

Spiritual State of the World's Children

Côte d'Ivoire





Spiritual State of the World's Children A Quantitative Study

MINISTRY REPORT

Côte d'Ivoire

September 2010

Prepared by:



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ONEHOPE

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.* With programs in over 125 nations OneHope has reached over 620 million children and young people with a special presentation of the life of Jesus. Committed to presenting God's Word in a format that is relevant and dynamic, research is a critical step in the development of country and age specific products and programs.



The Metadigm Group is a non-profit research organization with the goal of equipping other organizations to conduct research and improve their efficacy. Processes necessary to achieve organizational priorities and embed research skills into day-to-day organizational operations are developed through seamless processes offered in data collection, strategic planning, market profiles, and outcomes development. For more information, visit www.metadigmgroup.com or email us at info@metadigmgroup.com.

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Table of Contents

Section I: Key Issues Analysis	5
Key Issues	5
Strengths & Opportunities	7
Weaknesses & Threats	7
Recommendations	7
Section II: Project Description	8
Acknowledgments	8
Overview	8
Research Methodology	8
Project Overview	9
Logistics	9
Implementation & Survey Administration	10
Section III: Profiles of Youth in Côte d’Ivoire	11
Data Qualifications	11
Demographics	11
Family Relationships	11
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	11
Beliefs and Perspectives on Daily Life	12
Religious Background and Practice	13
Christian Youth	14
Section IV: Côte d’Ivoire Secondary Data	15

Section I: Key Issues Analysis

Key Issues

- Family composition
 - 56% parents are married
 - 15% parents are divorced or separated
 - 16% one or both parents have died
 - 54% live with two parents, though one may be a step-parent
 - 18% do not live with an adult
 - 6% live with a grandparent

- Perception of Family
 - Definition of family
 - 31% define family as those related by birth, adoption or marriage
 - 28% define family as any person or group whom you love or care about deeply
 - 21% define family as any group of people who shares the same set of values and goals in the life
 - 20% define family as any group of people who live together
 - Function of family
 - Place for children:
 - 76% consider an unmarried man and woman with children a family
 - 49% consider a single woman with children a family
 - Relationship:
 - 14% consider two women (not in a sexual relationship) living together a family
 - 11% consider an unmarried man and woman a family
 - 10% consider two homosexual women a family
 - 10% consider two homosexual men a family

- Relationship with parents
 - 60% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 18% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 38% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their mother about things that really matter
 - 33% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their mothers about things that really matter

- Safety and Security of home
 - 52% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
 - 20% feel safe and loved in their homes only sometimes
 - 15% feel comfortable in their homes, but would not consider their family close
 - 8% are uncomfortable in their homes and would rather be elsewhere

- Marriage
 - 97% believe God intended marriage to last a life time
 - 95% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
 - 74% consider their family experience to have been positive
 - 74% acknowledge the difficulty of having a successful marriage
 - 66% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
 - 22% approve of divorce even when children are involved

- 12% report there is too much pressure to get married, would rather live together
- 10% admire single life
- Sexuality
 - 36% have had sexual intercourse
 - 68% would like to remain a virgin until marriage (can include both virgins and non-virgins)
 - 80% of those that have had sexual intercourse would regain their virginity if it were possible
 - Participants are most likely to learn about sex from TV/movies, classmates/friends, sex-related magazines/books, and textbooks
 - Participants are least likely to learn about sex from their parents
- Satisfaction with life
 - 49% of respondents indicate they are very satisfied and 31% somewhat satisfied with their lives
 - 20% are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their lives
 - Over the past three months:
 - 90% have watched MTV
 - 73% have lied to their peers
 - 56% have lied to an adult
 - 48% have cheated on an exam
 - 36% have watched a pornographic movie
 - 13% have had suicidal thoughts
 - 8% have attempted suicide
- Influences (cited as having a lot of influence over thoughts and actions)
 - 65% Parents
 - 64% Bible
 - 50% Teachers
 - 54% Christianity
 - 45% Community religious leaders
 - 43% Siblings
 - 42% Textbooks
- Moral behavior
 - 87% can recall a time when their religious beliefs affected their behavior
 - 68% feel church membership is important
 - 53% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”
 - 44% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
 - 41% believe that truth can mean different things to different people
 - 37% feel bending the rules is okay
 - 31% feel that breaking the law is okay if it does not hurt anyone
- Factors providing future satisfaction (cited as having a lot of importance)
 - 96% having a degree
 - 95% owning a large house
 - 93% working in a high-paying job
 - 91% having good physical health
 - 86% having a clear purpose in life

- **Religious Practice**
 - 96% report religion is somewhat or very important to them
 - 93% believe that prayer can change what happens in life
 - 91% believe they have a responsibility to share their faith with others
 - 82% indicate that they are somewhat or very likely to attend religious services after high school
 - 65% report weekly or daily prayer
 - 54% participate in weekly or daily religious services
 - 40% attend weekly or daily youth groups
 - 34% report weekly or daily scripture reading, including the Bible or Koran

- **Christian Theology**
 - 97% believe Jesus Christ was virgin-born
 - 96% believe that there will be a final judgment before God
 - 93% believe the Bible to be accurate in all of its teachings
 - 89% believe forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ
 - 86% the Christian faith is relevant to the way I live
 - 81% if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in Heaven
 - 80% believe that faith in Jesus Christ is more important than what is done for others
 - 74% have heard about Jesus and the Bible from church and 55% from family or relatives
 - 60% believe that all religions pray to the same God
 - 30% people who do not accept Jesus Christ as their savior can still go to heaven

Strengths & Opportunities

- To be completed by OH-Côte d'Ivoire

Weaknesses & Threats

- To be completed by OH-Côte d'Ivoire

Recommendations

- To be completed by OH-Côte d'Ivoire

Section II: Project Description

Acknowledgments

This project was made possible in part by funding from the Maclellan Foundation and OneHope-Global Ministries.

We acknowledge the cooperation of the National Ministry of Education, the headmasters and staff of the schools included in the sample, and the cooperation of students and volunteers.

The Attitudes & Behaviors of Youth (ABY) instrument administered in this study was made available by Josh McDowell Ministries.

Overview

OneHope seeks to understand what children and youth deal with in their day-to-day realities. We know that children and youth face a variety of social challenges and experience psycho-social needs to which they are often left without effective responses. We do know that the needs of children vary from country to country and even regionally within countries. However, without reliable information we are unable to tailor our products and distribution programs to address needs specific to particular contexts.

While the issues and challenges facing children and youth in developed countries are researched and documented, those in developing countries are not. Without an accurate analysis of their contexts these populations are treated as though they share a common reality. An awareness of the immediate reality of children is often discovered only after ministry has begun and resources have been committed to a project.

As part of OneHope's *Spiritual State of the World's Children* study, the Attitudes & Behaviors of Youth (ABY) project will capture the following information about children in the Côte d'Ivoire:

- Typical family situations, relationships and parental contact
- Behaviors and moral values guiding relationships with peers of the opposite sex
- Daily occupations and pastimes
- Worldviews, influences, beliefs, future goals, and religious affiliation
- Theological perspectives and commitment

Research Methodology

The Attitudes & Behaviors of Youth (ABY) project utilizes the ABY survey, which is a stratified random survey of secondary school children. The survey was stratified by degree of urbanization and gender for the Côte d'Ivoire. Additional strata that permit analysis are: family composition, ethnicity, and religious affiliation.

The core survey was constructed using the Survey of Juveniles designed by Chris Sleath of Josh McDowell Ministries. The survey was administered in secondary schools in French. Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible¹ schools segregated by population density (proportional to national population distribution of urban-rural residents) to students in the schools randomized by gender (proportional to the national ratio of male-female).

¹ Schools considered inaccessible are those that are in conflict zones, areas of extremely low population or that cannot be reached by public transportation.

Project Overview

The time frame for data collection was April 2010 through June 2010. Edouard Yao served as the local Research Coordinator for the Côte d'Ivoire research project. Oversight was provided by Metadigm Group Research Manager, Pete Gackenbach and Dr. Allen Reesor of Pompano Beach, Florida. The research followed project design instructions (see below under Logistics).

Data was entered into a web-based database, which was hosted by Philip Issa of Elite Research. The final report includes Metadigm Group's analysis of the data, which has been reviewed by Rene Paulson, PhD. Secondary data is provided when applicable. This report is available for use by partners supporting the utilization of collaborative research in conducting ministry to children and youth.

The final report will be made available to ministry partners who promote ministry to children and youth through collaborative research.

Logistics

Review

National leaders reviewed the survey and recommended minor edits.

Randomization

Reliability of the survey results depends upon consistent randomization of the participants. Two strata of randomization that govern participant selection employed in this project were gender and population density distributions.

The National Ministry of Education provided a list of schools segregated by population density.

Population density was interpreted as either urban or rural. Additionally, the study population was further segregated into one of two classes: less than one hundred thousand or between one hundred thousand and one million. This list was used to select randomly identified schools at Metadigm Group Headquarters. The list of randomized schools was returned to the local Research Coordinator for review. Schools that were inaccessible (see footnote on inaccessibility above) were replaced by following randomization procedures.

To ensure that gender participation reflects the male/female ratio of the national population, randomization by gender was finalized when students were selected for participation.

Verifying Access

Research Assistants met with the administration of each school to explain the survey and obtain school consent for participation.

Survey Printing

A master copy of the survey response form was forwarded electronically to the local Research Coordinator who received bids for the printing of 5,000 collated and stapled copies.

Quality Control

Hard copies of the survey response form were randomly assessed to evaluate survey validity. Hard copy survey response forms will be retained by the local OneHope office in Cote d'Ivoire for one year to verify the accuracy of data entry if needed and as a back up to electronic data files. The surveys are kept confidential and will be turned over to a designated OneHope Headquarters representative on or about 12 months following the close of data collection. After 12 months, a OneHope representative will oversee the destruction of all hard copy surveys.

Implementation & Survey Administration

Data Collection

The survey was administered in the schools identified by randomization and previously contacted. The research agent identified the number of classes in session on the day of the survey.

- If the average class size at a school was less than 30 students, 15 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 15 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Cote d'Ivoire.
- If the average class size at a school was more than 30 students, 10 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 22 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Cote d'Ivoire.

Students were asked to voluntarily participate. Participants were administered the survey in groups that could be accommodated in a classroom. Approximately 200 students were surveyed at each school.

The surveys were conducted by two people. A brief scripted introduction was read aloud and students were given the opportunity to ask questions. Administrators took turns reading each question aloud to students.

The following assisted with data collection: Sebastien Konan, Aubin N'Guessan, Karaboue Choualiho, and Paul Sohi.

Data Entry

The local Research Coordinator was responsible for accurate input of the data into the web-based survey database. The following assisted with data entry: Arsene Ndri, Michel-Ange Yeman, and Eleonore Judith Koffi. Germain Yao offered supervisory assistance as an engineer statistician.

Section III: Profiles of Youth in Côte d'Ivoire

Data Qualifications

Fifty-five percent of participants in this sample are from the urban areas while 45% are from the rural areas of the Côte d'Ivoire. Younger students are defined as students 15 or younger while older students are defined as 16 and older.

Demographics

A total of 4,510 were included in this sample; 39% were female subjects and 61% male subjects. Fifty-five percent of the subjects are from urban areas and 45% from rural areas. Fifty percent of the participants are under 16 years of age and 50% are 16 years and older. Many students older than 15 are in lower grades: 65% of the older students are in 9th grade or below and only 35% are in grades 10, 11, and 12. Most students report either *average* (41%) or *good* (35%) as their school performance. Thirteen percent report a *poor* or *very poor* performance while 11% report an *excellent performance* in school. More younger students report a better school performance than older students.

When asked about their parents' professions, fathers are employed 36% in *agriculture*, 18% in *public sector*, 16% in *other* (this may be unemployed, self-employed or working at home), 12% *professional*, 11% *service industry* and 7% in *industrial* enterprise. Mothers are employed 35% in *service industry*, 29% *agricultural*, 22% *other* (this may be unemployed, self-employed or working at home), 8% *professional*, 4% *public sector*, and 2% in *industrial* enterprise. Urban participants' parents are more likely to report their vocation as *professional*, *service industry* and *public sector* while rural participants are far more likely to report their parents' employment as *agricultural*.

The parents of participants are reported as 56% married, 15% divorced or separated, and another 3% as divorced and remarried. For 16% of participants, one or both parents have died and another 10% report that their parents are in some other living arrangement. Younger participants (62%) are more likely to report their parents are married compared to older participants (50%). Older participants (20%) are more likely than younger participants (11%) to report one or both parents as deceased. Just over half (54%) of those surveyed report that they live with their natural parents or a natural parent and a step-parent. Eighteen percent report that they do not live with an adult, which possibly indicates that they live alone or with other children in rented rooms. Twenty-one percent of participants live with one parent or a grandparent. Urban and younger participants are more likely to live with two parents, while rural and older participants report a higher likelihood of living without an adult or in an "other" situation.

Family Relationships

While 31% define family as those who are related to one another by birth, adoption or marriage, another 28% define family as those who love and care for each other. Approximately one-fifth of respondents think that a family is a group of people sharing goals and values, while an equal number define family as those who live together. People living together are more likely to be perceived as family if they have children (a couple (76%) or a single woman (49%)). Unmarried adults living together, either heterosexual or homosexual, are not considered family by about 90% of those surveyed.

Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex

Nearly all participants believe God intended marriage to last a lifetime (97%) and that they will be happy in their own marriage (95%). About three-quarters of participants consider their family experience to be positive; two-thirds desire a marriage like their parents. However, approximately 75% believe that it is hard to have a

successful marriage. Sixty-eight percent of participants would like to be a virgin at marriage and 80% would regain their virginity if it were possible. Seventy-eight percent of participants disapprove of divorce when children are in the family, and only 10% would rather remain single or live together than get married. While female participants are more likely to value virginity, male participants are more likely to desire a marriage like their parents', disagree with divorce, and prefer living together over marriage. Urban and younger participants are more positive about marriage than rural and older participants.

Participants report that they are least likely to learn about sex from their parents and have, in descending order, learned about sex through TV/movies, classmates/friends, sex-related magazines/books, and textbooks. Male participants are more likely than female participants to learn about sex from the internet, peers, or sex-related magazines/books. Older participants are more likely than younger participants to learn about sex from sex-related magazines/books, peers, and textbooks.

Sixty percent of participants in this study believe that more intense sexual activities and behaviors are acceptable (always acceptable 29% or sometimes acceptable about 31%) for those who are in love with each other, while 40% find these activities always wrong. Male participants are more likely than female participants to see nothing objectionable to these activities when in love.

One-third of those surveyed report having had sexual intercourse or having engaged in sexual fondling of genitals and nearly half report fondling breasts. Male, rural, and older participants are all more likely than their female, urban, and younger counterparts to have engaged in the more intense sexual activities. Being in love and the intention to marry are the strongest influences to engage in sexual intercourse for this sample of participants; peer pressure is the least likely influence for sex.

Beliefs and Perspectives on Daily Life

Participants list their future goals as (in order from highest to lowest priority): having a degree, owning a large house, working in a high-paying job, having good physical health, and having a clear purpose in life. At present, 80% of those surveyed report being satisfied with life (49% very satisfied and 31% somewhat satisfied). Urban participants are generally more satisfied with life than those from rural areas. Younger participants are much more satisfied with life than are older participants. Approximately 10% more male participants report a belief that spiritual development is not required for leading a satisfying life.

Electronic media (MP3, cell phone, laptop computer) is, by far, the most significant new media in this sample when compared to Hip Hop culture and magazines. Female participants are more likely than male participants to enjoy fashion magazines, but male participants are more likely to like Hip Hop or blogging. Urban participants are more likely than their rural counterparts to enjoy all listed media. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to enjoy blogging and Hip Hop. Participants report that 90% of them watch MTV weekly.

In an average week, participants' free time is spent mostly sleeping/napping when there is a break in their activities, studying for school, and reading a book; they are least likely to use the internet or SMS chat. Female participants are more likely than male participants to spend time listening to music or watching TV, whereas male participants spend more time than female participants surfing the web. Urban participants are more likely than their rural counterparts to spend their free time watching TV.

The strongest influences in participants' lives are parents, the Bible, and teachers, followed by Christianity, community and religious leaders, siblings, and textbooks. Male participants are more likely than their female counterparts to cite the influence of internet, TV, and national political leaders. Rural participants are more likely to cite Christianity and television as having influence in their lives, but internet information is more influential for their urban counterparts. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to be influenced by parents, the Bible, teachers, siblings, religious community leaders, textbooks, TV, friends, and New Age religion.

Overall (83%), their understanding of truth is formed by the belief that the Bible provides indisputable moral truth. Though 75% believe that this truth is the same for all people, 46% agree that people can define truth in contradictory ways and still be correct and that people know something is morally right if it works in their lives. Rural participants are more likely than their urban counterparts to believe that lying is sometimes necessary (by 7%), whereas urban participants are more likely than rural participants to believe that something is morally or ethically right if it works in your life (by 7%) and that people can define truth in contradictory ways (by 6%).

Over the last three months, participants report that they weekly watched MTV (90%), lied to a peer (73%), lied to an adult (56%), cheated on an exam (48%), watched pornography (36%), and stole money (20%). Thirteen percent report that they have had suicidal thoughts and 8% have attempted suicide. Female participants are more likely than male participants to report having lied to an adult (by 8%) and cheated on an exam (by 6%). Males, on the other hand, are more likely than females to have watched a pornographic movie (by 22%), gambled (by 17%), read a pornographic magazine (by 14%), smoked (by 7%), or been drunk (by 6%). Rural participants are more likely than urban participants to report having watched pornography (by 5%), but urban participants are more likely than rural participants to have stolen something (by 6%) or cheated on an exam (by 5%). Older participants are more likely than younger participants to indicate that they have cheated on an exam (by 11%), been drunk (by 11%), read a pornographic magazine (by 10%), watched a pornographic movie (by 7%), and watched MTV (by 6%).

Religious Background and Practice

Participants in this sample are 35% Islamic, 33% Roman Catholic, and 24% Protestant. Younger subjects are more likely than older participants to report that they are Roman Catholic. Nearly all (96%) report that their faith is important to them, with 89% indicating that it is very important and 7% that it is somewhat important to them.

Fifty-four percent of participants indicate daily (38%) or weekly (16%) religious service attendance; they also report that their mother is the family member who most frequently attends religious services. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to report familial religious service attendance. Over half (56%) of participants indicate that they are very likely to attend religious services after graduating high school and one-quarter are somewhat likely to do so. Younger participants are more likely than their older counterparts to indicate the likelihood of attending religious services post high school.

Prayer is reported as the most commonly practiced religious activity within this sample, with 65% indicating daily or weekly prayer. Nearly 60% seldom or rarely read scriptures. Urban and younger participants are more likely than their rural and older counterparts to report all listed religious activities. Thirty-seven percent of participants do not attend a youth group for religious study or activity. For those attending youth groups, 14% attend groups of 1-9 people, 12% attend groups of 10-19 people, and 10% attend groups of 20-29 people. Urban participants are more likely to report attending religious youth groups which are likely to be comprised of 1-9 persons. Older participants are more likely (by 9%) than younger participants to not attend youth groups.

Although 94% say "maybe" God exists (3% are certain that God does exist and another 3% that God does not exist), they generally agree that the universe was created by God (94%) and view God as the omniscient, omnipotent Creator (87%). Eighty-seven percent can recall a time when their beliefs affected their behavior, and 68% feel church membership is important. Generally, 23% of participants are certain that ghosts exist and 27% that other popular religious practices are helpful. Seventy-five percent of participants are uncertain whether Heaven and Hell exist (16% are certain that they are real); similarly, 61% do not know for sure whether human souls die with the body (9% acknowledge the eternal nature of the soul).

Christian Youth

Two-thirds of the total sample responded to questions in this section. Of these, 83% acknowledge having made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important to them today. Of these, 26% were 9-12 years old, 25% were 13-15 years old, 19% were 5-8 years old, 16% were younger than 5 years old, and 14% were 16-18 years old when they made this decision.

Almost all participants respond that they believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ (97%), the final judgment by God (96%), the accuracy of the Bible (93%), the power of prayer to change what happens in life (93%), and in the responsibility to share their faith with others (91%). Overall, 86% of participants find Christianity relevant to their lives.

Though most (89%) consider faith in Christ the only avenue for forgiveness of sins and 80% that belief in Him is more important than what is done for others, 81% believe a place in Heaven can be earned simply by being a good person.

Slightly less than half of participants (47%) believe that Heaven is accessed only by confession of sins and acceptance of Christ as Savior. Almost equal percentages (around 15%) do not know what will happen after death, or believe that Heaven can be accessed by following religious rites or being a good person.

Section IV: Côte d'Ivoire Secondary Data

Secondary Research Profile Côte d'Ivoire



DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION	
Population	21,967,721
Population (under 15 yrs)	28.304%
Life Expectancy	55.45 yrs
Birth Rate (per 1,000 people)	32.11
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	68.06
Estimated Urban / Rural Population	2,709,282/1,681,378
Largest City / Population	Abidjan/4,123,208
EDUCATION & LITERACY	
Literacy Rate (over 15 yrs)	50.9%
Primary Enrollment	55%
Literacy Rate – Males	57.9%
Literacy Rate – Females	43.6%
ECONOMICS	
GDP (purchasing power parity) (per capita)	\$1700.00
GDP (official exchange rate) (per capita)	\$1088.08
Poverty Rate (% below poverty line)	42%

SOCIAL			
Human Development Index ² (out of 182)	163	Prisoners (per capita)	Not Available
Divorce Rate <i>as percent of Marriages</i>	Not Available	Adult prevalence rate 15-49 with HIV/AIDS	3.9%
Unemployment Rate (exact % not available due to civil war)	40-50%	Children Living with AIDS (per capita)	4.856/1000
Contraceptive Prevalence (women aged 15-49)	15%	Access to Sanitation	78%
Drug Access	80%	Teen Pregnancy (15-19 yrs)	117.38/1000
Software Piracy Rate	81%	Child Marriage	35%
Children Orphaned <i>due to all causes (0-17yrs) 2007, estimate (thousands)</i>	1200	Child Labor	35%
ETHNIC GROUPS & RELIGIONS			
Akan	42%	Christian	34%
Voltaiques or Gur	18%	Muslim	27%
Northern Mandes	17%	No Religion	21%

This data is drawn from CountryWatch.com, World Health Organization, and public domain data. Statistics are generally from 2005 but may be earlier if none more recent are available.

² Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the level of well-being in 177 nations in the world. It uses factors such as poverty, literacy, life expectancy, education, gross domestic product, and purchasing power parity to assess the average achievements in each nation. It has been used in the UN's Human Development Report since 1993.

Krous	11%	Animist	15%
Southern Mandes	10%	Other	3%
Other	3%		
LANGUAGES			
French (official), over 70 native languages spoken			