

General Country Information:

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire is located in west Africa, and shares borders with Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Mali with a coast along the Atlantic ocean. It is divided in 19 regions and 81 departments. Its official capital is Yamoussoukro but Abidjan is the largest city and remains the administrative centre of Côte d'Ivoire. The official language is French although many local languages are spoken.

Côte d'Ivoire became independent in 1960 after being a French colony since 1894. The country went through an economic crisis in the 1980s leading to a period of political and social turmoil. In 2002, a civil war broke out.

Following the disputed presidential election results at the end of November 2010, the situation in Côte d'Ivoire has continued to deteriorate and the population continues to suffer because of an ongoing civil war. As of April 2011, 150'000 Ivorian refugees have spread across West Africa. (most of them in Liberia and Ghana)

Most of the inhabitants live along the sandy coastal region; apart from the capital area, the forested interior is sparsely populated. The economy largely relies on agriculture and the country is the world's largest cocoa exporter.

The country is regularly affected by epidemics of yellow fever.

Cholera Background History:

Cholera cases started to be reported in Côte d'Ivoire when the 7th pandemic hit the African continent with respectively 868 and 668 cases reported in 1970 and 1971.

From 1991 until 1996, Côte d'Ivoire reported cases each year ranging from 37 to 4'993.

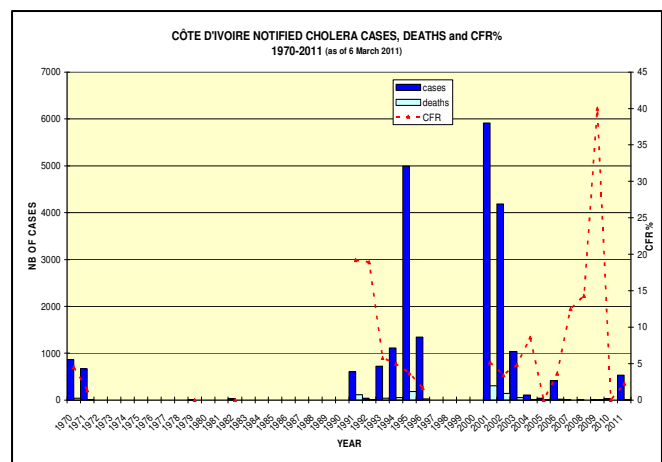
From October 2000 to October 2001, the largest outbreak unfolded affecting 21 districts with 6'260 cases (incl. 341 deaths) being reported. The overall case fatality rate was 5.44%. Abidjan recorded 3250 cases (51.9% of all reported cases) and the case fatality rate remained lower in the capital than in other affected regions. In previous years, Abidjan had reported sporadic cholera cases during the rainy season. An outbreak of this scale that was to last all year and extending beyond the rainy season was a new situation. Cases were also reported in the neighboring countries of Burkina Faso and Guinea.

From 2001 until 2005, 11'874 cases including 564 deaths were notified with an overall CFR of 4.7%. Abidjan recorded 60% of the cases with a lower CFR of 2.1%. Other outbreaks occurred in the transit districts or displaced camps occupied by the displaced persons from the northern regions. The armed conflict in 2002 highly disturbed the surveillance system.

From 2004 until 2008, Côte d'Ivoire notified sporadic cases from several regions.

Cholera Outbreak in 2011:

Cholera cases have been reported in Abidjan since 19 January 2011. Cases were first reported in Adjamé and then further spread to two nearby communities: Atékoubé and Yopougon (see map).



As of 6 March 2011, the Ministry of Health has reported a cumulative number of 531 cholera cases including 12 deaths (CFR = 2.3%). A total of 12 districts are affected of which 5 are in Abidjan (see map). Of the reported cases, 29 are laboratory confirmed. The CFR reduced from 12% at the onset of the outbreak to 2.3% by week 9.

The surveillance system is challenged due to the volatile security situation and information on the epidemic trend is not rapidly available.



Affected areas of Abidjan (February 2011)

WHO Support Actions:

- The current actions being taken to control the outbreak include regular coordination meetings; social mobilization through local and mass media to improve on general hygiene, improved cleaning of the environment in Abidjan; support to case management (cholera kits provided); and enhanced surveillance for monitoring the outbreak. However the surveillance is being challenged by the current political events in the country.
- 2002: joint Mission WHO/MoH (response and preparation to cholera outbreaks)

Demographic and Socio-Economic Data:

Geography	Total surface	322'463 km ² (coastline of 515km)
	Capital	Yamoussoukro (pop 200'659 in 2005) Largest city is Abidjan (population in Abidjan: 4 799 432)
	Provinces	19 regions
Environment	Climate	tropical along coast, semiarid in far north; three seasons - warm and dry (November to March), hot and dry (March to May), hot and wet (June to October)
	Rainy season	Long rainy season from May to July and short from October to November
	Floods and droughts	Flooding is possible during the rainy season
	Desertification	deforestation (most of the country's forests - once the largest in West Africa; water pollution from sewage and industrial and agricultural effluent
	Natural resources	petroleum, natural gas, diamonds, manganese, iron ore, cobalt, bauxite, copper, gold, nickel, tantalum, silica sand, clay, cocoa beans, coffee, palm oil, hydropower
Demographics	Population	18'914'000 (annual population growth rate: 1.84%)
	Official Language	French (60 native dialects with Dioula the most widely spoken)
	Religions	Muslim 38.6%, Christian 32.8%, indigenous 11.9%, none 16.7%
	Ethnic groups	Akan 42.1%, Voltaiques or Gur 17.6%, Northern Mandes 16.5%, Krous 11%, Southern Mandes 10%, other 2.8%
	Migrants	519'100 IDPs, 24'000 refugees from Liberia (June 2010)
Economy	Industry	foodstuffs, beverages; wood products, oil refining, truck and bus assembly, textile
	Farming	fertilizer, building materials, electricity, ship construction and repair
Health Indicators	Per capita total expenditure on health (Int'l\$)	66 (2006)
	Life expectancy birth (yrs)	Males: 50 Females: 55 (2006)
	Child mortality (per 1000)	Males: 148 Females: 106 (2006)
	Number of physicians	2'081 (2004)
Communicable Diseases	Major infectious diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, malaria, yellow fever, schistosomiasis HIV prevalence (2005): 6.4%	
Risk Factors for Cholera	Population with access to improved water source	81% (2006)
	Population with access to proper sanitation facilities	24% (2006)
	Prevalence of undernourishment in total population (% of population)	14% (2006)

Sources for Document: WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP



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