

THE FORCE OF PEACE



Spécial septembre 2010

International Day of Peace



Peace = Future

The Math is easy



Message on the International Day of Peace

Today we observe the annual *International Day of Peace – a day dedicated to ceasefire and non-violence. Peace is precious. It must be nurtured, maintained, defended.*

That is why, each year on the International Day of Peace, I ring the Peace Bell at United Nations headquarters. And it is why – every day – I work for peace. I mediate between antagonists.

I sound the alarm about threats – those we can see clearly, and others that lurk just over the horizon. I promote tolerance, justice and human rights, and I campaign for harmony among countries and peoples.

This year, Peace Day is dedicated to young people. This month marks the beginning of the International Year of Youth. Its theme of dialogue and mutual understanding captures the very essence of peace.



Young people today are at home with global diversity; comfortable in an interconnected world. Yet they are also vulnerable to the forces of extremism. So I say to all governments and our partners: let us do more for young people. Let us give them a world of peace and tolerance. And I say to all young people: join us. Help us to work for peace. You are impatient. You see what we, your elders, allow to persist, year after year: poverty and hunger; injustice and impunity; environmental degradation.

With just five years remaining to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, I ask all, young and old, to help us to find global solutions to these global problems. Share your plans and ideas, act with creativity and passion. Help us fight for peace and prosperity for all.

September 2010

Fréquences ONUCI-FM

ABENGOUROU 94.7 • ABIDJAN 96.0 • ADZOPE 96.0 • BANGOLO 91.1
BONDOUKOU 100.1 • BOUAKÉ 95.3 • BOUNA 102.8 • BOUNDIALI 90.0
DABAKALA 93.9 • DALOA 91.4 • DANANÉ 97.6 • DAOUKRO 94.7
DUEKOUÉ 91.1 • FERKE 104.4 • GUIGLO 93.7 • KORHOGO 95.3
MAN 95.3 • ODIENNÉ 101.1 • SAN-PEDRO 106.3 • SEGUELA 101.8
TABOU 95.3 • TOULEPLEU 93,7 • YAKRO 94.4 • ZUENOULA 95.3

A DAY FOR HIGHLIGHTING PEACE

In November 1982, the General Assembly of the United Nations, grouping representatives of all the member states of the UN Organisation adopted resolution A/RES/36/67 to establish International Day of Peace. The resolution stipulated that the Day coincide with the annual opening of the General Assembly in the month of September.

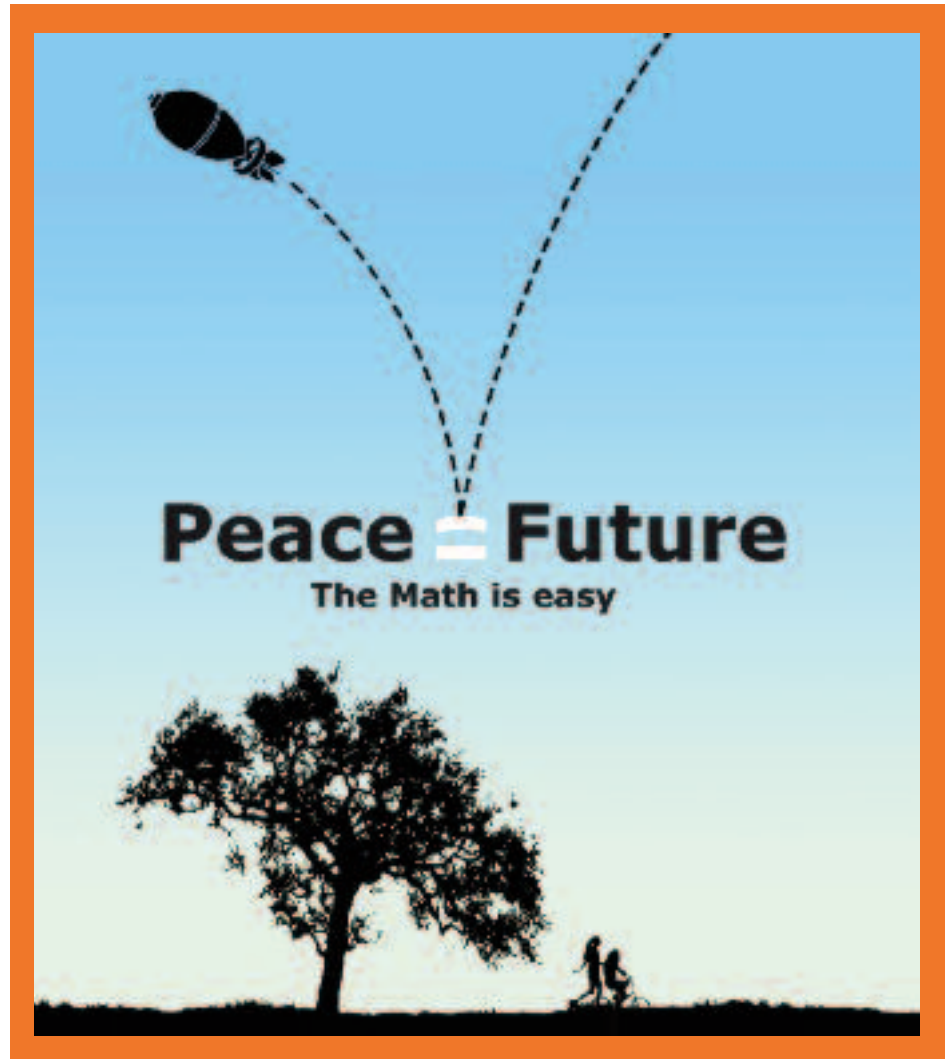
The resolution stressed that “it was in the minds of men the defences of peace must be constructed “and that a peace based on economic and political arrangements cannot secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world.” It affirms that peace must therefore be founded, in order to be solid, on the “intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind.”

This is also why the Assembly declares, still in the resolution, that the third Tuesday of September shall be proclaimed the International Day of Peace and observed as such and that it would be “devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among nations and peoples.”

In 2001, the General Assembly decided, by resolution A/RES/55/282 that the Day shall be celebrated on 21 September each year. In its resolution, the assembly stated that the Day “offers a unique occasion for the cessation of violence and conflicts throughout the world and that it was important to make it widely known and observed within the international community.

The Assembly declares further that “henceforth, the International Day of Peace shall be observed as world ceasefire and non violence day, during which all nations and peoples shall be called upon to cease hostilities.

In Cote d’Ivoire, the UN family, in collaboration with its partners- notably the Ivorian government, NGOs and the people is using the day as a means of



promoting peace and the ideals on which it stands. Since its deployment in 2004, the UN Operation in Cote d’Ivoire (UNOCI) commemorates the event through cultural, sporting, and intellectual activities not only in Abidjan but in various regions of the country.

This year, the UN mission in Cote d’Ivoire is commemorating the Day whose theme is: “The role of the Youth in promoting peace and development” in collaboration with the African Union. This is a reflection of the collaboration between two institutions working for the restoration of peace in Cote d’Ivoire.

In Abidjan, the occasion will be marked with a joint official ceremony at the

headquarters of the UN mission, and a panel discussion on the theme: “Youth, peace and development. Peace equals development.” Other activities have been programmed by the regional offices of the UN mission in several towns throughout the country including roundtable conferences, debates, cross-country races, football and volley ball encounters and cultural and artistic shows.

An innovation has been introduced this year in the town of Daloa with twelve teams participating in a treasure hunt which consists of participants forming messages of peace.

FAIRPLAY AT THE SERVICE OF PEACE



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How does one reconcile sport and peace? How does one use the ideals advocated by the different sporting disciplines to serve the cause of peace?

For the past five years, the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) has attempted to respond to these questions by being involved in the search for peace through the organization or sponsoring of sporting events throughout the country. Thus, on 4 September 2010, the UN mission took an active part in an inter-community tournament organised by the Ivorian Federation of Karate Do and related disciplines which was held at the hall of the Fire Brigade department in the Indienne neighbourhood of Abidjan.

The UN mission donated two trophies for fair play : one for the team which displayed a general sense of fair play and the second for the best referee designated by his colleagues.

In the end , the karate team from the district of Attecoube was the chosen winner by the jury which took into consideration the general conduct of the team such as respect for the decisions

of the referee and the rules of the game.

In the category of best referee, karate instructor, Jean-Marie Kouame, an international referee, was chosen best referee for his` sound judgment and dexterity, making him the winner of the second trophy.

In awarding the trophy of fair play to the recipients, Ms. Eliane Hervo-Akendengue of UNOCI's Public Information Office, stated that: "Sport, apart from being a unifying factor as was the case today, represents a school of life and fair play, an attitude which should be part of our daily lives." While urging each and everyone to respect his opponent and dialogue, she reiterated the wish of the mission to use sport as a means of supporting the peace process in Cote d'Ivoire.

Before the kick-off of the competition, the athletes were invited to read messages of peace written by UNOCI such as " Fair lay is respect for the rules of the game, the mastery of oneself and dignity in victory as in defeat"; "sport is a powerful instrument for promoting peace, tolerance and dialogue"; "sport builds character, learn

to know each other better and respect others"; " through sport, we can demonstrate that we have more that binds us than that which divides us."

The final phase of the competition which began on May 13 brought together ten districts in Abidjan and was held in the presence of the district representatives, representatives of the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Public Sanitation and the Governor of Abidjan. The presence of these personalities was seen as a commitment to support the youths for a change of attitude. This is what Mr. Lucien Boguinard who spoke on behalf of the Youth and Sport, did "Soon we'll be through with elections and look forward to better days to come," he said. In this context, he encouraged the authorities to take care of the youths so as to avoid creating monsters."

In his address, the president of the karate federation, Vincent Yai expressed satisfaction with UNOCI for the support it gives to activities related to sport and peace. The tournament ended with the victory of the team from Abobo over the one from Marcory by 21 points to 14.

By Hervo Eliane Hervo Akendengué

LAUNCH OF REGIONAL PLATFORM TO MONITOR SOCIAL COHESION IN DENGUELE

A regional platform to monitor social cohesion has been set up in the Denguélé region. The organization, which was created under the aegis of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), was launched at the end of a workshop on the theme « The Media and Social Cohesion in an electoral period », held on 27 and 28 April 2010 in Odienné.

In the current socio-political context dominated by partisan interests with each side trying to outdo the other, civil society groups in Denguélé, who initiated this mechanism where people can exchange views, believe that it responds to a legitimate and noble need. The platform encourages debate at all levels thereby giving Ivorians the opportunity to take ownership of the peace process in a cordial and constructive spirit.

Some 40 participants, including the local media, civil society and traditional chiefs from Odienné, Minignan, Bako, Séguelon, Boundiali and Tengréla, took part in the workshop.

The objective of the event was to highlight the complementarity between the media and civil society in an attempt to facilitate constructive discussion on their respective roles and responsibilities in strengthening social cohesion in an electoral period through joint actions.

Paying tribute to UNOCI, Mamadou Konaté of the NGO Horizon Vert Santé, one of the participants who is also the executive secretary of the platform, said that the workshop was an important contribution by the UN mission to the setting up of mechanisms and tools to monitor social cohesion and a new approach to social dialogue and a partnership between Ivorians and political actors.

At a time when the electoral process is in its final phase, this new means of sensitisation and outreach to strength-

en social cohesion will use every means to ensure that the election takes place in Denguélé without incident. In addition, it means carrying out local action so that the media, civil society, the sons and daughters of the region, can contribute to maintaining a peaceful electoral environment.

Since its installation in May 2010, the platform has organised a series of encounters and discussions with various sections of the population, including traditional chiefs in Odienné with the aim of sensitising them on their role in strengthening social stability in the

taken by the Platform to strengthen social cohesion in an effort to create a peaceful electoral environment, there are still challenges to overcome given the complexity of conflict in this region of Côte d'Ivoire, which is essentially between farmers and cattle breeders.

This is why the Platform, which is strongly supported by UNOCI, intends to concentrate on resolving crises, tribal hatred, exclusion, discrimination, being promulgated by political leaders, intent on dividing the population. Another initiative is to involve youths and women in the consolidation of peace.



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region. It also organized similar encounters with political groups and parties in the regional capital to remind them of the commitment they made by signing a « Code of Conduct for political parties and electoral candidates in Côte d'Ivoire ».

That was not all. The Platform also met with local authorities, regional directors, town hall officials and civil servants in an attempt to establish a partnership with them in monitoring and strengthening social cohesion in the region. However, despite the actions under-

Comprised of 20 members, both men and women from civil society organisations in the Denguélé region, the Platform is headed by the traditional chiefs. Boureima Touré alias Fah, a local chief has been selected as president. The secretariat will be run by NGOs and the media, the organisation by the youths and the treasury by the women.

By Yacouba kebe and Danièle Nzan



Resolution A/RES/36/67

International Year of Peace and International Day of Peace

30 November 1981

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the promotion of peace, both at an international and national level, is among the main purposes of the United Nations, in conformity with its Charter,

Reaffirming that, as set forth in the preamble of the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed, that a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of Governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind,

Further recalling that, on the basis of similar considerations, the General Assembly established the United Nations University in 1972 and, more specifically, the University for Peace in 1980, and entrusted other organs and organizations of the United Nations system with the promotion of peace, mainly through education in all its aspects,

Noting with appreciation the initiative taken by the International Association of University Presidents at its Sixth Triennial Conference, held at San José from 28 June to 3 July 1981, to propose the Declaration of a Peace Year, a Peace Month and a Peace Day,

Acknowledging the conclusions of the Conference that it would be appropriate to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as of the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways,

Considering that, through the declaration and proper celebration of an International Day of Peace, it would be possible to contribute to strengthening such ideals of peace and alleviating the tensions and causes of conflict, both within and among nations and peoples,

1. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its first regular session of 1982, the possibility of declaring an International Year of Peace at the first practicable opportunity, taking into account the urgency and special nature of such

an observance as well as the guidelines for international years and anniversaries adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980, and to submit its recommendations to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the basis of appropriate arrangements for the timing, organization and financing of the Year;

2. *Declares* that the third Tuesday of September, the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly, shall be officially proclaimed and observed as International Day of Peace and shall be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples;

3. *Invites* all Member States, organs and organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, peoples and individuals to commemorate in an appropriate manner the International Day of Peace, especially through all means of education, and to co-operate with the United Nations in the observance of that day.

*77th plenary meeting
30 November 1981*

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

A/RES/55/282. International Day of Peace

28 September 2001

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, by which it declared that the third Tuesday of September, the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly, shall be officially proclaimed and observed as International Day of Peace and shall be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples,

Recalling also its other relevant resolutions, including resolution 55/14 of 3 November 2000,

Reaffirming the contribution that the observance and celebration of the International Day of Peace makes in strengthening the ideals of peace and alleviating tensions and causes of conflict,

Considering the unique opportunity it offers for a cessation of violence and conflict throughout the world, and the related importance of achieving the broadest possible awareness and observance of the International Day of Peace among the global community,

Desiring to draw attention to the objectives of the International Day of Peace, and therefore to fix a date for its observance each year that is separate from the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly,

1. *Decides that*, with effect from the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the International Day of Peace shall be observed on 21 September each year, with this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace;

2. *Declares that* the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day;

3. *Invites all Member States*, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire.

111th plenary meeting
7 September 2001



STUDENTS, AUTHORITIES AND UNOCI PEACEFUL CLIMATE

Given the interest aroused by a football tournament for peace which was organized by UNOCI and the students of the Research Unit in High Education (URES) in March 2010 in Daloa, a town situated 400 km west of Abidjan, the UN mission continued a sensitization campaign whose objective was to put an end to violence at the university.

In this regard, a peace mediator was selected among the students living in the eight university's halls of residence. The initiative was supported by the university executive as well as the administrative authorities: the ceremony for the nomination of the mediators by the chief of Lobia's chief – one of the neighborhoods in the town – was attended by the Director of the URES in Daloa and the regional Prefect.

Then the mediators attended a training programme on the respect of human rights, led by UNOCI's Human Rights Division, followed few months later by a training session on the prevention and peaceful management of conflicts, initiated by the International Organization for Migration.

Since the beginning of these efforts to promote a peaceful climate among students to contribute to a peaceful environment in the town, there is already an encouraging sign.

The election of the leadership of the School and University Federation of Côte d'Ivoire (FESCI), few months ago, was conducted in a peaceful climate, contrary to the previous years where this kind of election was full of violence. In the following interview, two mediators explain the reason why they initiated their mission aimed at pacifying people's minds and hearts, the challenges they faced and their achievements.

The Force for Peace : Now you are called "mediators" but we do not really know you. Could you introduce yourself ?

Soro Songuifolo Emile : My name is Soro Songuifolo Emile, in Bachelor degree at the Research Unit in High Education (URES) in Daloa. I am 26, unmarried with one child, mediator in the Ahiba residence hall.

Trah Lou Rockya Nadège : My name is Tra Lou Rockya Nadège, in first level at the URES in Daloa. I am 24, unmarried without children. I am the mediator in the Kouma hall of residence.

In March, after an information and sensitization campaign to promote a peaceful electoral environment which was initiated by UNOCI for the students, following a request by the UN mission, you accepted without hesitation to be mediators in your respective halls of residence to prevent and peacefully resolve the conflicts between you the students and your neighbours. What motivated you?

S. S. E. : My motivation stemmed from the fact that the image of students in Côte d'Ivoire was much tarnished, unfortunately because of students themselves. Consequently it was difficult to approach us and even entrust us with any responsibility. In this regard, when UNOCI's Public Information Office came to entrust us with this mission, I seized the opportunity without hesitation. I thought that I could modestly contribute to change students' image.

T. L. R. N. : I entirely share the opinion of Soro. In addition, personally I wanted to learn how to peacefully resolve conflicts without having any preconceived idea.

I suppose that with your new task as

Mediators, now you are perceived differently by your friends in the halls of residence?

T. L. R. N. : With our commitment towards UNOCI and our awareness to defend peace, at the beginning our friends in the halls of residence did not understand our choice for impartiality; That is to say, helping resolve misunderstandings without preconceived idea. But now we are well considered. The proof is that in my hall of residence for example, I am frequently asked to settle conflicts between students.

S. S. E. : Before being entrusted with the role of mediators, we were accused of violence, to be conflict makers. But with my new "clothes" as mediator, I think that the consideration is positive both by our friends and the administration. As an example, in the past the relationship between students and the administration was very difficult, even adversarial. But with the advent of the mediators, our administrative authorities use us to transmit information to the students without provoking any disagreement.

Could you give us details of your past achievements regarding the maintenance of a peaceful climate in the halls of residence?

T. L. R. N. : Before responding to your question, I would like to thank UNOCI on behalf of my friends for all its actions for students. If you remember, in 2006 in Daloa, students had a clash with UNOCI's officers following a political problem. From then on, there is mistrust. But in March, UNOCI forgot the painful past and simply broke down the wall. We thank them once again.

S. S. E. : As Soro said, and before addressing past actions, I would like to mention the training session which helped us have the skills to carry out

COMBINE THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PEACE AT UNIVERSITY

our mission. We attended a training session on “the prevention and peaceful management of conflicts”, provided by the International organization for Migration, a training programme which was possible thanks to UNOCI. We also attended another training session on human rights by UNOCI’s Human Rights Division. UNOCI also helped us attend a training programme on leadership. I will conclude that we are frequently included in UNOCI and its partners’ training programme.

T. L. R. N. : Concerning past achievements, this year the mediators helped holding peaceful election for the renew-

al of the Secretary-General for the Student and School Federation of Côte d’Ivoire (FESCI). For those who are acquainted with university, they know that this period is always full of violence. At the end of a sports activity in Daloa, the students refused to give back the shirts which had been lent by the Regional Centre for University Works (CROU). After the mediators’ intervention, the shirts were given back. We also created mediation cells to promote dialogue when a problem arises in the residences. For instance, we helped improve the adversarial relationship between FESCI and students.

The Force of Peace: In such a short time, we notice that you are determined to change students’ image. What are the future challenges?

S. S. E. : For the time being, we would like UNOCI to extend its training sessions, that is to say, give the opportunity to more students to attend them. I am convinced that after these training programmes, things will change. We also ask for a small assistance regarding our travel and communication expenses. The mediators will therefore be more efficient.

By Anicet Bekrou



MAHOUA FOFANA: « I'M A CONTENT WOMAN - THANKS TO UNOCI'S 1000 MICROPROJECTS INITIATIVE »



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Madam Mahoua Fofana is a 60-year-old mother of five children. She is also one of five wives in a polygamous marriage.

Eight years ago when the political-military crisis started she became « a woman of the frontline » in an effort to meet the needs of her family. “My husband has five wives. I’m the second. In our home each wife has to fight to feed her children. This was why I decided to work as a cook with a military garrison. I had to feed my family because our husband could do nothing to help us,” she explains.

Before the crisis, Madam Mahoua had a successful business selling fruits and vegetables in the main market in Bouaké. « I used to travel between Mali and Côte d’Ivoire. My husband and my co-wives had a lot of respect for me. I used to buy everything my children needed for school and sometimes for my stepchildren without any help from my husband,» she added, recalling the good times.

Nouvelles, resulted in the country being divided in two with a lot of people in Bouaké moving towards the south. As a result, “ she said “, there was nobody to buy my goods which went rotten, since my reserves had been used to provide food for the family. So finally I lost everything ».

However life is improving for Mahoua Fofana. She has gone from being a cook in a military garrison to restarting a small business thanks to the « 1000 microprojects » initiated by UNOCI to help with the reintegration of ex-combatants.

With funds provided by UNOCI and the technical support of an NGO called NASSAIB, a group of five women, including Madam Mahoua Fofana, has set up a business selling fruits and vegetables. Each woman was given a start-up kit and 420,000 FCFA to launch their business.

In an attempt to ensure efficient support of the « 1000 microprojects », we decided to put people together to encourage entrepreneurial spirit. This in turn, initiated cross-cutting projects,

which could attract bank loans, » explains Mrs Diomandé, head of NASSAIB, one of the organizations helping to create income-generating activities to help the reintegration of the ex-combatants in the Vallée du Bandama region.

« This approach gave some groups the opportunity to diversify their activities. Others were able to sell off their former businesses and relaunch new ones, » said Mrs Diomandé, explaining the positive effects of the «1000 microprojects » initiative.

« Today, I’m a content woman. Last year my eldest daughter passed her Baccalauréat. This year, it is her little sister who has just passed the Baccalauréat, Series D. These results are the fruits of my efforts, of my battle,» she said. With this project, Mahoua Fofana and her team intend to open a shop selling clothes, bags and shoes for women near Bouake bus station before the end of the year.

By Prisca Soumahoro

SIAKA SANGARÉ : EX-COMBATANT TURNED BUSINESSMAN

Owner of two taxis, a coffee kiosk, a carwash, a chair and tent rental service, an insurance brokerage, and a security company, Sangaré Siaka could be held up as an exemple of success in the Vallée du Bandama region.

He employs more than 40 people in his different companies and his home. In addition, he provides care and shelter for some 20 people free of charge.

However, life was not always so easy for the former insurance broker who has just turned 41, following the events of 19 September 2002. Having lost his job following the armed rebellion in 2002, Siaka decided to join the Forces Nouvelles (FN).

So when the implementation of the 1000 microprojects initiative of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) as part of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) for ex-combatants started, (DDR) started, the former insurance salesman decided to volunteer. For him it was an opportunity to do away with arms and idleness. "I fought in the war but the time had come for me to return to civilian life because, I was never really a soldier. And in addition when you have a family to feed, you have to do all you can to do so," he explained.

Today, he cannot find the words to criticise his colleagues who benefited from the "1000 microprojects" but who unfortunately find themselves without income. "UNOCI was a real benefactor at a time when there integration process had broken down. Some of my friends saw the microprojects as a war retribution and squandered the funds that were given to them. This is a pity. For me I did not want to deceive my benefactors," said Siaka.

He started his business with a kit he received from UNOCI as part of the 1000 microprojects initiative, comprising a motorcycle worth 320.000 FCFA (approximately \$700) and 100.000 FCFA



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(approximately \$200) for petrol and maintenance. After six months of work, he used the profit he made from using his motorcycle (mototaxi) to transport passengers to open a coffee kiosk. He then used the money he made from both these business to set up a chair and tent rental service and a carwash. He explains why he decided to diversify: "When the number of mototaxi service increased and public transport buses started arriving in Bouaké along with taxis, I thought of setting up other sources of income so I do not become too dependent on just one business. And also there is a risk that mototaxis will disappear with the return to normality".

Despite his achievements, Siaka Sangaré continues to invest in other businesses. Having worked as an insurance agent, he decided to return to his first love and with his friend Yeclè Camara opened an insurance brokerage. The business has just won its first contracts and the promoters hope that things are going to improve with economic activities gradually returning to Bouaké.

All his businesses pay taxes. "I believe that by paying my taxes I am, in my own small way, contributing to the development of Côte d'Ivoire which has been

seriously affected by the political-military crisis," he explains proudly.

The secrets of Siaka Sangaré success are rigour, hard work, being business minded and always surpassing your own expectations and ambition. He also believes it is important to fulfil any commitments made to your employees. "You should be honest with your employees and fix a salary that you know you will be able to pay them. Otherwise disputes and arguments can adversely affect your business," he added.

To young Ivorians without work, ex-combatants or not, Siaka Sangaré makes this appeal: « You have to fight to make it in life. You can set up a successful business with just 100.000 FCFA investment and can fail with an investment of 10 million. Everything depends on your attitude. How hard you are prepared to work and how long you are ready to persevere".

Meanwhile, Siaka does not intend to rest on his laurels, he intends to travel abroad to find partners who will invest with him in various services. While waiting, for this to happen, he is busy preparing for his daughter's new school term.

By Charles Toutoupko Dago

