

# POLICY BRIEF

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## United States–Côte d’Ivoire Strategic Partnership

Global Health Investment, Economic Security, and Regional Stability Under the “America First” Model

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Prepared for: U.S. Government Policymakers and Senior Stakeholders

Geographic Focus: West Africa / Sahel

### Executive Summary

On December 30, 2025, the United States and the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire signed a \$480 million bilateral global health agreement in Abidjan, representing the largest health compact concluded under President Donald Trump’s “America First” foreign assistance framework. The agreement restructures U.S. health engagement toward co-financing, national ownership, and accountability, with Côte d’Ivoire assuming 60 percent of total funding obligations by 2030.

Beyond public health, the agreement reinforces a broader strategic alliance with one of West Africa’s most stable and economically significant states. Côte d’Ivoire is the world’s largest producer of cocoa, accounting for roughly 40 percent of global supply, making it indispensable to global commodity markets, food security, and U.S. commercial interests. Stability in Côte d’Ivoire directly supports U.S. economic security, supply-chain resilience, and regional stability.

### Key Facts

- Total Value: \$480 million
- Ivorian Contribution: 163 billion CFA francs (~\$292 million; 60%)
- U.S. Contribution: ~\$188 million (40%)
- Health Focus Areas: HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal and child health, global health security
- Timeline: Through 2030
- Economic Significance: World’s largest cocoa producer

### Economic and Strategic Importance of Côte d’Ivoire

Côte d’Ivoire is a strategic economic ally of the United States. As the world’s largest cocoa producer, the country underpins supply chains critical to U.S. food manufacturers, global commodity traders, and consumer markets. The cocoa sector supports millions of livelihoods, contributes substantially to government revenues, and remains a cornerstone

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of national stability.

Strengthening Côte d'Ivoire's health systems directly supports workforce productivity, rural stability, and agricultural continuity, aligning development policy with U.S. economic and commercial interests.

### **Policy Context**

The agreement replaces legacy aid programs previously administered through USAID, which had invested approximately \$115 million in Côte d'Ivoire prior to restructuring. The America First framework prioritizes shared responsibility, domestic resource mobilization, bilateral oversight, and alignment with U.S. strategic interests.

### **Security Dimension**

In parallel with the health agreement, Côte d'Ivoire has advanced discussions with the United States on expanded security and intelligence cooperation. According to Reuters reporting, Abidjan has proposed hosting U.S. surveillance aircraft to monitor Al-Qaeda-linked jihadist groups operating across the Sahel. This reflects Côte d'Ivoire's emergence as a frontline state and a potential regional intelligence hub amid reduced Western basing access elsewhere.

### **Strategic Implications**

For the United States, the agreement strengthens a reliable African ally with global economic relevance, protects critical agricultural supply chains, and reinforces U.S. leadership in health security and counterterrorism. For Côte d'Ivoire, it enhances national resilience, safeguards cocoa production, and deepens its role as a trusted U.S. partner.

### **Bottom Line**

The U.S.-Côte d'Ivoire \$480 million health agreement is a strategic investment in an essential ally. By reinforcing health systems, economic stability, and security cooperation, the United States advances humanitarian objectives while safeguarding its long-term economic and strategic interests in West Africa.

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