



**AFRICA CUP
OF NATIONS**
CÔTE D'IVOIRE 23

THE MONEY MATTERS

A REPORT FROM
OUR MEDIA, SPORTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT ADVISORY DESK

 **LIMA PARTNERS**
Collaborating with **Andersen** Global in Ghana





The prize money of 7 million US D adds an extra layer of significance to the competition.

Introduction

Ivory Coast's triumphant hosting of the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) soccer competition marks a monumental milestone in the nation's journey from turmoil to prosperity. Emerging victorious on home turf, Ivory Coast celebrated not only the triumph of its football team but also earned an impressive \$7 million, representing a remarkable 40% increase in the previous competition's winning prize. This historic event witnessed the convergence of some of Africa's most esteemed football talents, including Nigerian sensation Victor Osimhen, valued at €110 million, alongside Egyptian hero Mohammed Salah and Moroccan standout Achraf Hakimi, each valued at €65 million. Additionally, the AFCON showcased some of the highest-paid coaches in the history of the tournament, with Djamel Belmadi leading the charge at €208,000 per month, closely followed by Rui Vitoria and Jean-Louis Gasset.

However, Ivory Coast's journey to hosting the AFCON was not merely about football glory; it symbolized a remarkable economic turnaround. Just thirteen years ago, the nation grappled with the aftermath of a devastating civil war. Yet, on January 13, against the backdrop of Abidjan's rejuvenated skyline, President Alassane Ouattara inaugurated the AFCON, heralding a new era of progress and prosperity. With an investment exceeding \$4.56 billion, Ivory Coast embarked on an ambitious infrastructure overhaul, rejuvenating stadiums, roads, and lodging facilities across five host cities. Anticipating two million visitors, the nation aimed to showcase its reliability and safety, solidifying its stature as an economic powerhouse in West Africa.

With an investment exceeding \$4.56 billion, Ivory Coast embarked on an ambitious infrastructure overhaul, rejuvenating stadiums, roads, and lodging facilities across five host cities

As the AFCON unfolded, Ivory Coast radiated with pride and optimism, underscoring the nation's resilience and unity. Amidst the festivities, local businesses seized the opportunity to showcase their ingenuity and ambition.

“Quantifying the AFCON's impact may be challenging, but it will undoubtedly yield positive results for the country's infrastructure and reputation as an attractive investment destination,” remarked Moutiou Nourou, Abidjan coordinator for the Ecofin information agency. The AFCON served as a catalyst for transformative projects, driving economic growth and fostering investor confidence. Ivory Coast's GDP surged from under \$43 billion in 2013 to nearly \$70 billion today, positioning it as one of the region's fastest-growing economies. This remarkable progress, coupled with the nation's stability and export success, has elevated Ivory Coast as a premier investment destination in West Africa.

As the AFCON unfolded, Ivory Coast radiated with pride and optimism, underscoring the nation's resilience and unity. Amidst the festivities, local businesses seized the opportunity to showcase their ingenuity and ambition. Dabali Xpress, a burgeoning fast-food enterprise, emerged as the official food provider for AFCON spectators, exemplifying the economic dynamism sweeping across the nation.

Yet, amidst the euphoria, challenges persist. Despite strides in poverty reduction, significant inequalities endure, necessitating continued social interventions. Moreover, concerns loom over inflation and rising costs of living, exacerbated by external factors such as the Covid-19 pandemic and global conflicts. Nonetheless, with steadfast support from international partners and a vision for inclusive growth, Ivory Coast stands poised to capitalize on the legacy of the CAN, charting a course towards sustained prosperity and stability.

In this report, the Sports, Media, and Entertainment desk at LIMA Partners delves into the key discussions surrounding the financial aspects of the AFCON, emphasizing the profound financial impact of football on the lives of African players, coaches, and the teams. Additionally, we uncover intriguing insights into the games themselves.





Profile of Host Nation

1

Name of Country:

The Republic of Cote D' Ivoire.

Population Size: 29.3 million.

Land Size: 322,462 kmsq.

2

Capital:

Political - Yamoussoukro

Economic - Abidjan

3

Official Language: French

Most Popular Land Mark: Our Lady of Peace of Yamoussoukro Basilica. (biggest church in the world)

4

Nickname of the Senior Men's Football Team : The Elephants.

Star Player: Franck Kessie, Al Ali Saudi FC (formerly of Barcelona FC).

5

Sources

Afrik-foot.com., Goal.com

CAF website, Ahramonline.com

Number of Times Won

The Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) has been won by various teams throughout its history. These teams have achieved significant success in the AFCON tournament, with Egypt being the most successful, having won the championship a record seven times. The teams with the most titles are as follows:

No	Teams	Winners	Number Times
1	Egypt	1957, 1959, 1986, 1998, 2006, 2008, 2010	7
2	Cameroon	1984, 1988, 2000, 2002, 2017	5
3	Ghana	1963, 1965, 1978, 1982	4
4	Nigeria	1980, 1994, 2013	3
5	Ivory Coast	1992, 2015, 2023	3
6	DR Congo	1974, 1968	2
7	Algeria	1990, 2019	2
8	Ethiopia -	1962	1
9	South Africa	1996	1
10	Sudan	1970	1
11	Tunisia	2004	1
12	Morocco	1976	1
13	Senegal	2021	1

Top Ranked Teams

The top five ranked teams at Afcon 2023, based on both continental and global rankings, showcase the competitive nature of the tournament:



1. MOROCCAN NATIONAL FOOTBALL

Team:

Nickname: Lions of the Atlas

FIFA Ranking (as of December 2023): 13th

Notable Achievements: Qualified for multiple FIFA World Cups and reached the semi-finals in the recent past World cup, won the Africa Cup of Nations in 1976.

Performance in Afcon 2023: Morocco cruised past the group stages with 2 wins, 1 draw and 0 losses, thus topping the group. However, they were downed by the Bafana Bafana Boys (South Africa) in the Round of 16, this came as a shock to a lot of sports fanatics following their achievements in the World cup in Qatar.



2. SENEGALESE NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM:

Nickname: Lions of Teranga

FIFA Ranking (as of December 2023): 20th

Notable Achievements: Regular participant in FIFA World Cup, reached the quarterfinals in the 2018 World Cup, strong presence in the Africa Cup of Nations.

Performance in Afcon 2023: The Lions of Teranga were deemed as one of the favorites to win the Afcon and that opinion was further reiterated by their dominant showing in the group stages, winning all their matches comprehensively cruising into their Round of 16 clash with the hosts, Ivory Coast. The Lions were however stopped by the Elephants in a fierce battle which could only be separated by Penalties.

3. TUNISIAN NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM:

Nickname: Eagles of Carthage

FIFA Ranking (as of December 2023): 28th

Notable Achievements: Regular participant in FIFA World Cup, won the Africa Cup of Nations in 2004.

Performance in Afcon 2023: The Carthage eagles refused to fly at the Afcon, they were rock bottom of Group E with 2 points. They were stunned by Namibia a relative minnow in African football and only managed 2 draws with Mali and South Africa leading them to the exit of the tournament.



4. ALGERIAN NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM:

Nickname: Desert Foxes

FIFA Ranking (as of December 2023): 30th

Notable Achievements: Won the Africa Cup of Nations in 1990, qualified for multiple FIFA World Cups.

Performance in Afcon 2023: The desert foxes with their talismanic captain Riyad Mahrez, suffered similar fate of the Tunisian team, by drawing 2 matches and being beaten by minnows Mauritania. They exited the group stages with 2 points and their tails between their legs.



5. EGYPTIAN NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM:

Nickname: The Pharaohs

FIFA Ranking (as of December 2023): 33rd

Notable Achievements: Most successful African team in terms of Africa Cup of Nations titles, qualified for multiple FIFA World Cups

Performance in Afcon 2023: The North African giants were far from impressive in the tournament, only managing 3 draws in the group stages but slipping into the Round of 16 due to equally shocking performances by other footballing royalty such as Ghana. There they met the determined DR Congo, who made it to the semi-finals, and were beaten on penalties sending them back to the Land of the Pharaohs.

Lowest Ranked Teams



The countries with the lowest FIFA rankings that have qualified for the AFCON 2023 are Guinea-Bissau, with ranking 103, Equatorial Guinea, 110, Mozambique, 111, Tanzania, 121 and The Gambia with a rank of 126. These teams secured their place in the tournament despite having lower FIFA rankings compared to some of the traditional football powerhouses in Africa.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Nickname: Djurtus

FIFA Ranking (as of December 2023): 103rd

Performance in Afcon 2023: drawn in group A with heavyweight Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Equatorial Guinea, they conceded defeat and placed fourth.



MOZAMBIQUE

Nickname: Mambas

FIFA Ranking (as of December 2023): 111th

Performance in Afcon 2023: placed fourth in group (B) in the just ended Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2024 and could not advance from the group stage. However, their presence marks a significant milestone and carries the hopes of a passionate nation.



TANZANIA

Nickname: Taifa Stars

FIFA Ranking (as of December 2023): 121st

Performance in Afcon 2023: The Tanzanians conceded a 3:0 defeat in their opening match against Morocco and consequently emerged fourth in Group F after a draw with DR Congo and Zambia.



THE GAMBIA

Nickname: Scorpions

FIFA Ranking (as of December 2023): 126th

Performance in Afcon 2023: The Gambians also emerged fourth in Group C after a tough tournament with Senegal, Cameroon and Guinea.



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Prize Money

What is the money up for grabs for all the 24 nations competing for AFCON 2023?

The Confederation of African Football has set a prize pool of \$32m for the AFCON 2023 with the winner bagging a whopping amount of \$7m. This amount has seen a 40% rise from the previous finals with the AFCON 2019 winner getting \$5m.

The runner-up of the tournament took home a sum of \$4m which is \$1.5m dollars more than what was awarded to Egypt during the AFCON 2021. The winning prize of the losing semi-finalists and the losing quarter-finalists have also seen an upsurge from what the previous season's winners bagged.

The CAF decided to increase the prize money for all the involved teams with the losing semi-finalists taking home \$2.5m and the losing quarter-finalists receiving \$1.3m at the AFCON 2023, compared to the 2021 AFCON where the losing semi-finalists were given \$2.2m and the losing quarter-finalists were given \$1.18m.

PLACE	PRIZE MONEY
Winner	\$7,000,000
Runners-up	\$4,000,000
Semi-finalists (2 teams)	\$2,500,000 for each team
Quarter-finalists (4 teams)	\$1,300,000 for each team
Round of 16 (8 teams)	\$800,000 for each team
The two (2) teams ranked 3 rd in their group but fail to qualify for the round of 16 (2 teams)	\$700,000 for each team
The teams ranked 4 th in each of the 6 groups (6 teams)	\$500,000 for each team
TOTAL	\$ 32 million

Tickets cost for matches in the AFCON tournament

The ticket prices for the Total Energies Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire 2023 varied across three categories:

- Category three: 1,000 to 5,000 FCFA (\$1.60 to \$8.00 US dollars)
- Category two: 5,000 to 10,000 FCFA (\$8.00 to \$16.00 US dollars)
- Category one: 10,000 to 15,000 FCFA (\$16.00 to \$24.00 US dollars).

The over-the-counter ticket sales were available in 12 cities and towns across Cote d'Ivoire. Additionally, CAF introduced online ticket sales for football fans, with a limit of 6 tickets per buyer, to enhance ticket accessibility and ensure an optimal experience for all fans attending the Africa Cup of Nation.



Comparison Of 2023 AFCON Prize Money To Other International Tournaments:

TOURNAMENT	WINNER'S PRIZE MONEY
CONCACAF Gold Cup	\$1 million
AFC Asian Cup 2024	\$5 million
COPA AMERICA	\$6.5 million
AFCON	\$7 million
UEFA Euro	\$8.6 million
2022 WORLD CUP	\$42 million

In summary, the prize money for the Africa Cup of Nations is quite lower than that offered to the winners of the World Cup and the Copa America however, it has seen

a significant increase in recent years. The increase in prize money reflects the growing popularity and importance of the tournament, as well as the investment made by the host country, Ivory Coast, which spent \$1 billion on infrastructure and facilities.

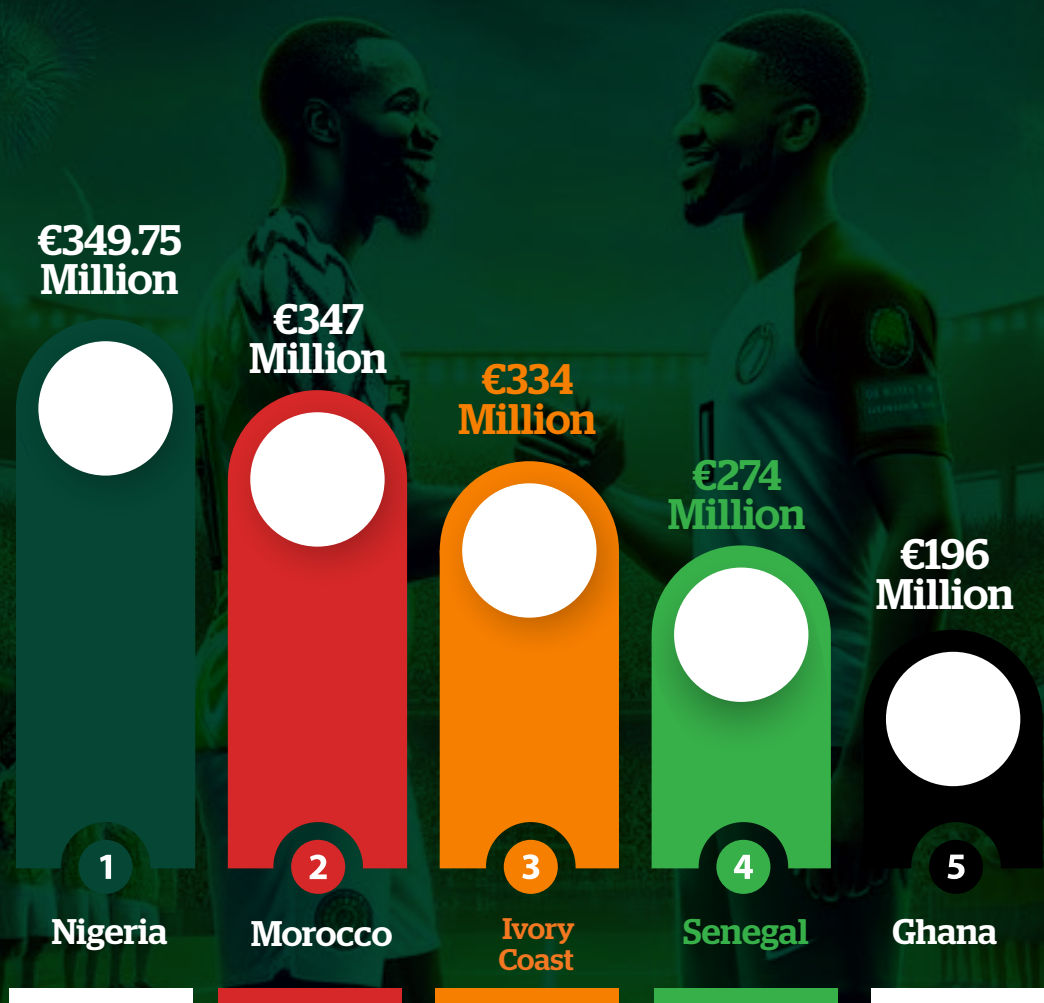
The prize money serves as a source of motivation and reward for the players and the national teams who have to manage the challenges of playing in the middle of the European club



The increase in prize money reflects the growing popularity and importance of the tournament, as well as the investment made by the host country; Ivory Coast



5 Most Expensive Squad at **AFCON** 2023



SOURCE: sports brief .com (<https://sportsbrief.com/football/56081-afcon-2023-top-10-highest-paid-coaches-tournament/>)



5 Most Paid Coaches at AFCON 23

Djamel Belmadi (Algeria)

Djamel Belmadi, born on March 25, 1976, in Champigny-sur-Marne, France, is a professional football coach and former player of Algerian descent. During his playing career, he represented several clubs, including Paris Saint-Germain, Martigues, Marseille, and Cannes. He also had a brief loan spell at Manchester City. Belmadi completed a 20-cap international career with Algeria, during which he scored 5 goals. After retiring as a player, he transitioned to coaching and has managed various teams, including Lekhwiya, Qatar B, and Al-Duhail. Since August 2018, he has been the manager of the Algeria national team. Belmadi has had a successful coaching career, leading Algeria to victory in the Africa Cup of Nations in 2019. His preferred formation is 4-3-3 attacking, and he holds a UEFA Pro License.

€208,000
per month

A photograph of Rui Vitória, a middle-aged man with glasses and a dark blue polo shirt, gesturing with his right hand while speaking. The background is a blurred stadium setting.

Rui Vitória

(Egypt)

Rui Vitória is a 53-year-old Portuguese football manager and former player who played as a midfielder. He has had a successful coaching career, managing various teams, including Benfica, Guimarães, and Al Nassr. He has also managed the Spartak Moscow and Egypt national teams. Vitória has won several titles. He has been praised for his tactical acumen and his ability to develop young players. Vitória has been critical of Liverpool for suggesting that Mohamed Salah should return home, stating that the club was wrong to do so. His current contract with the Egypt national team runs until 2026.

€200,000
per month

A close-up portrait of Jean-Louis Gasset, a French football manager, wearing a dark blue cap and a dark blue polo shirt. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the left. The background is a blurred orange and blue gradient.

Jean-Louis Gasset

(Ivory Coast)

Jean-Louis Gasset is a French former midfielder and a current football manager. He was born on December 9, 1953, in Montpellier, France. Gasset has managed various football clubs, including Saint-Étienne, Bordeaux, and the Ivory Coast national team. As a player, he spent his entire career with his hometown club, Montpellier HSC, and led them to victory in the UEFA Intertoto Cup in 1999. Gasset is known for his coaching experience and has a preferred formation of 4-3-3 attacking. He is currently 70 years old and is coaching the Ivory Coast national team.

€108,000
per month



Jose Peseiro (Nigeria)

Jose Peseiro is a Portuguese football manager and former player who was born on April 4, 1960, in Coruche, Portugal. He played as a forward and spent his playing career in the lower divisions of Portuguese football. Peseiro has managed various football clubs, including Sporting CP, FC Porto, and SC Braga in Portugal, as well as the national teams of Venezuela and Nigeria. He has been coaching since 1994 and has spent his first eight years as a manager in the third and fourth tiers of Portuguese football.

Peseiro helped C.D. Nacional to promote to the Primeira Liga in just three seasons

He is known for his tactical knowledge and his preferred formation is 4-3-3

Peseiro is currently the head coach of the Nigeria national football team

€70,000
per month



Walid Regragui (Morocco)

Walid Regragui, born on September 23, 1975, in Corbeil-Essonnes, France, is a Moroccan professional football manager and former player who played as a right-back. He is the head coach of the Morocco national team. Regragui has had a successful managerial career, leading the Morocco national team to the semi-finals of the FIFA World Cup 2022.

He has also managed clubs such as FUS, Al-Duhail, and Wydad AC.

As a former player, he was a defender and played for Grenoble Foot 38.

Regragui is known for his contributions to Moroccan football and his achievements as a coach and player.

€60,000
per month



5 Highest Valued Players At The AFCON 2023

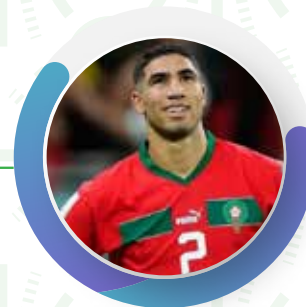
Victor
Osimhen
(Nigeria)
Valued at
€110
million



Mohamed
Salah (Egypt) -
Valued at
€65
million



Achraf
Hakimi
(Morocco) -
Valued at
€65
million



Mohammed
Kudus (Ghana) -
Valued at
€45
million



Edmond
Tapsoba
(Burkina
Faso)
Valued at
€40
million



Victor Osimhen (Nigeria)

Victor Osimhen, born on December 29, 1998, is a Nigerian professional footballer who plays as a striker for Serie A club Napoli and the Nigeria national team. Known for his elite finishing, pace, strength, and athleticism, Osimhen has established himself as one of the best strikers in the world. He stands at 1.86 m tall and is recognized for his significant contributions on the field. Osimhen joined SSC Napoli on September 1, 2020, and his current contract with the club expires on June 30, 2026. He has been a key player for both his club and the Nigerian national team, showcasing his exceptional goal-scoring abilities and overall impact on the game. Osimhen has also expressed his ambitions to play in the Premier League in the future, indicating his aspirations for further success in his career.

Valued at

**€110
million**

A close-up photograph of Mohamed Salah, an Egyptian professional footballer, wearing a red Egypt national team jersey. He has a beard and curly hair, and is looking off-camera with a focused expression. The jersey features the Puma logo, the Egyptian national crest, and the number 10. The background is a blurred stadium setting.

Mohamed Salah - (Egypt)

10

Valued at
€65
million

Mohamed Salah, also known as Mo Salah, is an Egyptian professional footballer who plays as a right winger or forward for Premier League club Liverpool and the Egypt national team. He is widely regarded as one of the best players of his generation and one of the greatest African players of all time. Salah has achieved significant success, including winning the Premier League and the UEFA Champions League with Liverpool. He has also been named the African Footballer of the Year multiple times and has received numerous individual accolades for his exceptional performance on the field. Salah is known for his clinical finishing, dribbling, and speed, and he has been a prolific goal scorer throughout his career. He is considered a symbol of national pride in Egypt for his achievements and was named in Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in 2019. Additionally, he has been a key player for Liverpool, scoring a record 32 goals in his first season back in the Premier League.

Achraf Hakimi

(Morocco) -

Achraf Hakimi is a 24-year-old Moroccan professional footballer who plays as a right-back or right winger for Ligue 1 club Paris Saint-Germain and the Morocco national team. He has been a highly regarded player, known for his speed, technical skills, and attacking prowess. However, he has also been the subject of significant off-field controversy, including a high-profile divorce and a rape allegation. Despite these challenges, Hakimi's on-field performances and achievements have earned him recognition, including being named Footballer of the Year and winning various titles such as the Champions League and the FIFA Club World Cup. His career has been marked by both success on the pitch and personal challenges off the pitch.

Valued at
€65
million

Mohammed Kudus (Ghana)

Mohamed Kudus is a 23-year-old Ghanaian professional footballer who currently plays as an attacking midfielder or a right winger for Premier League club West Ham United. Born on August 2, 2000, in Accra, Ghana, Kudus stands at 177cm tall and has represented Ghana at various levels, including the Ghana U17, Ghana U20, and Ghana national teams. Kudus began his professional career with Danish club FC Nordsjælland, after being scouted from the Right to Dream Academy, where he made 57 appearances and scored 14 goals.

He then joined Ajax in the Eredivisie, where he made 16 appearances and scored 6 goals. In 2023, Kudus transferred to West Ham United, where he has made 13 appearances and scored 9 goals. Kudus has been praised for his dribbling skills, which are considered very strong. He has also been called up to the Ghana national team, making his debut on November 14, 2019.

In the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Kudus scored two goals in a match against South Korea, cementing a 3-2 win for Ghana. Kudus has a market value of €45 million and is represented by Supernova Management. He has a contract with West Ham United that expires on June 30, 2028, with an option for a further year.

Valued at
€45
million





Edmond Tapsoba

(Burkina Faso)

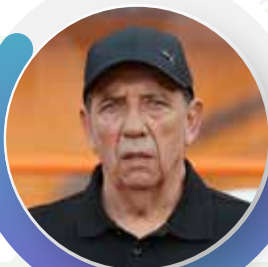
Edmond Tapsoba, born on February 2, 1999, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, is a 24-year-old center-back who currently plays for Bayer 04 Leverkusen in the German Bundesliga. Tapsoba began his professional career with Salitas FC in 2014 before moving to US Ouagadougou, Leixoes SC Matosinhos, and Vitoria SC Guimaraes. He joined Bayer 04 Leverkusen in 2020. Tapsoba has played 114 matches in the Bundesliga, all for Bayer 04 Leverkusen, and has won 57 of them. He is known for his speed, strength, passing ability, and composure, and has been compared to Jérôme Boateng. Tapsoba has been in exceptional form for Bayer 04 Leverkusen, and his market value is estimated at €40 million. He has also made 36 appearances for the Burkina Faso national team. Tapsoba's impressive performances have reportedly attracted interest from clubs such as Tottenham Hotspur

Valued at
€40
million

Coaches Who Lost Their Jobs After The AFCON 2023



**Chris Houghton -
Ghana**



**Jean-louis Gasset
Ivory Coast**



**Djamel Belmadi
Algeria**



**Adel Amrouche -
Tanzania** -suspended
after 8 match CAF Ban



**Tom Saintfiet
Gambia**



**Jalel Kadri
Tunisia**



**Pedro Goncalves
Angola**

SOURCE: TRANSFER MARKT.COM (<https://www.transfermarkt.com/afrika-cup-quali/marktwerte/pokalwettbewerb/AFCQ>) season and the African Cup of Nations.

AFCON 2023: Interesting Facts So Far

1. Morocco, Egypt, Ghana and Algeria were eliminated by underdogs.
2. DR Congo qualified for the Quarter Finals without winning a game in regular time. They have four draws.
3. A Club's Defender, Emilio Nsue is the current Top Scorer with 5 goals in 4 games.

He plays as a Right back in the Spanish third tier, and as a Winger for Equatorial Guinea.

4. Namibia and Mauritania qualified for their first ever Round of 16. Mauritania beat Algeria 1-0, while Namibia beat Tunisia 1-0.
5. Egypt qualified for the Round of 16 without winning a single game. They drew thrice in the group stage.
6. A Mauritanian Player is called AK-47. His name is Aboubakar Kamara and he wore jersey no. 47 at Fulham.
7. Cote d'Ivoire narrowly qualified with 3 points as number 4 in the Third Best Place Rankings in the group stage.

They went on to eliminate defending champions, Senegal by beating them 1-1 (5-4 on penalties) in the AFCON Round of 16.

8. FIFA's five highest-ranked countries at AFCON; Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt are all out of the tournament before the semifinals stage.
9. None of the quarterfinalists from the AFCON 2021 will feature in the last eight at the AFCON 2023.
10. Five West African countries, Two Southern African countries and One Central African country have qualified for the AFCON 2023 quarter-final.
11. All the group winners from each group were eliminated at either the Round of 16 stage or the quarter finals stage at this AFCON:

- Group A: Equatorial Guinea (Round of 16)
- Group B: Cape Verde(Quarter Finals)
- Group C: Senegal (Round of 16)
- Group D: Angola (Quarter Finals)
- Group E: Mali (Quarter Finals)
- Group F: Morocco (Round of 16)



Interesting Records

The tournament boasts some remarkable records which are:

1. **Most Titles:** Egypt holds the record with 7 championships.
2. **Most Goals:** Samuel Eto'o from Cameroon has scored the 18 goals in AFCON history.
3. **Most Appearances:** Rigobert Song of Cameroon holds the record for the most appearances in the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament, with 36 matches played from 1998 to 2010
4. **Biggest Win:** Ivory Coast holds the record for the biggest win, defeating Ethiopia 6-1 in 1968.
5. **Longest Unbeaten Run:** Ghana had a remarkable unbeaten streak of 15 matches between 2008 and 2013.
6. **Youngest Goal Scorer:** Nwankwo Kanu from Nigeria became the youngest goal scorer at AFCON at the age of 17 years and 236 days.
7. **Oldest Goal Scorer:** Hossam Hassan from Egypt holds the record for being the oldest goal scorer at AFCON at the age of 39 years and 6 months.
8. **Andre Dede Ayew ;** captain of Ghana's Black Stars, etched his name in Africa Cup of Nations history on Sunday, becoming only the third player to participate in eight editions of the tournament.
9. **Teams winning on debut:** Egypt (1957), Ghana (1963), South Africa (1996)
10. **Consecutive title wins:** Egypt (2006,2008,2010)
11. **Most consecutive appearances:** Tunisia (1994-2023)
12. **Youngest goalscorer:** Shiva N'Zigou was 16 years and 93 days old when he scored for Gabon against South Africa in January 2000.
13. **Fastest Goal;** 1st minute Hassan El-Shazly for Egypt against Ivory Coast in 1974.
14. **Most goals in a single match:** Laurent Pokou scored 5 goals for Ivory coast against Ethiopia.
15. **Most goals in a single tournament;** Ndaye Mulamba scored 9 goals for Zaire in 1974 tournament.



IVORY COAST - PROFILE (AFCON 2023)

Ivory Coast also known as the “Elephants” is one of Africa’s major forces in the Africa Cup of Nations. Ivory Coast have had the opportunity to participate in the AFCON tournament twenty-five (25) times and have made five (5) appearances at the finals.

They have won the tournament three times; most recently as hosts in 2023, 2015 and 1992. Ivory Coast has also finished as runner up twice, in 2012 and 2006.

Ivory Coast’s Path to the Finals

In an act of defiance and dogged stubbornness, the Elephants of Ivory Coast downed the high-flying Super Eagles of Nigeria in the final of the Afcon 23, this being their second time meeting in the tournament. The Elephants were initially counted out as they had an abysmal and shambolic showing in the group stages with two (2) defeats from three (3) matches and only scrapping through into the knock-out stages by qualifying as one of the best 3rd placed teams in the group stages. There was some controversy in their camp as the Coach, Jean-louis Gasset, was fired and replaced by

a relatively inexperienced Interim manager, Emerse Fae, who did the wonders.

He introduced experienced players who had been benched by the previous coach, players such as Michel Seri and Max Gradel. He also gave the starting berth to player like Sebastien Haller and Simon Adingra (formerly of the Right to Dream Academy in Ghana).

They were termed the “Lucky Elephants” as they always found a way to claw their way back into a game as long as the final whistle had not been blown. Scoring late goals became their trademark and clutch performances by “The General” Frank Kessie dragged the Elephants over the line.

In the Round of 16, Ivory Coast scored a late equaliser against the defending champions Senegal and won on penalties. Another late goal ensured that they sent the game against Mali to extra time before piercing the hearts of the Malians with a final kick in the 120th minute of extra time to advance to the last four, where a Sebastien Haller’s strike was enough for the hosts to qualify for the final in dramatic fashion.

AFCO 23 Winning Coaches Profile

Emerse Faé is a former professional footballer and current manager of the Ivory Coast national football team. Born in France, Faé played for France national teams at youth level and for the Ivory Coast national team at senior international level. He has managed various teams, including Clermont B, OGC Nice Youth, and the Ivory Coast U23 team, before being appointed as caretaker manager of the Ivory Coast national team during the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations round of 16. Faé was named the best coach of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations



Awards at AFCON 2023

- Simon Adingra, Ivory Coast (Brighton)- TotalEnergies Man of the Match (finals).
- Simon Adingra, Ivory Coast (Brighton)- - Best Young player Award.
- William Troost-Ekong, Nigeria (PAOK Thessaloniki)- TotalEnergies Best Player award.
- Emilio Nsue Lopez, Equatorial Guinea (CF intercity)- PUMA Golden Boot award (5 goals).
- Ronwen Williams, South Africa (Mamelodi Sundowns) - Ecobank Best Goal Keeper.
- Third Place team (Bronze medal) - South Africa.
- Fair Play Air Cote d'Ivoire Team - South Africa.

The ceremony also included the official handing over of the CAF Flag to the Royal Moroccan Federation to signify the handing over of the hosting reigns to the country for the competition set to take place in 2026.









ABOUT LIMA PARTNERS

“LIMA Partners (“LIMA” or the “Firm”) is a boutique professional services firm providing Accounting and Consulting, Tax Advisory and Tax Compliance, Company Secretarial and Regulatory Compliance services to local and international corporations looking to make an entry into the English West African market.

LIMA is a member of Allinial Global, a member-based association of 183 firms based in 66 countries that offer international support through connected global network of consulting firms (accounting and legal) seeking better ways to meet client needs while fostering profitability and continuous improvements for business owners and staff.

LIMA is a participating firm of the Baker Mckenzie Africa Tax initiative and also collaborates for Andersen Global in Ghana.



ABOUT OUR MEDIA, SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT ADVISORY PRACTICE

We understand that professionals in media, sports and entertainment have a fleeting career with a unique earnings pattern and the nature of their career means things can change very fast.

Statistics show that many who have had a very flourishing career in their prime days end their career in ruins. But, with careful planning, effective wealth and investment management, financial planning and a unique tax and accounting advice, their career earnings can support them, their family, at each stage of their lives and throughout their retirement.

At LIMA Partners, we provide a range of professional advisory services based on our client specific circumstances to provide innovative solutions for you.

SPORTS TEAM;

Salim Ahmed Nsiah - Associate Director.

Stephen Otu Amoah - Managing Associate.

Richmond Danso - Senior Associate.

Michael Teye - Associate.

Our Office Contact:

4th Floor, One Airport Square, Airport City, Accra, Ghana

Tel: +233 307099983/ +233 55 971 9424

E-mail: info@limaghana.com

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