
UN-Habitat Côte d'Ivoire

Country report | 2023

" A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD "



Contents

03 Urban context

04 UN-Habitat in Côte d'Ivoire

05 Our thematic focus

06 UN-Habitat projects in Côte d'Ivoire

09 Keys achievements

11 Our location and coverage

11 Upcoming events

12 Contacts

Urban context

Population overview

In 2021, Côte d'Ivoire had a population of 29,389,150, consisting of 14,044,160 women (47.8%) and 15,344,990 men (52.2%), with an annual intercensal growth rate of 2.9% from 2014 to 2021. The population is divided into 5,616,487 households with an average size of 5.2 individuals, resulting in a population density of 91 inhabitants per square kilometer. Of the total population, 59.2% are aged between 15-64, 38.2% are below 15 years old, and 2.6% are above 65 years old.

Côte d'Ivoire is facing accelerated urbanization, with the number of cities with over 100,000 inhabitants rising from 8 in 1998 to 17 in 2021, indicating a significant urban transition. As of now, 15,428,957 (52.5%) people reside in cities, compared to 13,960,193 (47.5%) in rural areas. The urbanization rate has steadily increased from 32.0% in 1975 to 52.5% in 2021, as per the General Population and Housing Census 2021. The Autonomous District of Abidjan, the economic capital of the country, has the highest concentration of inhabitants, with 2,994 inhabitants per square kilometer (the most populous city with a total of 5,616,633 inhabitants). The second-largest city in the country is Bouaké, with a population of 832,371 inhabitants, followed by Korhogo, the city of Poro in the north, with 440,926 inhabitants, and Daloa with 421,879 inhabitants. Abidjan is the largest city in the country and the second largest in West Africa after Lagos, Nigeria.

Challenges

Since 1960, Côte d'Ivoire has implemented development policies that prioritize urbanization as a major component in various programs. This political decision has enabled the establishment of an urban framework where cities play a



crucial role in the country's socio-economic development. Nonetheless, financial resources have been dwindling since 1980, and political instability from 1999 to 2011 has impeded progress in urban planning. As a result, cities in the country, with Abidjan at the forefront, have experienced varying degrees of decay in the quality of the urban fabric and an increase in income inequality, as well as a deficit in housing. Central neighborhoods are often well-equipped and modern, while peripheral areas are under-equipped, making them a source of exclusion and urban insecurity. These urban dysfunctions lead to various issues, including challenges in managing urban land, inadequate public infrastructure that does not meet the real needs of the population, and difficulties in accessing basic social services, resulting in declining living standards for most of the population and youth unemployment.

Moreover, the induced impacts of climate change have exacerbated the situation, leading to frequent severe floods and cities low resilience to natural disasters. In this context, where vulnerable populations struggle to access a healthy living environment and sustainable, decent housing, and where no one should be left behind, UN-Habitat is taking action in Côte d'Ivoire.

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In the last decade, Côte d'Ivoire has been listed in the top ten immigration levels amongst low middle-income countries. It also recently became the third largest economy in the region, expected to grow to 6.2% in 2022 and 6.4% in 2023

Forecast

Historically, the West African sub-region has had high levels of mobility. The regional organization, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), has facilitated free movement and trade among its 16 member states. People regularly move between member countries in search of employment and livelihood opportunities, as well as due to conflicts and the effects of climate change.

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The country is one of the few African economies that has maintained growth despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Projections suggest its population is expected to grow to more than 10 million by 2040 - attributed to natural birth increase and significant migration. As the country's economic, administrative, social and cultural hub, it receives a majority of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), comprising almost 75% of the economic activities in the ECOWAS region. The city's port is also a major infrastructure asset, logistical hub and employer, generating significant revenue for the Ivorian economy. All these factors make the city attractive to migrants from within and outside the country.



UN-Habitat in Côte d'Ivoire

In a momentous stride towards expanding our global reach, we proudly established our presence in Côte d'Ivoire in 2021, setting the stage for meaningful collaborations and transformative initiatives.

But long before 2021, UN-Habitat quietly established a foothold in the country, diligently working towards our goals and fostering meaningful partnerships that have left an indelible mark on local communities. For example, unleashing its visionary prowess, UN-Habitat took the helm from 1988 to 2013, leading the Urban Security Support project (Projet d'Appui à la Sécurité Urbaine - PASU) hand in hand with the Forum of Mayors of Côte d'Ivoire, as a beacon of collaboration and catalyst for transformative change.

Moving forward, our aim is to strengthen our presence to provide better support to all concerned national and local governments. Because projects' sustainability can only be ensured through a solid institutional

anchorage, active involvement of local and national authorities at different project stages is essential. From this perspective, we support the government through the provision of technical services, the sharing of tools and methodologies, lessons learnt, and best practice compiled from other projects.

As part of our bright partnerships, our endeavors intertwine seamlessly with the esteemed Ministry of Construction, Housing, and Urban Development. Together, we sculpt the very essence of progress as we spearhead the creation of the country's very first National Urban Policy. Furthermore, in recognition of our unwavering expertise, the authorities have turned to us for assistance in crafting a Habitat Policy that transcends the National Urban Policy.

In addition to national stakeholders, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the country's eminent forces for change, which

are other United Nations organizations. Together, we form an unbreakable bond, a symphony of shared visions and collective action, harmonizing our efforts to unlock the full potential of sustainable development in Côte d'Ivoire. As an illustration, UN-Habitat has participated in the preparation of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the 2021–2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), which is aligned to the 2021–2025 National Development Plan and has been signed between the government and the United Nations.

In particular, UN-Habitat participates in the following Expected Outcomes of the UNSDCF:

- Expected Outcome 4 emphasizing, by 2025, all segments of the population, especially the most vulnerable, will have fair and equal access to water, hygiene, and sanitation services of high quality, including in emergency situations.

- Expected Outcome 7 emphasizing, by 2025, increased access of communities to land and marine ecosystems, as well as a more sustainable, integrated, and inclusive living environment, leading to better resilience.

Our thematic focus

- Basic social services
- Urban planning and territorial development
- Land management and affordable housing
- Urban resilience to climate change, disaster risk reduction, and early warning systems
- Urban safety and security
- Social and digital inclusion
- Urban sanitation and cleanliness
- Enhancing capacities in urban governance and territorial assessment
- Participatory planning and community development
- Urban profiling
- National Urban Policy

UN-Habitat projects in Côte d'Ivoire

Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, Phase III



Donor : European Union



Duration : 8 months (2022)



Budget : 95 000 USD



Area : Abidjan, Treichville and Abobo



Partners : Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Development (MCLU) | AVSI Côte d'Ivoire NGO



The program aims to: pilot the approach of community-managed funds; strengthen the capacities of communities, municipalities, and technical partners in participatory approaches to slum improvement; raise awareness among vulnerable populations about hygiene measures and carry out community initiatives.

Enhancing the opportunities of Labour Migrants and Local Communities in vulnerable conditions to integrate in Greater Abidjan (AMIC)



Donor : Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



Co-funding : UN-Habitat



Duration : 4 years (June 2021 - May 2025)



Budget : 3 028 839 USD



Area : Grand Abidjan



Partners : Ministry of Planning and Development (MDP) | Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Development



The objective is to carry-out a two-phase action- research project that focuses on broadening the sphere of opportunities for labour migrants and their host communities living in conditions of vulnerability to integrate in Greater Abidjan in a more inclusive, sustainable and safer manner, thus enhancing social cohesion and reducing environmental impact, thanks to the implementation of informed public policies, institutional capacity building and scalable pilot interventions



UN-HABITAT / Technical Workshop (Phase 1) of the Greater Abidjan AMIC Project

Waste Wise Cities (WaCT) project in the District of Abidjan



Partners : Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation



Donor : JICA



Duration : 2023 – Kick off and training on 7 th March 2023



Budget : 5 338 USD



Area : Autonomous District of Abidjan



The aim is to assess the Abidjan District's performance in managing municipal solid waste by tracking Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 11.6.1. The objective is to support the Abidjan District in meeting its SDG targets for sustainable waste management.

WASTE WISE CITIES



Centre of Excellence on Habitat (CEH)



Donor : WAEMU Commission and World Bank



Duration : 3 years



Budget : 375 000 000 XOF



Area: Côte d'Ivoire



Partners : Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Development, Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population (ISSP) at Joseph KI-ZERBO University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, École Supérieure d'Économie Appliquée

(ESEA) at Cheick Anta Diop University of Dakar in Senegal



The objective is to establish an analytical framework for the housing sector that consolidates the efforts made by each WAEMU country and implement an innovative and sustainable program to train and enhance the skills of sector actors. This includes creating analytical indicators for housing, land, and habitat, and producing a national housing report for Côte d'Ivoire.



Improved Resilience in Coastal Communities in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana



Donor : Adaptation Fund



Duration : 4 years (2023-2027) kick off in September 2023



Budget : 13 986 990 USD



Area : Coastal areas in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana

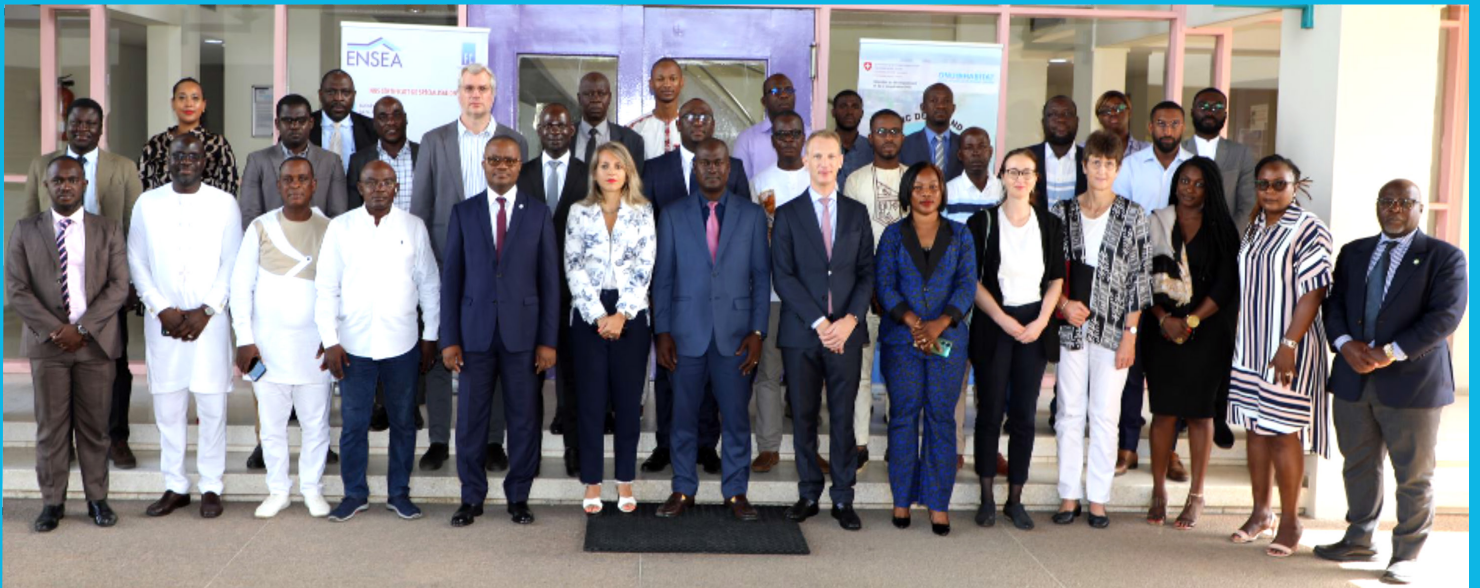


Partners: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development | Ministry of Planning and Development | Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Development | Habitat for Humanity.



The initiative aims to enhance territorial planning for coastal climate adaptation at various geographical scales, and to carry out tangible interventions using early warning systems that strengthen the adaptive capacity of coastal communities to the impacts of climate change.





Attendees of the participatory validation workshop for data collection results on Greater Abidjan.

Key achievements

■ **As a part of the Participatory Slum Upgrade Programme** : update of urban profiles of slums in Abobo and Treichville municipalities, with a focus on the neighborhoods of Anonkoua 3, Bougounisso, and Yobou Lambert.

■ **Community development and provision of basic social services in vulnerable areas:** Neighborhoods of Anonkoua 3, Bougounisso, and Yobou Lambert, with 1310 beneficiaries from vulnerable areas, including 671 men, 639 women, 523 young men, and 285 young women:

- Sanitation/wastewater disposal.
- Maintenance of public spaces and building facades.
- Provision of tricycles for pre-collection of household waste.
- Initiation of pre-collection and regular collection of household waste.
- Construction of non-emptying biophilic septic tanks.
- Maintenance of access roads in slums.
- Awareness-raising of 1310 individuals through media dissemination on the health consequences of unsanitary conditions, hygiene standards, and other topics related to environmental improvement.

■ **Capacity building in the management of urban areas and informal settlements:**

- 52 officials from technical ministries and local authorities in Abobo and Treichville were trained in participatory planning, participatory budgeting, and community-managed funds.
- 09 Civil Society Organizations were established in Abobo and Treichville to implement community initiatives in sanitation and household waste management.
- 03 watchdog committees consisting of community leaders, religious guides, women and youth leaders were formed to oversee sanitation and community management, leading to the creation of 100 jobs in slums.
- 40 national actors were trained in the flow diagram for sustainable management of municipal solid waste in the Abidjan District.

■ **Capacity strengthening in conducting territorial diagnosis:** training of 5 local officials from the Ministry of Planning and Development/ENSEA in the use of the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) tool. This participatory method of territorial planning helps the government make informed decisions on investment priorities.

■ **As part of the AMIC project:** a territorial diagnosis of Greater Abidjan was carried out, which included an assessment of the socio-economic profile and challenges faced by vulnerable populations in informal settlements located in the municipalities of Adjamé, Attécoubé, Aynama, and Azaguié.

■ **Technical assistance:**

- Assistance to the government during the National Housing Day regarding discussions on financing affordable housing.
 - Support to the government in the ongoing development of a National Housing and Urban Policy.
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■ **Sharing of experience:**

- Sharing information and data with the United Nations System in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Côte d'Ivoire.
 - Strengthening collaboration with other United Nations agencies, including but not limited to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Fund for Agriculture (FAO), and UN Women.
 - Pursuing opportunities for coordinated actions within the consultative group of development partners on urbanization.
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Participatory validation workshop of data collection results on the Greater Abidjan © UN-Habitat Côte d'Ivoire



Providing vulnerable populations with maintenance supplies for sanitation infrastructure and household waste management © UN-Habitat Côte d'Ivoire

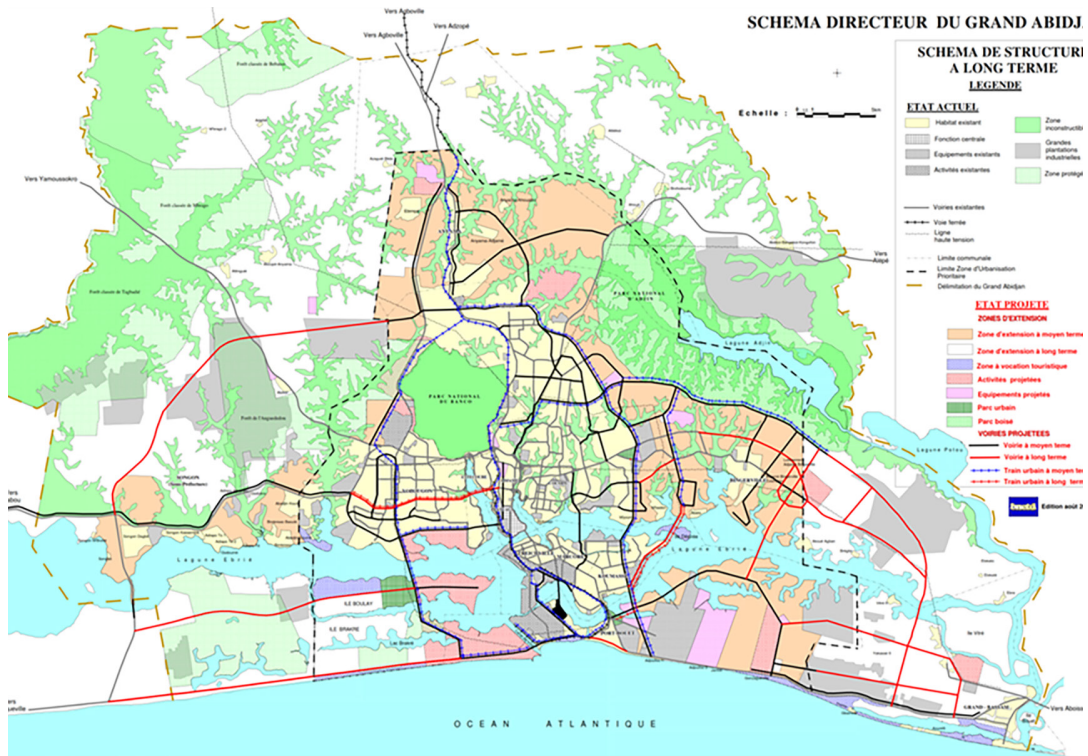


Community-led effort for building facade restoration in collaboration with UN-Habitat. © UN-Habitat Côte d'Ivoire



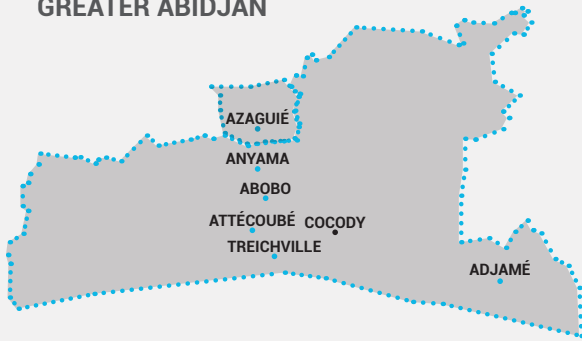
Sanitation of an unauthorized household waste dumpsite with the installation of waste bins. © UN-Habitat Côte d'Ivoire

Our location and coverage



Covered areas

GREATER ABIDJAN



We collaborate with

Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Development (MCLU)

United Nations Agencies operating in Côte d'Ivoire and the surrounding region



Local Governments, Local Communities.

Non-Governmental Organizations

Upcoming events

1. Workshop for presenting results as part of the WaCT project with stakeholders at the end of May.

2. Planned contribution to World Environment Day on June 5th (to be confirmed)

3. Participation of the Ministry of Construction, Housing, and Country Office in the UN-Habitat Assembly in Nairobi.

Our financial partners



LA BANQUE MONDIALE
BIRD • IDA



Japan International
Cooperation Agency



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Direction du développement
et de la coopération DDC



ADAPTATION FUND
Readiness Programme
for Climate Finance

A better quality of life for all
in an urbanizing world



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