



EUROPEAN REINTEGRATION NETWORK (ERIN)
BRIEFING NOTE
REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE (also available in French)

Assistance for the arrival and reintegration of Ivorian nationals returning from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom

GEOGRAPHY OF LA COTE D'IVOIRE

Côte d'Ivoire

West African country bordered by the Gulf of Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, with an area of 322,460 km², borders Liberia (580 km) and Guinea (610 km) to the west, Mali (370 km) and Burkina Faso (490 km) to the north and Ghana (640 km) to the east.

Demographic data

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS						
22 671 331	48,30%	24,20%	2,60%	42,00%	49,70%	50,30%
inhabitants	women	foreign	Annual population growth rate	Proportion of population aged 0-14	Proportion of population in rural areas	Proportion of population in urban areas
<i>source: Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat de 2014; Banque Mondiale, 2015.</i>						

Administrative division

Côte d'Ivoire has a total of 14 districts, two of which are autonomous districts (Abidjan and Yamoussoukro), the other 12 are subdivided into 31 regions. The country is also subdivided into 108 departments and 504 sub-prefectures.

participating ERIN partner countries (i.e. Austria, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom).

The program is implemented by nineteen ERIN Partner Institutions: Ministry of Interior- Austria, Department Of Immigration and Border Protection- Australia, Federal Immigration Office and Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers- Belgium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Denmark, Finnish Immigration Service- Finland, French Immigration and Integration Office- France, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees- Germany, Ministry of Public Order and citizen Protection-Greece, Ministry of Interior- Italy, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs- Luxembourg, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security- Malta, Repatriation and Departure Service – Netherlands, Norwegian Directorate of Immigration- Norway, General Inspectorate for Immigration- Romania, Integration of Immigrants Migration Board- Spain, Swedish Migration Agency- Sweden, State Secretariat for Migration- Switzerland and the UK Home Office – Immigration Enforcement (UKHO); and the selected local service providers in the ERIN countries of return.

2. IOM MISSION STATEMENT

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM was established in 1951 to help governments to manage migration and to assist migrants in the migration process.

Today, with 401 offices and representations across the world, and 165 Member States, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. Amongst other activities, IOM supports people all over the world in returning home and building a new life under its assisted voluntary return and reintegration program (AVRR), an area of IOM expertise that has been developed through 30 years of experience. Since 1979, IOM's AVRR activities have grown to include more than 100 projects, helping individuals return to some 160 countries worldwide. In the past decade alone, IOM has assisted upwards of 3.5 million migrants to return voluntarily to their home countries.

IOM also works with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the well-being and human rights of migrants.

3. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

The potential returnees will be informed by the respective ERIN Partner Institution of the ERIN Program services that are available for them upon return. The national counsellor will identify the type of assistance to be provided depending on the applicant profile and needs identified in the information counselling. Each ERIN Partner Institution has counsellors operating in the reception centres and (administrative) detention centres and provides pre-departure counselling to the potential returnees residing in the centres. The meetings should be in informal and friendly manner and ensure the participants clearly understand the objective of the meeting and feel comfortable to ask questions.

Special emphasis should be given to the below mentioned information:

- ✓ Provide the IOM contact details to the returnee before departure.

- ✓ Define as much as possible the reintegration package before departure, or inform the applicant of the type and quantity of reintegration grants he/she should expect.
- ✓ Those nationals choosing to return voluntarily will be incentivized through larger reintegration packages than those returned non-voluntarily.
- ✓ IOM will assist non-voluntary returnees once they have been formally admitted and entered into Côte d'Ivoire.
- ✓ It is encouraged for you to translate your medical documents and/ or educational and training certificates before your return, in the language of your country of return, or (if not possible), into English. This will help you to register in your local institutions and to facilitate your medical follow up.
- ✓ Prior to return the target group (including voluntary and non-voluntary returnees) will be informed by the respective ERIN Partner Institution counsellors that they can address IOM in country of return for post-arrival reintegration assistance.
- ✓ Return assistance will be provided by the ERIN Partner Institution, while IOM will provide required reintegration assistance upon arrival that will enable the returnees to build up their lives independently.
- ✓ Information counselling meetings can be more effective if conducted on regular basis.

Social and economic considerations must be factored in when envisaging the return of potentially vulnerable individuals, such as women, children and the elderly or single parents with small children.

Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC):

Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC) can be assisted on a case by case basis according to the following general parameters:

1. IOM will:
 - a) Confirm the identity of legal guardians in both the host country and the country of origin; (or in a third country, where applicable and subject to the legal requirements of the third country); And this is reflected in a family retracement survey;
 - b) Verify the determination of the minor's best interests;
 - c) Confirm that the Best Interests Determination (BID) process has concluded that it is in the best interest of the UMC to return, and;
2. IOM's assistance will be determined by the outcome of the BID process and the confirmed willingness of the child to return.
3. Due to the inherent vulnerability of UMC, and the interest of the Organization in maintaining the highest standards of protection and assistance, IOM will in general adhere to UNICEF's policy positions on child protection.
4. Prior to facilitating the AVRR of an UMC, IOM will:
 - a) Receive letters of confirmation from the legal guardians in both the host country and the country of origin confirming that the return to the country of origin is in the child's best interest.

b) Conduct a family assessment to confirm the identity of the parents or legal guardians and that they are willing and able to care for the child until he/she reached the age of 18 years, and ii) to determine the feasibility of assistance by IOM.

Non-Voluntary returns (non-IOM returnees):

IOM can assist non-voluntary returnees who are admitted in their country of origin, as long as sending/host countries have a bilateral agreement with the Government of COTE D'IVOIRE. IOM will obtain confirmation that the government in the country of origin provided its consent per sending country before engaging in assisting such returnees.

Arrival assistance: Initial contact with the returnees may only take place once they have cleared all procedures related to the admission to the country. IOM's airport/ port of entry presence is outside the immigration and customs processing areas.

Reintegration assistance: IOM can support ERIN returnees with reintegration assistance, if the assistance is considered appropriate by the sending and receiving States, and only once the process of return has been concluded. However, the availability of IOM post arrival assistance cannot be a determining factor for the forced return process to take place. IOM will obtain the consent by the government in the country of origin per sending country before engaging.

4. IOM IN ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE:

Since its independence in 1960, Cote d'Ivoire has been one of the main immigration countries of West Africa, but the political crisis of 2002 has led to a slowdown in immigration and an increase in emigration.

Cote d'Ivoire became a member state of IOM in June 2000 and since then IOM has been represented in Côte d'Ivoire. It plays its role as the leading international organization for the management of migration in Côte d'Ivoire. IOM Cote d'Ivoire is attached to the IOM Regional Office for Central and West Africa based in Dakar, Senegal. IOM Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire has strong relations with the Ivorian government and the humanitarian organizations present in the field. Relationships based on trust and recognition of IOM's involvement as a neutral, credible actor. Among the other activities, the IOM Cote d'Ivoire focuses on capacity building, return and reintegration, border management, promoting the integration of migration into development planning and programs, and Encouragement of ties with the Diasporas.

As part of its activities, IOM Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire (through its operations department) is working to facilitate the regular return and reintegration of Ivorian migrants who want to return voluntarily to their homes. Most of these migrants come from various African countries, including North Africa and Europe. IOM in coordination with its offices in destination countries facilitates the return of migrants to Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire. IOM staff provide the airport with the necessary support to carry out the various formalities at the airport and to facilitate the passage of migrants to their neighbourhoods of origin by coordinating the modes of transport.

ERIN IOM POINT OF CONTACT IN COTE D'IVOIRE

Mr. MOLO RUFFIN, Assistant-Logistique, Point focal AVRR,

Available from Monday to Thursday, from 08:30 to 17:30

and Friday from 08:30 to 14:00 (GMT)

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5. ERIN AVRR SERVICES PROVIDED BY IOM ABIDJAN

Services offered to AVRR clients by IOM Abidjan starts once each case arrives in COTE D'IVOIRE until the successful conclusion of the case in order to ensure the sustainability of proposed plans by returnees in Cote d'Ivoire.

The reintegration assistance package is delivered in-kind (unless stated differently in the National Annex) and the amounts vary according to the sending country, the national reintegration grants, the type of return, and the beneficiary profile and needs:

- ❖ the country from which the migrant returns home;
- ❖ national reinstatement premiums;
- ❖ The type of return and the profile and needs of beneficiaries.

IOM Abidjan searches for any opportunity to further enhance the sustainability aspect of each return and strives to provide tailor-made advice to clients on most feasible plans to benefit from their entitlements.

CASE BY CASE AIRPORT ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

- ✓ Meet and greet and orientation service upon demand pre-departure;
- ✓ Onwards transportation assistance: Upon your request, IOM can provide you with onward transportation to your final destination within the country, and charges will be covered through your reintegration grant;
- ✓ Referrals to urgent medical care for treatment continuity;
- ✓ Emergency housing upon demand pre-departure;
- ✓ Small cash grant for immediate purchases;

REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

Qualified IOM staff will provide an extended reintegration assistance session at Returns in IOM offices in *Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on II Vallon plateau, J 107, lot 1616.*

Operations and Logistics Officers will inform migrants and their families about reintegration opportunities, help them plan their reintegration strategy and advise them on the most appropriate and constructive way to use their subsidy, taking into account Needs and achievements, as well as available resources (Defined grants, individual capacities and social and economic capital).

The reintegration grants can be used for the following reintegration services

- ❖ **Micro-Business support:** Assistance to start, to re-launch, or to partner into a micro-business activity for economic autonomy and income generation: If you choose to start your own business, IOM helps you to identify a suitable business type. The choice of

business depends amongst others on your previous experience, other businesses in your area of return etc...

- ❖ **Wage subsidy allowance to encourage employment:** IOM Abidjan can refer you through its network of partners to potential employers, and show you how to operate the relevant recruitment websites. If you get a job, your reintegration assistance will be released as a salary subsidy/salary top-up.
- ❖ **Vocational training** enrolment to enhance skills and employability: trainings can be identified based on availability, prior work experience, education, interest, local market demand for specific skills.
- ❖ **Temporary accommodation** to respond to immediate material needs.
- ❖ **Medical costs coverage** (medication, consultations) to enable you access to healthcare upon return.
- ❖ **Legal/administrative** costs coverage to enable you to register yourself locally.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND REFERRALS

IOM can provide you with administrative support with, and referrals to:

- National, regional, and local services (governmental, non-governmental, charitable, etc.)
- Local employment initiatives
- Micro-financial organisations
- Enrolment to schools and educational institutions
- Educational and vocational training
- Specialised medical assistance
- Psycho-social assistance
- Local social network
- Legal advice

6. GEOGRAPHICAL APPROACH OF THE COTE D'IVOIRE

TRANSPORT:

Transport in Cote d'Ivoire is an area in which the country has distinguished itself. Transport infrastructure is much more developed than in other West African countries, despite a crisis that has prevented their regular maintenance or development. All the districts of the city of Abidjan as well as the cities of the interior are connected by tarred roads.

MICROBUSINESS START-UP

Young people often opt for the development of micro-enterprises in the areas of trade, services, transport, agro-food, agriculture, and livestock.

Microfinance institutions support youth and women's projects with enhanced interest rates.

Note that commercial banks with high credit rates do not facilitate access for young entrepreneurs.

EDUCATION:

Education is a fundamental right, indispensable to the development of the individual and society and necessary for the well-being of all. All children, boys and girls alike, are entitled to quality basic education.

In order to have the human resources essential to its emergence by 2020, Côte d'Ivoire has set itself the ambitious goal of providing compulsory schooling for all children between the ages of 6 and 16 and has begun the reform of the college, in particular to increase rural supply. With 42% of the population under the age of 15 in 2014 (RPGH), the Ivorian population is extremely young.

At the pre-school level, the preschool infrastructure consists of 1,069 schools, of which more than 60% are complete schools (school with 3 levels of education: small, medium and large). The total number of pupils is 64,136, of which 31,562 are 49.2%.

At the primary level, Côte d'Ivoire has 9,758 primary schools. These schools include 33 community schools and 6 Islamic schools. The proportion of complete schools (school with all levels of primary education) is 79.2%. In the private sector, almost all schools have a complete structure (93.2%). This makes it possible to count 53,745 classrooms with 11,4% reserved for the private. The population of primary school pupils is 2,383,359 of which 1,065,371 girls (44.7%).

In the first and second cycle general secondary education combined, Côte d'Ivoire has a total of 829 institutions with 68.5% in the private sector.

The Administration of Education is centralized (dependent on the central government) and is under the control and coordination of two ministries: the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Public and private universities are counted by dozens across the country. There are many universities, mainly in large cities with several disciplines and diplomas. Within the framework of the harmonization of higher education curricula, the Ivorian university curriculum is organized around three national diplomas: the bachelor's, the master's and the doctoral degrees.

MEDICAL CARE

Due to several civil and political war problems, the medical sector in Côte d'Ivoire is poor and it generally cannot provide adequate treatment of health care to its population. There is a shortage of medical facilities, doctors and medicines. According to statistics, the average age of life is 44 years. People have to deal with a wide range of AIDS and HIV-related pathologies and, in general, tropical diseases. This leads to high mortality in children.

Medical facilities and the number of doctors and hospital beds available for the total population are too low. While in Abidjan, health services are

Health Pyramid	
first contact	
Urban Health Centers	409
Rural Health Centers	760
Urban health training	13
Niveau de premier recours	
General Hospitals	48
Psychiatric hospitals	2
CHU, centres et instituts spécialisés	

generally of better quality, other rural areas do not have adequate hospitals, nurses and doctors. As in most countries subject to malaria and other tropical diseases, it is strongly recommended to be vaccinated before going to Cote d'Ivoire. It is advisable to sleep with a mosquito net at night and wear clothes covering the body parts.

HIV/AIDS treatment: Several hospitals and clinics in the private sector as well as in the public sector handle cases of HIV / AIDS treatment in Abidjan and in the interior of the country. Treatment is often free. However, some patients pay for treatment when they cannot access it. Those who pay for it avoid hospitals for personal reasons. Many organisations have been set up to deal with infected people. They are gathered in several platforms to support orphans, widows and widowers who live with the virus

HOUSING

It is difficult to describe the situation of the habitat in Côte d'Ivoire. There are of course Real Estate Agencies but, there is no real who can give reliable information on the availability, rental or sale of real estate. Although rental is the general type of housing, those who have money and opportunity buy land to build their own homes or real estate projects.

There is no administrative prohibition to buy a piece of land. You have to be careful in the conclusion of the purchase because several people are swindled by buying a property already bought by one or more other people. The directors play an important role of facilitating because they have regular contacts with the owners of houses or apartments to sell or to rent. Their compensation is 10% of the transaction or the equivalent of one month's rent.

Temporary on arrival: IOM Abidjan can provide returnees with temporary accommodation at the hotel for up to 24 hours upon their return. IOM does not work with local companies which provide temporary housing for returnees. Room rates range from 10,000F to 50,000F CFA per night, with + - 8,000f CFA per meal for the middle classes.

Rent an apartment: In general, there are a sufficient number of houses and apartments available in Abidjan and throughout the country. The price for buying or renting a residence varies and depends on the district, municipality or city.

Average monthly rent in Abidjan: The average rate for a two bedroom apartment in a good residential area is about 100,000 CFA francs - 500,000 CFA per month.

EMPLOYEMENT

Hours of work: The working week in Côte d'Ivoire is based on a 40-hour week. The working hours are as follows: Morning: from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm and Afternoon: from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. In Côte d'Ivoire, the minimum guaranteed inter-professional minimum wage (SMIG) for private and public sector workers is set at 60,000 CFA francs.

ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION DONORS

The program is funded by the European Commission (European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund), as well as the eighteen participating ERIN Partner States:

ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM Partner Countries and Institutions		
	Countries	Institutions
1	Australia	Department of immigration and Border Protection
2	Austria	Ministry of Interior
3	Belgium	Federal Immigration Office
4		Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers
5	Denmark	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6	Finland	Finnish Immigration Service
7	France	French Immigration and Integration Office
8	Germany	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
9	Greece	Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection
10	Italy	Ministry of Interior
11	Luxembourg	Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs
12	Malta	Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
13	Netherlands	Repatriation and Departure Service
14	Norway	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration
15	Romania	General Inspectorate for Immigration
16	Spain	Integration of Immigrants Migration Board
17	Sweden	Swedish Migration Agency
18	Switzerland	State Secretariat for Migration
19	United Kingdom	Home Office – Immigration Enforcement

