During the period 2006-2016, the African Development Bank financed 35 projects in Côte d’Ivoire, totaling more than UA 1 billion. The Bank supported projects in seven areas of activity.

The evaluation aims to assess the achievements of the Bank’s support to Côte d’Ivoire and to draw relevant lessons from the experience in order to improve the Bank’s future strategies in the country.
What did IDEV find?

The Bank’s Strategy and Program is rated satisfactory overall:

Relevance: The Bank’s strategy is deemed satisfactory. The Bank was able to adapt its strategy to the changing country environment. The design of projects is deemed satisfactory overall, even though the intervention logic was not sufficiently clear for some projects.

Effectiveness: is rated satisfactory overall. The Bank has contributed significantly to Côte d’Ivoire’s remarkable progress in reducing fragility, stimulating economic growth, strengthening infrastructure (energy, transport) and improving people’s living conditions.

Efficiency: The Bank’s efficiency in managing the portfolio is rated as satisfactory overall. The same applies to the use of resources even though this conceals wide disparities between projects, due mainly to their low quality at entry.

Sustainability of Bank operations results: is deemed satisfactory for private sector operations (with sovereign guarantees) and rated unsatisfactory for public sector operations, although it improved over the period considered.

Despite Côte d’Ivoire’s progress over the decade and the good performance of the Bank, challenges remain, including factors of fragility; social demand related to poverty and inequality; stakeholder expectations of Bank support for projects, programs and policy dialogue; weaknesses in the quality of design, supervision, and monitoring and evaluation of interventions, and their lack of visibility; the unconventional use of budget support.

What did IDEV recommend?

1. Provide strategic support to Côte d’Ivoire for more inclusive growth, with a view to reducing poverty and inequality nationwide.
2. Strengthen policy dialogue on strategic issues and support it through relevant analytical work.
3. Complete public-private partnership feasibility studies with systematic analyses of the consequences of sovereign guarantees.
4. Enhance the Bank’s visibility in relation to its involvement in supporting Côte d’Ivoire’s development strategy.
5. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of outcomes achievement with regard to the Bank’s operations and strategies.
6. Clarify the guidelines and forms of intervention with regard to emergency assistance to ensure that they are better tailored to the risks and sources of fragility, and ensure rapid interventions that hit their targets in as short a time as possible.

About IDEV

The Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) of the African Development Bank carries out independent evaluations of Bank operations, policies and strategies, working across projects, sectors, themes, regions, and countries. By conducting independent evaluations and proactively sharing best practice, IDEV ensures that the Bank and its stakeholders learn from past experience and plan and deliver development activities to the highest possible standards.

What did Management Respond?

Management agrees overall with the evaluation results. The evaluation’s general conclusion is that the performance of the Bank’s operational strategies and programmes in Côte d’Ivoire during the reference period is satisfactory. The operations have had a positive impact and produced tangible results on the post-crisis situation. However, Management notes the challenges highlighted by the evaluation, in particular, the weak and slow response in emergency situations which reduced the effectiveness of the Bank’s actions. It has also noted the weaknesses raised in terms of sustainability of the operations due to a lack of central government commitment to guarantee the continuity and smooth operation of the structures established.