

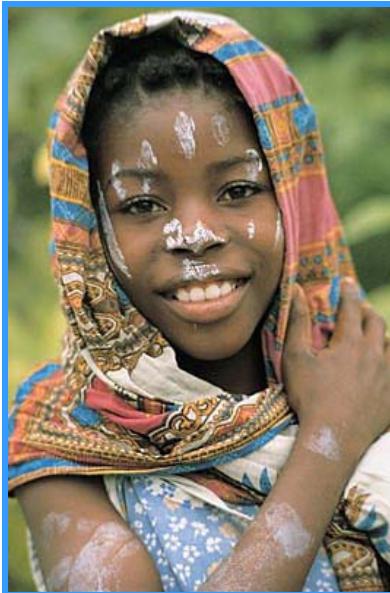
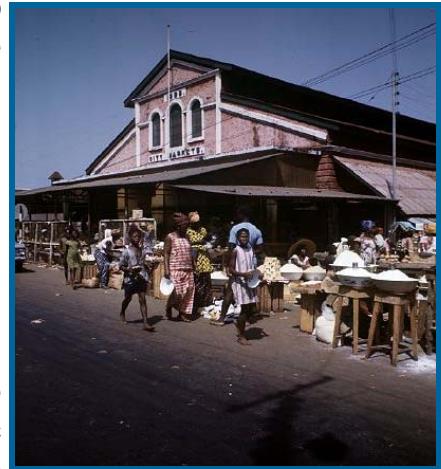
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Institute for Education of Women in Africa and the Diaspora

Africa is not an adventure!

Every time I travel to Africa I learn something new. My recent trip to Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire taught me for the first time since I have been traveling (since 1980) that Africa is NOT an adventure! For the first time, the reality of poverty, political crisis, ethnic group tensions and fighting, disease, corruption, etc. stared me in the face and forced me to accept what I saw—not the romanticization of Africa through rose-colored lens, nor the dreams of an Afro-Optimist. This was Africa, and I had to face it!



By the end of my trip, I had come to a more fuller, more realistic understanding of what it means to live day-to-day in West Africa for a number of individuals. I also understood the blessed and privileged position that I was born into, and the responsibility that goes with that privilege. Not a responsibility born out of guilt or pseudo-liberal compassion; but, a moral and ethical responsibility to use what I have been blessed with—whether it be my resources, my intelligence, my position, my creativity, or my vision to impact the lives of others less fortunate than myself.

Yes, there are some hard truths to face in Africa. Poverty, HIV/AIDS, coup d'états, political corruption, economic crises, etc. But, humanity, despite its raw ugliness, has a beauty that transcends color, caste, ethnicity, or class and binds us together on this Earth.

We can choose or not to make the difference—as for us, IEWAD plans to make the difference!



Abidjan Scholarship Fund Expanded to Lycée Moderne de Tiassalé

Last year, with the diligence of several members of IEWAD in Abidjan, a second school, Lycée Moderne de Tiassalé, was added to the Abidjan Scholarship Fund. The number of scholarship recipients now totals 40 female secondary students that IEWAD support. Opened as Modern College of Tiassalé in 1975 with Headmaster Frederick Yapi Cho Fire, the establishment became *Lycée Moderne de Tiassalé* in 1986 with Headmaster Célestin Yao Zi. The current Headmaster is Kouakou Anongba. The school is located within the small rural town of Tiassalé, located north of Abidjan.

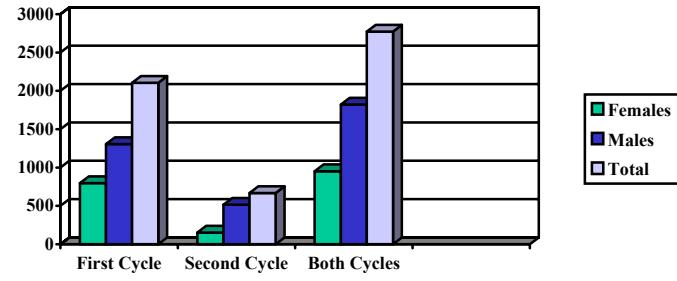


The Ivorian educational system follows most closely that of the French educational system. There are 2 cycles in the course of secondary education. The First Cycle covers four years (6ème or Form 6, 5e or Form 5, 4e or Form 4 and 3e or Form 3) and which admits students who have been promoted from elementary school at the level of the class of 6e. The end of the first cycle is marked by successful passing of the "*Brevet des collèges*", an exam based on the main disciplines taught at school and which qualifies pupils to enter high school.

The Second Cycle follows first cycle education, where students are guided according to their aptitudes, their propensities and their previous work towards. The Second Cycle lasts three years (classes of 2nde or Form 2, 1ere or Form 1, and Terminale or Final Form). These courses are tailored to the student's university ambitions. There are several main high school specializations including literature, math, science, economics, and management. Successful secondary school graduation leads to the Baccalaureate diploma, a prerequisite for higher education.

The *Lycée Moderne de Tiassalé* has 46 classes of which there are 10 classes of Form 6, 8 classes of Form 5, 10 classes of Form 4, 5 classes of Form 3, 5 classes of Form 2, 4 classes of Form 1, and 4 classes of Final Form. In the first cycle, there are 2,104 students with 798 girls and 1,306 boys. In the second cycle, there are 668 students with 153 girls and 515 boys.

Enrollment at Lycée Moderne de Tiassalé by Gender



The IEWAD scholarship ceremony was held at the school on March 19, 2003. All the local authorities were present with the exception of the prefect who was represented by the under-prefect. One counted among our distinguished guests: Dr. Katty, the Godmother of IEWAD, the president of the General Council of Tiassalé, the mayor of the city of Tiassalé, the police chief of Tiassalé, representatives of sister NGO's, the Headmaster of the school, teachers of the school, parents of scholarship recipients, the scholarship recipients, and other people coming from the administrative services of the city; as well as IEWAD members, Mrs. Isabelle Berté and her spouse, Mrs. Krah, Mrs. Philomène, and Mrs. Jeanne Kouao. In addition, there was media coverage of the *Agence Ivoirienne de Presse* (AIP) who videotaped the event. The president of the general council of Tiassalé was inspired by the action of the to the point where it plans to organize its own ceremony of prizes at the end of the school year.



A Fragile Peace
 (adapted from *Africa Recovery*, Vol. 17 #2 (July 2003), page 6
 by Ernest Harsch (New York)

Nearly a year after civil war erupted in Côte d'Ivoire, the country's contending political and military forces are taking tentative steps towards peace. Fighting has ceased in most of the country, except for a few parts along the western border with Liberia. In mid-June, for the first time, all ministers of the new government of national reconciliation participated in a cabinet meeting, to approve a "life-saver" budget.

Behind the scenes, technical commissions, established as part of a wide-ranging peace agreement negotiated in January in Marcoussis, France, are addressing the conflict's underlying political and social causes.

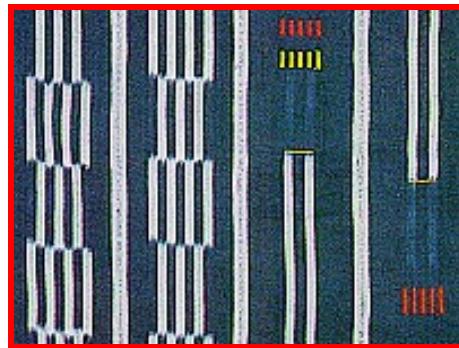
Under the direction of Prime Minister Seydou Diarra, they are reviewing legislation defining Ivorian nationality and the status of foreign immigrants, who make up about a quarter of the total population of 16 million. They also are looking at the electoral code, enforcement of human rights and contentious land tenure laws.

But this process remains fragile. "We're in a very delicate phase," says UN Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire Albert Tévoédjrè. As the government-owned daily *Fraternité Matin* put it in June, Ivorians are living in an atmosphere of "neither war nor peace."

The country is still effectively partitioned, with the northern half and parts of the west under the control of rebel groups and the south in the hands of the regular army, loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo. The army and rebel groups have agreed to confine themselves to designated locations, but actual disarmament may not begin until the end of August, by the most optimistic projections.

Source: "Africa Recovery, United Nations".

For more information about Côte d'Ivoire, see Africa Recovery Online (<http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/>) or current news about Africa (<http://allafrica.com/>).



The Third Annual Abidjan Scholarship Benefit

Saturday, October 12, 2003

at the Crowne Plaza Hotel -Ann Arbor

2:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact us for information or
 tickets at iewad@ci@hotmail.com or (734) 730-6739

