, I flew from New Delhi to Dubai , a three-hour flight. I arrived at midnight in Dubai and had to wait in the airport for my

flight to Abidjan which was at 7h30 a.m. Since it was my first time travelling abroad alone, I could not sleep a minute because of my anxiety and worries about the journey to Abidjan



## Abidjan, Ivory Coast

On my arrival at Abidjan Airport on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015, after an eight-hour flight, I found an administrative and logistics officer from the UNV Support Office, Mr. Dramane Coulibaly, waiting for me. He dropped me at my hotel in a UN Vehicle and also advised me on security aspects of



*Abidjan's new bridge  
(Sonam Phuntsho, 2015)*

my stay here. I am very thankful to him and to all the UNV Support team for their welcome.

I was surprised by the US Dollar exchange rate and the cost of living here in Abidjan. I observed the city with its many vehicles and busy traffic.

Since I come from a high mountainous country with a time difference of six hours, I encountered some difficulties adjusting to the jetlag and maintaining healthy food habits.

Generally speaking, the vegetables and fruit available in Abidjan are not organic. I am really missing organic fresh vegetables and fruit from Bhutan.

***Nevertheless, I am glad to be here as a UN Volunteers, to serve the United Nations, and the people and country of Ivory Coast as a whole.***

(1) : [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Paro\\_Airport,\\_Paro,\\_Bhutan.JPG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Paro_Airport,_Paro,_Bhutan.JPG)

(2) : ([http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dancers\\_performing\\_in\\_the\\_2015\\_Republic\\_Day\\_Parade\\_in\\_New\\_Delhi.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dancers_performing_in_the_2015_Republic_Day_Parade_in_New_Delhi.jpg))



# UNV Specialist

## Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever Virus : Don't lower your guard

Interview with Dr. Jacob TEHEM, a Cameroonian doctor with 20 years' experience, and an aesthetist for almost 10 years, this specialist in health issues has been a United Nations Volunteer for three years.



*Ebola training organized for the UNOCI Peer Helpers in Daloa (Isabelle Rampa, 2014).*



**Olga K N :**

**The Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever Virus which is currently plaguing West Africa is the focus of this interview. How does someone actually contract this disease?**



*Dr Jacob Tehem giving a medical consultation to a child of the orphanage "Enfance Meurtrie Sans Frontières" (EMSF) in Grand Bassam, during activities organized in the occasion of International Volunteer Day 2014. (Isabelle Rampa, 2014).*

**Dr TEHEM :**

The disease is caused by a virus. You can contract it by coming into contact with wild animals in the forest, generally primates: monkeys, chimpanzees, game animals, animal remains or their secretions, their blood and so on. Fruit bats can also transmit the disease. When someone comes into

contact with an infected animal, dead or alive, the person can get infected; inter-human infection then follows, in other words, from person to person. It is by coming into contact with the blood or any other secretions of a sick person or who died of the disease that you can contract it.

**O K N :**

**And what are the symptoms? How can someone know if he/she or another person is infected?**

**Dr TEHEM :**

There are no real specific symptoms of the Ebola fever, this is what makes this disease difficult to identify. The early signs are like a common flu or uncomplicated malaria. The person has a fever, aches, and headaches.

After a while, the sick person begins to show signs of bleeding, and you realize that this is not just a simple flu but a haemorrhagic fever. The sick person bleeds from the nose, mouth, eyes, skin, in effect, from every orifice.



**O K N :**

**But how can you prevent this disease?**



*The children of the orphanage, sensitized to hygiene issues, wash their hands before every meal, (Mayte Gamo Velasco, 2014).*

**Dr TEHEM :**

Hygiene is the first and foremost priority, proper hand-washing after using the toilet or after contact with someone or something. In times such as these, we should all avoid eating, hunting or touching wild animals. This is because persons going hunting can find and bring sick animals, animal remains or infected game back to their village, with the risk of infecting a large number of

people. It is really important to avoid all bush meat, and meals must be thoroughly cooked. In the epidemic areas, it is imperative to avoid contact with other people because any contact can easily lead to infection. Generally, in areas that have not yet been affected, it is recommended that prevention be given a priority : observe hand-washing hygiene and avoid bush meat.

**O K N :**

**What should be the response to someone who presents signs of the disease?**

**Dr TEHEM :**

When a person presents signs of the disease, no-one should come into contact with her. The right response is to contact health services; a health team will then arrive with the appropriate equipment to manage the patient. From the moment a person comes into contact with the virus, the incubation period is between 2 and 21 days, and the critical period of the disease is between 4 and 9 days. In affected countries, the customary assistance provided by families of the sick has facilitated the passage of the virus from one individual to another. In so

doing, many members of the same family have infected each other. You must contact a medical team, who can come and bring the person to the appropriate place where they can be looked after. The patient must be systematically placed in quarantine, and must not come into contact with other patients, even within the same hospital. The patient must be isolated from other patients, in order to avoid the risk of infection. Here in the Ivory Coast, if anyone suspects an Ebola case, the toll free numbers to call are 143 or 101.



**O K N :**

**A virulent disease, then, but is there a treatment?**

**Dr TEHEM :**

There is not yet an approved treatment. The treatment to date is symptomatic, i.e. the symptoms are treated. We will treat the fever, the dehydration caused by diarrhea, and the hemorrhages. Two times out of three the disease is lethal, death occurring in 75% to 90% of cases. There are at present more than

6 medicines being used in clinical trials. We are still waiting for the results, to see how this will turn out. Before a medicine or vaccine can be declared effective against a disease, the process is long. It is important to take the time to watch for effectiveness, side effects, and so on. But while we wait, prevention is the priority.

**O K N :**

**What overall assessment can be made of the damage caused by this disease in the sub-region and in Ivory Coast?**

**Dr TEHEM :**

I will begin with the Ivory Coast by saying that, for the moment, no cases have been reported. In the sub-region, this disease already numbers

10,000 cases, spread across all three countries affected by the disease : Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.

**O K N :**

**No cases in Ivory Coast, a downward trend in the sub-region, but today can we afford to think that the Ebola virus no longer constitutes a danger to the region and let our guard down?**

**Dr TEHEM :**

We shouldn't let our guard down until we are sure that there are no new cases. The trap is that in this kind of epidemic, when the number of infections decreases, people tend to lower their guard and this is when the disease spreads unabated. It's a serious mistake to think that there is no longer a risk. We continue to have cases in the affected areas. It's true that in the sub-region, the number of cases

have dropped considerably compared to the beginning of the disease, but this is not the end of the story. The WHO (World Health Organization) recommends that vigilance should not decrease while we are waiting for the actual number of cases to be finally written off. We really must continue with prevention measures: making hygiene a priority, and avoid touching, hunting or eating bush meat.

**O K N :**

**Thank you Dr TEHEM.**

Olga E.D. Kokode Nounagnon

Producer, Communication and Public  
Information, Abidjan



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inspiration in action

# News

## A Brief History of the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN)

The Africa Cup of Nations, better known as the “CAN”, reached its finale in Equatorial Guinea on February 8th with the spectacular victory by the Ivory Coast’s Elephants over the Black Stars of Ghana.

Since the advent of this bi-annual competition, which gripped the continent in soccer mania last month, many questions have been asked about the history of the CAN Cup.

For those who don’t know it, the idea of creating an Africa Cup of Nations goes back to the early 1950s and concluded in 1956, when the creation of the CAF (Africa Football Cup) was proposed during the third congress of FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) in Lisbon by the Egyptian Abdelaziz Abdallah Salem. His request was first rejected because of the low number of Africans present (four). He therefore decided to walk out of the congress, uttering the immortal words: “If we are not all on an equal footing, then we are not welcome among you”. He was accompanied, out of solidarity, by the Sudanese Mohamed Abdelhalim, which pressed FIFA to respond favourably to

his request.

Since its first edition in 1957, about fifteen countries have already staged the final rounds.



*Presentation of the Cup at UNOCI (Public Information Office, 2015)*

Countries such as Egypt and Ghana are leaders in this, each having organized four. However, progress made on reforms and the fierce determination of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to grant the task of organizing the tournament to new countries, has finally borne fruit with Angola organizing the 2010 edition, and the joint application by

Gabon and Equatorial Guinea in 2012.

A key development in this latest edition, which saw the participation of 16 countries divided into four groups, was that just a few weeks before the competition, the Confederation of African Football had to choose Equatorial Guinea to host the event replacing Morocco who refused to respect its initial commitment because of its concerns about the Ebola virus. Morocco has now been sanctioned with substantial fines and its exclusion from the 2017 and 2019 editions of the CAN. This decision is disputed by the Moroccan Football Federation, who will probably seize the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS).

***We will have to see what happens...***

**Abou Sy Diakhate**  
Training Officer,  
HIV/AIDS, Abidjan

**Abdul Ba**  
Generator Technician,  
Engineering, Abidjan



# International Women's Day 2015



*Mrs. Mindaodou with Mrs. Dominique Ouattara and Mr. Alassane Ouattara (Public Information Office ONUCI, 2015)*

In Ivory Coast, the official International Women's Day events took place at the Auguste Denise stadium in San Pedro. The celebration was attended by President Alassane Ouattara, and his wife, Dominique Ouattara, patron of the event. The UN Secretary General's Special Representative, Aichatou Mindaodou, was also present and took the opportunity to deliver the message of Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. "When we unleash the power of women, we

can secure the future for all" he declared in his International Women's Day message, pointing out: "To be truly transformative, the post-2015 development agenda must prioritize gender equality and women's empowerment.

***The world will never realize 100 per cent of its goals if 50 per cent of its people cannot realize their full potential".***

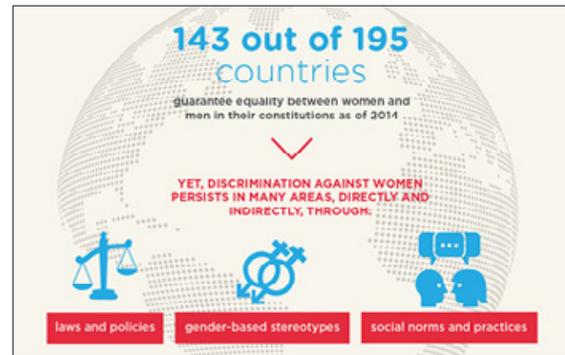
Arrayed in the colours of Ivory Coast, in traditional cloth displayed to each woman's taste, thousands of Ivorian women took part in the parades, with songs, dances and slogans to mark International Women's Day 2015. This year's theme was "Beijing +20: Achievements, Challenges and Perspectives for an Emerging Ivory Coast". This, according to Mrs. Ouattara, is an open invitation to women to gauge progress so far and to appreciate what has been accomplished.



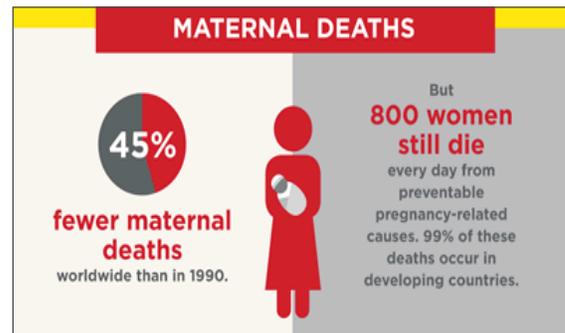
*Women parade (Public Information Office ONUCI, 2015)*

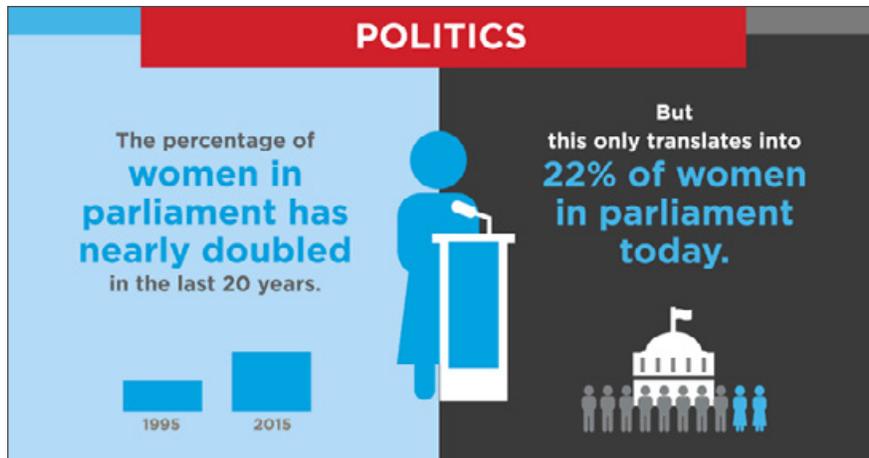


Indeed, 2015 marks an important step: the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This roadmap, signed by 189 governments, covered 12 critical areas where urgent action was needed. These include: education and training, health, poverty reduction, violence against women, armed conflict, economic and political advancement...



Around the world, International Women's Day 2015 has thus emphasized the progress made and the challenges that remain to implement this historic agreement on gender equality and women's rights. As a reminder of the urgency of the Beijing appeal and to inspire a new generation to fight for gender equality, UN Women launched an international campaign in 2014 entitled: "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!"





*In her 2015 International Women's Day message, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka urged countries to "Step it up for gender equality" in order to reach a 'Planet 50-50' before 2030.*

Olga E.D. Kokode Nounagnon

Producer, Communication and Public  
Information, Abidjan  
*Infographics UN Women*



# Cultural agenda

## The Goethe Institute

The Goethe Institute plays host to a range of cultural events, such as lectures, shows and screenings...

Check them out on its website : [www.goethe.de/cotedivoire](http://www.goethe.de/cotedivoire) under "Events"

We particularly enjoyed...



(Official poster, 2015)

«**DanseRaum**», a monthly schedule of contemporary dance in Côte d'Ivoire, which provides dance fans with a space for creating, sharing and discussing dance. After each performance, the audience is invited to take part in a discussion of the work. This is under the artistic direction of Jenny Mezile and Massidi Adiatou, and the dance companies N'Soleh and Les Pieds dans la Marre, in partnership with the Goethe Institute.

Next date for your diary:

**29th April 2015 : International Dance Day Special**

Urban Dance « **FoukaFouka Night** » including the winners of the "2014 Battles Close-up" and other guests, directed by Jenny Mezile. Tickets **1000 FCFA**, on sale at the French Institute and the Goethe Institute

[www.nsoleh.com](http://www.nsoleh.com)



## 4<sup>th</sup> Urban Arts Festival!

### “MY CITY LOVES MY ART”



*(Official poster of the Festival, 2015)*

### Abidjan's International Contemporary Dance and Scenography Festival

**21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May**

**Planned events :** Lectures, debates, films, scenography workshops and displays, performances, shows, dance contests, photo exhibits, and “bal populaire” (public ball)...

**The venues?** The Goethe Institute in Cocody, the French Institute on the Plateau, Sogefia Square in Cocody as well as the whole of Mermoz Boulevard will be decorated and enlivened by the Festival Village, with help from local shopkeepers and residents.

Performers will be coming from Côte d'Ivoire, Haïti, Germany, South Africa, Uganda, France, Chad, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Morocco.



## The Donwahi Foundation



SALIFOU LINDOU  
«ENTRE LE SOUFFLE ET LE TRAIT»



CLAUDIE POINSARD  
«EARTH & DREAMS»



*(Official poster, 2015)*

You are invited to the latest exhibition organised by the Donwahi Foundation.  
Come and discover works by Salifou Lindou and Claudie Poincard, before 11th April, 2015.



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Why not share your news of upcoming cultural events with us? Send us an email at [rampa@un.org](mailto:rampa@un.org).

Isabelle Rampa

Project and Capacity Development Officer,  
UNV Support Office Abidjan



**UN**  
**Volunteers**  
inspiration in action

# First 2015 UNV Contest

The Volunteer who suggested the winner title for our Newsletter is... **Tito Aman Bazahica**, our pharmacist! Thank you for your original contribution and congratulations!  
We also thank all the UN Volunteers who participated!



*Tito in his pharmacy at UNOCI  
(Tito Aman Bazahica, 2015)*

The next contest will be... **the logo of the UN Volunteers of Ivory Coast**. Grab your pencil (or mouse) and start drawing!!!

Send your designs to: [rampa@un.org](mailto:rampa@un.org)

## Acknowledgements

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Ivory Coast