



Diaspora engagement mapping CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Facts & figures

Terminology: Côte d'Ivoire refers to its diaspora as 'Ivorians abroad' ('Ivoiriens de l'extérieur').

Political rights



Dual citizenship^{1,2}



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad³



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **1.32%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **1.041**

Voting from abroad⁴:

At voting offices



Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the [World Bank](#) (2023).

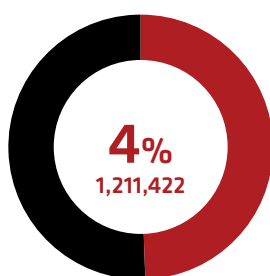
Emigration



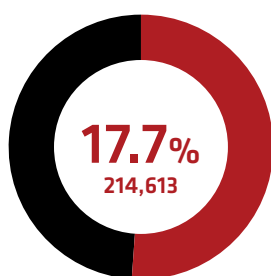
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 49.8%
♀ 50.2%



♂ 51.3%
♀ 48.7%

Top countries of destination



Burkina Faso	574,409
Mali	219,185
France	169,206
Ghana	82,933
Benin	36,443

1 Loi n° 61- 416 portant Code de la Nationalité Ivoirienne. 1961. Abidjan. https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1178187/1504_1217418989_loi-n-61-416-du-14-decembre-1961-portant-code-de-la-nationalite-ivoirienne.pdf.

2 Although dual citizenship is rejected by Ivorian law in principle, an Ivorian national can acquire another nationality when: 1) it is acquired at birth or as a minor; or 2) the second nationality of an adult was not acquired voluntarily or when the adult does not declare that he or she recognises the second nationality. In addition, if the second nationality is acquired or recognised voluntarily, the person retains Ivorian nationality for 15 years following their registration on the national census list unless a decree removes their Ivorian nationality. Finally, a foreign national who acquires Ivorian nationality retains his or her nationality of origin. See: Grah, Ange Olivier. 2019. "Côte D'Ivoire : Tout Savoir Sur Les Conditions D'Acquisition De La Double Nationalité Ivoirienne". Afrik Soir, 2019. <https://www.afriksoir.net/cote-divoire-acquisition-double-nationalite-ivoirien-tout-savoir-sur-les-conditions-dacquisition-de-la-double-nationalite/>.

3 Code électoral. 2008. Abidjan. http://www.gouv.ci/doc/textes_fondamentaux/Code%20Electoral.pdf.

4 European External Action Service. 2011. "Côte D'Ivoire : Rapport Final - Mission D'observation Électorale De L'union Européenne". http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/eucom/pdf/missions/rapport-final-25012011_fr.pdf.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2012** ● The **National Development Plan (PND) 2012-2015⁶** mentions the importance of outreach to the diaspora in the framework of the PND's communications strategy, with specific references to engaging diaspora through meetings, informal roundtables, as well as written and audio-visual means of communication. The PND also states the government's aim to develop a National Migration Management Policy, but as of August 2020 such a policy has still not been created.
- 2016** ● The **new Constitution⁷** introduces several important rights for the diaspora. In Article 30, the state commits to ensuring the participation of Ivorians abroad in 'the life of the nation', while Article 87 introduces diaspora representation in the new Senate and Article 55 makes Ivorian citizens born to at least one Ivorian parent eligible for presidential candidacy (the previous Constitution's criteria required both parents to be of Ivorian origin).⁸
- 2016**
▼
2020 ● **PND by National Development Plan for 2021-2025⁹:** As part of the 6th pillar and under "regional integration", the strategic orientations related to this new Plan aim to increase diaspora contribution from 1.2% of the GDP in 2019 to 2% in 2025. The enhancement of the framework to engage with Ivoirians abroad includes: i) the creation of a High Council of Diaspora; ii) the production and implementation of an action plan related to the National Policy on the Management of Ivoirians Abroad; iii) the creation of operational dialogue platform with the diaspora.

» Trends & achievements

Most Ivorians abroad reside in lower-income neighbouring countries which partially explains its relatively low remittances-to-GDP ratio, 0.7%. Nevertheless, the Ivorian government has shown increasing efforts to engage with its diaspora over the past decade, in line with the growth of its overseas communities, after the President declared in 2010, "We will facilitate the investments of Ivorians abroad...in profitable sectors like housing, agriculture and microfinance. We will not hesitate to call on Ivorians abroad who have acquired key and proven skills."¹⁰ The Directorate-General of Ivorians Abroad was subsequently established under the Ministry of African Integration and Ivorians Abroad, with its first Director-General appointed in 2013.¹¹

The government's engagement policies – yet to be codified by a diaspora (or migration) policy document – generally address the protection of Ivorians abroad and the mobilisation of their resources.¹² As such, the government has restructured its diplomatic network to enhance coverage,¹³ while organising several diaspora forums aimed at strengthening relations with the diaspora.¹⁴ Other initiatives have also been developed to encourage the return of diaspora talent.¹⁵

5 Djezou, Casimir. 2019. "Ivoiriens De L'Extérieur: Le Gouvernement Prépare Une Politique De Gestion". *Fratmat*, 2019. <https://www.fratmat.info/article/86477/60/ivoiriens-de-l-exterieur-le-gouvernement-prepare-une-politique-de-gestion>.

6 République de Côte d'Ivoire. 2012. «Plan National De Développement 2012-2015». Abidjan: République de Côte d'Ivoire. https://www.ci.undp.org/content/cote_divoire/fr/home/library/poverty/publication_2.html.

7 *Loi n° 2016-886 du 08 novembre 2016 portant Constitution de la République de Côte d'Ivoire*. 2016. Abidjan. <https://www.presidence.ci/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/constitution.pdf>.

8 *Loi n°2000-513 du 1er août 2000 portant Constitution de la Côte d'Ivoire*. 2000. Abidjan. <http://www.unesco.org/education/edurights/media/docs/ea778cb20fbbd7a77fe62ae0c85bbd87c0757abd.pdf>.

9 <https://www.gouv.ci/doc/1646222099PLAN-NATIONAL-DE-DEVELOPPEMENT-PND-2021-2025-ORIENTATIONS-STRATEGIQUES-TOME-2.pdf>

10 *Interactions Entre Politiques Publiques, Migrations Et Développement En Côte D'Ivoire*. 2017. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/interactions-entre-politiques-publiques-migrations-et-developpement-en-cote-d-ivoire/paysage-de-la-migration-en-cote-d-ivoire_9789264277090-6-fr;jsessionid=EjuFGtplwn5-Kpfboc7LZWII.ip-10-240-5-166.

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid.

14 Ibid.

15 Ibid.

In 2016, the country took an important step forward by enshrining the state's role to protect the diaspora's interests in the new Constitution, which also provided for diaspora representation in the newly-established Senate.¹⁶ Following further state recognition of the importance of diaspora contributions in the National Development Plan 2016-2020, the country plans to release a diaspora policy. The government's more recent activities include implementing a programme in 2019, funded by the African Solidarity Fund, to assess and support diaspora-funded investment projects.¹⁷ And in 2022 called for the creation of an investment fund to increase the impact of diaspora investments in Côte d'Ivoire.¹⁸ The government has set up a project to extend social security coverage to self-employed workers, including Ivorians in the diaspora working in countries that have not signed a social security agreement with Côte d'Ivoire.¹⁹

Obstacles



- **Externalisation of domestic politics:** Many Ivorians abroad emigrated due to successive political crises that were coloured by inter-ethnic strife. Domestic political divisions extend to diaspora communities, with chapters of national political parties present in countries of residence. For instance, in 2010, diaspora voting in France was cancelled due to tensions within the diaspora.²⁰ Managing the divisions within between the government and different diaspora communities, as well as within diaspora communities themselves, is an ongoing challenge, especially in the context of forthcoming diaspora representation in the Senate.
- **Lack of data:** While ample literature exists on immigration in Côte d'Ivoire, few studies have been conducted on Ivorian emigration, with the exception of some studies on the impact of remittances.²¹
- **Lack of policies:** Despite the government's clear efforts to engage the diaspora in recent years, there remains no published policy document that states or guides the country's vision on diaspora engagement, or migration.

16 Loi n° 2016-886 du 08 novembre 2016 portant Constitution de la République de Côte d'Ivoire. 2016. Abidjan. <https://www.presidence.ci/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/constitution.pdf>.

17 Sadallah, Farah. 2019. «Issiaka Konaté (DGIE) : « Il Faut Assister Les Expatriés Ivoiriens En Amont De Leur Retour »». *Jeune Afrique*, 2019. <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/emploi-formation/736705/issiaka-konate-dgie-il-faut-assister-les-expatries-ivoiriens-en-amont-de-leur-retour/>.

18 <https://www.7info.ci/diaspora-ivoirienne-vers-la-creation-dun-fonds-dinvestissement/>

19 Les ivoiriens résidant à l'extérieur galvanisés sur la couverture sociale - Abidjan.net News

20 Duhem, Vincent. 2015. «La Diaspora Ivoirienne, Tout Dans Les Muscles...». *Jeune Afrique*, 2015. <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/262357/politique/la-diaspora-ivoirienne-tout-dans-les-muscles/>.

21 *Interactions Entre Politiques Publiques, Migrations Et Développement En Côte d'Ivoire*. 2017. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/interactions-entre-politiques-publiques-migrations-et-developpement-en-cote-d-ivoire/paysage-de-la-migration-en-cote-d-ivoire_9789264277090-6-fr;jsessionid=EJuFGtPlwn5-Kpfboc7LZWII.ip-10-240-5-166.

SPOTLIGHT: Effective practices

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SUSU - Enabling the diaspora to fund healthcare for their families

HEALTH

SUSU is a digitally-driven healthcare start-up that allows diaspora members to subscribe to healthcare for their relatives in Côte d'Ivoire. SUSU arranges healthcare and health insurance for its beneficiaries in Côte d'Ivoire, working with a network of local partners based in Abidjan. SUSU's services comprise preventive care, medical care, treatment of chronic illness, and provision of medicines based on the specific needs of diasporas. Within only two months of its operation, more than 500 beneficiaries from Abidjan were covered by SUSU.

Diaspora Excellence Award

HUMAN CAPITAL

Since 2013, the Ivorian state has awarded national excellence awards ('prix d'excellence') to recognise Ivorian citizens in different fields.²² The awards include a Best Ivorian Diaspora Excellence Award to notable Ivorians abroad.²³ The Director-General of Ivorians Abroad in 2018 stated that the award demonstrates the government's willingness to support all the diaspora's initiatives.²⁴ Winners of the award receive 10 million XOF (around 15,200 EUR) and a certificate of honour.²⁵

Diaspora forums

NETWORKS + INVESTMENT

The government has organised several diaspora forums, with strong involvement of the Investment Promotion Centre of Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI). The Diaspora for Growth forum promoted exchanges between diaspora and Côte d'Ivoire-based business networks, as well as government and other partners. The 2015 edition of the forum was attended by 1500 guests and the 2013 forum reportedly generated 10 billion XOF (around 15.3 million EUR) in investment projects.²⁶ The third Diaspora Forum was held in 2019 in the presence of the country's Prime Minister.²⁷ The fourth edition was held in 2024 and centred around "Attractiveness of territories and support mechanisms for the diaspora for the sustainable development of Côte d'Ivoire".²⁸

Online platform to promote diaspora competences

HUMAN CAPITAL

The Government launched in 2022 a platform to connect diaspora professionals and private sector's job offers in Côte d'Ivoire.

22 Portail du Gouvernement de Côte d'Ivoire. 2019. «Prix D'Excellence 2019 : Le Président De La République, Alassane Ouattara Salue L'Exemplarité Des 81 Récipiendaires». http://www.gouv.ci/_actualite-article.php?recordID=10309.

23 Abidjan.net. 2018. «La Politique De Gestion Des Ivoiriens De L'Extérieur Au Coeur D'Une Rencontre À Abidjan», 2018. <https://news.abidjan.net/h/646639.html>.


24 Ibid.

25 Portail du Gouvernement de Côte d'Ivoire. 2019. «Prix D'Excellence 2019 : Le Président De La République, Alassane Ouattara Salue L'Exemplarité Des 81 Récipiendaires». http://www.gouv.ci/_actualite-article.php?recordID=10309.

26 *Interactions Entre Politiques Publiques, Migrations Et Développement En Côte D'Ivoire*. 2017. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/interactions-entre-politiques-publiques-migrations-et-developpement-en-cote-d-ivoire/paysage-de-la-migration-en-cote-d-ivoire_9789264277090-6-fr;jsessionid=EJuFGtPlwn5-Kpfbc7LZWII.ip-10-240-5-166.

27 Confédération Générale des Entreprises de Côte d'Ivoire. 2019. «3Ème Forum De La Diaspora: Le Gouvernement Veut Créer Un Environnement Des Affaires Davantage Incitatif Pour Exhorter La Diaspora À Investir En Côte D'Ivoire». <https://cgeci.com/3eme-forum-de-la-diaspora-le-gouvernement-veut-creer-un-environnement-des-affaires-davantage-incitatif-pour-exhorter-la-diaspora-a-investir-en-cote-divoire/>.

28 https://www.gouv.ci/_actualite-article.php?recordID=17824



Online platform to map diaspora

The Government launched in 2021 a platform to map diaspora skills. Diaspora members are invited to fill in a form.

DATA

Le Projet Engagement Diaspora (ENGORA)

In 2024, the General Directorate for Ivorians Abroad, in collaboration with IOM, launched the ENGORA project aimed at promoting the engagement with the Ivorian diaspora in France to foster sustainable development. The project has three main deliverables: mapping the Ivorian diaspora in France, launching an awareness-raising campaign to strengthen the dialogue with the diaspora, and engaging with six diaspora professionals to share their skills in priority sectors for national development.

SKILLS
TRANSFER

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU CIDO)

Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the African Union and nominates a diaspora focal point to represent Côte d'Ivoire as part of the AU CIDO Continental Meetings.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

State Ministry, Ministry of foreign affairs, african integration and diaspora

The MIAIE is responsible for implementing integration and diaspora engagement policies. Diaspora engagement policies and initiatives are implemented through the Department for the mobilization of diaspora skills and resources. The Department for the mobilization of diaspora skills and resources' missions are to assist the diaspora and coordinating initiatives that bring them together; support their economic, social and cultural return and reintegration; facilitate their access to housing (in Côte d'Ivoire); support their investment projects; and support the mobilisation of diaspora competencies. The Department for the mobilization of diaspora skills and resources is divided into four directorates that address, respectively, return and reintegration, mobilisation of competencies, research and economic opportunities, and social action and information.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for maintaining Côte d'Ivoire's diplomatic missions. 'Protecting Ivorian nationals abroad' is one of the ministry's four missions.

- At sub-ministerial level

Investment Promotion Centre of Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI)

The CEPICI was established in 2012 as a one-stop shop for investment in Côte d'Ivoire. It coordinates the government's investment promotion and private sector development initiatives. Among its roles and missions is putting in place measures to attract investment from the diaspora and the centre has been involved in diaspora outreach initiatives, including the organisation of diaspora forums.

Diaspora organisations in Europe

France hosts a particularly significant number and diversity of Ivorian diaspora associations. Various associations are present across Europe, from small ethnic, tribe-focused and faith-based groups to larger umbrella organisations. Some Ivorian diplomatic missions publish directories of diaspora associations, including the Ivorian embassies in Germany and Italy.²⁹³⁰ Most associations seem to focus

Read more about diaspora organisations in "[Starting guide: What is a diaspora organisation](#)"

29 «Liste des associations – Ambaci». 2020. *Ambaci.de*. Accessed June 25. <https://ambaci.de/liste-des-associations/>.

30 "Annuaire des ivoiriens" – Ambassade de Côte d'Ivoire en Italie. 2020. *Italie.diplomatie.gouv.ci*. Accessed June 25. <http://www.italie.diplomatie.gouv.ci/securite-ivoirien.php?lang=&num=3>.

more on bringing together Ivorians in a given country or locality, with relatively few focused on development activities in Côte d'Ivoire.

Association de la diaspora ivoirienne du Havre France

- ☑ Development activities
- ☑ Integration activities

Association bringing together Ivorians residing in Le Havre, including for mutual support, promotion of the image of Côte d'Ivoire through economic, social and cultural projects.³¹

Association des Ivoiriennes et Ivoiriens de Genève Switzerland

- ☑ Integration activities

Association bringing together Ivorians in Geneva.

Association des Ivoiriens au Sud de la Suède Sweden

- ☑ Integration activities

Association bringing together Ivorians residing in southern Sweden, mainly through cultural gatherings, including national day celebrations.³²

Association des jeunes Ivoiriens de la diaspora en Italie Italy

- ☑ Integration activities

Association bringing together young Ivorians in Italy.

Association des Juristes et Avocats Ivoiriens de France (AJAIF) France

- ☑ Integration activities

Association bringing together diaspora legal professionals in France, including for mutual support and to provide legal assistance to the diaspora.

Club des chefs d'entreprises de la diaspora ivoirienne en France (CCEDI) France 2016

- ☑ Integration activities
- ☑ Development activities

CCEDI serves as a network for Ivorian entrepreneurs and business leaders in France. It promotes entrepreneurship and networking, in support of small and medium enterprises. In the past, CCEDI has also sent delegations to attend business conferences in Côte d'Ivoire.³³

31 «Association de la diaspora ivoirienne du Havre». 2020. *Lehavre.fr*. Accessed June 25. <https://www.lehavre.fr/annuaire/association-de-la-diaspora-ivoirienne-du-havre>.

32 Association des Ivoiriens au Sud de la Suède. 2019. «AISS: Ivorian Day 2019, Samedi 10 Août, Le Résumé». <http://activites.aissci.se/?p=240>.

33 «Actualités – CCEDI France». 2020. *Ccedif.Org*. Accessed June 25. http://ccedif.org/?page_id=22.

Comité des sages de la diaspora ivoirienne en France (COSADIF) France 2018

Integration activities

The COSADIF is composed of faith leaders, leaders of diaspora umbrella associations, and community elders. It aims to manage conflicts within the diaspora community, as well as those between the diaspora and other communities, through listening and mediation exercises.³⁴

Communauté Ivoirienne de Belgique (CIB) Belgium

Integration activities

The CIB brings together Ivoirians residing in Belgium.

Communauté Ivoirienne du Danemark (CID) Denmark 2003

Integration activities

The CID aims to bring together Ivoirians living in Denmark, including for mutual support, to facilitate their integration into Danish society, and to promote Ivoirian culture.

Diaspora ivoirienne UK UK 2013

-  Integration activities
-  Development activities

The association aims to unite Ivoirians living in the UK to facilitate their integration into UK society, to promote solidarity within the diaspora community, and to encourage the diaspora to invest in Côte d'Ivoire.

Fédération des Associations de la Diaspora Ivoirienne (FADIV) France

-  Integration activities
-  Development activities

FADIV is headquartered in Paris and serves as an umbrella organisation for Ivoirian diaspora associations around the world. In the past, FADIV has organised cultural events and diaspora-focused conferences on different topics, including a scientific conference.³⁵

Fédération des associations des Ivoiriens résidant en Allemagne (FAIRA) Germany

Integration activities

Umbrella group bringing together different diaspora associations based in Germany.

34 Portail du Gouvernement de Côte d'Ivoire. 2018. «Diaspora : Les Ivoiriens De France Mettent En Place Un Comité Des Sages Pour La Prévention Des Conflits». http://www.gouv.ci/_actualite-article.php?recordID=9485.

35 Fédération des Associations de la Diaspora Ivoirienne. 2014. *Colloque Scientifique De La Diaspora Ivoirienne*. Image. <https://www.facebook.com/251029674959651/photos/a.265790086816943/658849344177680/>.

Les Ivoiriens en Espagne Spain

Integration activities

An organisation bringing together Ivoirians in Spain and providing support to migrants on immigration processes.

Mutuelle des cadres ivoiriens de l'Italie (MUCIT) Italy 2014

Integration activities

MUCIT brings together management-level diaspora personnel residing in Italy. It aims to promote exchange and networking among those capable of contributing to the development of Côte d'Ivoire, including strengthening relations between the Ivoirian government and Italian enterprises.³⁶

Union des Ivoiriens de Suède Sweden

Integration activities

Association bringing together Ivoirians in Sweden.

Union Interfédérale des Associations féminines et des Femmes Ivoiriennes de France (UIAFFIF) France 2017

Integration activities

The UIAFFIF brings together female diaspora organisations in France. It aims to be the voice of its member associations, advocating their interests towards French and Ivorian authorities.

36 Le Point Sur. 2015. «Diaspora Ivoirienne En Italie : La Mutuelle Des Cadres Ivoiriens De L'Italie Prête À Accompagner Le Développement De La Côte D'Ivoire», 2015. <http://lepointsur.com/diaspora-ivoirienne-en-italie-la-mutuelle-des-cadres-ivoiriens-de-litalie-prete-accompagner-le-developpement-de-la-cote-divoire/>.

