

# Links between cattle rustling and violent extremism: Upper West Ghana

## Terms of Reference

### BACKGROUND

Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), Equal Access International (EAI) and Acting For Life (AFL) are collaborating to better understand cattle rustling and the links between this illicit economy and instability and violent extremism. The collaboration is based on a common observation that in all areas of the southern Sahel countries (Mali and Burkina Faso) and the northern coastal countries (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana), cattle rustling is a growing phenomenon that goes hand in hand with the expansion of violent extremist groups, in particular the al-Qaeda affiliated JNIM. GITOC identified cattle rustling as an 'accelerant market'<sup>1</sup> during the mapping exercise of illicit economies, i.e. a market that is particularly linked to and influenced by instability, as it not only enables armed groups to finance themselves but also to present themselves as guarantors of the security of certain communities (e.g. protection against cattle stolen by other groups).<sup>2</sup>

A better understanding of the dynamics associated with livestock theft and violent extremism is necessary to ensure a constant understanding of the context and its evolution in order to calibrate interventions aimed at building community resilience and translating results into action. Although research has been carried out by the three partner organizations in the past, a more nuanced understanding of its scope, geographical patterns and the cross-border nature of livestock theft dynamics (including value chains and financial flows) is needed to target interventions more effectively.

As part of this project, the three partner organizations are seeking to recruit a research institute, consultancy firm or group to carry out a study on the dynamics of cross-border cattle rustling in the border regions between Côte d'Ivoire (Folon, Boukani), Ghana (Upper Western Ghana), Burkina Faso (Cascades, South-West) and Mali (Sikasso).

This call for tenders only concerns data collection for **Upper Western Ghana**. If you are interested in participating in the tender to cover Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso or Mali, please go to the Equal Access website by following [this link](#) and apply through our partner organization.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

This research aims firstly to map cattle rustling in the cross-border areas of Burkina Faso, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, highlighting the main dynamics and trends in the cattle rustling economy. It will provide an overview of the current state of this illicit economy, including livestock theft hotspots (with data on the number of animals stolen), modus operandi, and the main actors and networks involved in the theft, transport and sale of stolen livestock.

Secondly, the research aims to assess the links between cattle rustling and violent extremism, focusing on the role

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<sup>1</sup> GITOC, Mapping illicit hubs, <https://wea.globalinitiative.net/illicit-hub-mapping/>

<sup>2</sup> GITOC, Locked horns: cattle rustling and Mali's war economy, <https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/cattle-rustling-mali-war-economy/>

of armed groups in this illicit economy, and its role in their expansion strategy, including through the financial revenues it represents. It will also assess the impact of cattle rustling on conflict dynamics, community tensions and community resilience to violent extremism.

Throughout the research, particular attention will be paid to gender, and at each stage and in each theme the report will endeavor to highlight the place and role of women, whether in the networks or the livestock sector, or whether in terms of the impact on women and their resilience.

Finally, this research aims to better understand the economics of cattle rustling, with a view to informing GITOC and GIZ programming and activities to foster community resilience as part of their project "Support the mitigation of destabilizing effects of transnational organized crime (M-TOC)". More broadly, the research will be policy-oriented to guide government actors in defining their interventions. Concrete and actionable recommendations will be designed to inform programming of the three partners, for communities in these areas, local and national authorities and regional organizations.

## **SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY**

The selected candidate will be required to submit a field report. To compile the document, the Consultant will rely on:

1. Its own knowledge of the economics of cattle rustling and the dynamics of instability in Upper West Ghana.
2. Existing literature and media reports on cases of cattle rustling and the dynamics of instability in Upper West Ghana.
3. Information gathered during field data collection.

The candidate must be able to demonstrate a solid network in Upper West Ghana in order to carry out this research. Fieldwork will involve semi-structured interviews with a variety of stakeholders, including

- actors of the livestock economy: herders' associations, members of livestock park management committees, transporters, brokers, intermediaries;
- Authorities: local and national authorities, police, customs officers, etc;
- Civil society actors, journalists and local experts

The consultant will not be required to provide full transcripts of the interviews, but will be asked to provide key points from each interview, as well as a selection of quotes from the interviews that best illustrate the dynamics of cattle rustling.

All data collected will be treated confidentially and anonymously to ensure the safety and protection of participants.

## DELIVERABLES

The consultant will provide:

1. A field report
2. A summary of interviews conducted during data collection
3. Photographs taken during research activities

The Consultant will also:

1. Participate in virtual meetings with the rest of the data collecting team to ensure good coordination of the project, and with the project manager at GITOC.
2. Be available to support the validation process, including participation in a virtual round table.

## TIMELINE

Closing Date for Applications : **17 July 2024.**

Please send your CV and cover letter detailing your experience in Upper West Ghana, your network and your knowledge of the dynamics of cattle rustling and violent extremism to [jobs@globalinitiative.net](mailto:jobs@globalinitiative.net)

Data collection is scheduled for September.

## CONSULTANCY FEE

To be determined with the consultant concerned on the basis of experience, knowledge of the economics of cattle rustling and the network in north-west Ghana.