



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

REPORT

2024 PARLIAMENTARY FIELD VISIT TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE 24-26 June 2024





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Introduction

From the 24th to the 26th of April 2024, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF (PN) jointly organized with the World Bank Group (WBG) a Parliamentary Field Visit to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. The Field Visit included sessions across all three days and provided an opportunity for Parliamentarians to witness concrete examples of the International Development Association (IDA)'s impact on the ground helping the world's most vulnerable populations, and a platform with which to investigate how World Bank funds are being invested and implemented. Meetings included 1) A briefing with Marie Chantal Uwanyiligira, World Bank Country Director; 2) A meeting to H.E. Kaba Niale, Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development; 3) A meeting with H.E. Adama Coulibaly, Minister of Finance and Budget; 4) A meeting with H.E. Adama Bictogo, Speaker of the National Assembly and the launch of a national Parliamentary Network chapter; 5) A working session with civil society organizations; 6) A visit to an Urban Resilience project; 7) Visits to two National Health Insurance Programs; 8) A visit to a Cashew Processing Transformation project; 9) A visit to a Youth Employment project; and 10) A meeting with H.E. Kandia Camara, President of the Senate.

24 June:

Briefing with Marie-Chantal Uwanyiligira, Country Director and overview of the WBG program in Cote d'Ivoire

Marie-Chantal Uwanyiligira, World Bank Country Director for Côte d'Ivoire, kicked off the field visit with an overview of World Bank Operations in the country. She demonstrated the institution's shift towards what she termed a "Bigger, Better, and Bolder" approach, which focused primarily upon an enhanced financing model. Her briefing highlighted the opportunities and challenges of

the World Bank Partnership Strategy with Côte d'Ivoire from the years 2023-2027

which centers around three

primary objectives: 1) enhancing human capital, 2) mitigating social disparity while strengthening resilience, and 3) promoting job creation through private sector-led growth. Her presentation



(RIGHT TO LEFT) ENOH NDRI, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, WBG; MARIE-CHANTAL UWANYILIGIRA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE COUNTRY DIRECTOR, WBG; HON. MARLENE M. FORTE MP, HEAD OF DELEGATION



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demonstrated: in Côte d'Ivoire, Sustainable Development (agriculture, food, ENB, urban resilience/land, water, social sustainability, and inclusion) represents the biggest share of the Bank's portfolio distribution at 38%, followed by Human Development (education, HNP, social protection and jobs) at 26%, Infrastructure (energy, extractives, and transport) at 23% and EFI (FCI, governance, MTI, poverty, and equity) at 13%.

The biggest challenges facing Côte d'Ivoire, Uwanyiligira said, were demographic transitions, youth employment, women's economic participation, and the lack of economic diversity. She also addressed the potential for growth in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and renewable energy and made clear regional challenges—the implications of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger's withdrawal from ECOWAS—and persisting fragility issues in the area.

Further discussion between Uwanyiligira and Parliamentarians:

- The alignment of World Bank objectives with Côte d'Ivoire's goals
- Adapting World Bank strategy in response to increased Western investment in Africa
- Concerns about hunger issues and education problems, investment in agriculture
- World Bank recommendations for state budgets and institution-building
- Potential instability due to upcoming national elections

Meeting with H.E. Kaba Niale, Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development, Governor of the World Bank Group

The delegation then met with **H.E. Kaba Niale, Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development**, who discussed the government's five-year development plan as well as the longer-term "Côte d'Ivoire 2040" program. She pointed out several critical problems facing the country—for example, 50% of the population lacking access to energy, water scarcity, youth unemployment among a very young national population—but expressed optimism at reaching goals set out that had been set with a timeframe to tackle

them. Niale emphasized the need for vocational training to address skills gaps in the workforce and discussed the need to shift away from its traditionally grown crops like coffee and palm oil



H.E. KABA NIALE, MINISTER OF ECONOMY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT



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towards food crops and cashews so that the country could become more self-reliant. Niale was very positive on Côte d'Ivoire's collaboration with the World Bank and its technical support. She was thankful for the implementation and scale of World Bank projects and called upon all MPs present to maintain loud voices in the campaign for larger IDA funds.

Further discussion between Niale and Parliamentarians:

- Potential corruption in World Bank-supported programs
- Plans for international cooperation
- Potential for decentralization and local leadership
- Potential for self-reliance in food production
- Concerns about the time lag between planning and implementation of projects

Meeting with H.E. Adama Coulibaly, Minister of Finance and Budget

In the afternoon, the delegation met with **H.E. Adama Coulibaly, Minister of Finance and Budget**. Coulibaly began by echoing the points made by Niale: the contributions of the World Bank in Côte d'Ivoire have been enormous. He then led a report on Côte d'Ivoire's economic performance. He cited a 5% growth rate, decreasing inflation, and a fiscal deficit of 4%. The country is the world's leader producer of cocoa and cashews, second in palm oil, and among the top in rubber. Although the country aims still to industrialize further and reduce its reliance on agriculture, it has shrunk the agriculture sector proportionally from 80% to 50% of the country's economic output. He remarked, foreign investment is growing quickly in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly because it is so well



(RIGHT) DELEGATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK AND IMF; (LEFT) H.E. ADAMA COULIBALY, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND BUDGET



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geographically positioned among the West African geographical area. He also noted that the scale of projects in Côte d'Ivoire has grown very quickly in large part thanks to the WBG, and very simply put, because when a project works, Côte d'Ivoire scales it up.

Further discussion between Coulibaly and Parliamentarians:

- Questions on the competency of local-level governments and the continuity of funding across government changes
- Gender and climate-sensitive budgeting
- Risk assessment in various sectors, particularly agriculture
- Restrictions on foreign investment

Meeting with H.E. Adama Bictogo, Speaker of the National Assembly, and the launch of a national Parliamentary Network chapter

The day concluded with a meeting with **H.E. Adama Bictogo, Speaker of the National Assembly**. This presented an opportunity of how government institutions operate in the country. Members of the National Assembly are elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year term. Together with the Senate, it enacts laws and approves taxes. It oversees the actions of the Government and evaluates public policies. The National Assembly and the

Senate meet in Congress at the request of the President of the Republic. The President of the

National Assembly presides over the Congress, assisted by the President of the Senate, who serves as the Vice-President. The Senate represents the territorial communities and Ivorians living abroad. Two-thirds of the senators are elected by indirect universal suffrage. One-third of the senators are appointed by the President of the Republic from among Ivorians recognized for their proven expertise and competence in political, administrative, economic, scientific, cultural, sporting, professional, and social fields. Senators serve a five-year term.



(LEFT) HON. MARLENE M. FORTE MP, HEAD OF DELEGATION; (RIGHT) H.E. ADAMA BICTOGO, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



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In his remarks, Bictogo stressed the critical importance of vocational training in Côte d'Ivoire and the need for rapid digital technology development. The potential for mobile technology in education and financial transaction is huge for the country, he said, and must be seized upon to be productive to the country's young population. With a nod to the Parliamentary Network, he remarked that today more than ever, Parliamentarians must focus not first on policymaking, but on becoming briefed on issues and on understanding well how programs are funded, before making wise legislative decisions.

The meeting was underlined by the launch of the Côte d'Ivoire Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF, and the nomination of the chapter's chairperson, Hon. Madjara Tiegbana Coulibaly MP, already a board member of the broader Parliamentary Network. Hon. Coulibaly gave comments committing to the goals of the PN—to increase transparency and accountability nationally and globally—and said that she would write a letter to the President of the Senate asking for appointments for board members for the national chapter. Hon. Marlene M. Forte, head of delegation, and Coulibaly then took questions from Ivorian MPs on how the PN operates and briefed them on how the network greatly facilitates information sharing and the global development process.



THE DELEGATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK AND IMF WITH (CENTER) H.E. ADAMA BICTOGO, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



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25 June:

Working session with Civil Society Organizations

The second day of the visit began with discussions between the delegation and members of CSOs in Côte d'Ivoire. A common thread that worked through many questions and comments was that Parliamentarians and CSOs had a responsibility to work more closely together, hold each other accountable, and investigate each other's funding operations. CSOs present were: ASAPSU (Association



(LEFT) HON. MADJARA TIEGBANA COULIBALY MP; (CENTER) HON. ABDLOU KARIM DIOMANDE MP

for Urban Health Self-Promotion), FENOSCI (National Federation of Health Organisations Côte D'Ivoire), ABICOM (Association for Communal Wellbeing), Engage and Share, and Young Ambassadors. Topics of dialogue also included ways in which CSOs and government could work together to create networks of health and information sharing in the country. The chairwoman of the launched Parliamentary Network national chapter welcomed engagement from CSOs and said that it looked forward to much more future engagement.

Visit of the Urban Resilience project and engagement with beneficiaries



(LEFT) HON. COLLINS ADOMAKO-MENSAH MP; (SECOND FROM LEFT) HON. MARLENE M. FORTE MP, HEAD OF DELEGATION; (CENTER) HON. MADJARA TIEGBANA COULIBALY MP; (SECOND FROM RIGHT) H.E. KANDIA CAMARA, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

The delegation was welcomed to witness firsthand the progress of an Urban Resilience and Solid Waste Management Project in the Abobo district of Abidjan, one of the city's largest communes. With funding of \$315 million, the project aims to reduce flooding vulnerability, control erosion, improve waste processing systems, and improve methods of early warnings for



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disaster. Parliamentarians received briefings on the programs from engineers, project managers, and local leaders and were provided insight into what it takes to enact such a large operation. So far, the project estimates, 800,000 residents have been protected from flood risks and approximately 1,350,000 have been given access to improved sanitation services. The visit consisted of a walk (led by **H.E. Kandia Camara, President of the Senate**, and delegation head Hon. Marlene M. Forte) and briefing stops along a recently constructed drainage canal, for which beneficiaries reported first-hand the lives it had already saved and the huge benefits it had already provided. The project visit ended with a video presentation that showcased first-hand stories from beneficiaries on the massive benefits the project had made to their lives.

Visit of 2 National Health Insurance Programs (Couverture Maladie Universelle)

In the afternoon, the delegation, accompanied by H.E. Adama Bictogo, Speaker of the National Assembly, paid visits to two sites of *Couverture Maladie Universelle*, part of a \$800 million World Bank-funded health program that aims to contribute towards the Ivorian government's 2030 strategic vision and 2040 roadmap to improve human capital outcomes. Parliamentarians were given a tour of an in-situ enrollment and card distribution center and the General Hospital of Yopougon Attie. They were given the opportunity to see and investigate the efficiency of



FRONT ROW : (LEFT) HON. AMIRA SABER MP; (CENTER) ADAMA BICTOGO, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY; (SECOND FROM RIGHT) HON. MARLENE M. FORTE MP, HEAD OF DELEGATION

of the insurance enrolling process and to hear from the Ivorian **Minister of Health, H.E. Pierre Dimba**. He emphasized the goal of enrolling the entire Ivorian population in the developing health insurance program and predicted that that it would reach 20 million enrollees by the end of the year. As of June 2024, more than 13 million people (45% of the population) have been enrolled. The program will benefit at least 14 million women, adolescent girls, and children, including over 2 million poor persons, 400,000 people living with HIV, as well as migrants and internally displaced people.



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26 June:

Cashew Transformation project visit and engagement with beneficiaries

The delegation began the last day of the field visit with a tour of a Dorado Ivory cashew processing plant (CITA) in Toumodi, a city close to the country's capital of Yamoussoukro. World Bank funding facilitated the acquisition and installation of the cashew processing equipment and supported the provision of training to local processing operators. The center has created more than 420 direct jobs, with women accounting for 63% of the jobs created. Since its launch in 2020, CITA has trained about 1,300 cashew nut processors along the value chain. Parliamentarians were given a presentation on the logistics and statistics of the processing center; they were walked through which jobs were necessary, how location was chosen, how resources were sourced, and the role of the World Bank in fast-tracking the process. The delegation was impressed at the immense speed with which the plant has grown. From 57,000 tons of raw nuts produced in 2017, the plant had produced 320,000 tons in the first 6 months of 2024.



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They also received optimistic news on the potential of new projects related to cashews—for example in creating energy with the abundant waste product, cashew shells. Discussions followed the presentation and centered around the amelioration of job creation, working

conditions, and gender ratio and discrepancy in work type at the plant. Although workers are paid, at minimum, above minimum wage for Côte d'Ivoire, many workers reportedly receive 80,000 CFA (\$132.83) a month. The delegation stood in agreement that economic growth must go hand-in-hand with growth in standard of living and reminded the operation that they were present at the plant in an oversight role.



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Youth Employment project visit and engagement with beneficiaries

The delegation observed a youth employment project, visiting an enterprise run by a young entrepreneur who had transitioned from selling mobile phones to operating a bookstore and photocopying business. The World Bank's Youth Employment project aims to enhance workers' capabilities and provide vocational education and on-the-job training to prepare young men and women for job opportunities. It also bridges the gap between educational institutions and the private sector, ensuring students acquire job-relevant skills. The program has successfully created 65,000 jobs, benefiting 43% young women, through various programs such as labor-intensive work, internships, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurship initiatives. An additional 102,000 youth, with a 50% female participation rate is expected to benefit from job-focused interventions to enhance their skills and employability, driving economic growth and digital innovation in the country. Parliamentarians asked the entrepreneur, Kofi, questions about how the project had changed his life. He replied that it had immensely and reported earning about 400,000-450,000 CFA (\$664-747) a month, far exceeding national averages. He expressed immense gratitude for the help he had received.

Meeting with H.E. Kandia Camara, President of the Senate

The field visit concluded at the Ivorian Senate with bilateral talks with H.E. Kandia Camara, President of the Senate, followed by a working lunch with other members of the body. Camara, a speaker herself at the 2024 Global Parliamentary Forum organized by the Parliamentary Network, World Bank, and IMF, emphasized the importance of cooperation between national parliaments and international financial institutions for accountable global governance. She highlighted Côte d'Ivoire's progress in achieving development goals and stressed the fundamental role that support from the World Bank and IMF in doing so. The lunch was an opportunity for Parliamentarians to talk to Ivorian government officials more informally about their country, and an opportunity to thank the delegation for coming and for striving to hold the World Bank accountable.



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THE DELEGATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK AND IMF, IVORIAN SENATORS, WITH (CENTER) H.E. KANDIA CAMARA, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PARLIAMENTARY FIELD VISIT TO COTE D'IVOIRE VISITE PARLEMENTAIRE EN COTE D'IVOIRE

AGENDA | Projet d'ordre du jour
June 24-26, 2024 | Du 24 au 26 juin 2024

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF

Founded in 2000, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF (PN) is an independent network of over 1,500 parliamentarians in 158 World Bank and IMF member countries. Membership is free and open to all elected MPs currently serving a mandate. It is currently governed by a nine-member international board and the Chair, the Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP, UK. The mission of the PN is to facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing and to increase transparency and accountability in the development cooperation process by fostering the oversight role of parliaments. The PN organizes numerous engagements jointly with the WBG and IMF, such as Global Parliamentary Forums, high-level thematic meetings, capacity building, and parliamentary field visits to developing countries. It also keeps its membership informed on the WBG's activities to build political capital for our work. Finally, the PN produces regular material for its members, including newsletters, thematic briefings, books, and policy primers on topics such as government transparency, the future of work, and youth job creation. For more on the Network, visit: <http://www.parlnet.org>



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Purpose

The Parliamentary Field Visit to Côte d'Ivoire provides Parliamentarians with the opportunity to witness concrete examples of the International Development Association (IDA)'s impact on the ground to help the poor and most vulnerable populations. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of World Bank Group operations through firsthand experience of projects and meetings with World Bank country teams and counterparts. The visit also provides the unique occasion for dialogue among MPs in the delegation as well as with national parliamentarians, members of the senate and government officials, giving participants a comprehensive overview of the host country's development progress. By engaging with beneficiary communities, global peers, and World Bank staff, they gain invaluable insight into how funds are implemented and why investing in developing countries is crucial for global welfare. Parliamentarians can then take back their experiences to their constituencies for more informed parliamentary engagement and advocacy in the development debate.

International Development Association (IDA)

The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) is one of the largest sources of development financing and solutions for Africa. IDA has a decades long track record of improving the lives of women and young people, accelerating digitalization, creating jobs, and building infrastructure. As IDA enters a critical replenishment year and Africa faces a confluence of challenges from high debt to food insecurity, lack of energy and climate shocks, there is a window of opportunity to scale up investments and help the region overcome challenges and realize a historic opportunity for growth and development. IDA is a safe repository for resources to be leveraged for transforming development in countries that need it most. For more on IDA results, visit: <http://ida.worldbank.org/results>

List of Delegation

NAME	TITLE	COUNTRY
Marlene M. Forte	MP, Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Head of Delegation	Jamaica
Chandrakanth Arya	MP	Canada
Ali Ehsassi	MP, Chair of Foreign Affairs and Development Committee	Canada
Madjara Tiegbana Coulibaly	MP, Parliamentary Network Board Member	Cote d'Ivoire
Mamadou Cisse	Senator, President of the Economic and Financial Affairs Committee	Cote d'Ivoire
Issouf Traore	MP, President of the Economic and Finance Committee	Cote d'Ivoire
Abdoul Karim Diomande	MP	Cote d'Ivoire
Bakaray Ouattara	Senator, President of the Committee for the Evaluation of Public Policies	Cote d'Ivoire
Amira Saber	MP	Egypt



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Collins AdomakoMensah	MP	Ghana
Anthony F. Williams	MP	Liberia
Okpolupm Etteh	MP	Nigeria
Nadjo N'Ladon	MP	Togo
Javier Maroto	Vice President of the Senate	Spain
Oleksii Zhmerenetskyi	MP	Ukraine
Fortune Daniel Molokela-Tsiye	MP	Zimbabwe
Civil Society Organizations		
Kenneth Prudencio	ASAPSU	Cote d'Ivoire
Luc Digbeu	FENOSCI	Cote d'Ivoire
Ello Frédéric	ABICOM	Cote d'Ivoire
Elodie Tie Lou	Engage and Share	Cote d'Ivoire
Benjamin Sadia	Young Ambassadors	Cote d'Ivoire

ANNEXES

Overview of the National Assembly and the Senate

The legislative power in Cote d'Ivoire is exercised by the Parliament, which consists of the **National Assembly** and the Senate. Members of the National Assembly are elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year term. The Parliament enacts laws and approves taxes. It oversees the actions of the Government and evaluates public policies. Each year, the Parliament convenes in a regular session by default. The National Assembly and the Senate meet in Congress at the request of the President of the Republic. The President of the National Assembly presides over the Congress, assisted by the President of the Senate, who serves as the Vice-President. The session's bureau is that of the National Assembly. Every year, the National Assembly convenes in two regular sessions by default. The first session opens on the last Wednesday of April and lasts a maximum of three months. The second session begins on the first Wednesday of October and ends on the third Friday of December. The National Assembly can be summoned for an extraordinary session by its president, based on a specific agenda, either at the request of the President of the Republic or by an absolute majority of the deputies. These sessions conclude once the agenda is exhausted. The National Assembly can also meet in a closed session, in committee, at the request of the President of the Republic or one-third of the deputies. The complete record of the National Assembly's proceedings is published in the Official Journal of Debates. Established on November 27, 1960, Adama Bictogo has presided the National Assembly since June 7, 2022.

The **Senate** represents the territorial communities and Ivorians living abroad. Two-thirds of the senators are elected by indirect universal suffrage. One-third of the senators are appointed by the President of the



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Republic from among Ivorians recognized for their proven expertise and competence in political, administrative, economic, scientific, cultural, sporting, professional, and social fields. Senators serve a five-year term. The first legislature of the Senate began on April 12, 2018, and ended on September 16, 2023, with the organization of senatorial elections nationwide. Mr. Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio was the first President in the history of the Senate of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. Since October 12, 2023, the Senate of Côte d'Ivoire is in its second legislature. The current President of the parliamentary institution is Mrs. Kandia Camara. The second legislature of the Senate includes 24 women (24.24%) and 75 men (75.76%).

Biographies



H.E. Nialé Kaba, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development was the first woman to head the Ministry of Economy and Finance in Côte d'Ivoire. She was appointed on 22 November 2012 by President Alassane Ouattara and served until January 2016 when she was redeployed to the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development. She obtained a baccalaureate in 1981 and a master's degree in economics with public economy option from the University of Abidjan-Cocody in 1989. She earned an engineering degree from the European Center for the Training of Economic Statisticians in developing countries and a Diploma of Advanced Studies in International Economics and Development Economics at the University of Paris 1- Panthéon-Sorbonne. In 1993, Nialé attended the Institute of the International Monetary Fund in Economic Policy Management. During her tenure as Economy and Finance Minister, Ivorian economy achieved annual growth rate averaging nine percent and was rated one of the most dynamic economies in Africa.



H.E. Adama Coulibaly, Minister of Finance and Budget. Adama Coulibaly holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Paris 2 Sorbonne Panthéon-France. He started his career in 1983 as a Researcher-Academic at the University of Abidjan and at the Ivorian Center for Economic and Social Research (CIRES). From 1990 to 2014, he worked for UNDP in various positions – from Senior to and Country Representative for Guinea and DRC. In January 2014, Mr. Coulibaly was appointed Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Economy and Finance until his appointment as Minister of Economy and Finance on September 4, 2019. In November 2024 he took over the Budget in addition to Finance.



Hon. Kandia Camara, President of the Senate. Kandia Camara is a prominent Ivorian politician and member of the ruling RHDP party. She made history in October 2023 by becoming the first woman elected as President of the Senate. Prior to this role, she served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of National Education, where she implemented key educational reforms and strengthened international relations. Kandia Camara is also the Mayor of Abobo, one of Abidjan's largest communes, where she focuses on community development and women's empowerment. A close associate of Côte d'Ivoire's top leadership, she continues to play a significant role in the nation's political and social spheres.



Hon. Adama Bictogo, President of the National Assembly. A former Minister of African Integration and executive of the ruling RHDP party, Adama Bictogo was elected president



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of the National Assembly in June 2022 and Mayor of Youpougon, the largest commune of Abidjan in 2023. Bictogo is a close associate of Cote d'Ivoire's first couple and had been actively involved in various business ventures throughout his career. He has held executive positions in companies operating in sectors such as construction, energy, biometrics, and transportation. He has also been involved in the telecommunications industry. Following his election, he officially gave up all his corporate mandates.

PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Urban Resilience and solid waste management Project (P168308 - \$315M)

The Urban Resilience and Solid Waste Management Project with a funding of \$315 million, aims to reduce flooding vulnerability and improve waste management in selected municipalities. Approved on June 12, 2020, and effective from October 28, 2020, this six-year initiative focuses on critical infrastructure and services. Key activities include drainage works, erosion control, and early warning systems in Abidjan's districts of Abobo, Yopougon, and Grand-Bassam, alongside resilient urban planning studies. In solid waste management, the project supports constructing a technical landfill center in the Autumn District of Abidjan, establishing intercommunal groupings, and providing technical assistance and capacity building. These efforts have protected over 800,000 residents from flood risks and improved waste services for 1,350,000 people, showcasing significant advancements in urban resilience and sustainability.

Youth Employment and Skills Development Project Phase 3 (PEJEDEC 3 – EUR 150 M – 2022-2026)

The Youth Employment Project, PEJEDEC 3, aims to enhance labor market outcomes for all beneficiaries and strengthen the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) sector in Côte d'Ivoire. By enhancing workers' capabilities and providing vocational education and on-the-job training, the project prepares young men and women for job opportunities. It also bridges the gap between educational institutions and the private sector, ensuring students acquire job-relevant skills. The project contributes to forming a critical mass of youth with basic and advanced digital skills, essential for the country's digital transformation. As the third installment in combating youth unemployment and poverty, PEJEDEC has evolved over a decade from addressing postcrisis emergencies to supporting productive employment and decentralization efforts. It has successfully created 65,000 jobs, benefiting 43% young women, through various programs such as labor-intensive work (THIMO), internships, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurship initiatives. With PEJEDEC 3, an additional 102,000 youth, with a 50% female participation rate, will benefit from job-focused interventions to enhance their skills and employability, driving economic growth and digital innovation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Dorado Ivory cashew processing plant in Toumodi

The Cashew Value Chain in Côte d'Ivoire has achieved remarkable competitiveness with support from the World Bank through the Cashew Value Chain Sector Competitiveness Project (PPCA). Measures implemented by the Conseil Coton Anacarde include enhancing cashew kernel quality, establishing the Cashew Innovation and Technology Development Center (CITA), supporting agro-industrial processing zones, providing fiscal incentives, and strengthening institutional governance. These investments have



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significantly expanded domestic processing capacity from 44,600 tons in 2018 to 230,000 tons in 2023, creating over 15,000 jobs. Dorado Ivory, headquartered in Toumodi, plays a pivotal role in this sector by processing raw cashew nuts into high-quality kernels for international markets. Supported by World Bank-funded training at CITA, Dorado Ivory's workers have received instruction in good processing and hygiene practices, essential for handling raw cashew nuts. Dorado Ivory has also obtained certifications crucial for global trade, including FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act) and SMETA (Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audits-RSE), and plans further expansion, including a second processing unit in Yamoussoukro. This development aligns with the upcoming World Bank-funded Cashew Value Chain Sustainable Development Project (ProDCA), underscoring ongoing efforts to bolster the industry's sustainability and economic impact.

The Cote d'Ivoire Health, Nutrition and Early Childhood Development Multiphase Programmatic Approach (HNECD)

The Health, Nutrition and Early Childhood Development Program was approved by the World Bank on June 30, 2023. With a funding of 800 million dollars for the next 10 years, the Program aims to contribute towards the government's 2030 strategic vision and 2040 roadmap to improve human capital outcomes.

The program objectives are to (i) reduce maternal mortality and stunting; (ii) improve Early Childhood Development (ECD) outcomes; and (iii) improve resilience against future pandemics. This will be achieved by (a) improving access and utilization of quality health, nutrition and ECD services across the life-course through a strengthened and consolidated Social Health Protection system; (b) accompanying children (0-5 years) to achieve their full physical and cognitive potential for healthy growth and better integration and performance in the schooling system; and (c) supporting communities and households to become resilient and protected from health and food related shocks. The first phase (2023-2027) of the program focuses on strengthening the operationalization of the National Health Insurance scheme (Couverture Maladie Universelle; CMU), to ensure equitable access to care, and strengthen the delivery of quality health, nutrition and ECD services from the community to health facilities. The CMU is a mandatory national health insurance program launched by the Ivorian Government in 2014. It aims to provide equitable access to quality essential health services for all residents of Cote d'Ivoire, through a contributory scheme for those working in the formal and informal sectors, and a non-contributory scheme for the vulnerable (poor) groups, supported by government subsidies. As of June 2024, the Government has enrolled more than 13.1 million people (45% of the population) and is expected to reach more than 20 million people enrolled by December 2024. In addition, the World Bank is partnering with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) through this health program to improve the quality of radiology and laboratory services in Côte d'Ivoire. The partnership will support the establishment of private public partnerships for the delivery of quality diagnostic services through the CMU. Overall, the HNECD is expected to benefit at least 14.1 million women, adolescent girls, and children, including 2.4 million poor persons, 400,000 people living with HIV, as well as migrants and internally displaced people.