

# Getting girls to school in Côte d'Ivoire

## Etimoé Primary School Project

**Amount:** \$400,000

**Mechanism:** Technical Assistance Grant

**Co-financiers:** *Fundación Promoción Social de la Cultura (FPSC), Fundación Cauce, Spain, Famille et Éducation, Côte d'Ivoire.*

Côte d'Ivoire's education system has suffered extensively over the past decade. In the wake of the 2002-04 civil war, primary school enrolments fell to just 56%, as a result of schools being damaged or destroyed and students and teachers being displaced. More recently, the post-election crisis has seen the closure of schools in 10 out of the 27 regional education directorates, leaving over 800,000 primary age students, primarily in the north of the country, without a classroom. These setbacks have placed enormous strain on the government's ability to deliver adequate education services. In many parts of the country, NGOs have stepped in to fill the gap.

OFID's grant will support the activities of a group of Spanish and Ivorian NGOs in Cocody, a suburb of the capital, Abidjan, where the ten existing primary schools are poorly, if at all, equipped. The schools are also heavily overcrowded, due to large inflows of migrants and displaced people from the rest of the country. With an average of 90 to 120 students per teacher, many of the schools have been forced to shorten their schedules and operate on a double-shift basis.

Specifically, the project involves the construction of a primary school for girls living in the poor neighborhoods of Abata and Bingerville, which, in



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*With one teacher for every 30 pupils, the new school will offer a greatly improved learning environment.*

2010, represented more than 60,000 of the 252,000-strong population of Cocody. The Etimoé Primary School, which will also be fully equipped and furnished, will consist of six classrooms with a total capacity of 180 pupils, covering grades one to six. The number of pupils per teacher will be limited to 30, compared to a current national average of 42. The improved learning environment will encourage parents to send their daughters to school and, at the same time, will have a positive impact on the children's educational achievements. Once finished, it is hoped that the school will serve as a model for other schools across the whole country.