

Côte d'Ivoire/Ivory Coast



May 2022

Country – capital	Republic of Cote d'Ivoire (Cdi) - Yamoussoukro (legislative capital), Abidjan (administrative capital). ¹
Population	Total population 28.7 million (est. 2022). ² Ethnic groups: Akan 28.9%, Voltaïque/ Gur 16.1%, Northern Mande 14.5%, Kru 8.5%, Southern Mande 6.9%, unspecified 0.9%, non-Ivoirian 24.2% (2014 est.). ³
Geography	Western Africa, at the North Atlantic Ocean, between Ghana and Liberia ⁴
Languages – official / lingua franca	French (official), 60 native dialects of which Dioula is the most widely spoken ⁵
Writing system	Latin ⁶
Education and literacy	Literacy rate: 89.9% (87% female, 93% male). ⁷ 56% of children complete primary school. ⁸ Education is mandatory for all children 6-16. ⁹ The education system comprises of 3 stages (primary, secondary and tertiary education), with the rural poor dropping out as years pass. Children are supposed to enter primary school at age 7, and remain there for 6 years, while they learn the basics of the same subjects that children learn everywhere. The secondary school model is a 2-tier one. After the first 4 of 7 years, examinations are held for the certificate of the lower cycle of secondary study. With this certificate, students could go out to work, move on to a <i>collège</i> or <i>lycée</i> , or enter a teacher-training institution. Those who continue at secondary school are entitled to apply to study at a university. ¹⁰
Religions	Muslim 42.9%, Catholic 17.2%, Evangelical 11.8%, Methodist 1.7%, other Christian 3.2%, animist 3.6%, other religion 0.5%, none 19.1% (2014 est.) ¹¹
Conflict history and overview	After independence (1960), Cdi became a relatively prosperous country until 2002 when a military coup, rigged elections, and mass protests led to civil war. The country was divided in the north held by rebels and the south held by the Gbagbo government with a buffer zone by peacekeeping forces. In November 2010, Alassane Dramane Ouattara won the presidential election, but Gbagbo refused to hand over power, resulting in a violent conflict. In April 2011, after widespread fighting, Gbagbo was formally forced from office by armed Ouattara supporters and UN and French forces. Ouattara won a second term in 2015, and in October 2020 an -unconstitutional- third term (boycotted by opposition and met with mass protests and renewed violent suppression). ¹²
Humanitarian situation	Life expectancy at birth: 62 yrs. Population below poverty line: 40%. ¹³ The political stability since 2012 has led to a strong economic growth. Food insecurity rate has declined from 12.8% in 2015 to 10.8% in 2018 and severe food insecurity disappeared. ¹⁴
Human rights situation	Côte d'Ivoire is still recovering from the armed conflict that ended in 2011. Several root causes of the country's violent conflict remain, including ethnic and regional tensions, land disputes, corruption, and impunity. While civil liberties had improved in recent years, an outbreak of election-related violence in 2020 brought significant setbacks. Better electoral conditions in 2021 gave opposition groups and civil society more freedom of expression. ¹⁵
Situation of women FGM – early marriages	Maternal mortality rate: 617 deaths per 100,000 live births (2017) ¹⁶ Child marriages: despite marriage < 18 yrs is forbidden, 10% of the girls are married by the age of 15 and 33% by 18. ¹⁷ Sexual violence is widespread. ¹⁸ FGM prevalence: 36.7 % (2016) type II, mostly in north and west – decreasing % for younger women. FGM is prohibited but prosecution is very rare. ¹⁹
Situation of LGBTI	No law exists which criminalises consensual same-sex sexual relations between adults. Also no protection nor recognition of same-sex relations or activities. ²⁰ A July 2019 marriage law bans same-sex marriage. ²¹
Asylum / migration / internally displaced persons (IDPs)	IDPs within Cdi: 308,000 (as of 31 Dec 2020). ²² Malta Ivoirian sea arrivals: 2019: 170. ²³ 2020 and 2021 unknown.

- ¹ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cote-divoire>
- ² <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cote-divoire>
- ³ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cote-divoire>
- ⁴ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cote-divoire>
- ⁵ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cote-divoire>
- ⁶ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cote-divoire>
- ⁷ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ⁸ <https://data.unicef.org/country/civ/>
- ⁹ <https://borgenproject.org/education-in-the-ivory-coast/>
- ¹⁰ <https://www.scholaro.com/pro/Countries/Cote-d-Ivoire/Education-System>
- ¹¹ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cote-divoire>
- ¹² <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cote-divoire>
- ¹³ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cote-divoire>
- ¹⁴ <https://www.wfp.org/countries/cote-divoire>
- ¹⁵ <https://freedomhouse.org/country/cote-divoire/freedom-world/2022>
- ¹⁶ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ¹⁷ <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/child-marriage-cote-d-ivoire.pdf/>
- ¹⁸ <https://freedomhouse.org/country/cote-divoire/freedom-world/2022>
- ¹⁹ <https://www.28toomany.org/country/cote-divoire/>
- ²⁰ <https://ilga.org/state-sponsored-homophobia-report>
- ²¹ <https://freedomhouse.org/country/cote-divoire/freedom-world/2022>
- ²² <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/cote-divoire>
- ²² <https://www.unhcr.org/mt/figures-at-a-glance>

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This factsheet was compiled by Adri van den Berg for BDE. Adri worked for many years as a Country of Origin Information (COI) researcher, her final post before retiring being with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in Malta.