

PRAAYER GUIDE

AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

January 13 - February 11, 2024

RESOURCES...

ONLINE

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HOW AND WHY TO USE THIS GUIDE



This 30-day prayer guide follows the host cities and participating countries of the Africa Cup of Nations, taking place in Côte d'Ivoire. Football (or soccer) is no doubt the most popular sport on the African continent. Soccer holds the hearts of everyone, from the schoolchildren playing a pick-up game in the streets of Nairobi, Kenya, to the teenager in Cairo, Egypt, with dreams of greatness. For those in Africa, the passion tied to the success of their country's team is unmatched anywhere in the world.

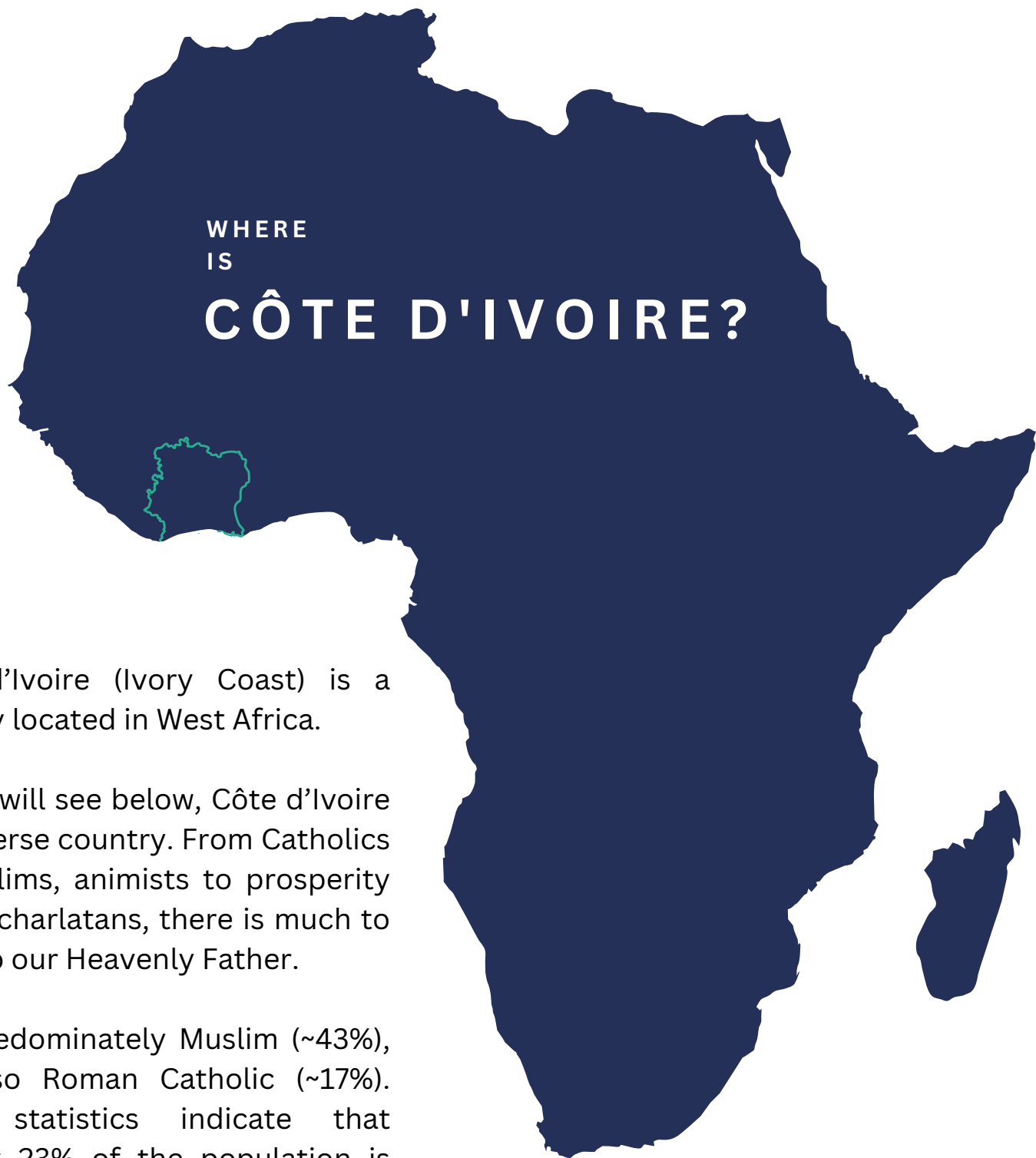
We want to provide this opportunity to pray as all eyes in Africa will be on this tournament. We suggest you begin praying January 12, the day before the tournament begins. Be sure to pray for local churches and believers in each place. Remember to pray for non-participating countries as well, such as Niger. A missionary there wrote, "Due to the recent coup d'état and resulting sanctions, life for national partners has become more difficult. Please pray that the Father would provide for Nigeriens as they face hardship. Pray that believers' faithfulness to Jesus would be a powerful witness to their lost neighbors."

About the Africa Cup of Nations

The Africa Cup of Nations is an international football (soccer) tournament that takes place on the African continent every two years. The most successful football club in this tournament, which dates back to 1957, is Egypt, having been crowned champions seven times. The last tournament, held in 2022, took place in Cameroon with Senegal hoisting the trophy.

**The greatest problem in the world is lostness and the only solution is the gospel.
What is the gospel?**

The gospel is the good news that the only true God, the just and gracious Creator of the universe, has looked upon hopelessly sinful men and women and sent His Son Jesus, God in the flesh, to bear God's wrath against sin through His own substitutionary death on the cross and to show His power over sin and death in resurrection from the grave so that everyone who turns from their sin and their own desires and trusts in Jesus alone as Savior and Lord will be reconciled to God forever.

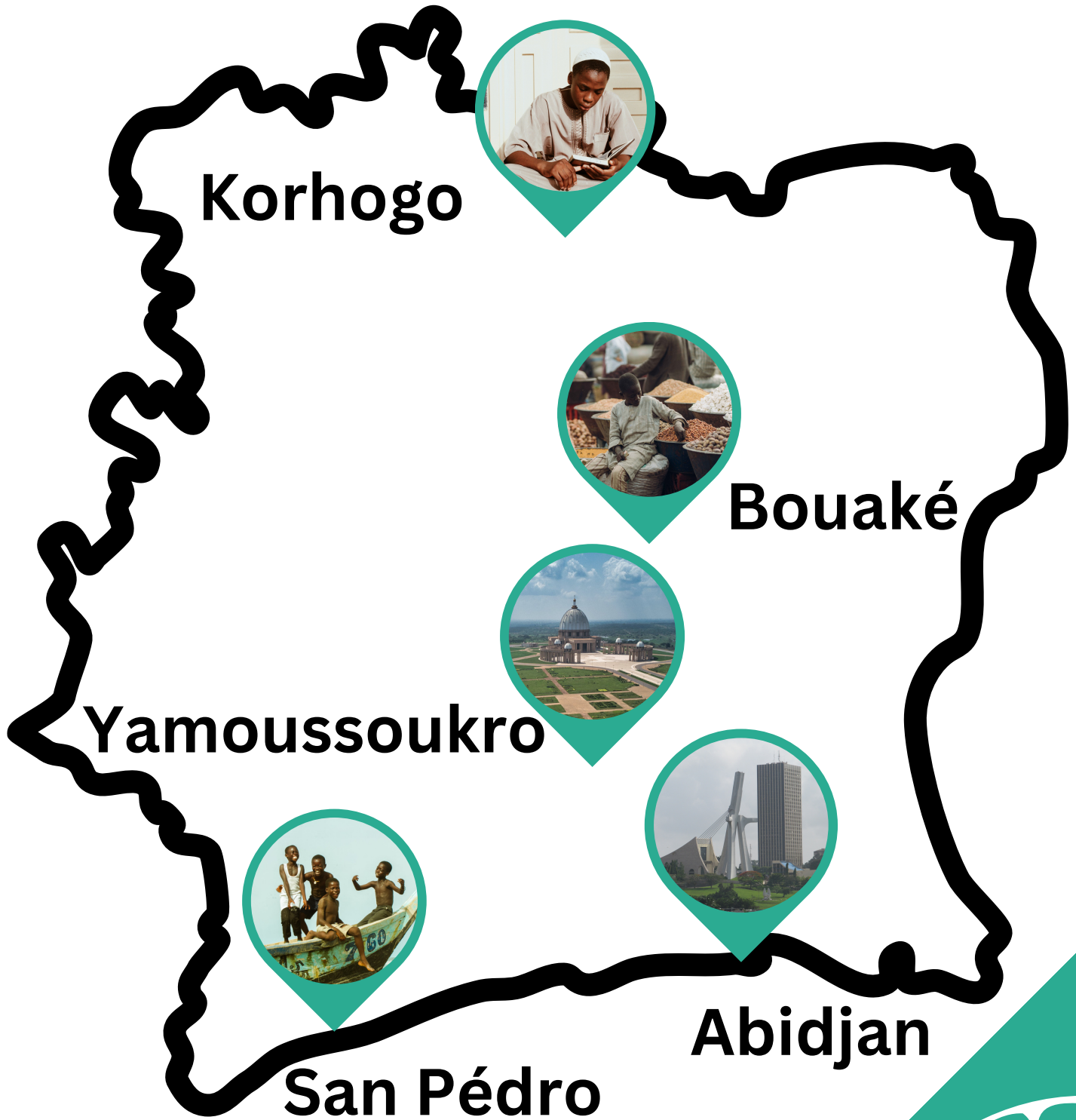


Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) is a country located in West Africa.

As you will see below, Côte d'Ivoire is a diverse country. From Catholics to Muslims, animists to prosperity gospel charlatans, there is much to bring to our Heavenly Father.

It is predominately Muslim (~43%), but also Roman Catholic (~17%). While statistics indicate that roughly 23% of the population is evangelical, researchers have estimated that about 20% of that total are charismatic Pentecostals, with just 3% Protestant. Of those, there is even a smaller percentage that can clearly articulate the gospel.

TOURNAMENT HOST CITIES



Korhogo



Bouaké



Yamoussoukro



Abidjan



San Pédro



Population and evangelical percentage statistics below are taken from JoshuaProject.net.



Day 1: Local Churches

Healthy local churches preaching the gospel from the Word of God is the hope of the world. **Pray** for healthy local churches in Côte d'Ivoire. **Pray** for pastors to be raised up who know and love the Bible. **Pray** for protection from errant doctrine.



Day 2: Abidjan

Abidjan, the “jewel of West Africa,” is the economic capital of Côte d'Ivoire and its most populous city at 6 million people. **Pray** for those who trust in and find their identity in money to instead depend on Jesus as their source of life and peace.



Day 3: Yamoussoukro

The political capital, this city is home to the country's government as well as the largest Catholic church building in the world. **Pray** for the Catholic population. **Pray** for the gospel of grace to break through hearts used to hearing a religion of works. **Pray** for a nearby Baptist seminary as it educates faithful pastors.



Day 4: Bouaké

In Bouaké, the second largest city in Côte d'Ivoire, the most common places of worship are Muslim mosques. This city also has the highest population of Malians outside of Mali. **Pray** for the many other nationalities represented in this city to hear and submit to the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Day 5: San Pédro

If you've eaten chocolate lately, it has probably come through the port of San Pédro. **Pray** for those with animist beliefs who sacrifice to “the spirits” for good crops to learn about and trust in Jesus instead. **Pray** for the health of local Baptist churches and for them to see Jesus as their greatest treasure.



Day 6: Korhogo

Located in the Savannah district, this northern city is home to mostly Muslims. **Pray** for peace as this region is located near countries suffering from political and security issues. **Pray** for the churches in this city to have boldness as they live out their faith.



Day 7: Mali

Population: 22,000,000 / % Evangelical: 0.66%

Mali has not had peace for over 10 years now. Please **pray** for peace and for the church to use this time to be bold and share Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace.



Day 8: Algeria

Population: 45,521,000 / % Evangelical: 0.05%.

Praise God for the growth of the church in Algeria. With this comes persecution. **Pray** for these brothers and sisters as they live out their faith in this culture. **Pray** for the churches to live out the Great Commission.



Day 9: Cameroon

Population: 28,487,000 / % Evangelical: 8.64%.

Neo-pentecostalism has grown rapidly in this country. **Pray** for pastors to be faithful to the true gospel, not liberation theology. **Pray** for discipleship within churches to guard against this error.



Day 10: DR Congo

Population: 102,017,000 / % Evangelical: 19.21%.

Christianity here is a works-based system in search of material blessings. The pursuit of control in life is such a mix of traditional animism and biblical hearsay that the people are lost and afraid, surrounded by religion, but no relationship. **Pray** for discernment of those in church to reject false teaching. **Pray** for more laborers to carry a clear presentation of faith in Jesus to those lost in confusion.



Day 11: Morocco

Population: 37,058,000 / % Evangelical: 0.11%

Pray that Moroccans would fear the Lord more than they fear society. **Pray** that the Lord would reveal that following Jesus is worth any cost.



Day 12: Senegal

Population: 17,736,000 / % Evangelical: 0.19%

Pray for the Wolof of Senegal, the largest people group in the country. While the gospel has been present among the Wolof for more than 160 years, there remains fewer than 100 believers among this people group of over 4 million.



Day 13: Tunisia

Population: 12,429,000 / % Evangelical: 0.03%.

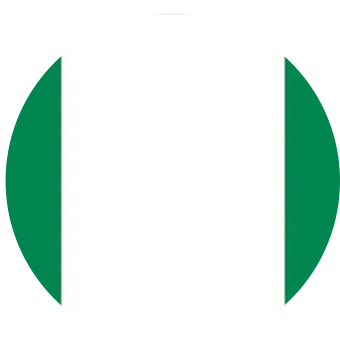
Many of the very few Christians in Tunisia live far apart from each other, making it hard to gather together. **Pray** for this small, dispersed group. **Pray** for encouragement amidst persecution. **Pray** for laborers to work in this dangerous harvest field.



Day 14: Egypt

Population: 112,389,000 / % Evangelical: 4.5%.

This country gave the world many of the earliest Christian theologians. **Pray** for more biblical scholars to come from this place, despite efforts by the government and others to rid the country of its Christian history—and even Christianity itself.



Day 15: Nigeria

Population: 223,126,000 / % Evangelical: 25.98%

Pray for Nigerian Christians to reject the false prosperity gospel, hold firm to the true gospel, and embrace the Great Commission.



Day 16: Burkina Faso

Population: 23,182,000 / % Evangelical: 10.60%

The joy of rooting for Burkina's football team allows the Burkinabé people the opportunity to focus on something other than terrorism that threatens their lives each day.

Please **pray** that the peace of the Lord will draw each person to know Him as the one true God.



Day 17: Ghana

Population: 34,080,000 / % Evangelical: 25.74%

Praise the Lord that there are more than 1,300 Baptist churches in Ghana! Please **pray** for pastors and other leaders to stay focused on God's Word and shepherd their flocks according to the Scriptures. **Ask** the Lord to give Ghanaians boldness to share the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ widely and **pray** that He would draw many to repentance and saving faith in Him.



Day 18: South Africa

Population: 60,277,000 / % Evangelical: 21.02%

2024 is a national election year for South Africa. **Pray** for a leader that is courageous, servant-hearted, and leads with integrity. **Pray** against the false neo-pentecostal teachings in many churches.



Day 19: Cape Verde

Population: 581,000 / % Evangelical: 8.19%

Cape Verde is a largely Catholic country. Pentecostalism has also crept in and spread its distorted gospel. **Pray** for local evangelical pastors to disciple their churches and protect them from these false gospels.



Day 20: Guinea

Population: 14,115,000 / % Evangelical: 0.68%

Pray for the Kuranko people of Guinea. They are a people group of 129,000 that practice Folk Islam. A Kuranko church in the region was recently discovered. **Pray** that they would be a light amongst their people in the forest region of Guinea.



Day 21: Zambia

Population: 20,500,000 / % Evangelical: 24.93%

Pray for Zambian churches to focus on reaching the young generation and helping them to reach their potential for kingdom impact, despite being influenced by many forces that would take them away from Christ.



Day 22: Equatorial Guinea

Population: 1,651,000 / % Evangelical: 4.74%.

Big oil reserves bring a large expatriate population. **Pray** for the Christians working in this sector to work with integrity. **Pray** for them to take advantage of every opportunity to share the gospel with their neighbors.



Day 23: Mauritania

Population: 4,830,000 / % Evangelical: 0.12%.

Even though slavery is technically illegal, thousands are still held in slavery here. **Pray** for the end of this oppression. **Pray** for the gospel to penetrate this culture, giving hope to the hopeless.



Day 24: Guinea-Bissau

Population: 2,126,000 / % Evangelical: 2.04%.

Guinea-Bissau has a long history of political instability and poverty. **Pray** for economic stability. **Pray** also for protection from the destruction caused by the drug trade. **Pray** for the gospel of Jesus Christ to provide hope.



Day 25: Mozambique

Population: 33,717,000 / % Evangelical: 12.11%

Pray for the IMB team as they work to engage the diaspora in Mozambique. **Pray** as they work to equip and train national missionaries to be sent out. **Pray** for pastors and churches to stand on the authority of God's Word and to be men of conviction and vision.



Day 26: Namibia

Population: 2,531,000 / % Evangelical: 12.48%

Pray that God would raise up workers for the harvest. **Pray** Namibians would be empowered by the love and boldness that comes only from the transforming work of God. **Pray** God would draw the many small unreached people groups that are indigenous to Namibia to Himself.



Day 27: Angola

Population: 36,541,000 / % Evangelical: 23.16%.

The population of Angola's capital city of Luanda is expected to increase 60% by 2030, giving it close to 20 million inhabitants. Starting now, **pray** the urban church is equipped and mobilized to keep up with this booming population growth.



Day 28: Gambia

Population: 2,740,000 / % Evangelical: 0.90%

Most efforts to reach this Muslim nation have been in the more developed coastal area. **Pray** for churches, pastors, and missionaries as they reach farther into the interior.



Day 29: Tanzania

Population: 67,353,000 / % Evangelical: 10.96%

Pray for Bible teachers and pastors to lean on God's Word to do the work, not any other schemes. **Pray** that the gospel would penetrate the hearts of churches and transform all aspects of society.



Day 30: Côte d'Ivoire

Population: 28,636,000 / % Evangelical: 12.49%

Pray that God would give pastors and churches (1) a hunger to grow towards biblical health and (2) a vision and a desire to lead each of their members to biblical maturity in Christ.

GROUP STAGE

The group stage is a round-robin tournament. The four teams in each group play each opponent in their group once. The two teams with the most points per group advance to the knockout stage (a win is 3 points, a tie is 1 point, a loss is no points).

Group A // Abidjan

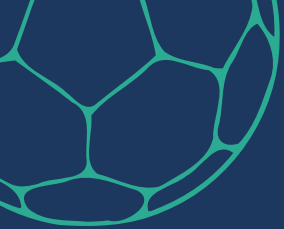
Côte d'Ivoire
Nigeria
Equatorial Guinea
Guinea-Bissau

Group B // Abidjan

Egypt
Ghana
Cape Verde
Mozambique

Group C // Yamoussoukro

Senegal
Cameroon
Guinea
Gambia



GROUP STAGE

January 13 - 24, 2024

Group D // Bouaké

Algeria
Burkina Faso
Mauritania
Angola

Group E // Korhogo

Tunisia
Mali
South Africa
Namibia

Group F // San Pédro

Morocco
DR Congo
Zambia
Tanzania

KNOCKOUT STAGE BRACKET

Round of 16

Quarter-Finals

Runner-up Group A

Runner-up Group C

Runner-up Group D

3rd Group B/E/F

Winner Group B

3rd Group A/C/D

Winner Group F

Runner-Up Group E

Runner-Up Group B

Runner-Up Group F

Winner Group A

3rd Group C/D/E

Winner Group E

Runner-Up Group D

Winner Group C

3rd Group A/B/F

February 2, 2024

February 2, 2024

February 3, 2024

February 3, 2024



Semi-Finals

Final

February 7, 2024

February 11, 2024

February 7, 2024

Third Place

February 10, 2024

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!

