

# RECOVER AFRICA PROJECT

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE: GENDER & YOUTH COUNTRY BRIEF

JANUARY 2021



**A RECOVER Africa Project Initiative**

[WWW.FAIRTRADEAFRICA.NET](http://WWW.FAIRTRADEAFRICA.NET)





## WHO WE ARE

Established in 2005, Fairtrade Africa is the independent non-profit umbrella organisation representing all Fairtrade certified producers in Africa. Fairtrade Africa is owned by its members, who are African producer organisations certified against international Fairtrade standards producing traditional export commodities such as coffee, cocoa, tea, cotton, bananas, mango and non-traditional commodities including shea butter and rooibos tea.

Currently, the organisation represents over 1,050,000 producers across 33 countries in Africa.

We work through primary structures such as product groups, country partnerships and regional networks which enable members to have a strong voice in the governance and management of the organisation. We operate four regional networks:

**Eastern and Central Africa Network (FTA-ECAN)** based in Nairobi, Kenya; **West Africa Network (FTA-WAN)** based in Accra, Ghana and

**Southern Africa Network (FTA-SAN)** based in Cape Town, South Africa. We also have a network in Middle East and North Africa region. Fairtrade Africa secretariat is located in Nairobi, Kenya.

Fairtrade Africa is currently implementing programmes that focus on women empowerment, workers' rights, living wage & living income, gender awareness, child protection and climate change. Some of the partners who have supported these projects include: **Fairtrade International, Fairtrade MaxHavelaar, Coop, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Swiss platform for sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Finnish Ministry of Foreign affairs, European Commission (EC), Fairtrade Foundation and Dutch Postcode Lottery.**

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers.



## GENERAL FACTS

Administratively, Côte d'Ivoire is divided into 12 districts plus two district-level autonomous cities of Abidjan and Yamoussoukro, each are led by a governor.

The GDP of Côte d'Ivoire is estimated to be \$61 billion in 2020 (International Monetary Fund, 2020).

In 2019, the share of agriculture in Côte d'Ivoire's GDP was 15.6%, industry contributed approximately 23.18% and the services sector contributed about 53.88%.

Cocoa is Côte d'Ivoire's main export contributing approximately 40% of its foreign exchange earnings.

The main destinations for Côte d'Ivoire's export produce are the Netherlands, US and France.

In 2019, Côte d'Ivoire's exports of cocoa beans were valued at about US\$ 3.58 billion. Côte d'Ivoire is the leading exporter of cocoa beans in the world (CIA, 2019).

It is estimated that up to 38% of the cocoa produced in the world comes from Côte d'Ivoire.

Coffee is Côte d'Ivoire's second largest export commodity.

It ranks 14th in the world and 3rd in Africa with an average annual production of 108,000 metric tonnes (National Coffee Association of U.S.A, 2015).



# DEMOGRAPHY

From the last population census in the country held in 2014, the population was 23,919,000 ( Republic of Côte d'Ivoire National Statistical Institute, 2014).

The population of Côte d'Ivoire is currently estimated at 25.71 million with 12.74 million being female (49.5%) and 12.97 million being male. Youth (18-35) comprise about 36% of the total population.

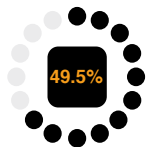


## Côte d'Ivoire National Statistical Institute 2014



Current Estimated Population

**23,919,000**



12.74 million **Women**



12.97 million **Youth**  
18-35 years



## EDUCATION

Côte d'Ivoire has been plagued by many years of civil unrest and coups d'état. This led to an interruption in the education system, resulting in poor education outcomes. Education in Côte d'Ivoire continues to face many challenges.

The literacy rate for adults remains low: in 2000, it was estimated that only 48.7% of the total population was literate (60.8% of males and 38.6% of females).

Many children between 6 and 10 years are not enrolled in school, mainly children of poor families. The majority of students in secondary education are male (CIA, 2019).

**School Enrolment by Gender (% of all eligible children)**

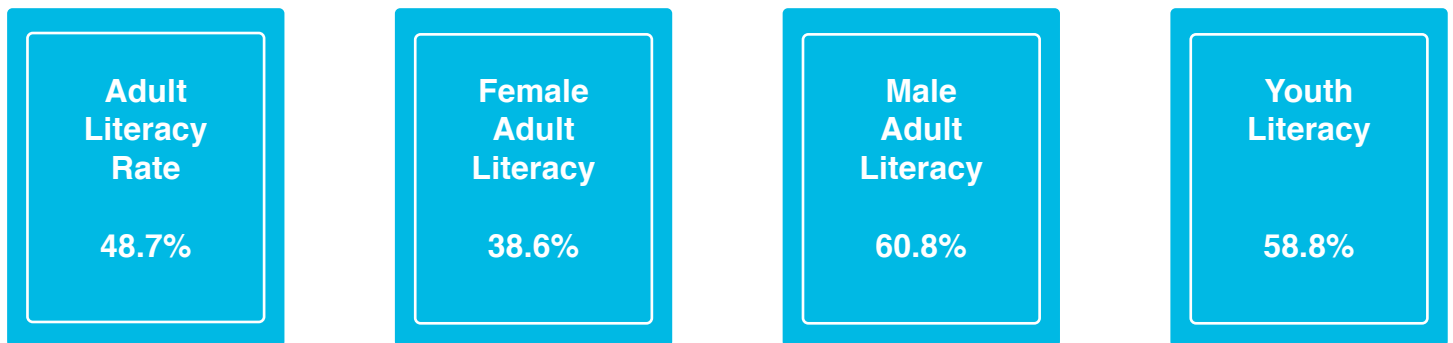
	Male	Female	Average
Pre-Primary	20.1	16.3	18.2
Primary	94.3	88	91.1
Secondary	48.2	38.6	43.4
Tertiary	11.1	7.6	9.3

Source: (UNESCO, 2018), CIA, 2019



## EDUCATION

### OTHER EDUCATION INDICATORS












Source: (UNESCO, 2018), CIA, 2019

# HEALTH

Côte d'Ivoire continues to record high child and maternal mortality despite free healthcare for children and mothers. The government has sought to join forces with other partners, especially from the European Union and France to work to reinforce the health system. Most hospitals in Côte d'Ivoire have been around since the 1960s and 1980s.

Only some of them are likely to have been renovated since then. As a result, these hospitals are generally poorly equipped. Rural areas tend to have a shortage of hospitals as well as medical staff.

	Fertility rate (Children per woman)	4.70
	Infant mortality rate (per 1000 births)	59
	Life expectancy at birth (years) Life expectancy at birth (years) Male Life expectancy at birth (years) Female	57.2 56 59
	HIV prevalence (% of population aged 15-49 years)	2.7
	Under-5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	79.3
	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)	617
	Hospital births (% of total births)	57
	Cancer prevalence (cases per year) Cancer deaths per year	14,484 10,405
	Malaria cases	3.1 million

Source: (UNICEF, 2019), (World Bank, 2018), (WHO, 2018)



## GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The political situation in Côte d'Ivoire has stabilized in recent years, with an attendant de-escalation in violence. The monitoring and reporting of conflict-related sexual violence continues to be carried out by a national committee consisting of members of the security forces, the national human rights commission and civil society organizations, with support from the United Nations. In the lead-up to the 2020 presidential elections, this committee is taking measures to prevent renewed patterns of political violence, including sexual violence, by putting in place early warning mechanisms. Training and capacity-building to help the security forces deter and detect sexual violence has taken place, specialized gender desks have been established within the national police, and justice sector officials have been trained on relevant legal frameworks prohibiting sexual violence (UN, 2020).

<b>Women reporting a form of violence (15 – 64 years)</b>	49.8%
<b>Women reporting sexual violence</b>	36%
<b>Women reporting physical violence</b>	49%
<b>Forced child marriage</b>	27%
<b>Female Genital Mutilation (15 - 49 years)</b>	37%

Source: (UN Women, 2017)

# ACCESS TO AMENITIES (WATER, SANITATION AND ELECTRICITY)

Like other sectors, a large number of the issues regarding sanitation and water quality in Côte d'Ivoire can be attributed to the conflict that ended in 2007.

The conflict damaged crucial water supply infrastructure, and post-conflict reconstruction has overshadowed the maintenance and repair of these systems. Over eight million people in Côte d'Ivoire lack access to adequate sanitation facilities, which increases the risk of water-related diseases. Over four million people lack access to safe drinking water.

These numbers increase in rural areas, where 46% of the rural population lacks access to clean water and 87 percent lacks access to sufficient sanitation (The Borgen Project, 2017).



Access to clean water

**74%**



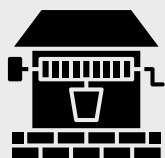
Access to proper toilet

**67%**



Rural access to basic sanitation

**54%**



Rural access to clean water

**13%**



Access to electricity (Total)

**64%**



Access to electricity (Urban)

**92%**



Access to electricity (Rural)

**38%**

**Source:** (*The Borgen Project, 2017*), (*World Bank, 2018*)



## POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Currently, 46.3% of the population of Côte d'Ivoire lives in poverty. While Côte d'Ivoire is agriculturally rich in crops like cocoa, cotton, and cashew nut, post-election violence disrupted critical planting and harvesting times for farmers.

According to the National Survey on the Employment Situation and the Informal Sector 2016, Côte d'Ivoire has a plentiful workforce, 73.2% of which is composed of young people.



# POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

<b>Rural population</b>	45%
<b>Population living below poverty line</b> <i>(Living on less than \$1.90 a day)</i>	46.4%
<b>Ghanians living in extreme poverty</b>	11%
<b>Population having an account at a financial institution</b>	40%
<b>National unemployment rate</b>	2.4%
<b>Youth unemployment</b>	15.2%
<b>Female unemployment</b>	21.1%
<b>Male unemployment</b>	14.8%
<b>Access to a mobile phone</b>	86%
<b>Mobile phone penetration (Youth)</b>	86%
<b>Mobile phone penetration (Women)</b>	82%
<b>Mobile phone penetration (Men)</b>	90%
<b>Access to internet</b>	36%

Source: *(The Borgen Project, 2017), (World Bank, 2018)*



# IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN AND YOUTH



Reported cases as at November 30, 2020

21,334



Recoveries

20,981



Deaths

132

On 11 March 2020, Côte d'Ivoire recorded its first case of COVID-19.

The health crisis due to the COVID-19 global pandemic has led most states, including Côte d'Ivoire, to adopt exceptional measures to limit the spread and rates of death caused by the virus. If justified in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, they raise many questions relating to the restriction of certain fundamental freedoms such as freedom of movement and assembly or enterprise. With regard to women, the current exceptional circumstances have increased their precariousness and possibly their susceptibility to Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Current data indicates that the health emergency measures such as lockdowns have seen an increase in GBV cases. While women and the general public are made aware by the government and civil society organizations about the importance of measures taken to stop the pandemic, little has been done by the government to address the increasing levels of GBV (UN, 2020).

In July 2020, a report released by an industry-backed foundation, the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) showed that child labour in Côte d'Ivoire's cocoa farming sector increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. In a survey of over 1,400 households, it found that the percentage of children involved in production between mid-March and mid-May increased to 19.4% from 16% in the same period.

# IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FTA CERTIFIED PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE



As part of the process of supporting producer organisations in Africa, through the RECOVER Africa Project (RAP), a mapping and baseline survey was undertaken covering the 9 target countries of RAP.

In Cote D'Ivoire, 60 producer organizations participated, 56 of them smallholder producer organizations (SPOs) and 4 hired labour organizations.





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## **i. Membership**

Within the SPOs, 12% of the members are women and 29.1% are youth, aged between 18 and 35. 6.1% of the leaders are women and 73.7% are youth.

## **i. Impact of COVID-19**

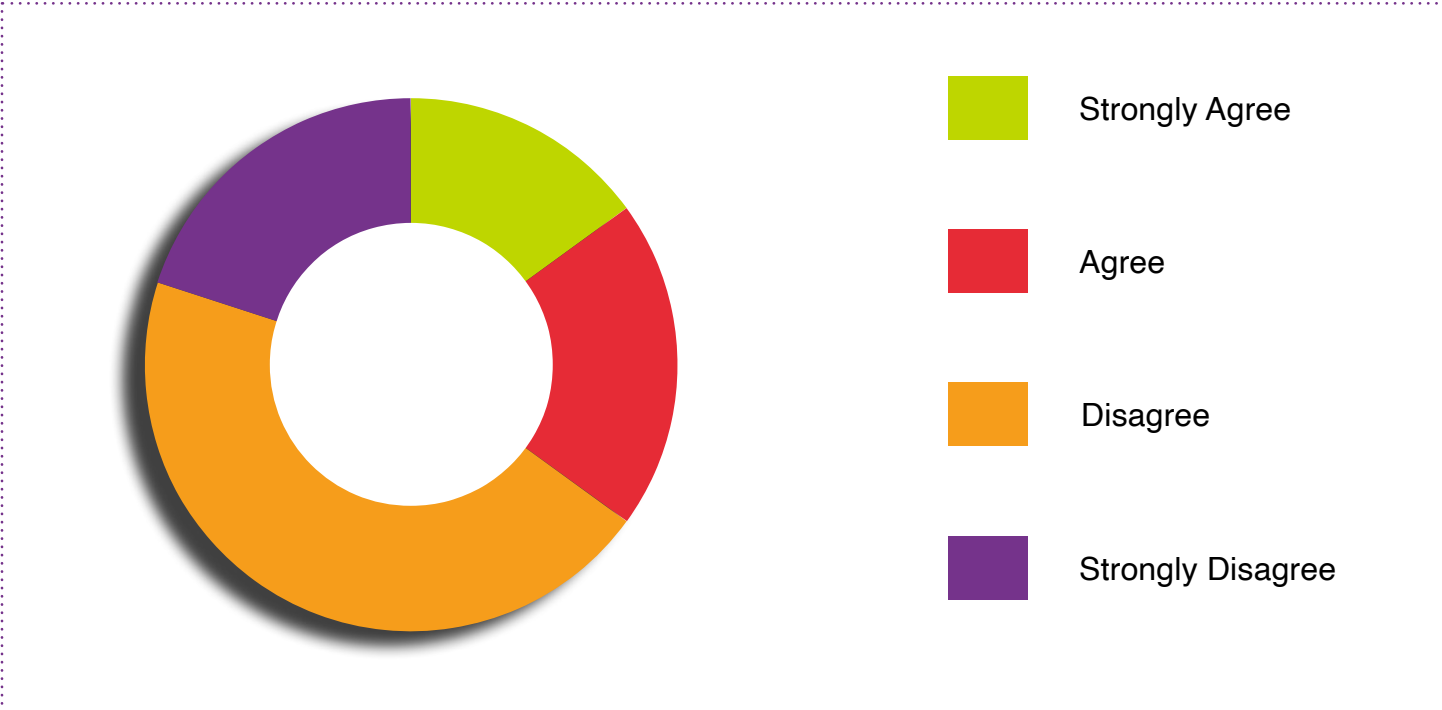
The data revealed that 0.22% of the members had tested positive to COVID-19 at the time of the survey. Of those who tested positive, 20.3% were women and 39.8% were youth. Of those who tested positive 2.5% suffered mortality, of these all were men.

Evidence suggests that producer organisations have put in place some measures aimed towards controlling the spread of COVID-19. 69.6% of the respondents agree that members always wear masks when in public and 82.1% agree that common areas where members gather have handwashing stations with flowing water. Further 73.2% have soap and/or sanitizer at these stations.

Gender- based violence has been identified as a major issue that has affected communities, particularly women. However, in Cote D'Ivoire, of those interviewed 62.5% disagree that since the onset of COVID-19 gender-based violence had increased. 62.5% know where to get help when faced with GBV.



# SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE HAS INCREASED



A further 74.1% also disagree that child abuse has been on the increase since the COVID-19 pandemic.

# SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19, CASES OF CHILD ABUSE HAVE INCREASED



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



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**Secretariat, Fairtrade Eastern and Central Africa Network (FTA-ECAN)**  
Westcom Point, Block C, 6th Floor  
Mahigu Mairu Road, Off Rhapta Road  
Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya.

+254 202 721930

**Fairtrade Southern Africa Network (FTA-SAN) Office**  
Unit 20, Block E, Collingwood Place,  
Anson Street, Observatory 7925  
PO Box 13450, Mowbray 7705,  
South Africa.

+27 2144 88911

**Fairtrade West Africa Network (FTA-WAN) Office**  
No. 13 Akosombo Road,  
Airport Residential Area,  
Accra, Ghana.

+233 307079286

**Fairtrade Middle East and North Africa (FTA-MENA) Office**  
Westcom Point, Block C, 6th Floor  
Mahigu Mairu Road, Off Rhapta Road  
Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya.

+254 202 721930



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