

Enabling Social Innovation in Côte d'Ivoire

Country Snapshot



POWERED BY 1 Family Foundation

Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." ¹

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from Côte d'Ivoire's social innovation ecosystem.

Direct focus on social innovation Connected but indirect focus on social innovation No focus on social innovation

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Official Definition of Social Innovation

Côte d'Ivoire proactively integrates the spirit of social innovation through its National Development Plan (PND) 2021–2025 and the subsequent PND 2026–2030, which frame innovation as a tool for "solidarity" and "wealth creation" ². While a standalone legal definition has not yet been codified, the government formalizes the concept through the "Social Protection and Productive Safety Nets" framework, specifically leveraging digital technology for poverty reduction and inclusive growth ³.

Government Body for Social Innovation

Leadership for social progress is distributed across key ministries that manage specific innovation-linked mandates:

- **Ministry of Employment and Social Protection:** Regulates labor issues and oversees the welfare of citizens, including child labor monitoring systems ⁴.
- **Ministry of Finance and Budget:** Manages the **Sustainability-Linked Finance (SLF) Framework**, which ties national financing to the achievement of social and environmental targets ⁵.
- **Ministry of Youth Promotion and Professional Insertion:** Implements dedicated programs to boost youth employability through creative and digital enterprise ⁶.

Government Strategy for Social Innovation

The "**Solidarity Côte d'Ivoire**" 2030 Vision serves as the primary strategic driver, aiming to double GDP per capita and halve poverty through transformative social reforms ⁷. A major recent development is the **National Digital Development Strategy 2025**, which positions digital innovation as a catalyst for social inclusion and public service delivery ³.

Policies, Laws & Regulations

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- **National Social Protection Strategy 2024–2028:** Establishes five strategic axes to reduce poverty from 39.4% to 28.6% by strengthening national welfare systems ⁷.
 - **Law on Youth Employment:** A set of regulations adopted to promote youth integration and formalize new forms of employment ⁴.
 - **National Open Government Action Plan (2024–2026):** Mandates increased citizen participation and open data to improve public service transparency ⁸.

Official Statistics

Côte d'Ivoire maintains robust registries to track social progress, notably through the **Harmonized Survey of Household Living Conditions**, which recently reported a decrease in the poverty rate to 37.5% ². The **National Social Household Registry** is used to manage digital cash transfers for over 190 social centers nationwide ².

Government Programs

- **Productive Social Safety Nets Project:** A flagship program utilizing digital mobile money to provide transfers to vulnerable rural households ³.
- **Socio-Professional Insertion Fund for Persons with Disabilities:** Established in 2023 to finance inclusive business models ⁴.
- **Youth Program 2023–2025:** Focuses on "entrepreneurship at school" and vocational training to create 1.5 million jobs for young people ².

ECOSYSTEM

Stakeholders

- **UNDP & UNICEF:** Strategic partners co-designing innovation frameworks for digital governance and child protection ².
- **ICI Cocoa Initiative:** Collaborates with the government to innovate child labor monitoring and worker rights in the cocoa sector ⁴.
- **Civil Society Forums:** Organized under the **Open Government Action Plan** to allow citizens to propose social service improvements directly to the state ⁸.



Support Initiatives

Broader infrastructure supports social ventures through the **Digital Innovation Ecosystem Foundations**, which focus on climate-resilient broadband and startup mentorship ³. The government also hosts hackathons and digital promotion campaigns to foster local tech-for-good solutions ⁸.

Collaboration

Collaborations are increasingly institutionalized, such as the **U.S.-Côte d'Ivoire Strategy to Prevent Conflict**, which drives innovation in "people-centered security" and inclusive economic growth ¹⁰.

Events & Awards

Côte d'Ivoire hosts regional platforms for sustainable finance and innovation, including the launch of Africa's first sovereign **Sustainability-Linked transaction** in 2025, which drew global attention to the country's social goals ⁵.

FINANCE

Financing Schemes

Funding flows through a mix of public budget and innovative international instruments:

- **Sustainability-Linked Finance (SLF) Framework (2025):** Ties national borrowing costs to deforestation control and reforestation, incentivizing "forest-social" innovation [5].
- **ESG-labelled Bonds:** Since 2021, the government has mobilized over **USD 2.4 billion** in loans specifically to fund social and environmental public expenditures ¹¹.

Financing Inclusivity

Financing is targeted toward vulnerability reduction, with 20.8% of capital formation in the PND 2024–2028 dedicated to the social development sector ¹².

SOCIETY

Public Awareness & Research

Discourse focuses on "inclusive growth" and "social behavior change." Research is supported by the **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM)**, which recently highlighted the rise of AI-driven innovation among Ivorian startups ¹³.

Education & Human Capital

Côte d'Ivoire has prioritized "entrepreneurship at school" since 2015 to provide graduates with the skills to launch self-employment ventures ¹⁴. The human development index has seen a steady increase, placing the country in the medium development category ².

Entrepreneurship



Enabling conditions for business

Social Impact orientation: Over 160,000 adults surveyed in the region show a high recognition of business opportunities focused on social or environmental impact ¹⁶.



Innovation capacity

Ranked 110th in the 2025 Global Innovation Index, showing notable growth in innovation input (104th globally) ¹⁵

Global Innovation Index 2026



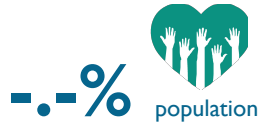
Social & Environmental Consciousness



Solidarity



Participation



Volunteering

The culture of community-based detection and treatment, especially for health risks, is a hallmark of Ivorian civic engagement ⁸.

CAF World Giving Index 2024



Sustainability

Ranked among the top performers in Sub-Saharan Africa for ecosystem vitality in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index, with a strong focus on reforestation and marine protection ¹⁷.

Environmental Performance Index 2024

