

Côte d'Ivoire



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What's happening

40%

Population below international poverty line

40%

Population below national poverty line

€114

per month

National minimum wage

€207

per month

Rural living wage

€456

per month

Rural living income

45%

Agricultural workforce

20%

Agriculture share of GDP

4

high

Risk to workers' rights

Context

Côte d'Ivoire has a population of around 27 million people,^[1] which is split almost evenly between rural and urban areas.^[2] As of 2019, 40% of the population is officially employed in the agricultural sector,^[3] a sector that accounts for 21% of the nation's GDP.^[4] Of the population employed in agriculture nearly 30% are women.^[5] In addition, around 85% of the labour force is employed in the informal sector in Côte d'Ivoire.^[6]

The agricultural sector of Côte d'Ivoire faces several major challenges, such as deforestation, rural to urban migration, land tenure insecurity, post-harvest losses, and climate change. The rate of deforestation is so high that the country is expected to lose all its national forest cover by 2034.^[7]

The top produced crops in Côte d'Ivoire are yams, cassava, cocoa beans, palm oil fruit and sugar cane.^[8] Côte d'Ivoire's top export commodities in terms of quantity are cocoa beans, natural dry rubber, shelled cashew nuts, bananas and palm oil.^[9]

Wages

Minimum wage

The government-mandated minimum wage for all professions in Côte d'Ivoire is 75,000 West African CFA franc (114 EUR) per month.^[10] A legal workweek is 40 hours and requires overtime payment. Labour unions in Côte d'Ivoire have been effective in enforcing that formal sector jobs comply with the minimum wage stated by the government. However, infractions regarding minimum wage payments are still reported. In addition, labour laws do not apply to millions of migrant workers nor to workers in the informal sector in Côte d'Ivoire.^[6]

Living wage

The **Global Living Wage Coalition** has developed a living wage living incomes for rural and urban areas within each country and should not replace countries where a Anker benchmark is available. They are not location-specific, and so are not reference value for rural Côte d'Ivoire, based on the Anker Methodology.

The estimated living wage is 135,687 West African CFA francs (207 EUR) per month. This is the wage required for workers in a typical rural area of Côte d'Ivoire to afford a basic but decent standard of living. ^[11]

Living income

The Living Income Community of Practice has developed a **living income benchmark** for cocoa growing regions in rural Côte d'Ivoire. The estimated living income is 298,983 West African CFA francs (456 EUR) per month. This number is based on a family of 6 with 1.65 full time workers.^[12] For families in Côte d'Ivoire food procurement accounts for nearly half of monthly household spending. Rural poverty is common in Côte d'Ivoire, however it is typically lower in cocoa growing regions than elsewhere. ^[13]

The production and sale of cocoa makes up a significant portion of the incomes of between 800,000 and 1.3 million farming households in Côte d'Ivoire. These households typically farm between 1.5 and 5 hectares of land. In addition, it is estimated that more than 8 million people live off the crop.^[14]

What's happening

RESOURCE

[Fairtrade Living Income Reference Price for Cocoa](#)

Fairtrade Living Income Reference Prices (LIRP) for cocoa from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire were first established in 2018, and is revised since then following the living income benchmarks by the Living Income Community of Practice (LICOP).

RESOURCE

[Cocoa Farmer Income](#)

This comparative study shows that the average income of Fairtrade cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire has risen and highlight ways in which brands and retailers can contribute.

RESOURCE

[Living Wage Reference Value, Rural Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Living wage estimate for workers in a typical rural area of Côte d'Ivoire to afford a basic but decent living standard. Global Living Wage Coalition, 2020.

RESOURCE

[Living Income Benchmark, Rural Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Living income estimate for rural Côte d'Ivoire, focussing on cocoa-growing areas. Living Income Community of Practice, 2020.

INITIATIVE

[PRO-PLANTEURS](#)

Project from the German Initiative on

RESOURCE

[Living Income Reference Prices for Cacao](#)

Sustainable Cacao aimed at improving the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and their families in Côte d'Ivoire.

Fairtrade International has set Fairtrade Living Income Reference Prices for cocoa in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

RESOURCE

Farm Gate Prices for a Living Income



Consultation paper for minimum farm gate prices necessary to earn a living income in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Voice Network, 2020.

RESOURCE

Demystifying the Cacao Sector



Major study on the cocoa sector investigating more than a thousand socio-economic, agricultural and cocoa specific variables in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. KIT, 2018.

RESOURCE

Tracking living and minimum wages in the banana sector



A report commissioned by the World Banana Forum in May 2015 with information for 9 banana producing countries.

INITIATIVE

Craving a change in chocolate



An agenda for action enabling living incomes in cocoa supply chains. Fairtrade Foundation, 2018.

Footnotes

1. World Bank. (2021). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=CI>
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3. World Bank. (2021). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.ZS?locations=CI>
4. World Bank. (2021). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?locations=CI>
5. World Bank. (2021). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.FE.ZS?locations=CI>
6. U.S. Department of State. (2019). <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/cote-divoire/>
7. Climate-Smart Agriculture in Côte d'Ivoire. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca1322en/CA1322EN.pdf>
8. FAOSTAT (2019). http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#rankings/commodities_by_country
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10. Wage Indicator. (2023). <https://wageindicator.org/salary/minimum-wage/ivory-coast>
11. Global Living Wage Coalition. (2022). Anker Living Wage Reference Value: Rural Côte d'Ivoire. <https://www.globallivingwage.org/living-wage-reference-value-rural-cote-divoire/>
12. LICoP (2022). Living Income Update-Rural Côte d'Ivoire: Cocoa Growing Areas. <https://files.fairtrade.net/Fairtrade-Living-Income-Reference-Price-for-Cocoa-adjustment-update-1-Oct-2022.pdf>
13. CIRES. (2018). https://c69aa8ac-6965-42b2-abb7-0f0b86c23d2e.filesusr.com/ugd/0c5ab3_a437a776dc7747c2999d3b0c60a46a97.pdf
14. Hütz-Adams, F., Huber, C., Knoke, I., Morazán, P., Mürlebach, M. (2016). Strengthening the competitiveness of cocoa production and improving the income of cocoa producers in West and Central Africa. <https://suedwind-institut.de/files/Suedwind/Publikationen/2017/2017-06%20Strengthening%20the%20competitiveness%20of%20cocoa%20production%20and%20improving%20the%20income%20of%20cocoa%20producers%20in%20West%20and%20Central%20Africa.pdf>

