

STRATEGIC NOTE

Côte D'Ivoire

2021-2025





Photo: UN Women

INTRODUCTION

CÔTE D'IVOIRE'S GENDER EQUALITY LANDSCAPE

COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

Côte d'Ivoire is a West African country with an estimated population of 29.4 million, 52 percent men and 48 percent women.¹ The country is the world's largest producer of cocoa and cashew nuts, and has been experiencing one of the fastest and most sustained economic growth rates in sub-Saharan Africa for almost a decade.

Growth was 6.8 percent in 2022, down from 7.4 percent the previous year, but set to reach 7.2 percent in 2023, according to the African Development Bank. This dynamic economic activity is largely due to the government's measures to

combat COVID-19 and the implementation of reforms and investments in growth-generating sectors as part of its National Development Plan 2021-2025. However, inflation remained at 5.2 percent in 2022,² and the crisis in Ukraine hindered the national economy, disrupting imports, particularly energy and wheat. In addition, the ongoing climatic shock of recent years has disrupted agricultural activity, resulting in volatile prices for certain foodstuffs. The security situation in the subregion, linked to terrorism, has had a negative impact on cross-border trade, particularly on the import of necessities such as meat.

1. *Institut National de la Statistique de Côte d'Ivoire (2021). Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat.*
2. *World Bank (2023) Ivory Coast: presentation [\(online\)](#)*



Photo: UN Women

GENDER EQUALITY SNAPSHOT

Côte d'Ivoire has shown its commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment by ratifying most of the principal human rights instruments at the international and regional levels, including: the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (1325, 1820, 1888). In November 2016, Côte d'Ivoire adopted a constitution that enshrines the principles of gender equality and equal opportunities, including in the labour market. In 2019, the country adopted a law stating that all political parties must include at least 30 percent of women in their list of candidates for elected assemblies. However, despite these commitments, there are still challenges that hinder progress towards gender equality. Côte d'Ivoire's gender gap ranked 122nd out of 146 countries assessed by the World Economic Forum's 2023 gender report. This ranking is based on performance across four subindices: economic participation and opportunity; educational attainment; health and survival; and political empowerment.

3. *Independent Electoral Commission, 2021*

The Ivorian economy is characterized by the predominance of informal employment, where women are over-represented with resulting low wages. Gender discrimination persists regarding economic rights and opportunities in all sectors. In particular, access to land and finance remains an issue for women entrepreneurs. Women make up a majority of the workforce in agriculture (60-80%) and in the production and marketing of food crops, but do not own any of the large farms.

Women and girls in Côte d'Ivoire still face high levels of violence, including sexual violence, domestic violence, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and forced marriage. In the north-west, 75 percent of women and girls aged 15-49 have experienced some form of genital mutilation.

While the principle of equality between women and men is affirmed in the 2016 Constitution and relevant legislation, women are still under-represented in the institutions that make the essential decisions affecting their lives. During the March 2021 legislative elections, women made up only 13 percent of the candidates, while they represent 49 percent of the electors, and in spite of the 2019 law that at least 30 percent of each party's candidates be women.³

CÔTE D'IVOIRE'S GENDER EQUALITY SNAPSHOT

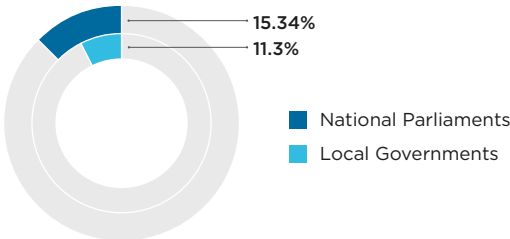
figure 1
Gender Inequality Index



UNDP (2022) Human Development Report 2021-22, Gender Inequality Index.

figure 2
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments

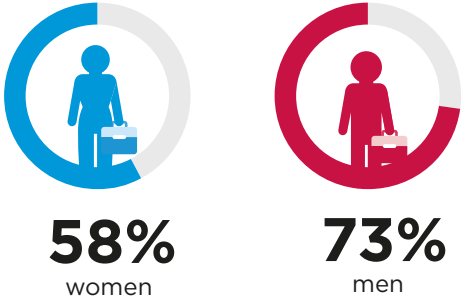
Governance and Participation in Public Life



Official website of the government of Côte d'Ivoire, (2023).

figure 3
Employment rate by sex

Women's Economic Empowerment



The World Bank (2022) Gender Data Portal.

figure 4
Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner

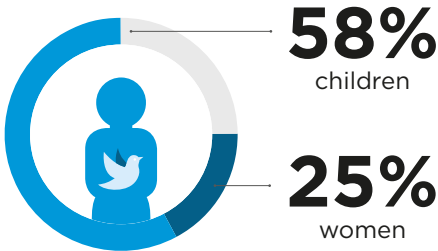
Ending Violence against Women



Ministry of Women, Family and Children, (2021) Statistical Yearbook

figure 5
Number of and women's ration among people in need of humanitarian assistance

Women, Peace and Security, Humanitarian Action, and Disaster Risk Reduction



UNICEF (2023) Humanitarian Situation Report

UN WOMEN STRATEGIC NOTE: A roadmap to gender equality

The Strategic Note (SN) articulates the multi-year strategy, rationale, envisioned results, targets, and resource requirements for a UN Women Office. In essence, the SN provides a roadmap for improving the lives of women and girls in the context where UN Women operates. It is developed in consultation with key partners and in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), UN Women's Strategic Plan and key national, regional, and global gender-equality priorities. SNs are funded by a combination of core (loosely earmarked) and non-core resources (earmarked).

UN Women's SN is similar to a Country Programme Document (CPD) used by other UN entities.

UN WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS

UN Women has contributed to progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in Côte d'Ivoire by leveraging its triple mandate – normative, operational, and coordination – for concrete results in partnership with the government, national gender institutions, civil society and other development stakeholders.

Key milestones supported by UN Women include the adoption or improvement of several gender-sensitive laws, the establishment of innovative mechanisms to combat violence against women and strengthening the capacity of women-led enterprises in the area of financial inclusion.

Notably, UN Women contributed to the gender strategy for the Independent Electoral Commission, as well as a 2019 law on women's representation in elected assemblies (enforced by a 2020 decree).

UN Women has also leveraged its operational mandate to support 50 civil society organizations (CSOs) to create a Monitoring Committee on Gender Mainstreaming in Electoral Processes comprising women politicians of all political groups and CSOs.

UN WOMEN CÔTE D'IVOIRE KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2021)

The **2021-2025 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN** includes a thorough gender perspective, ensured through technical advice to the Ministry of Planning and Development and coordinating the national gender consultative thematic group.

270 WOMEN LED-COOPERATIVES

received access to markets for goods and services and products reaching around 21,300 women.

(data is from 2023)

A list of discriminatory texts was compiled by CSOs and the Association of Female Jurists of Cote d'Ivoire to support advocacy efforts for **LEGAL REFORM AGAINST GENDER INEQUALITY** and for the protection of women.

100 WOMEN FARMERS received access to markets for goods and services and products, and easier access to strategic information for better management of their activities through the Centre for Women Entrepreneurship.

A total of **528 WOMEN PEACE MEDIATORS** in 10 Regions of Côte d'Ivoire were supported to contribute to the Early Warning and Response Mechanism of the Independent Electoral Commission in the context of the 2021 legislative elections.

To learn more about the work and results of UN Women Côte d'Ivoire, visit our [Transparency Portal](#).

CÔTE D'IVOIRE'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The UN Country Team and the Ivorian government have agreed on a set of strategic development priorities. These are set forth in the [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework \(UNSDCF\)](#) and are based on the Côte d'Ivoire's context analysis: a shared understanding of key national priorities, opportunities, risks, and persisting inequalities. UN Women Côte d'Ivoire's Strategic Note pursues two priorities contributing to the achievement of the UNSDCF and national priorities. These have been decided collectively with other UN Agencies and partners, based on what UN Women is uniquely positioned to contribute to. They are also aligned with [UN Women's Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#).

Message on partnerships: As a global champion for women and girls, UN Women convenes and influences a range of partners for a greater and long-lasting impact.

AS A GLOBAL CHAMPION
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS,
UN WOMEN CONVENES
AND INFLUENCES A
RANGE OF PARTNERS
FOR A GREATER AND
LONG-LASTING IMPACT

Women and girls in Côte d'Ivoire fully enjoy their rights, realize their potential and benefit from development

IMPACT

COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTION
(priority results)

ACCESS TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

RULE OF LAW, LABOUR RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY, PEACE AND SECURITY

UN WOMEN SOLUTIONS*

Enhance the capacity of women and girls to achieve their **full economic potential and bolster their capacity to combat gender inequalities**, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, and child marriage

Strengthen the capacity of national actors for planning, budgeting, monitoring, and evaluating gender-responsive policies and programmes while promoting and respecting human rights, gender equality, citizen participation, and social dialogue

Bolster national institutions' capacity to improve women and girls' access to socio-economic and technological opportunities and services for the prevention and management of gender-based violence

Improve national institutions' capacity to collect, analyze, disseminate, and use quality disaggregated data, and improve their capacity to strengthen democracy, security, and social cohesion

CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women and girls still face high levels of violence, including sexual violence and domestic violence, as well as unequal access to economic opportunities

Insufficient gender-sensitive data and reliable gender analyses impede an accurate assessment of progress towards gender equality, while women and girls remain under-represented in decision-making

*UN Women solutions are aligned to UN Women's Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

UN WOMEN'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

UN Women's comparative advantage in Côte d'Ivoire lies in its expertise in gender equality and women's empowerment, its ability to forge diverse partnerships including with rural women, as part of a dynamic humanitarian-development nexus, and its ability to leverage its coordinating and normative mandates to advance the integration of women's issues across the UN country team and its processes.

UN Women Côte d'Ivoire works in partnership with the government, national institutions, CSOs, universities, professional associations, and women's groups to

promote gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels. This participatory approach can help mobilize decision-makers and civil society as a whole for gender equality in Côte d'Ivoire.

Furthermore, UN Women's approach includes a focus on complementarity and inclusiveness, where women's issues are integrated into all major elements of the UN presence. Its involvement in Côte d'Ivoire's UNSDCF 2021-2025 thus makes it the lead agency on Outcome 6 (gender equality) and Outcome 8 (governance).

Photo: UN Women



UN WOMEN CÔTE D'IVOIRE'S STRATEGY

PRIORITY RESULT 1:

Access to socio-economic opportunities and ending violence against women and girls

UN Women's support to women in developing income-generating activities in rural settings will be complemented by its support to the government in developing and implementing gender-responsive food and agricultural policies, ideally using new technologies and innovations. Leveraging technologies, data, and innovation for development solutions that are more gender-responsive, inclusive, and cost-efficient will allow Côte d'Ivoire to accelerate progress towards empowerment of women and girls. The highly developed Ivorian private sector and the sharing of South-South experiences in innovative financing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda will also be leveraged to increase resources towards gender equality initiatives.

UN Women will also continue to strengthen women's organizations and women's rights defenders, including through capacity building and provision of resources to ensure their ownership and leadership in the fight against gender-based violence. UN Women will extend its support to the network of women community mediators established with assistance from the Peacebuilding Fund, and its partnership with traditional and religious leaders to address different forms of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and early marriage, through a grass-roots approach that focuses on promoting positive social norms, working with men and boys, families, and communities.

PARTNERS

To achieve these results UN women will work in partnership with the following, among others:

- The government of Côte d'Ivoire
- International financial institutions, notably the African Development Bank
- The European Union, embassies, technical cooperation agencies
- CSOs (Fondation Djigui la grande espérance, CARITAS, ONG Blety, GOFEHF, Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire)
- National institutions for human rights (National Council of Human Rights, National Observatory of Gender)
- The private sector

UN WOMEN
DRIVES RESULTS
ADVANCING
NORMATIVE
STANDARDS,
COORDINATING
ACTION ACROSS THE
UNITED NATIONS,
AND **OPERATING**
ON THE GROUND



Photo: UN Women/Joel Stéphane Dah

PRIORITY RESULT 2: Rule of law, labour rights, gender equality, peace and security

UN Women will work to strengthen governance systems to be more inclusive, accountable, effective and rely on quality data. To achieve this priority, UN Women will improve the capacities of national institutions and of civil-society actors in the areas of promotion and respect of rights, gender equality, citizen participation, and social dialogue.

UN Women will continue to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to collect, analyse, disseminate, and use high-quality, disaggregated data to support decision-making and accountability. Through the implementation of the Making Every Woman and Girls Count programme, UN Women promotes and enables the tracking of progress on gender equality, including among vulnerable groups. In addition, UN Women will work to make sure that national actors are equipped in the areas of planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of policies

and programmes based on equity, gender sensitivity and results orientation for the achievement of the SDGs.

Message on triple mandate: UN Women drives results advancing normative standards, coordinating action across the United Nations, and operating on the ground.

PARTNERS

To achieve these second-priority results UN Women will work in partnership with the following:

- Government institutions and parliaments to support the realization of women's human rights including through the repeal or amendment of discriminatory laws
- The National Institute for Statistics,
- The National Gender Observatory
- The National Council for Human Rights

BECOMING A FUNDING PARTNER

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 calls for transformative, collaborative action. Strategic, innovative, and efficient funding partnerships are essential to realize UN Women's vision of a gender-equal world, articulated in the SN.

HOW CAN FUNDING PARTNERS ENGAGE WITH UN WOMEN'S SN?

Partners may provide **SN direct funding**, which is softly earmarked by geography (regional or country SN). These funds are **flexible** and catalytic; they enable UN Women to choose the highest-impact use of the funds in the country in which it operates. SN funding is also **predictable**, as commitments are often made for the full SN time span, better enabling transformative results for women and girls.

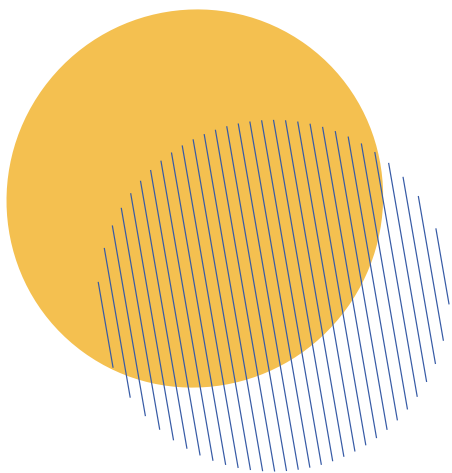
Importantly, SN direct funds strengthen UN Women's ability to respond to emerging needs in response to unforeseen contextual changes, including humanitarian needs (e.g., to prioritize the safety of women and girls in a crisis or in response to the adverse effects of natural disasters).

Furthermore, these funds can be reallocated when emerging evidence suggests a new approach is needed to produce the desired result more efficiently or effectively. They can be used for diverse types of costs and can therefore draw funds to areas that are often unfunded—yet crucial—such as advocacy for behavioural change, UN coordination, etc., supporting the organization's effectiveness.

Funding partners may also provide **project funding**, which is tightly earmarked for a specific project or initiative in the SN. These funds are not flexible. Reporting on the use of such funds is done against the specific project but not against the full SN.

SN funding represents an ambitious, targeted, and smart investment in gender equality and women's empowerment.

To learn more about UN Women Côte d'Ivoire's funding partners landscape visit our [Transparency Portal](#).



UN SYSTEM COORDINATION

UN Women Côte d'Ivoire has made great strides since 2018 to clearly position its mandate within the UN Country Team to coordinate gender equality and catalyse partnerships among UN agencies. UN Women has thus (a) ensured the integration of gender equality into the Common Country Analysis, which set the stage for (b) the development of the UNSDCF with strong gender mainstreaming, and (c) UN Women established and co-chairs the Gender Working Group, which serves as a single link for gender equality coordination between all UN entities.

UN Women's role vis-à-vis both UN and government partners emphasizes complementarity, where gender

equality is mainstreamed into all UN Country Team plans and processes. Underscoring this complementarity, UN Women recently coordinated the integration of gender into Côte d'Ivoire's 2022 Voluntary National Review, which placed particular emphasis on five of the SDGs, including SDG 5 on gender equality.

Since its establishment in Côte d'Ivoire, one of the main achievements of UN Women has been the support to the national gender coordination under its leadership with the technical support of other UN Agencies.

JOINT PROGRAMMING

Since 2019, gender equality has been visibly integrated into the three revised joint programmes of the Peacebuilding Fund⁴, which are operational at the time of the assessment. In accordance with the Peacebuilding Support Office procedures, programmes with gender equity as primary objective commit 40 percent of their budget to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE). This commitment is evident in the following programmes:

- **"Gender and Elections"** (UNDP/UN Women)
- **"Strengthening the participation of youth, women and communities in peacebuilding in Côte d'Ivoire"** (UNICEF/UNDP/UNESCO/UNFPA)
- **"Support for the democratic peacebuilding process in Côte d'Ivoire"** (UNDP/UN Women)

4. *The PBF Gender Marker utilizes a 4-point scale, aligned with the UNDG standard:
Score 3: Projects with gender equality as a principal objective allocate 80-100% of the total budget to GEWE.
Score 2: Projects with gender equality as a significant objective allocate 30-79% of the total budget to GEWE.
Score 1: Projects contributing somewhat to gender equality allocate 15-30% of the project's budget to GEWE.*

Our joint programmes:

Conflict risk mitigation in northern Côte d'Ivoire

- Duration: 18 months
- Participating agencies: UN Women, UNIDO

Integrated support for the management of local development, the promotion of peaceful societies and human security in the Gbêkê region, in particular the four localities of Béoumi, Botro, Bouaké and Sakassou


- Duration: 36 months
- Participating agencies: UN Women, UNDP

UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



UN WOMEN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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