

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Côte d'Ivoire Monthly Briefing April 2023

Côte d'Ivoire Summary 17 April 2023

The security problem in neighbouring country Burkina Faso is increasingly affecting Côte d'Ivoire. Conseil National de Sécurité (CNS) (national security council) announces on 12 April it will accommodate between 18,000 and 19,000 refugees in two transit sites in the departments of Ouangolodougou and Bouna. Abidjan also provides military equipment worth more than 2 billion FCFA (\$3.35m) to help aid the fight against the jihadist threat. Representatives of the Côte d'Ivoire - European Union Cooperation Coordination Unit (CI/EU CCC) together with a broad range of Ivorian government representatives meet on 13 April and reflect on the mechanism for monitoring the financing agreements. In the framework of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI -Global Europe), the EU allocates €228m (\$252.25m) to Côte d'Ivoire. Côte d'Ivoire's cotton production falls by more than 50% by the end of March – due to severe attacks by jassids, sap-sucking pests of cotton, in West and Central African regions. At a meeting on 12 April, the concerned countries discuss measures to fight the parasites and reimburse cotton producers for parts of their loss.

Up to 19,000 refugees expected from Burkina Faso

Côte d'Ivoire has become increasingly involved in neighbouring Burkina Faso's fight against the jihadist threat and its alarming security situation in the country. Faced with a sharp increase in the number of displaced people fleeing the violence in Burkina Faso, the Ivorian **Conseil National de Sécurité (CNS)** (national security council), chaired by President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010-present), decided on 12 April to set up two transit sites to accommodate refugees.¹ Since the number of refugees is expected to further increase, the CNS also announced an ongoing development of the two transit sites in the departments of **Ouangolodougou** and **Bouna**.

The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** estimates the sites can temporarily accommodate 18,846 refugees. The number of refugees has jumped remarkably in just over a year, as in February 2022, the UNHCR counted around 7,000 refugees.² The CNS has noted that the people identified are currently “welcomed by local communities” in the north and northeast of Côte d'Ivoire.³ Some of the refugees, whose families live on either side of the border, have been received by relatives.

Côte d'Ivoire has also been helping Burkina Faso in the fight against insecurity with military support. It was confirmed on 19 March that Côte d'Ivoire had provided a batch of military equipment worth more than 2 billion FCFA (\$3.35m) to the authorities in **Ouagadougou** (Burkina Faso). The equipment was composed of about fifty Azawad-type pickup vehicles, 1,000 AK47 assault rifles and 100,000 rounds of ammunition.

¹ www.jeuneafrique.com, 13 Apr 2023

² www.jeuneafrique.com, 13 Apr 2023

³ www.jeuneafrique.com, 13 Apr 2023

A few months before that, the authorities of Ouagadougou had sent a request for support to Côte d'Ivoire, which led to the decision of the Ivorian government to help its neighbour with a donation of military equipment.⁴

But while the Ivorian side openly communicated this operation, Burkina's government remained silent on this support for the fight against terrorism. This could have been due to the political rift between Burkina and **France**, a close ally of Côte d'Ivoire:

*"The closeness of the Ivorian President, Alassane Ouattara, with [French president] Emmanuel Macron is vilified in Burkina Faso, which recently denounced the military partnership agreements with France and requested the recall of the French ambassador."*⁵

The two countries share a 540 km long border, along northern Burkina Faso, the reason why any unstable situation in Burkina Faso becomes a threat to Côte d'Ivoire. However, while the risk exists, Côte d'Ivoire's political stability and strong armed forces play a role in preventing this, as does the location of the border. Burkina Faso's insurgency is far more pronounced in the east, with more coordinated groups active here, allowing for rapid expansion in this region and presenting a higher threat to countries like **Benin** and **Togo**.

\$252.25m for Côte d'Ivoire's Multi-annual Indicative Programme

Representatives of the **Côte d'Ivoire - European Union Cooperation Coordination Unit (CI/EU CCC)** met at the CI/EU CCC premises in **Abidjan-Cocody** on 13 April to further reflect on the mechanism for monitoring the financing agreements signed under the EU **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI -Global Europe)** and to further strengthen the partnership between Abidjan and **Brussels**.⁶

The NDICI, which entered into force on 14 June 2021, merges previously dispersed financing instruments, like the **European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)** and the **European Development Fund (EDF)**. It aims to support countries most in need to overcome long-term developmental challenges and contributes to achieving the international commitments and objectives that the EU has agreed to, in particular the **2030 Agenda** and its 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** as well as the **Paris Agreement** (all adopted by the **United Nations** in 2015).⁷

With an overall allocation of €79.5 billion (\$87.97 billion), the NDICI-Global Europe instrument seeks to alleviate poverty, enhance good governance and human rights, strengthen sustainable development and resilience against climate change and fight the root causes of migration.⁸

The instrument consists of four pillars, a geographic and a thematic programme, a rapid response mechanism that will allow the EU to swiftly respond to crises, contribute to peace, stability and conflict prevention, strengthen the resilience of states, societies, communities and individuals, linking humanitarian aid and development action, and a 'cushion' of unallocated funds, to top up any of the above-mentioned programmes.⁹

Under the NDICI, Côte d'Ivoire benefits from an envelope of €228m (\$252.25m) to finance its **Multi-annual Indicative Programme (PIM)** over the period 2021-2027. The PIM is articulated around three priority areas, namely developing human capital, fostering inclusive, sustainable

⁴ www.rfi.fr/fr/Afrique, 18 Mar 2023

⁵ www.courrierinternational.com, 20 Mar 2023

⁶ <https://news.abidjan.net>, 13 Apr 2023

⁷ <https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu>

⁸ For more info on NDICI – Global Europe, see <https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu>

and also: www.eeas.europa.eu

⁹ <https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu>

and digital growth, strengthening the rule of law and democratic governance and maintaining peace and stability.¹⁰

To date, eight financing agreements have been signed for a total amount of approximately €82m (\$90.7m), equivalent to an absorption rate of nearly 36% of the budget envelope.¹¹ The EU has underlined the special role of Côte d'Ivoire in **West Africa**, noting that the partnership intends to:

*“Consolidate Côte d'Ivoire as a major sub-regional player, firmly anchored in the values and principles shared with the EU and the member states”.*¹²

With the recent exchange meeting, it became clear, that for the Ivorian government, the partnership with the EU is equally important. Under the chair of the national coordinator of CI/EU CCC, **Semon Bamba**, a broad participation of governmental representatives was recorded, including members from vital portfolios such as the prime minister's office, the state ministry, foreign affairs ministry, state ministry, defence ministry, mines, petroleum and energy ministry and several others.¹³

Jassids eat up half of Côte d'Ivoire's cotton production

Côte d'Ivoire's cotton production fell by more than 50% by the end of March, reaching 236,175 tonnes compared to 539,523 tonnes in the previous agricultural season.¹⁴ Since the beginning of the 2022/2023 agricultural season, cotton-producing countries have reported persistent attacks by jassids, sap-sucking pests of cotton and several other host plants. The 15th review meeting of the **Regional Program for Integrated Cotton Production in Africa (PR-PICA)** took place in **Grand-Bassam** on 12 April, with the lower cotton production on the continent being the major topic on its agenda.¹⁵

PR-PICA brings together cotton companies, professionals, cotton researchers and producer organisations from eight cotton-producing countries in **West and Central Africa**. The member states (**Benin**, Burkina Faso, **Cameroon**, Côte d'Ivoire, **Mali**, **Senegal**, **Chad** and **Togo**) share the same problems with regard to parasites, soil fertility and the need for adaptation of cultivated varieties to climate change.¹⁶

During the meeting, Ivorian state, agriculture and rural development minister, **Adjoumani Kouassi**, welcomed the actions of the PR-PICA, which made it possible to strengthen collaboration between member states in the fight against jassids. He nevertheless admitted the great loss of cotton which Côte d'Ivoire incurs this year but also stressed that *“cotton research has not remained silent”* in face of the crisis.¹⁷ Kouassi noted:

*“Very quickly, the National Center for Agronomic Research of Cote d'Ivoire, the CNRA, developed an arsenal of effective responses to these pests.”*¹⁸

For the 2022/2023 season, the government has granted a subsidy to producers which amounts to more than 39 billion FCFA (\$65.83m). This is paralleled by another subsidy of up to 29 billion FCFA (\$48.61m) to help producers with the payment of parts of their agricultural credit.

¹⁰ <https://news.abidjan.net>, 13 Apr 2023

¹¹ <https://news.abidjan.net>, 13 Apr 2023

¹² mip-2021-c2021-9394-cote-ivoire-annex_fr.pdf (europa.eu)

¹³ <https://news.abidjan.net>, 13 Apr 2023

¹⁴ <https://fr.apanews.net/cote-divoire>, 12 Apr 2023

¹⁵ <https://fr.apanews.net/cote-divoire>, 12 Apr 2023

¹⁶ <https://fr.apanews.net/cote-divoire>, 12 Apr 2023

¹⁷ <https://fr.apanews.net/cote-divoire>, 12 Apr 2023

¹⁸ <https://fr.apanews.net/cote-divoire>, 12 Apr 2023

Meanwhile, the pest is not the only problem, cotton producers are facing. Kouassi mentioned additional challenges, such as the war in **Ukraine** and the increasing prices for means of production. The minister expressed his hope that the meeting in Grand-Bassam would help and *“be a framework for cordial, frank and productive exchanges and contribute to the revival of cotton production.”*¹⁹

Planning

2023 (**Côte d’Ivoire**) Local elections

14 – 16 June 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) International Corruption Hunters Alliance (ICHA)** first meeting in **Africa**

June 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire)** Party congress of **Parti démocratique de Côte d’Ivoire**

January 2024 (**Côte d’Ivoire**) **Africa Cup of Nations**

2025 (**Côte d’Ivoire**) Presidential elections

Chronology

16 Apr 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) RFI**. Ivorian navy rescues and secures a **Singaporean** oil tanker which pirates attacked on 10 April, returning the vessel and its crew to port of **Abidjan**;

14 Apr 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) RFI**. Embassy of Côte d’Ivoire in **Republic of Congo** hosts an economic forum between the two countries investment agencies to promote opportunities;

12 Apr 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) ABYZ News**. The **National Security Council** lifts the **Covid-19** state of health emergency in **Abidjan-Plateau**;

5 Apr 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) ABYZ News**. Government spokesman **Amadou Coulibaly** reports that cocoa production in 2022 stood at 2.4 million tonnes against 2.2 million tonnes in 2021, an increase of 5.85%. Over the same period, exports fell from 2.3 million tonnes to 2.2 million tonnes;

31 Mar 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) Sika Finance**. Agricultural minister **Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani** confirms the farm gate purchase price of cocoa will remain at 900 FCFA (\$1.50) per kilogram for the intermediate campaign period from 1 April until 30 September;

1 Apr 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) ABYZ News**. Opposition **Parti des peuples africains** president **Laurent Gbagbo** denounces the lack of employment for Ivorian youth;

30 Mar 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) APA News**. Opposition party **Parti démocratique de Côte d’Ivoire** declares former president **Henri Konan Bédié** as its single candidate for presidency;

29 Mar 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) ABYZ News**. Prime minister **Patrick Achi** met his **Chinese** counterpart, **Li Qiang in Boao** (China) to discuss further economic cooperation between Côte d’Ivoire and China;

26 Mar 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) ABYZ News**. Prime minister **Patrick Achi** leads the **Ivorian** delegation to the **2023 Annual Conference of the Boao Forum for Asia in Boao**

¹⁹ <https://fr.apanews.net/cote-divoire>, 12 Apr 2023

(China), where Asian leaders discussed key issues such as the economy, energy and the environment;

21 Mar 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *ABYZ News*. For the second time in a row, **BGFI Bank Côte d'Ivoire** obtains the first prize of the "**Pépites de l'Accueil**" of the banking sector during the fifth edition of the national barometer of the quality of reception in the country;

20 Mar 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *ABYZ News*. President **Alassane Ouattara** meets with **Angolan** external relations minister **Téte António** with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the two countries;

19 Mar 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *ABYZ News*. Côte d'Ivoire comes to the aid of **Burkina Faso** in the fight against insecurity, handing over a batch of military equipment to the authorities in **Ouagadougou**;

14 Mar 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *ABYZ News*. Vice-president **Tiémoko Meyliet Koné** meets **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** division head **Olaf Unteroberdoerster** to discuss an IMF agreement with the **Ivorian** government on a three-year economic programme prioritising the **National Development Programme (PND)**.

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