

Update Covid-19

By 30 June 2021, more than 750 000 vaccines against Covid-19 had been administered in Côte d'Ivoire, with priority given to those at most risk. But many Ivorians do not get vaccinated as Covid-19 is still considered a low risk disease. Since the pandemic began, around 310 deaths had, at the end of June, been officially attributed to Covid-19. In contrast, more than 1500 deaths due to malaria were recorded in 2019, but estimates suggest well over 9000 may have died, most of them children ([Link: https://www.severemalaria.org/la-cote-divoire](https://www.severemalaria.org/la-cote-divoire)).

The Ivorian government is continuing its prevention efforts and so is CABOZ Action. Our [2020 prevention awareness campaign](#) has led to hand-washing at the beginning of meetings becoming a ritual, according to Fulbert, our project manager in Soubré. But few think wearing masks is necessary, particularly as many of the meetings take place outdoors.



Youth Farmer Field Schools (YFFS) + Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) + Gender Sensibilisation

This 2-year project, jointly funded by CABOZ and the [Jacobs Foundation](#), got off to a good start in January 2020. Nearly 300 young people (15-35 years old) in ten different villages were selected to participate in a training programme with the objective to support them in setting up income-generating projects in their local communities.

So far the VSLAs have raised nearly CHF 5000 (CFA 3 million) to start their business projects, which include processing cassava, selling eggs and producing maize. The gender sensibilisation part of the project has been delayed by the Corona crisis as travel has been restricted, but women have been actively encouraged to participate in the project.



Meeting with the participants and the facilitator in Akpouè kouamékro to set up a VSLA group

Here they are with one of the youth groups in Duekoué at a meeting to discuss the **VSLA savings scheme**. Note the large cash-box on the table!



*YFFS youth group in Bähé Sebon with cash-box.
Back row: 2nd from left = Lydie, our project manager in the Duekoué region, 3rd from left = Joel, Vice-President CABOZ Action*