



PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

January-December 2023

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ALCO	Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Organization
ART	Anti-retroviral Treatment
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CDC	Central Diseases Control
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ES	Executive Secretary
GFATM	Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLM	High-Level Meeting of ministers of health, transports and infrastructures
IDU	Injected Drug Users
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
MSM	Men having Sex with Men
NACC	National AIDS Control Committee
NACP	National AIDS Control Program
PGB	Project Governing Board
PLHIV	People Living With HIV/Aids
PoE	Points of Entry
PWID	People Who Injects Drugs
REC	Regional Economic Commission
RSP	Regional Strategic Plan
SSATP	Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Program
STI	Sexual Transmitted Infection
SW	Sex Worker
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAHO	West African Health Organization
WB	World Bank

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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*Executive Secretary of the Abidjan-Lagos
Corridor Organization (ALCO)*

This report shows the state of progress in the implementation of ALCO's activities from January to December 2023. Our sincere thanks go to the Governments of the five-member countries of the Abidjan - Lagos corridor (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria) and donors for the confidence placed in ALCO, in particular WAHO, World Bank, AFDB and UNAIDS.

Most of ALCO's activities are implemented in collaboration with national actors of member countries. We would like to express our gratitude to the Border Aids Control Committees (BACC), National AIDS Control Committees/Programs (NACC/NACP), the Ministries of Health and Ministries of Transport and Infrastructures for their unfailing support.

Our thanks also go to (i) ALCO Governing Board for the guidance under the leadership of its President (ii) the RCM, who provided constructive advice.

We would like to express our gratitude to the staff of the Executive Secretariat for their dedication to the work, to all the Information Units, Customs Administration, Police, Ports, HIV/Aids Focal Points, National Facilitation Committee Coordinators and border data collectors.

Finally, we would like to express our deep gratitude to all the institutions involved in the implementation of the Organization's Projects.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

ALCO is a sub-regional intergovernmental organization working to increase access to prevention, treatment and care services for STIs, HIV/AIDS and other epidemics for mobile and resident populations along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor, as well as for key populations (SW, MSM, IDUs, etc.), and to facilitate free movement of people and goods. More broadly, it aims to strengthen the sub-regional healthcare system and the free flow of people and goods.

The regional response to epidemics and obstacles to free movement of people and goods is based on the vision of "A development corridor driven by a healthy population, fully enjoying their rights and moving freely and safely with their goods".

To this end, since 2020, ALCO's new strategy has been based on a people-centered approach that integrates respect for human rights and the fight against gender-based inequalities in a transverse way. This strategy is implemented through five key intervention areas: (i) cross-border healthcare (ii) collection and management of data on key indicators for trade and transport facilitation (iii) road safety (iv) hygiene at the borders along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor, (v) monitoring and documentation of barriers to the free movement of people and goods along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor.

The implementation of this strategy since 2020 was done with many difficulties because of the end of the Organization main funding and the irregular contributions of some member countries.

This report provides insight into ALCO interventions and achievements in the different areas of its Strategic Plan, *from January to December 2023*.

I

RESULTS OF INTERVENTIONS

I. RESULTS OF INTERVENTIONS

A. COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENING ACTIVITIES WITH TFPs/RECs

The year 2023 was marked by several coordination activities carried out by the Executive Secretariat. These include working visits to senior executives of various governments and key institutions and the search for new partnerships with other international organizations.

a) Working visits

Working visit to Benin World Bank

The Executive Secretary and two ALCO executives had a working session with Dr Zeinab KONKOBO KOUANDA, Health Specialist at the World Bank/Benin in January 2023. The meeting provided an opportunity to explore ways of collaborating with the World Bank to finance a regional project against STIs/HIV/AIDS targeting fishing communities.

Working visit to SWEED project and REDISSE Benin project

SWEED project managers in Benin, led by Professor Djaoudath ALIDOU DRAMANE, project coordinator, met with ALCO's Executive Secretariat to discuss the possibility of integrating ALCO's targets, in particular fishing communities, into the project. After analyzing the feasibility, it turned out that this was impossible. This avenue of collaboration was therefore abandoned.

Following this meeting, ALCO held a working session with the coordinator of REDISSE Benin project, Ms. HINSON SESSOU Fidélia M., to discuss the organization's integration into the implementation of activities relating to the fight against epidemics.

Contact with members of the government

The ministries of health, transport, economy and finance of Côte d'Ivoire and Benin and those of health and transport of Togo received in audience the Executive Secretary and the Administrative and Financial Manager of ALCO during the year. They contacted the ministerial teams to:

- Report on the progress of ALCO 's activities,
- advocate for the payment of country contributions.

b) Statutory meetings

First annual statutory meeting of ALCO Governing Board

The first annual statutory meeting of ALCO Governing Board was held on July 18, 2023 by Zoom videoconference. It was chaired by Dr Gambo Gumel ALIYU, Chairman of ALCO Governing Board and Director General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS of Nigeria. This meeting was structured around the following points:



- Update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Governing Board meeting of November 10, 2022,
- The 2022 progress report from the Executive Secretariat of ALCO including the 2022 external audit report,
- Validation of the recruitment process for the Executive Secretary.

Figure 1 : First annual statutory meeting of ALCO/GB

Second annual statutory meeting of ALCO Governing Board

The second annual statutory meeting of ALCO Governing Board was held on November 28, 2023 by zoom videoconference. It was also chaired by Dr Gambo Gumel ALIYU, President of ALCO Governing Board. This meeting was structured around the following points:

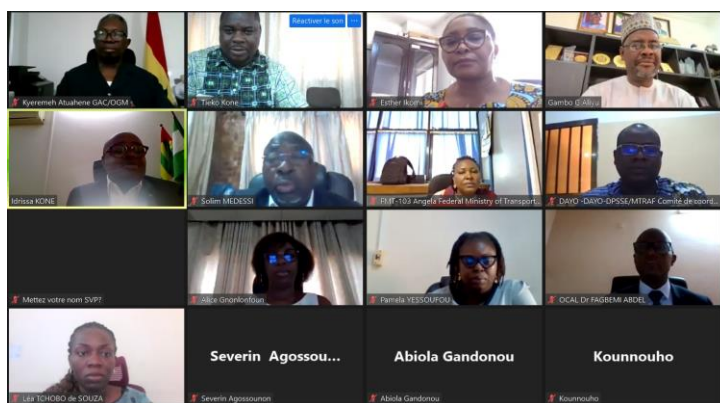


Figure 2 : Second annual statutory meeting of ALCO/GB

- Update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Governing Board meeting of July 18, 2022,
- The progress report for the first half of 2023 from ALCO Executive Secretariat including the mid-term review of the 2020-2024 regional strategic plan and the 2024 action plan,
- Validation of the recruitment process for the Executive Secretary.

c) Participation to international meeting



Figure 3 : Round table at ICASA to present and seek funding for the HIV/AIDS regional project targeting fishing communities

On the sidelines of the ICASA conference (International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa) held in Zimbabwe from December 4 to 9, 2023, a round table was organized on innovative financing with ALCO representatives as exclusive presenters. This satellite session was co-moderated in French and English by Professor Emil ASAMOAH-ODEI from Ghana and Dr Angelo ATTINSOUNON from Benin and aimed to:

- Share IBSS results with fishing communities
- Share ALCO vision and discuss the priorities of the project targeting fishing communities
- Mobilize stakeholders and collect their technical and financial commitments for the implementation of the project
- Strengthen partnerships between ALCO, technical and financial partners, the private sector and civil society
- Establish a mechanism for monitoring commitments and financial flows oriented towards the implementation of project interventions consistent with the ALCO Regional Strategic Plan.

After this satellite session, ALCO team met three pharmaceutical laboratories likely to contribute financially to the implementation of this project. These are: VITARIS, VIIV and GILEAD.

d) Development of ALCO strategic and governance documents

ALCO 2020-2024 Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) underwent a mid-term review during 2023 by two consultants (a demographer and an epidemiologist), both Beninese national experts in November 2022. To this end, a steering committee was set up under the coordination of ALCO executive secretary. Following the work of the consultants, a workshop to validate priorities and present the results of the review of ALCO 2020-2024 Regional Strategic Plan was organized on November 7, 2023 by zoom videoconference. Representatives of the NACC/NACP and ministries of transport of the 5 ALCO countries attended to this videoconference. It appears from this review that the Organization recorded poor performance mainly due to the lack of funding for the implementation of activities. After this review, the priorities retained for updating the RSP which will be extended until 2028 were validated. The update of the 2024-2028 RSP is currently being drafted and will be validated during 2024.

e) Planning

The action plan and the 2024 budget were developed taking into account the contributions of ALCO member countries given that before their development no funding could be mobilized for the year 2024. This action plan accompanied by the budget were validated on November 18, 2023 during the 2nd meeting of ALCO Governing Board. The main lines of the 2024 action plan are summarized in the table below:

Table 1: Main lines of ALCO 2024 workplan

N°	Activities	Chronogram											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Strategic objective 1: By 2024, ALCO is a successful regional organization that influences regional policy on health, free movement of people and goods and road safety													
11103	Conduct advocacy and resource mobilization missions aim donors and countries												
11201	Organize field supervision missions by ALCO programmatic and financial experts												
11302	Organize one statutory GB meeting per semester												
11501	Recruit international consultants for the development of Projects and other documents to be submitted to the donors												
11602	Create and edit the annual newsletter												
11603	Train IU staff												
11604	Review the Strategic Plan												
117	Ensure staff remuneration, operation and equipment of Headquarters												
118	Activities of IUs and Health Centers												
11901	Participate in managerial/programmatic and financial capacity building training												
1110	Recruitment of the new Executive Secretary												
Strategic objective 2: By 2024, the services provided by the health system (Public and Community-based), and the services provided by municipalities and local governments are resilient and sustainable to improve health, free movement of people and goods, road safety and the environment of mobile, key and resident populations along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor													
12101	Provide primary health care												
12201	Contract with a communications agency for the implementation of condoms social marketing												
12301	Rehabilitate IUs/Health Centers												
Strategic objective 3: By 2024, mobile, key and resident populations of Abidjan-Lagos corridor know their rights and assert them in their uptake of health services, free movement of people and goods, road safety													
13303	Support for partner institutions (CNLS PNLs, OTHERS)												

f) Consolidation of relations with Regional Economic Commissions and donors :

In accordance with the PGB guidelines relating to the diversification of ALCO's partners and the mobilization of additional resources, the Executive Secretary continued his effort looking for new partners and strengthening relations with the Regional Commissions and Donors.

- **ECOWAS:** ALCO maintains permanent dialogue with the ECOWAS Commission.
- **WAHO:** collaboration with WAHO has intensified this year in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention through the organization of a mini caravan between Benin and Togo and the provision of branded condoms for ALCO.
- **AfDB:** ALCO benefits from financial support from AfDB for the reconstruction of Sanvee Condji and Hillacondji IUs. The town halls of these two localities have made land available for the reconstruction of these IUs. The official handover of the 2 buildings was made on March 3, 2023.



Figure 4 : Remise officielle des clés de l'UI Hillacondji

B. HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

During the year 2023, a series of activities were conducted as part of the HIV/AIDS towards the people living along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor.

At the IU level, HIV testing and STI management activities are realized with test kits and medicines given by the ALCO's member countries.

Kodjoviakopé IU also benefited from financial support of the Global Fund through Togo NACP for the implementation of a package of HIV/AIDS preventive activities for IDUs.

1. Communication activities for behavior change

During the year 2023, several activities were conducted to ensure that people living along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor adopt behaviors that reduce the risk of HIV transmission.

The main strategies implemented for Behavior Change Communication include peer to peer sensitization and mass sensitization. These sensitization sessions were followed by distribution of condoms as well as demonstration of their correct use.

The peer to peer sensitization activities were organized by Kodjoviakopé IU at the ghetto level and at consumption sites in Grand Lomé and Maritime region (activities entirely financed by Togo NACP). Peer educators reached a total of **2,396 IDUs including 299 women** during the year 2023. These sensitization sessions were followed by the distribution of condoms, syringes, tourniquets and tampons.

As for mass sensitization, they were conducted during a mini caravan organized between Hillacondji and Sanvee Condji with the financial support of WAHO. Its main objective was to strengthen the availability and access to reproductive health services for adolescents, young people, men, mothers and children at the border node of Hillacondji / Sanvee-Condji.

The caravan was organized from October 26 to 31, 2023. It was launched at Hillacondji then closed at Sanvee Condji with the participation of local administrative authorities, representatives of the ministries of health and Interior of the countries (Benin and Togo), beneficiary populations and partners.

In addition to the mini caravan, 3 days of mass sensitization were carried out from November 30 to December 2, 2023 as part of World AIDS Day at the level of the 8 IU. This year's celebration had for theme: "Let communities lead." During these 3 days, awareness messages were broadcast and HIV testing and STI treatment services were offered. All these activities were reinforced by the free distribution of condoms to beneficiaries at the 8 borders of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor.

2. HIV testing

During the year, **9,445 people were tested for HIV** at the Information Units, during the Hillacondji-Sanvee - Condji mini-caravan and during the 3 days WAD events. Among them, 63 were tested positive for HIV, i.e. a seropositivity rate of 0.7%. These HIV-positive people benefited to ART at the level of accredited IUs or referred to ART sites in the countries. In total, 58 PLHIV were actually enrolled in ARV treatment care, i.e. a counter-reference rate



of 90.5%. This counter-referral rate could be improved if all IUs were accredited ART sites. In fact, among the 8 IUs which offered the HIV test, only 2 are ART sites. However, the other 6 are sparing no effort to ensure that all HIV-positive people go to the country's healthcare sites for their treatment.

Table 2: Distribution of people tested for HIV and who received their results per target population and per country in 2023

Country	Trucker	Migrant	SW	MSM	Adolescent/Youth (15-24 years old)	IDU	Fisherman /fishmonger	Other populations	Total
Cote d'Ivoire	101	185	8	0	107	0	69	94	564
Ghana	123	314	0	0	159	0	50	10	656
Togo	318	843	473	495	445	872	14	575	4,035
Benin	493	627	161	11	308	7	116	485	2,208
Nigeria	467	650	0	0	255	13	99	498	1,982
ALCO	1,502	2,619	642	506	1,274	892	348	1,662	9,445

Table 3: Breakdown of people tested for HIV who received their results per target population and gender in 2023

Target populations	New people tested who received their result			HIV positive			Number of people referred and enrolled in pre-ART or ART among people newly tested HIV-positive		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Feminine	Male	
Trucker	1,502	0	1,502	2	0	2	2	0	2
Migrant	1,386	1,233	2,619	1	9	10	1	8	9
SW	0	642	642	0	12	12	0	10	10
MSM	506		506	6		6	4		4
Adolescent/ Youth (15-24 years old)	370	904	1,274	1	3	4	1	3	4
IDU	693	199	892	4	5	9	4	5	9
Fisherman/fishmonger	245	103	348	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other populations	784	878	1,662	6	14	20	6	14	20
Total	5,486	3,959	9,445	20	43	63	18	40	58

3. STI treatment

Regarding the implementation of STI diagnosis and treatment activities, **2,673 STI cases were diagnosed and treated** in accordance with national guidelines. Among the patients treated for STIs, 25% are migrants, 22% are adolescents/young people, 15% are truckers, etc. Most patients received prescriptions to purchase their medications because the majority of IUs no longer have STI medications.

The disaggregation of the number of STI cases diagnosed and treated by target population and country is shown in the following graph and table:

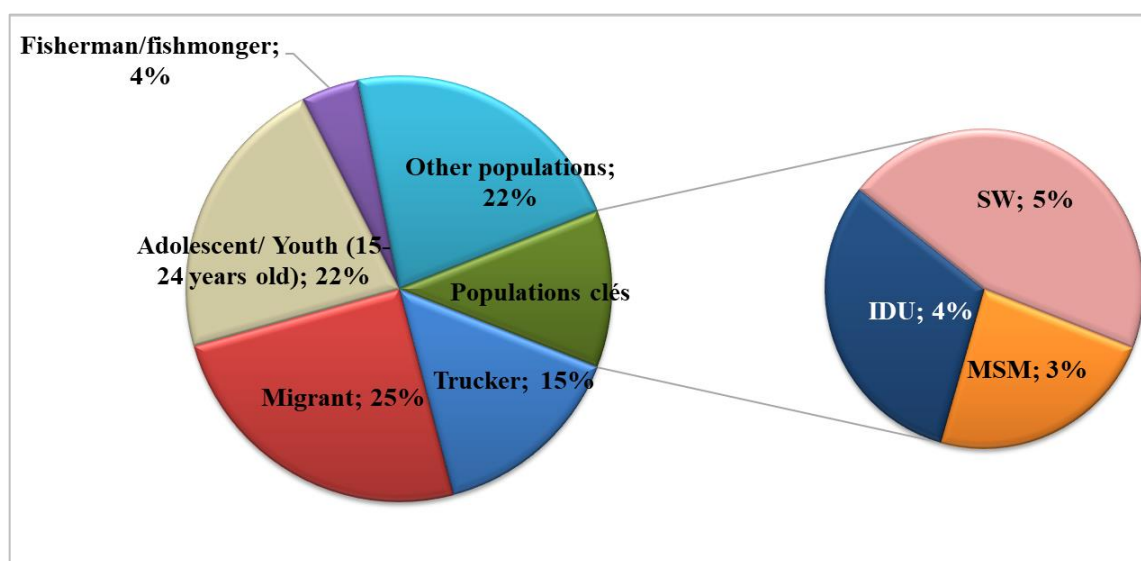


Figure 5: Breakdown of STI cases recorded per target population in 2023

Table 4: Breakdown of the number of STI cases diagnosed and treated per target population and country in 2023

Country	Trucker	Migrant	SW	MSM	Adolescent/ Youth (15-24 years old)	IDU	Fisherman/ fishmonger	Other populations	Total
Cote d'Ivoire	21	26	2	0	22	0	28	5	104
Ghana	42	36	0	0	94	0	7	39	218
Togo	121	370	93	72	237	97	65	351	1,406
Benin	120	131	50	3	138	1	13	113	569
Nigeria	95	99	0	0	93	2	3	84	376
ALCO	399	662	145	75	584	100	116	592	2,673

4. Promotion for the use of condom and lubricant

In order to provide a comprehensive package of HIV prevention services to populations, male and female condoms and lubricant gels are distributed free of charge to target population to support STI treatment, sensitization and testing activities.

During the year 2023, **1,110,411 male condoms**, **126,388 female condoms** and **645,384 lubricant gels** were distributed by IUs. More than 95% of condoms and lubricants were distributed by the 2 IUs of Togo, those of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire had no lubricant.

Table 5: Number of male condoms distributed per target population and country in 2023

Country	Trucker	Migrant	SW	MSM	Adolescent / Youth (15-24 years old)	IDU	Fisherman / fishmonger	PLHIV	Other populations	Total
Cote d'Ivoire	350	640	96	0	351	0	181	0	356	1,974
Ghana	432	140	0	0	216	0	48	0	0	836
Togo	132,662	195 290	108,046	9,764	32,546	299 270	14,968	8	230 100	1,022,654
Benin	14,592	11,584	46,576	48	3,384	224	1,440	0	3,812	81,660
Nigeria	957	975	0	0	351	56	148	0	800	3,287
ALCO	148,993	208,629	154,718	9,812	36,848	299,550	16,785	8	235,068	1,110,411

Table 6: Number of female condoms distributed per target population and country in 2023

Country	Trucker	Migrant	SW	MSM	Adolescent/ Youth (15-24 years old)	IDU	Fisherman/ fishmonger	PLHIV	Other populations	Total
Cote d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ghana	0	152	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	152
Togo	16,600	18,085	18,270	1,800	4,466	49,355	1,200	0	16,132	125,908
Benin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	100	0	0	136	0	0	0	92	328
ALCO	16,600	18,337	18,270	1,800	4,602	49,355	1,200	0	16,224	126,388

Table 7: Number of lubricants distributed per target population and country in 2023

Country	Trucker	Migrant	SW	MSM	Adolescent/ Youth (15-24 years old)	IDU	Fisherman/ fishmonger	PLHIV	Other populations	Total
Cote d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ghana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Togo	55,988	67,353	106,496	14,527	12,204	293,515	6,494	7	52,704	609,288
Benin	5,656	4,682	20,890	32	1,750	0	392	0	1,466	34,868
Nigeria	322	312	0	0	164	32	64	0	334	1,228
ALCO	61,966	72,347	127,386	14,559	14,118	293,547	6,950	7	54,504	645 384



(German Cooperation) funds. 80% of these condoms are intended for sale and 20% for free distribution.

This initiative aims to increase sensitization and use of condoms as a means of prevention of STIs, including HIV, and as a method of contraception among specific target populations and the general population. To ensure effective distribution of these condoms, ALCO has identified a communications firm, IMPACT COMMUNICATION, to carry out the social marketing of MIGRANT condoms.

The year 2023 made it possible to ensure the entire process of ordering and acquiring condoms, their distribution will start in 2024 with the identification and installation of points of sale and all activities relating to its promotion and distribution.

C. CARE AND SUPPORT

1. ARV treatment

During the year 2023, only the Information Units of Togo (Kodjoviakopé and Sanvee Condji) offered comprehensive care services to PLHIV. At the end of December 2023, 25 new people had been put on ARV treatment of the 37 tested HIV-positive at these 2 IU, i.e. an ARV uptake rate of 68%. This average ARV rate could be explained by the fact that some people started their treatment at other sites (8 or 25% of the 37 positives) and others refused the result of their test and are therefore not entered HIV care (4 people).

In addition to the new people on ART at these sites, 2 PLHIV were transferred there to continue their treatment, 2 deaths were recorded and 2 PLHIV drop out of their treatment. The active queue of patients followed on these 2 sites amounts to 53, including 33 women, or 62% of the active queue.

Table 8: Active queue of patients on ARV in 2023

	Male	Female	Total
Number of people newly received ARV during the year	8	16	13
Incoming transfer	1	1	2
Death	1	1	1
Abandonment of treatment (6 months of absence)	1	1	2
Outgoing transfer	0	2	2
Active queue of people on ARV at the end of 2023	20	33	53

2. Treatment of IDUs with methadone

Methadone treatment for IDUs started at CEPIAK in 2020 and is coordinated by 2 psychiatrists. They are in charge of patients into the methadone program, the management of medical and psychiatric comorbidities, the management of medical pathologies, monitoring the effects of methadone, etc.

At the end of 2023, 193 IDUs were recorded in the active queue of methadone patients.

3. Psychological care and social assistance for IDUs

Treatment for IDUs also includes a psychological component and social assistance.

The activities carried out by the psychologist include psychological consultations, the reestablishment of family links through family mediations, psychoeducation for DU/IDU associating other drugs with methadone treatment, therapeutic education sessions for DU/IDU living with HIV and on methadone treatment. The psychological care of IDUs during the year 2023 was provided by CEPIAK doctors to compensate for the absence of the psychologist admitted to the civil service.

The activities of the social worker are focused on referrals, mediations in the family or in the workplace and then nutritional support. From January to December 2023, 33 mediations in favor of IDUs were carried out by the social worker and 4 patients found their way back to work.

4. Support

The support provided to IDUs and PLHIV includes support group sessions for IDUs and home visits to PLHIV.

To keep patients on methadone in the active queue and strengthen their compliance, the Global Fund has agreed to give one meal per week for 100 IDUs within the Kodkoviakopé IU. The activity



takes place on Fridays after support group session in the form of convivial meal sharing. Thus, during the year 2023, 52 discussion groups followed by meals were held with IDUs.

Home visits were made to PLHIV followed up at Kodjoviakopé and Sanvee Condji IUs to inquire about their health and mediate any family problems they may have because of their HIV status. During the year, 225 home visits were made to PLHIV by mediators.

D. PROMOTION AND DELIVERY OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

1. Provision of primary health care services

During the 4th quarter of 2023, two new primary health care centers were opened in addition to the Kraké center. These are the IU centers of Sanvee-Condji and Hillacondji. However, only the Hillacondji center started activities in October 2023 while the effective commissioning of that of Sanvee Condji will start in the first quarter of 2024.

In total, *408 new patients admitted for consultation in 2023 with 358 patients admitted in Kraké and 50 in Hillacondji*. In 2022, 664 new patients were admitted at Kraké compared to 358 in 2023. This drop in attendance at the center would be due to presence of itinerant caregivers who pass through homes to provide care at lowest cost to resident, thus reducing their attendance at health centers.

Among the 408 patients received, 476 ailments were diagnosed. The most common ailments are STIs (55.5%), dermatological conditions (measles, scabies and other dermatological conditions: 10.7%), malaria (7.8%), etc. The breakdown of each conditions diagnosed group is presented in the figure below.

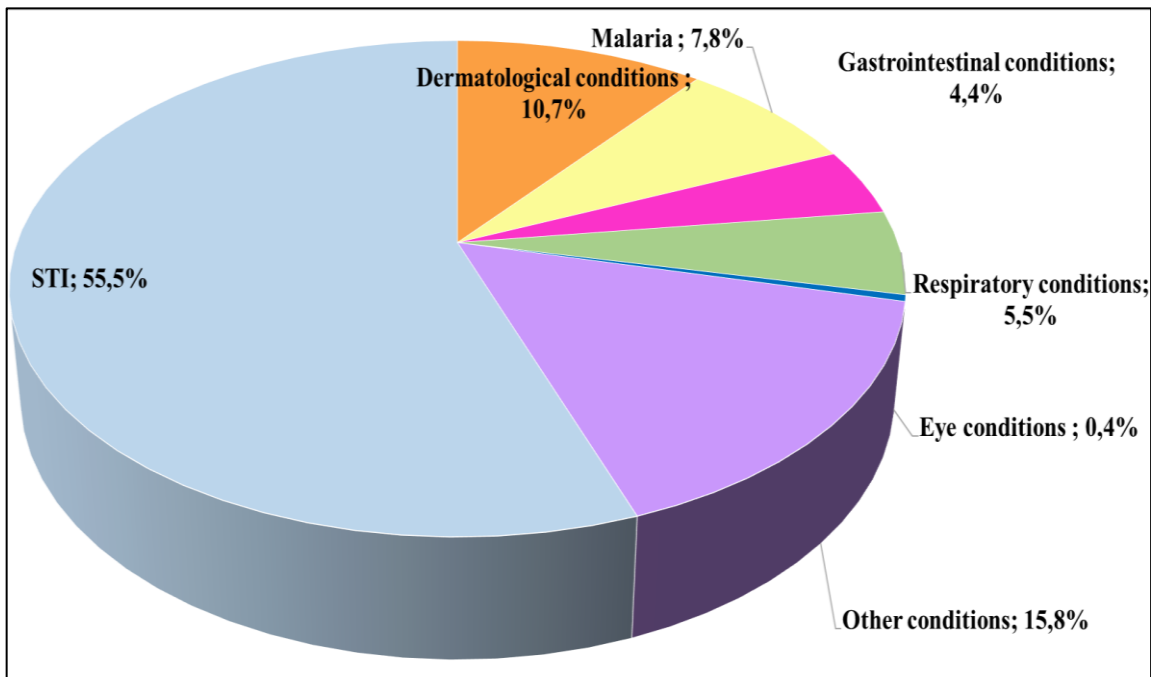


Figure 6: Breakdown of each diagnosed condition group at the IU health centers of Kraké and Hillacondji from January to December 2023

At the maternity level, only *7 new ANC consultants (NANC) were registered during the year.*

2. Promotion and provision of sexual and reproductive health services

Family planning activities carried out at the Kraké IU enabled *7 new women to benefit from a contraceptive method during the year 2023. They were all put on injectable contraceptives.* Note that all contraceptives are out of stock because JORDAN NGO has not yet resumed activities with Kraké IU.

E. TRANSPORT

The member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have been facing very high transport costs for several years compared to those of Western European countries. Among the causes identified, the existence of physical and non-tariff barriers constitutes serious obstacles to free movement of people and goods, de facto reducing the international competitiveness of these countries' products.

To find a solution to the problems identified, the World Bank, together with the countries of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor, set up the Abidjan-Lagos Trade and Transport Facilitation Project (ALTTFP). The aim of this project was to reduce barriers to trade and transport in the ports and on the roads of the Abidjan-Lagos corridor. The project was implemented by the national coordination

units, while the monitoring and evaluation of performance at regional level was entrusted to the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Organization (ALCO) by ECOWAS.

The project which was implemented since 2010 ended in March 2019. To sustain the achievements and continue monitoring the indicators of trade and transport facilitation on the Abidjan-Lagos corridor, ALCO organized from May 23 by June 15, 2023, a data collection mission on the number of roadblocks and on truck crossing times at borders. The data collectors at the eight borders were all trained before data collection began.

1. Border crossing time by trucks loaded with goods

a. Characteristics of trucks transporting goods



(20.9%), markets (17.7%), ports (10%), etc.

During data collection, 740 trucks were registered at the 8 border posts of the Abidjan-Lagos corridor. Among them there were 57% heavy trucks (>2 axles), 35.4% articulated sets, 4.5% light trucks and 3.1% vans. About 2/3 of the trucks (66%) had loaded in Nigeria and Ghana.

The transported goods were loaded at factories (41.1%), warehouse

The destination countries for these goods are respectively Togo (27.2%), Nigeria (23.4%), Ghana (19.5%), Cote d'Ivoire (19.3%), Benin (9.6%) and Niger (1.1%).

The nature of the goods transported is: mixed goods (15.8%), drinks (11.8%), cement (10.8%), construction materials (10.4%), etc.

The customs regime for transported goods is 46.1% in transit and 53.9% released for consumption. The majority of goods released for consumption in the 5 countries are:

- Cote d'Ivoire: construction materials (59%), fruits and vegetables (mangoes, oranges, tomatoes, etc. except pineapples and bananas) (20%), drinks (10%), etc.
- Togo: mixed goods (27%), construction materials (17%), flour (15%), etc.

- Benin: packaging (empty) (31%); voluminous heavy (pylon, pipe, font, concrete, etc.) (24%), asphalt-bray-cut back (15%), etc.
- Ghana: mixed goods (19%), packaging (empty) (17%), other finished products (15%), etc.
- Nigeria: palm oil (40%); mixed goods (22%), textile and clothing products (15%), etc.

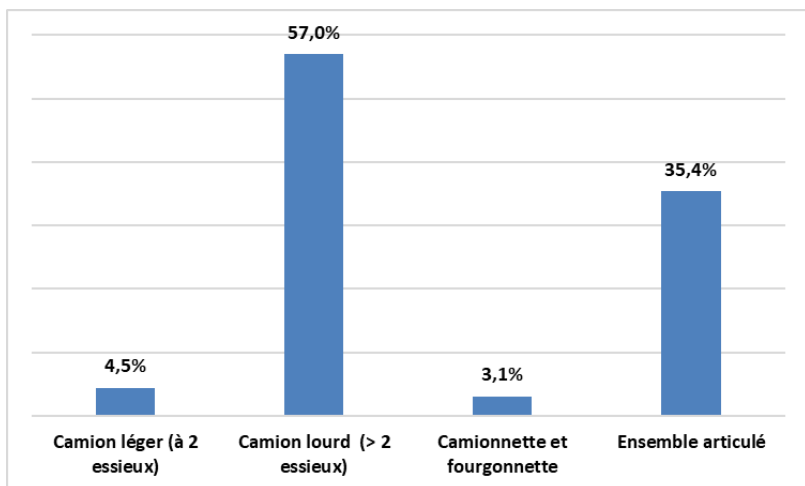


Figure 7: Category of vehicle

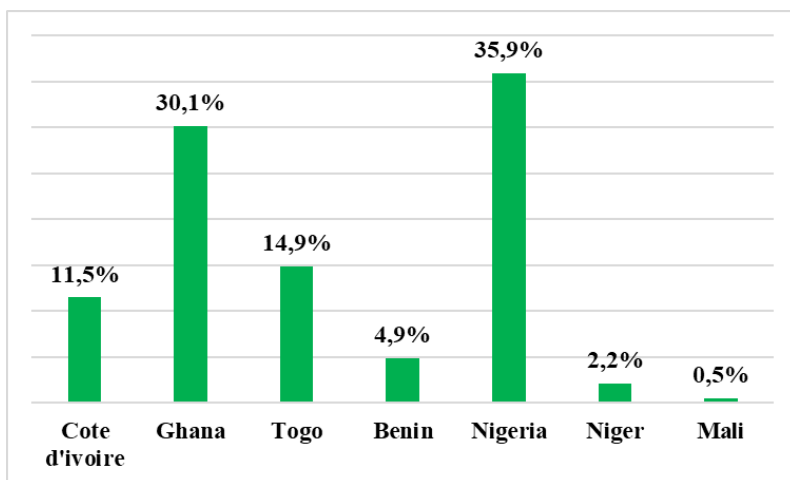


Figure 8: Countries of loading goods

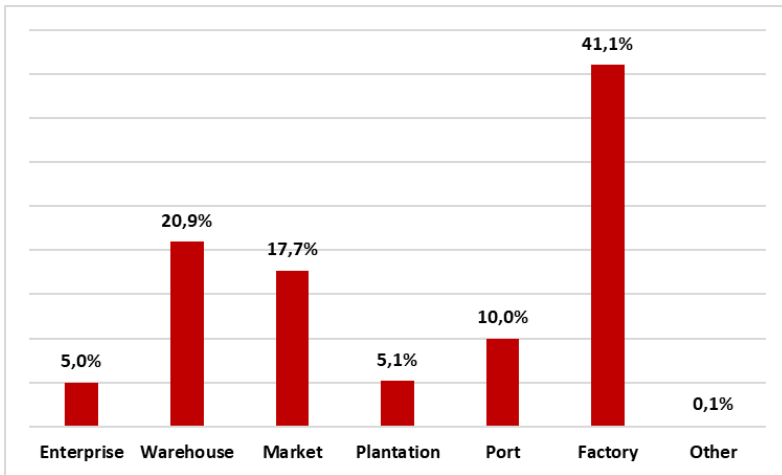


Figure 9: Place of loading goods

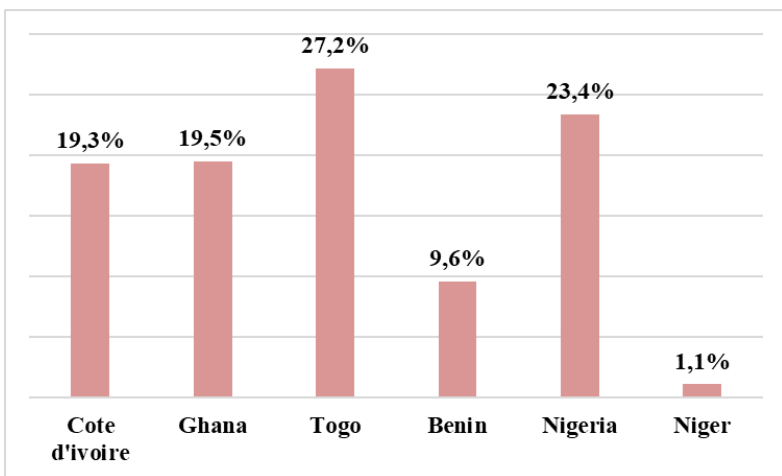


Figure 10: Country of destination goods

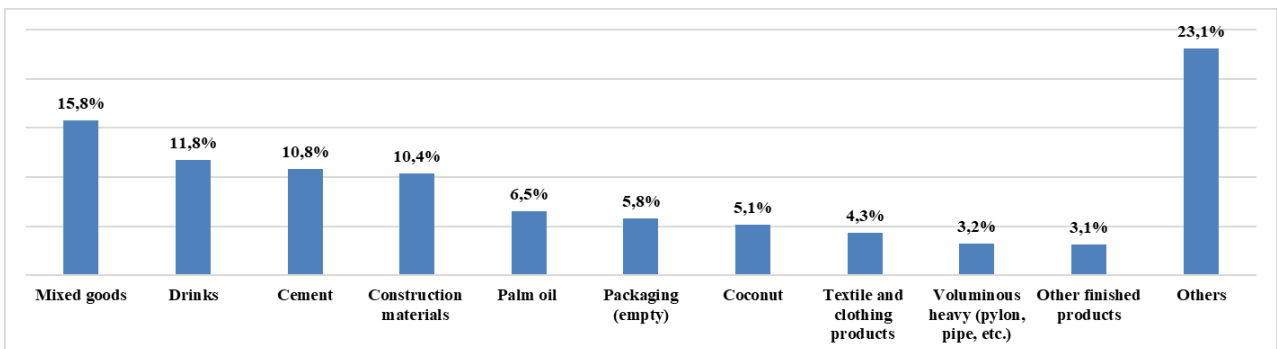


Figure 11: Nature of goods

b. Border crossing time

This time is the difference between formalities end time at border-post in destination country and start time of formalities in the country of origin.

It is the consolidated time required for loaded vehicles to carry out formalities with various Government Agencies and other departments on both sides of the border. For each border, this indicator has two components; export (exit from the territory including cargo in transit) and import (entry into the territory including cargo in transit); besides, there is the lag time between end of export formalities and start time for import formalities. This operational definition has been adopted to reflect anticipation on the part of some hauliers and freight forwarders to carry out border crossing formalities before physical arrival of trucks, and also to consider the lack of adequate parking or low capacity parking to accommodate trucks upon arrival. It is common to see vehicles parked around ten kilometers from the border while the driver goes through the formalities with the different border services.

The following table shows the borders between countries along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor.

Table 9: Borders between countries along the Abidjan - Lagos corridor

Country	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Togo	Benin	Nigeria
Political /Economic capital	Abidjan	Accra	Lomé	Cotonou	Lagos
Border Town	Noé	Elubo			
	←	→			
		Aflao	Kodjoviakopé		
		←	→		
			Sanvée Condji	Hillacondji	
			←	→	
				Kraké	Seme
				←	→

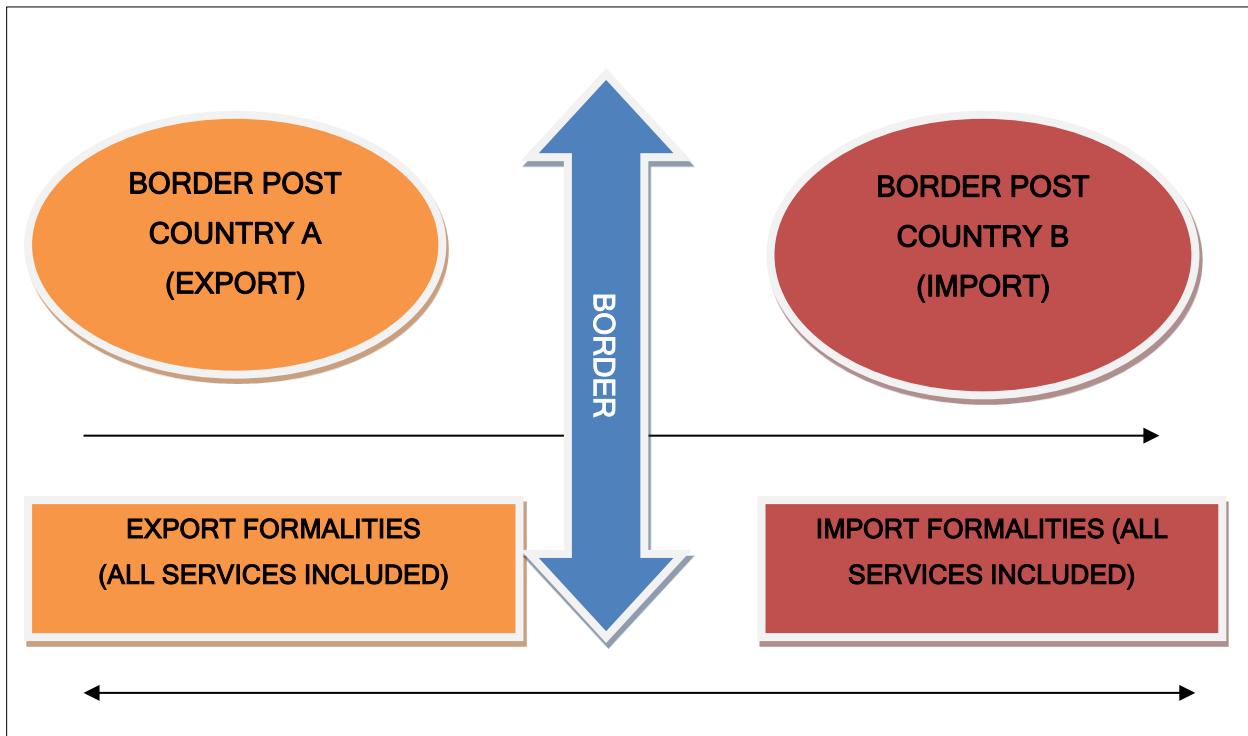


Figure 12: Diagram showing border crossing

- **Elubo-Noe:** the crossing time obtained is 11 hours compared to 19 hours in 2018. We therefore note an improvement in the crossing time for trucks compared to the crossing time obtained in 2018. This would be attributable to the reduction in times of Customs import formalities which went from 11h43 in 2018 to 4h48 in 2023.

The reduction in crossing times and formalities observed would be attributable to the rearrangements made in customs clearance procedures and road infrastructure at the Noe-Elubo border. It is:

- strengthening human capacity of Noe customs office (training, retraining and increase in staff numbers) and material capacity (rehabilitation and expansion of customs service premises, equipment with computer equipment). This makes it possible to process a larger number of files at once;
- the implementation of a quality approach which resulted in the certification of Noe's customs services
- Operationalization of the customs office 7 days a week, including Sundays and public holidays;
- The withdrawal of certain actors such as Webb Fontaine and the Chamber of Commerce from customs clearance procedures for goods;
- The provision of a scanner during 2018 for the inspection of goods. Before this scanner, the manual inspection of goods was a step which lengthened the formality time at the customs

level. However, trucks loaded with mixed or miscellaneous goods are subject to both electronic inspection (scanner) and manual inspection;

- The rehabilitation and widening of access and exit roads and the development of parking areas have made it possible to improve road traffic at the border.

- **Noe-Elubo:** the crossing time obtained in 2023 is 23 hours. A quarter of trucks (those in the first quartile) cross the border in less than 10 hours, or a little less than half the average crossing time, and those in the last quartile cross it in more than 30 hours.

Compared to 2018, we note a reduction in the crossing time for trucks in 2023: 23 hours compared to 47 hours in 2018.

- **Kodjoviakopé-Aflao:** the crossing time for trucks loaded with goods is 23 hours in 2023, just like that of the Noe-Elubo border, i.e. an average crossing time for trucks of 23 hours from one border to the other on the Ghana corridor.

In 2018 the average crossing time for trucks at this border was 13 hours, an increase of 10 hours in 2023. The time for Customs import formalities increased from 9h53 to 20h56, an increase of 11 hours compared to 2018. This increase in time is said to be due to the implementation of the VAT (Amendment) Act, 2022 (Law 1082) which imposes an initial payment of 12.5% on the customs value of taxable goods at all points of entry. Most importers are not yet aware of this new initial payment, and arrive at the borders before they are asked for it. Those who do not have enough money to make this payment immediately end up spending several days at the border before they can pay it. It should be noted that these importers are entitled to recover these payments once they have registered their companies and filed their VAT returns, as required by Law 1082.

- **Aflao-Kodjoviakopé:** the crossing time obtained in 2023 is 16 hours on average. A quarter of trucks cross the border in less than 8 hours, while another quarter (trucks in the bottom quartile) spend more than 24 hours before crossing the border. For the most efficient transporters (those in the first quartile), the crossing time corresponds to the half of the average time.

In 2018, the crossing time at this border was 10 hours. We therefore note an increase in crossing time despite the implementation of the reforms initiated by the OTR and the reduction in the number of trucks crossing this border since the opening of the Noépé-Akamu post joint border in the last quarter of 2018.

- **Hillacondji-Sanvee Condji:** the crossing time for trucks loaded with goods is 4 hours in 2023 and is more or less the same as that of 2018 which was 3 hours. This border has managed to

maintain its performance thanks to measures to simplify procedures taken by the Customs and Indirect Duties Commission. Indeed, Customs has opted for procedures to simplify formalities, especially with regard to perishable foodstuffs and agricultural products. In addition, a tracking system for trucks transporting goods in transit has been put in place. These reforms at the Customs level responded to requirements for simplicity, speed and security in the completion of customs clearance formalities with the introduction of performance measurement.

- **Sanvee Condji-Hillacondji:** the crossing time obtained in 2023 is 24 hours compared to 40 hours in 2018. We therefore note an improvement in the crossing time for trucks compared to the crossing time obtained in 2018.

The time for Customs import formalities, which was 36h53 in 2018, increased to 21h02 and the time between the start and end of import formalities increased from 37h28 to 21h22. The reduction in crossing times and formalities observed would be attributable to:

- the application of new reforms introduced by the Beninese authorities at the border such as the Import Verification Program (PVI), the presence of the company Benin Control SA as part of its services at the border and the operationalization of the electronic transit monitoring component. Indeed, the electronic tracking system used by the Customs Administration has enabled the competent services to monitor cargoes in transit remotely and in real time, during their journey between the customs office of departure and that of destination.
 - the anticipation of the majority of transit agents to complete certain administrative procedures (before the arrival of the goods at the border) with the system put in place. Thus, most formalities are done online through the Benin Control service and now the various payments are made at the bank at the border.
 - the commissioning of the joint border post (JBP): it made it possible to reduce the time for transmitting files between the control posts (Beninese and Togolese).
- **Seme -Kraaké:** the crossing time for trucks loaded with goods is 4 hours in 2023 compared to 10 hours in 2018, a drop of 6 hours between 2018 and 2023 semester 1. The 25% and 75% of registered trucks spend 2h43 and 4h10 respectively to cross the border (compared to 6h26 and 7h06 in 2018) while half (50%) spend 3h22 (compared to 6h49 in 2018) to cross the border. (see customs regime table below).

This downward trend in the crossing time for trucks loaded with goods would be the result of reforms undertaken by the Benin Customs Administration (and possibly Nigeria in the case of JBP where the formalities are joint) and the anticipation of formalities by forwarding agents.

- **Kraké- Seme:** the crossing time obtained in 2023 is 30 hours. The truck that crossed the border quickly did so in 1 hour 34 minutes, while the one that took the longest did so in 100 hours 06 minutes. The dispersion of crossing times around the average is around 21h40 (see customs regime tables below)

Between 2018 and 2023, the crossing time for trucks loaded with goods increased by 13 hours despite the reforms undertaken by the JBP customs administrations. This increase could be explained by:

- The failure of the scanner used by customs. It did not work throughout the data collection process. All the trucks were therefore subjected to a physical examination. It should be noted that 96% of the goods entering Nigeria were under the customs consumption regime.
- Agencies at the Semè border did not work on public holidays. No trucks were processed on June 12, Nigeria's Democracy Day celebration.
- Network problems during the verification of customs clearance documents by customs added to the delay in formality times.

Furthermore, despite the anticipation of the formalities by the freight forwarders before the arrival of the trucks at the import border post, the documents took on average 11 hours and 14 minutes for the latter before they continued with the other formalities.

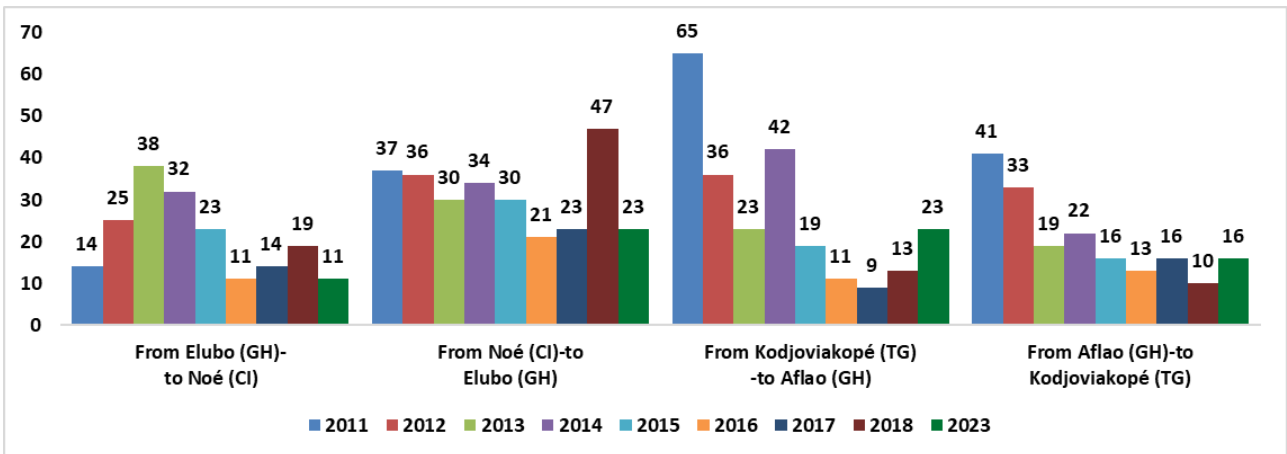


Figure 13: Border crossing time of Côte d'Ivoire (Noé), Ghana (Elubo and Aflao) and Togo (Kodjoviakopé) (in hours)

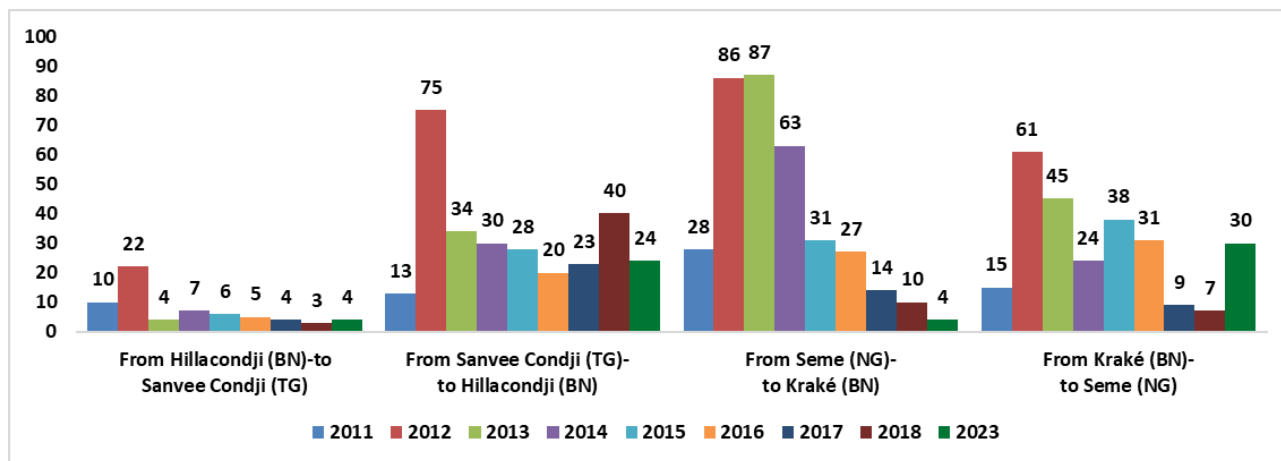


Figure 14 : Borders crossing time of Togo (Sanvee Condji), Benin (Hillacondji and Kraké) and Nigeria (Seme) (in hours)

Table 10 : Border crossing time indicators per customs regime and per border

Border post	Customs regime	Crossing time	Standard deviation	Min	Max	25% Trucks (Q1)	Median	75% Trucks (Q3)
NOE	Combined	10h40	04h11	07h10	24h48	08h37	09h22	10h36
	Transit	11h45	05h21	07h40	22h09	08h37	09h51	12h21
	Home consumption	10h35	04h07	07h10	24h48	08h38	09h22	10h29
ELUBO	Combined	22h59	13h13	00h39	53h09	09h55	26h50	30h05
	Transit	27h17	13h52	01h14	53h09	25h24	27h42	32h10
	Home consumption	18h01	10h39	00h39	33h40	09h43	21h45	27h24
AFLAO	Combined	23h29	17h24	03h55	70h45	08h00	21h28	27h15
	Transit	11h33	10h59	03h55	42h20	06h05	08h00	08h00
	Home consumption	30h53	16h39	07h05	70h45	21h26	25h40	30h05
KODJOVIAKOPE	Combined	15h49	12h56	06h05	48h10	07h40	08h52	24h24
	Transit	11h27	07h52	06h50	30h13	06h52	08h24	08h27
	Home consumption	16h54	13h44	06h05	48h10	07h40	08h57	00h24
SANVEE CONDJI	Combined	04h17	03h00	01h17	22h27	02h35	03h08	05h38
	Transit	04h46	03h43	01h49	22h27	02h51	03h31	05h38
	Home consumption	03h44	01h52	01h17	07h43	02h32	02h50	04h58
HILLACONDJI	Combined	23h38	38h54	01h25	198h10	03h21	04h52	16h40
	Transit	14h43	26h51	01h33	103h01	03h20	04h28	06h50
	Home consumption	28h01	43h10	01h25	198h10	03h22	04h55	29h58
KRAKE	Combined	03h44	01h43	01h21	16h11	02h43	03h23	04h11
	Transit	03h43	01h44	01h21	16h11	02h42	03h22	04h11
	Home consumption	04h04	00h28	03h35	04h43	03h46	03h58	04h21
SEME	Combined	30h26	21h40	01h35	100h06	24h40	26h42	28h55
	Transit	37h25	35h17	09h00	99h04	24h38	27h05	27h20
	Home consumption	30h06	21h02	01h35	100h06	24h40	26h40	28h55

Table comments

Example of Kraké

Q1: about 25% of trucks spend less than 2h43 and 75% over 2h43.

Q2=M: approximately 50% of trucks spend at least 03h23 to cross the border.

Q3: 75% of trucks spend less than 4h11 and 25% over 4h11.

2. Roadblocks

During 2023 data collection, the number of roadblocks recorded with presence of uniformed personnel along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor is 46 with 6 for Côte d'Ivoire, 14 for Ghana, 3 for Togo, 1 for Benin and 22 for Nigeria. Roadblocks at the level of tolls, in capital cities, in large urban areas and those erected in the night from 6pm are not taken into account in this document. Roadblocks with presence of several distinct uniformed personnel, or those within very close range are tallied as a single post, although checks are not carried out simultaneously

In 2018, 37 roadblocks were counted along the corridor with 4 for Côte d'Ivoire, 13 for Ghana, 4 for Togo, 3 for Benin and 13 for Nigeria, an increase of 2 points for Côte d'Ivoire, 1 point for Ghana, 9 points for Nigeria and a drop of 1 point for Togo and 2 points for Benin.

The target for each country during the implementation of the ALTTF project was to have a maximum of 3 official roadblocks per 100 km. Thus, per every 100 km, Côte d'Ivoire records 4, Ghana 3, Togo 3, Benin 1 and Nigeria 21.

- **Abidjan-Noé (Cote d'Ivoire)** section: the 6 roadblocks recorded on the Ivorian corridor (Gonzagueville – Noé) are up compared to 2018 and break down as follows: 4 for the Police (2 mixed), 2 for Customs (1 mixed), 2 for the gendarmerie (1 mixed), 1 for the FRCI (mixed) and 1 for Health (mixed) which most often group together in a close radius together with the other corps.
- The 558 km long **Elubo-Aflao (Ghana)** section records 14 roadblocks with 13 for Police, 4 for Customs (3 mixed), 1 for Army (mixed) and 2 for Health (2 mixed) compared to 13 in 2018.
- **Kodjoviakopé- Sanvee Condji (Togo)** section records 3 roadblocks over 58 km (1 for Army, 1 for Customs and 1 for Gendarmerie) compared to 4 in 2018.
- **Hillacondji -Kraaké (Benin)** section: 135 km long, it records 1 roadblock, compared to 3 erected in 2018. This post is located at the village of Guezin (on the section Hillacondji -Cotonou). On the Cotonou-Kraaké section, no roadblocks were recorded.
- **Seme -Lagos (Nigeria)** section recorded 22 roadblocks compared to 13 in 2018. We note the presence on this section of security forces (especially the Police) and Customs. There is a higher number of police presence on this section (18 police stations compared to 9 for Customs). These different uniformed personnel are positioned on the sections with a very high number of personnel at each post and all grouped within a radius of less than 100 m and which do not operate simultaneously. In addition to these 2 uniformed personnel we also find on this section: Immigration, Phytosanitary, Health, Road Safety, Anti-Drugs, etc. The presence of road safety

units (5) (which is not taken into account) increases the high number of joint checkpoints erected along the Nigerian section.

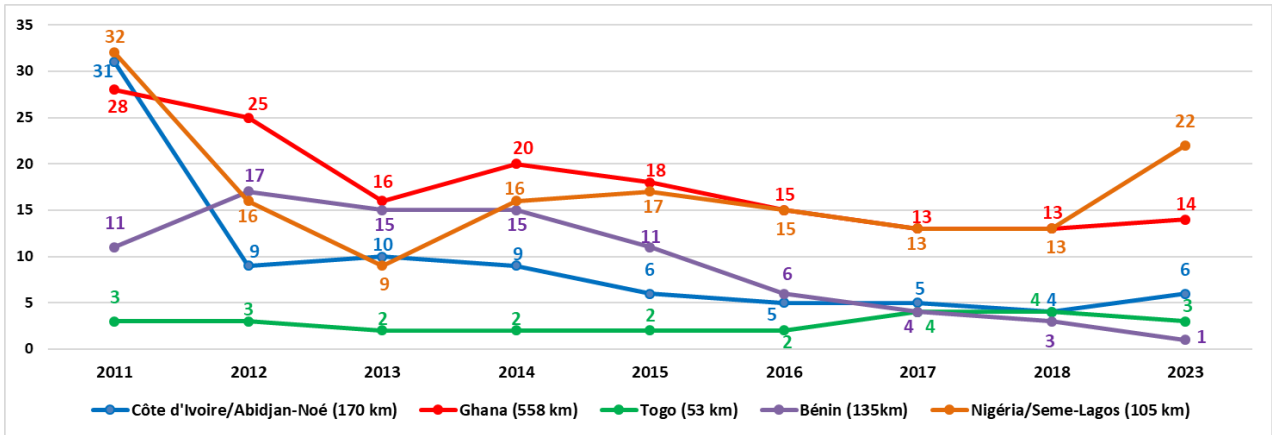


Figure 15: Evolution of the number of roadblocks by country: Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria from 2010 to 2023

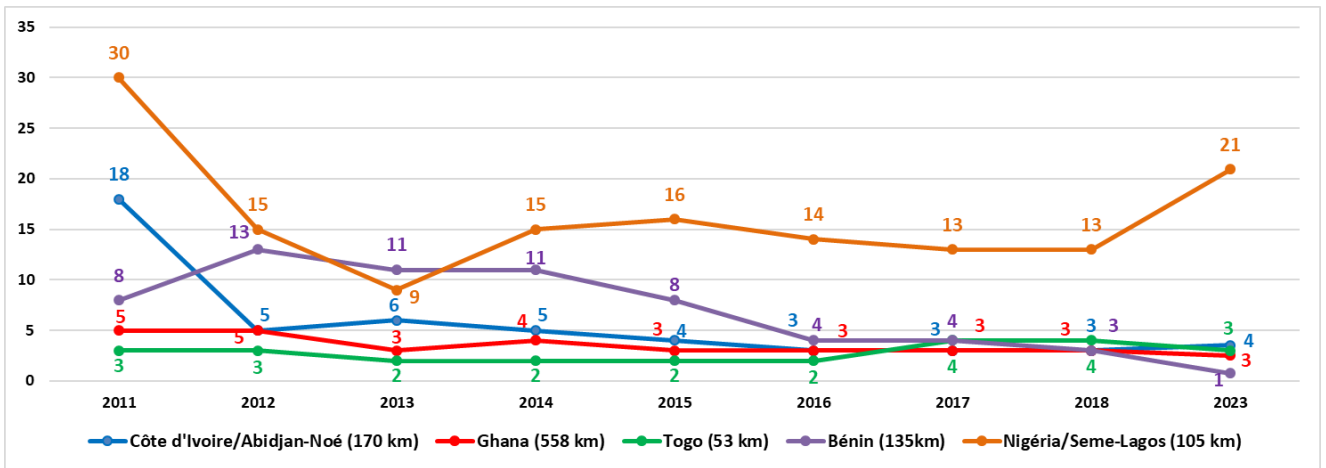


Figure 16: Number of roadblocks per country per 100 km: Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria

NB: All calculations of road blocks per 100 km are reported with the denominator 100 km, except for Togo where the length of its corridor is 53 km.

F. ALCO GOVERNANCE

1. Financial management

a. Resources mobilization

Over the course of 2023, the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Organization (ALCO) received financial support from member countries to carry out its mandate.

Pursuant to the provisions set out in ALCO General Administrative Regulations, each country shall pay an annual financial contribution. The founding countries have pledged to contribute USD 80,000 per annum. The Governing Board meeting held on 9th and 10th November 2017 recommended increasing country contributions to USD 160,000. These funds serve for ALCO expenditure. They are utilized for organizing the Governing Board sessions, the High-Level Meeting, covering human resources related expenditure and operating cost. Besides, expenditure not provided for by donors but which are relevant for project implementation fall under counterpart funds.

Table 11: ALCO member countries' contribution from January to December 2023 expressed in USD

Country	Contribution expected in 2023 (USD)	Contribution received in 2023 (USD)	Outstanding contribution in 2023 (USD)
COTE D'IVOIRE	500,000	480,000	20,000
GHANA	480,000	0	480,000
TOGO	160,000	160,000	0
BENIN	240,000	240,000	0
NIGERIA	260,000	0	260,000
TOTAL	1,640,000	880,000	760,000

b. Grants summary statement (budgets per each donor)

During 2023, ALCO did not receive any funding from the various partners.

c. Situation of country contributions

Pursuant to the provisions set out in ALCO General Administrative Regulations, each country shall pay an annual financial contribution. These funds are used for ALCO expenditure.

Table 12: Source and application of funds regarding country contributions, expressed in USD

Description	YEAR 2023		Accumulation	
	FCFA	USD	FCFA	USD
Revenue per source of funding				
CCP/ALCO	485,578,266	971,157	2,319,485,508	4,638,971
KRAKE/HEALTH FACILITY	844,850	1,690	3,822,065	7,644
CREDIT INTEREST	14,262,302	28,525	41,531,019	83,062
Total revenue (1)	500,685,418	1,001,371	2,364,838,592	4,729,677
Application of fund per category				
1 Coordination and advocacy	860,000	1,720	85,589,881	171,180
2 Monitoring and supervision	4,639,188	9,278	13,495,418	26,991
3 Resource mobilization	6,642,253	13,285	53,473,210	106,946
4 Human resources	276,530,810	553,062	1,136,662,767	2,273,326
5 Research, institutional consolidation and capacity building	12,508,761	25,018	135,332,547	270,665
6 Care service offers	1,556,965	3,114	2,721,965	5,444
7 Infrastructure and equipment	65,243,391	130,487	108,166,680	216,333
9 Operation	26,169,257	52,339	226,588,996	453,178
Total application of funds (2)	394,150,625	788,301	1,762,031,464	3,524,063
Source over application of funds surplus/deficit 1-2 (3)				
Source over application of funds surplus/deficit	106,534,793	213,070	602,807,128	1,205,614
	106,534,793	213,070	602,807,128	1,205,614
Opening balance				
BANKS TERM DEPOSIT	200,000,000	400,000		
ECOBANK ACCOUNT	242,984,368	485,969		
ALCO KRAKE HEALTH FACILITY	2,845,215	5,690		
REVENUE EARNED FROM TERM DEPOSIT CCP ALCO	13,318,235	26,636		
UBA ALCO CCP	37,124,517	74,249		
Total opening balance (4)	496,272,335	992,545		
Net revenue available 3+4				
Net revenue available	602,807,128	1,205,614	602,807,128	1,205,614
	602,807,128	1,205,614	602,807,128	1,205,614
Closing balance				
BANKS TERM DEPOSIT	200,000,000	400,000		
ECOBANK ACCOUNT	337,858,477	675,717		
ALCO KRAKE HEALTH FACILITY	3,871,065	7,742		
REVENUE EARNED FROM TERM DEPOSIT CCP ALCO	13,318,235	26,636		
UBA ALCO CCP	47,759,351	95,519		
Total closing balance	602,807,128	1,205,614		

Note 1: Revenue

In fiscal year 2023, the total amount of cash receipts is CFAF 500,655,418 including FCFA 485,578,266 country contribution, FCFA 844,850 from KRAKE HEALTH FACILITY and FCFA 14,262,302 of credit interest.

Note 2: Expenditure

Expenditure includes all spending from January to December 2023 totaling FCFA **394,150,625**.

Note 3: Cash flow

It is the cash available as of December 31, 2023 totaling FCFA **602,807,128** including FCFA **200,000,000** of fixed term deposit.

Table 13: Category-based expenditure from January 1 to December 31, 2023

Category	EXPENDITURE	
	FCFA	USD
Coordination and advocacy	860,000	1,720
Monitoring and supervision	4,639,188	9,278
Resource mobilization	6,642,253	13,285
Human resources	276,530,810	553,062
Research, institutional consolidation and capacity building	12,508,761	25,018
Care service	1,556,965	3,114
Infrastructure and equipment	65,243,391	130,487
Operation	26,169,257	52,339
Total	394,150,625	788,301

- “Coordination and advocacy” expenditure include all activities related to advocacy missions and o GB meetings;
- “Monitoring and supervision” expenditure relate to programmatic and financial supervision missions for ALCO information units;
- “Resource mobilization” expenditure relate to various missions as part of resource mobilization mission;
- “Human resources” expenditure concern ALCO headquarters staff salaries (the Executive Secretary, the Program Coordinator, the Administrative and Financial Officer, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, the Administrative Assistant, the Chief Accounting Officer, the Accountant, the Junior Procurement Specialist and the Drivers including the remuneration for the staff managing the eight Information Units;
- “Research, institutional consolidation and capacity building” expenditure relates to participation in staff participation in the IAS International Conference;
- “Care Service” expenditure relates to World Aids Day activities and the caravan organized by WAHO;

- “Infrastructure and equipment” expenditure include building development work on the Hillacondji and Sanvee Condji IUs;
- “Operation” related expenditure includes electricity, water, telephone, internet, rent (parking, storage facility), fuel, vehicle insurance, vehicle and building maintenance, etc.

Table 14: Performance against 2023 estimate

Category	2023 FORECAST		PERFORMANCE		%
	FCFA	USD	FCFA	USD	
Coordination and advocacy	57,635,040	115,270	860,000	1,720	1%
Monitoring and supervision	21,159,360	42,319	4,639,188	9,278	22%
Resource mobilization	33,506,990	67,014	6,642,253	13,285	20%
Human resources	285,314,635	570,629	276,530,810	553,062	97%
Research, institutional and capacity building	72,464,310	144,929	12,508,761	25,018	17%
Care service offers	37,335,000	74,670	1,556,965	3,114	4%
Infrastructure and equipment	71,000,000	142,000	65,243,391	130,487	92%
Functioning	79,884,673	159,769	26,169,257	52,339	33%
TOTAL	658,300,008	1,316,600	394,150,625	788,301	60%

Table 15: Estimated resources (USD) expected from countries, Year 2024

COUNTRY	As of Dec 31-23	Year 2024	TOTAL
RCI	20,000	160,000	180,000
GHANA	480,000	160,000	640,000
TOGO	0	160,000	160,000
BENIN	0	160,000	160,000
NIGERIA	260,000	160,000	420,000
TOTAL	760,000	800,000	1,560,000

Available funds (bank) as of December 31, 2023 is FCFA 602,807,128 or USD 1,205,614.

Table 16: Estimated expenditure (USD) January to December 2024 (2024 workplan)

No.	Categories	Forecast 2024 expressed in USD					Forecast 2024 expressed in FCFA				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
1	Coordination & Advocacy	11,531	11,531	11,531	11,531	46,122	5,765,287	5,765,287	5,765,287	5,765,287	23,061,146
2	Monitoring & supervision	5,297	5,297	5,297	5,297	21,187	2,648,320	2,648,320	2,648,320	2,648,320	10,593,280
3	Resource mobilization	10,362	10,362	10,362	10,362	41,449	5,181,108	5,181,108	5,181,108	5,181,108	20,724,430
4	Human resources	146,917	146,917	146,917	146,917	587,669	73,458,622	73,458,622	73,458,622	73,458,622	293,834,489
5	Research, institutional and capacity building	20,667	20,667	20,667	20,667	82,666	10,333,298	10,333,298	10,333,298	10,333,298	41,333,191
6	Care service	15,668	15,668	15,668	15,668	62,670	7,833,750	7,833,750	7,833,750	7,833,750	31,335,000
7	Infrastructure and equipment	110,500	110,500	110,500	110,500	442,000	55,250,000	55,250,000	55,250,000	55,250,000	221,000,000
8	Functioning	69,182	69,182	69,182	69,182	276,729	34,591,156	34,591,156	34,591,156	34,591,156	138,364,623
	TOTAL	390,123	390,123	390,123	390,123	1,560,492	195,061,540	195,061,540	195,061,540	195,061,540	780,246,159

2. Equipment as of December 31, 2023

ALCO's equipment as of December 31, 2023 include fixture and furniture, computer equipment and cars.

3. Human Resource Management

ALCO staff is made up of senior executives and support staff involved in the various projects implemented by the Organization. This staff is entitled to fringe benefits in accordance with the labor regulation applicable in Benin. Key fringe benefits include paid leave, health insurance, social security through registration at CNSS (National Social Security Trust) and timely payment of social contributions.

G. ALCO PERFORMANCE

1. Implementation of AWP activities

During the year 2023, 30 activities had been scheduled, among them, 80% were executed, 7% are in progress and 13% are not done. The activities not carried out were not mainly due to lack of funding. They relate to:

- recruitment of international consultants for the development of projects and other documents to be submitted to the donors
- participation in managerial/programmatic and financial capacity building training.

Table 17: Implementation of the AWP during 2023

No.	Activities	Chronogram												Realization
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Strategic objective 1: In 2024, ALCO is a successful regional organization that shapes regional health policy, free movement of people and goods and road safety														
111	Organize advocacy missions for the mobilization of resources for the implementation of ALCO activities													
11101	Hold working sessions with the Vice Person /chairman as part of the preparation of GBs													Done
11103	Conduct advocacy and resource mobilization missions with donors and countries													In progress
11106	Organize a round table of donors to seek funding for the fishing community project													Done
112	Organize monitoring and supervision missions of activities by ALCO programmatic and financial experts.													
11201	Organize field supervision missions by ALCO programmatic and financial experts													Done
113	Organize meetings of ALCO GB													
11302	Organize one statutory GB meeting per semester													Done
115	Support from Consultants for resource mobilization													
11501	Recruit international consultants for the development of Projects and other documents to be submitted to the donors													Not done
116	Monitoring and evaluation													
11602	Create and edit the annual newsletter													Not done
11603	Train UI staff													Done
11604	Review the Strategic Plan													Done
117	Headquarters Coordination Activities													
11701	Staff remuneration													Done
11702	Employer contributions on salary													Done
11703	Payroll tax													Done
11704	Health insurance													Done
11706	Service of external staff													Done
11709	Operation Headquarters													Done
11711	Acquire office furniture													Done
11712	Acquire office equipment													Done
11713	Acquire equipment													Done
118	Activities of IUs and health Centers													
11801	UI staff remuneration													Done
11802	Functioning													Done

No.	Activities	Chronogram												Realization
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
11803	Advanced strategy for sensitization, testing and treatment of STIs and Primary Health Care													Done
11804	Sensitization by peer educators													Done
11805	sensitization among general population at the level of Health Centers													Done
11806	Data collection													Done
119	Staff capacity building													
11901	Participate in managerial/programmatic and financial capacity building training													Not done
Strategic objective 2: In 2024, the services delivered by the health system (Public and Community), and the services delivered by municipalities and governments are resilient and sustainable to improve the health, the free movement of people and goods, road safety and sanitation of mobile, key and resident populations along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor														
121	Implement SRH/FP, HIV, SSP care offers in information units													
12101	Providing primary health care													Done
122	Rehabilitate health center in order to be able to offer adapted primary health care													
12201	Rehabilitate IUs/Health Centers													Done
Strategic objective 3: In 2024, the mobile, key and resident populations of the Abidjan-Lagos corridor know their rights and assert them in their uptake of health services, free movement and road safety														
131	Acquire condoms for the implementation of social marketing of condoms													
13101	Acquire male, female condoms and lubricants (transit costs)													Done
132	Sign an MOU with a communications agency for the implementation of condoms social marketing													
13201	Contract with a communications agency for the implementation of condoms social marketing													In progress
133	Carry out studies and surveys													
13302	Other Studies													Not done

Table 18: AWP execution rate in 2023

	Number	%
Done	24	80
In progress	2	7
Not done	4	13
Total	30	

2. Unplanned and carried out activities

During 2023, ALCO participated in national and regional meetings and workshops organized by other institutions and related to health and transport. These are the activities listed in the table below.

Table 19: Unplanned and carried out activities

Activities	Place	Organizer
Participation to the drafting of GC7 HIV in Benin	Cotonou	PSLS/Benin
Participation to the 18 th meeting of the experts committee of the Abidjan-Lagos corridor highway development project	Abidjan	ECOWAS
Participation to the 19 th meeting of the experts committee of the Abidjan-Lagos corridor highway development project	Accra	ECOWAS
Participation to the drafting of the ECOWAS cross-border surveillance and response strategic plan 2023-2028	Lomé and Ouagadougou	WAHO
Participation to the training of trainers on the harmonized curriculum of entry points in the ECOWAS region (Trainer)	Lome	WAHO
Participation to the 5 th meeting of the Regional Integration Committee	Dakar	WAEMU

3. ALCO performance

“Improving the health of people (key, mobile and resident), quality of life, free movement of people and goods and road safety along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor by 2024” is the ultimate goal of the 2020-2024 strategic plan which will enable ALCO to move towards the vision of "A development corridor driven by healthy people, enjoying all their rights and moving freely and safely with their goods”.

The achievement of this goal underlines ALCO's role as a driver for social and societal transformation along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor, which will lead to a strong contribution to the achievement of sustainable development objectives 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 10, 16, 17 and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) as well as sector development plans (Health, Transport, Trade, Migration, Economy, Youth, Employment, etc.) in each country. To this end, ALCO’s strategy is based on three impacts, thirteen outcomes and thirty-three outputs indicators.

The first impact will consist in ensuring that ALCO is an organization that fully plays its role in achieving the expected results. This impact result affects ALCO's internal governance, the implementation of the high-level meeting decisions of 28 March 2019, high-level political advocacy and its mandate. The second impact will focus on system strengthening and the third impact will focus on the individual and the individual's uptake of services.

The implementation of ALCO's activities during 2023 was done with many difficulties due to the end of the main funding and the irregular contributions of some member countries of the organization, thus limiting the achievement of the objectives of the RSP. ALCO's performance in 2023 is 41%.

Table 20: Performance indicators for ALCO strategic monitoring in 2023

No.	INDICATORS	BASELINE DATA			Year 2023		
		Value	Year	Source	Objective	Value	Year
<i>Impact 1: In 2024, ALCO is a successful regional organization that shapes regional health policy, free movement of people and goods and road safety</i>							
1	Number of meetings organized per year for the Steering Committee	1	2019	GB Meeting report	2	2	100%
2	Number of meetings organized per year for the Inter-Country Consultative Committee	1	2019	ICAC Meeting report	1	0	0%
3	Budgeted annual operational workplan	1	2019	Progress report	1	1	100%
4	Recovery rate of annual member countries mobilization	60%	2018	Progress report	100%	54%	54%
5	Resource mobilization rate with donors	73%	2018	Progress report	85%	0%	0%
6	% of funding mobilized compared to the planned RSP budget (country contribution and additional resources)	73%	2018	Progress report	85%	27%	32%
7	An external financial audit is implemented every year	1	2019	External audit report	1	1	100%
8	ALCO progress report produced and submitted to the Governing Board	1	2019	Progress report	2	2	100%
9	% of sites (IU and partner sites) with stock out		2018	Progress report	5%	100%	5%
<i>Impact 2: In 2024, the services delivered by the health system (Public and Community), and the services delivered by municipalities and governments are resilient and sustainable to improve the health, the free movement of people and goods, road safety and sanitation of mobile, key and resident populations along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor</i>							
10	Routine capacity present at points of entry by country						
	<i>Cote d'Ivoire</i>	2	2016	JEE Report	4	2	50%
	<i>Ghana</i>	3	2017	JEE Report	5	3	60%
	<i>Togo</i>	2	2018	JEE Report	4	2	50%
	<i>Benin</i>	1	2017	JEE Report	3	1	33%
	<i>Nigeria</i>	1	2017	JEE Report	3	1	33%
11	Number of complaints related to harassment recorded at the IU	N / A			320	7	2%
12	<i>Number of roadblocks</i>						
	<i>Between Abidjan - Noé</i>	4	2018	Annual Report	3	6	50%
	<i>Between Elubo- Aflao</i>	13	2018		6	14	43%
	<i>Between Kodjoviakope- Sanvee condji</i>	4	2018		3	3	100%

No.	INDICATORS	BASELINE DATA			Year 2023		
		Value	Year	Source	Objective	Value	Year
	<i>Between Hillacondji- Kraké</i>	3	2018		3	1	300%
	<i>Between Seme-Lagos</i>	13	2018		4	22	18%
13	<i>Cargo/containers dwell time (in days)</i>						
	<i>Abidjan Port</i>	11	2018	Annual Report	4	11	36%
	<i>Tema Port</i>	17	2018		4	17	24%
	<i>Lome Port</i>	11	2018		4	11	36%
	<i>Cotonou Port</i>	17	2018		4	17	24%
	<i>Apapa Port</i>	23	2018		5	23	22%
14	<i>Border crossing time (in hours)</i>						
	<i>Noé</i>	19	2018	Annual Report	4	11	36%
	<i>Elubo</i>	47	2018		5	23	22%
	<i>Aflao</i>	13	2018		4	23	17%
	<i>Kodjoviakopé</i>	10	2018		4	16	25%
	<i>Sanvee Condji</i>	3	2018		1	4	25%
	<i>Hillacondji</i>	40	2018		1	24	4%
	<i>Kraké</i>	10	2018		2	4	50%
	<i>Seme</i>	7	2018		1	30	3%
	<i>Noepe</i>	N / A				1	
	<i>Akamou</i>	N / A			1		
15	<i>Number of PLHIV newly received ART at the IU</i>	0	2018	Annual Report	1 660	53	3%
Impact 3: In 2024, the mobile, key and resident populations of the Abidjan-Lagos corridor know their rights and assert them in their uptake of health services, freedom of movement and road safety.							
16	Satisfaction rate for using paid toilets	N / A			2500	ND	
17	Number of road accidents recorded	N / A			4 000	0	0%
18	Number of documented GBV cases (SW, MSM, young girls and women)	3216	2018	Annual Report	120	0	0%
19	Number of victims benefiting from legal support (SW, MSM, young girls and women)	41	2018	Annual Report	1	0	0%
20	Number of periodic reports on the application of community regulations relating to intra-community trade	N / A			18%	1%	6%
21	Ratio of the number of screening tests carried out per number of people living with HIV identified	N / A			2500	ND	

II

CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

II. CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES

The challenges and constraints encountered during the year 2023 are as follows:

1. The irregular supply of health products by national program to IUs, especially STIs drugs and condoms for some countries, has contributed to the decline in performance at the Information Units.
2. The irregular, late payment and accumulation of annual contributions by some ALCO member countries does not facilitate the planning of activities with own funds.
3. Difficulties in mobilizing new funding through new projects do not make it possible to plan and implement the activities planned in the Regional Strategic Plan.

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

Despite the difficulties, ALCO team continued with determination to implement activities during the semester. Irregular supply of health products and lack of funding from partners have limited the implementation of activities at the IU level. ALCO's Executive Secretariat continues to make an effort to mobilize resources for the implementation of new projects. In addition, advocacy continues at country level for the planning, acquisition and provision of health products for the implementation of activities at ALCO's Information Unit. Finally, the introduction of primary health care at the IU should help boost their activities.

APPENDICES

APPENDICES

Table 21: Nature of goods transported

	Frequency	Percentage
Mixed goods	117	15,8
Drinks	87	11,8
Cement	80	10,8
Construction materials	77	10,4
Palm oil	48	6,5
Packaging (empty)	43	5,8
Coconut	38	5,1
Textile and clothing products	32	4,3
Voluminous heavy (pylon, pipe, etc.)	24	3,2
Other finished products	23	3,1
Rubber	20	2,7
Fruits and vegetables (mango,orange, tomatoes... except pineapples and bananas)	19	2,6
Flour	17	2,3
Other plant oils and butter of karite	16	2,2
Asphalt bray-cut back	12	1,6
Other food product or agricultural	11	1,5
Cola	7	0,9
Woods factories	7	0,9
Other half finished products	7	0,9
Chemicals	6	0,8
FUEL,DDO and HVO	6	0,8
Bananas plantains	5	0,7
Living animals and meats	4	0,5
Seeds of palm	4	0,5
Salt	4	0,5
Coffee cherries	3	0,4
Maintenance parts and pneumatic	3	0,4
Gas oil	3	0,4
Coal of wood and wood of fire-chamber	2	0,3
Various oilcakes	2	0,3
Machines-vehicles and contraptions	2	0,3
Voluminous light (luggage, furniture...)	2	0,3
Messaging and post office	2	0,3
Canned foods-grocery store bread	2	0,3
Oils motor	2	0,3
Sorghum	1	0,1
Cocoa	1	0,1
White rice (shells)	1	0,1
Total	740	100,0

Table 22: Goods released for consumption in Côte d'Ivoire

	Côte d'ivoire	
	Frequency	Percentage

Drinks	8	10
Rubber	1	1
Construction materials	48	59
Other half finished products	7	9
Fruits and vegetables (mango,orange, tomatoes... except pineapples and bananas)	16	20
Mixed goods	1	1
Total	81	100

Table 23 : Goods released for consumption in Ghana

	Ghana	
	Frequency	Percentage
Drinks	1	2
SEEDS OF PALM	1	2
Other food product or agricultural	5	10
Palm oil	3	6
Other plant oils and butter of karite	1	2
Chemicals	1	2
Machines-vehicles and contraptions	1	2
Packaging (empty)	8	17
Textile and clothing products	2	4
Voluminous heavy (pylon, pipe, etc.)	1	2
Messaging and post office	2	4
Other finished products	7	15
Gas oil	3	6
Fruits and vegetables (mango,orange, tomatoes... except pineapples and bananas)	3	6
Mixed goods	9	19
Total	48	100

Table 24 : Goods released for consumption in Togo

	Togo	
	Frequency	Percentage
Bananas plantains	5	5
Drinks	8	9
Other food product or agricultural	1	1
Flour	14	15
Chemicals	4	4
Construction materials	16	17
Salt	1	1
Textile and clothing products	4	4
Voluminous light (luggage, furniture...)	2	2
Voluminous heavy (pylon, pipe, etc.)	1	1
Canned foods-grocery store bread	1	1
Other finished products	4	4
FUEL,DDO and HVO	6	7
Mixed goods	25	27
Total	92	100

Table 25 : Goods released for consumption in Benin

	Benin	
	Frequency	Percentage
Drinks	6	9
Living animals and meats	1	1
Coal of wood and wood of fire-chamber	1	1
Various oilcakes	1	1
Salt	2	3
Packaging (empty)	21	31
Voluminous heavy (pylon, pipe, etc.)	16	24
Asphalt bray-cut back	10	15
Oils motor	2	3
Mixed goods	7	10
Total	67	100

Table 26 : Goods released for consumption in Nigéria

	Nigeria	
	Frequency	Percentage
Living animals and meats	3	3
Coconut	12	11
Palm oil	44	40
Other plant oils and butter of karite	10	9
Packaging (empty)	1	1
Textile and clothing products	17	15
Mixed goods	24	22
Total	111	100