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Development Fundings Bringing Change Into Ivory Coast

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Ivory Coast, or also known as the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, is a country located in West-Africa. The Ivory Coast is the hub of commercial activities with its economy depending heavily on the agricultural sector, cocoa, palm oil and coffee in particular. The country has managed to reduce its poverty rate (the main reasons for which were price volatility, income inequality, lack of transparency and limited access to education and healthcare) from 55% in 2011 to 37.5% in 2021 [1].

The republic still leads the world in production and export of cocoa beans, supplying 37.1% of cocoa produced over the globe. As of 2021, there were about 1 million small cocoa producers who farm more than 2 and a half million hectares in the country [2].

The main issue regarding the cocoa production in the Ivory Coast is the use of child labour. By far, children as young as five are exposed to hazardous work in the country, including the use of sharp tools, working at night and exposure to agrochemical products, among other harmful activities. Apart from the use of child labour, according to the Fairtrade Foundation, only 6% of the chocolate industry's total makes its way back to the farmers – fair-trade models seek to counter this by increasing consumer prices and passing on the premium (a price paid for above and beyond some basic or intrinsic value) to farming cooperatives [3].

The EU is the largest trading partner and the largest private investor in Côte d'Ivoire. This strong interdependence is accompanied by close political relations. The top destinations of exports in 2023 were Switzerland (\$3.88B), Netherlands (\$1.99B), Mali (\$1.59B), United States (\$1.1B), and Malaysia (\$951M) [2].

France is Ivory Coast's bilateral donor (gives direct assistance to a recipient country for development purposes). Switzerland has maintained friendship with Ivory Coast and made significant contributions towards the country's development, is a major investor and provider of humanitarian aid. This helps the cocoa farmers provide help and heal the injured children that work in the cocoa bean productions.

The support from the EU is profitable for the European countries themselves, since they get cocoa beans exported for the manufacturing of chocolate. The investment into the agricultural sector for machinery is an effective aspect for the cocoa farmers, however with the corruption rate it is less likely that all of that investment goes towards the farmers. According to Transparency International, the country is ranked 69/180 as of 2024. Stated by the re-elected president Alassane Ouattara, he promised to make the fight against corruption one of the priorities of his new term [1].

In 2018 The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved an "International Development Association (IDA) credit of \$100 million to support the Government's efforts to reinforce fiscal management and strengthen the education, energy, and cocoa sectors in Côte d'Ivoire"[4].

"While the impact of this operation is expected to fully materialise by 2019, significant achievements have already been noted. With the support of the DPF series, the reform of the primary education system led to a drop of repetition rate in primary schools from 15.6 percent in 2015 to 11.5 percent in 2017, while teachers were assigned to underserved areas. These measures contributed to improving girls' completion rate, which increased from 35.2 percent in 2015 to 42.7 percent in 2017 and is expected to reach 49.5 percent by 2019" – states the World Bank [4].

According to reports, a €100 million financial collaboration with BNI will support gender equality, youth employment, and environmental and economic sustainability in the cocoa industry. As well in 2025 The Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the European Union and the European Investment Bank (EIB) have announced €300 million in new financing to support strategic sectors for Côte d'Ivoire, promoting climate action, sustainability in cocoa production and reforestation in the country [5].

According to all of the provided data, the approval of the credit has made an effort in improving the education for young women in the Ivory Coast in a short term, and in a long term – increased the amount of specialised professionals available in the country and made change in the cultural development of Ivory Coast. Educational reforms in the long term are going to provide access to education to all children, increasing the standard of living and erasing the possibility of children working from a young age to support their families. Much positive change is coming to Côte d'Ivoire. That includes developments in agriculture, healthcare

innovations and better education. The country is benefiting from international aid: such efforts are helping people of Côte d'Ivoire increase their standard of living.

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Тенденции развития и усиления взаимозависимости глобальных и региональных объединений

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В современном мире практически все государства вовлечены в систему международных экономических отношений. Абсолютное большинство стран связаны между собой системой международного разделения труда, экономических и политических отношений, а также представлены на мировых отраслевых рынках [1].

Вышеописанные тенденции не относятся к стихийным, так как являются частью более широкого и комплексного процесса международной экономической интеграции.

Под международной экономической интеграцией понимают процесс постепенного устранения торговых барьеров, ограничений на движение капитала и препятствий для перемещения факторов производства между различными странами.

Исходной точкой процесса интеграции являются прямые международные экономические связи на уровне первичных субъектов экономической