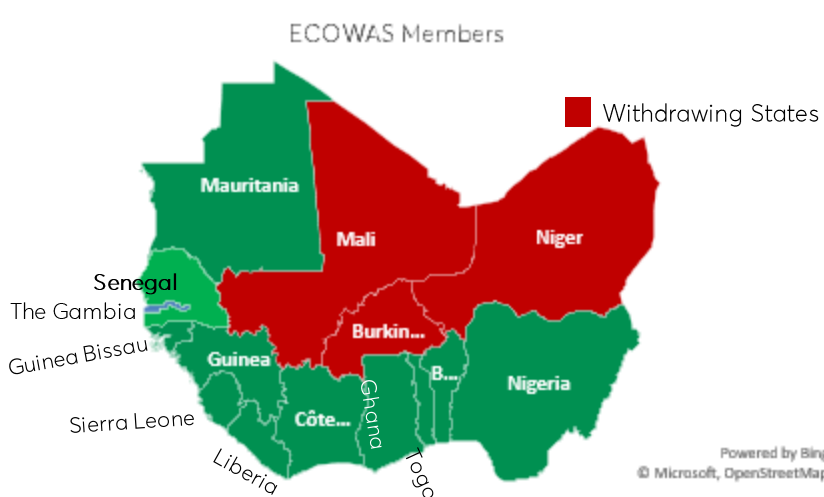


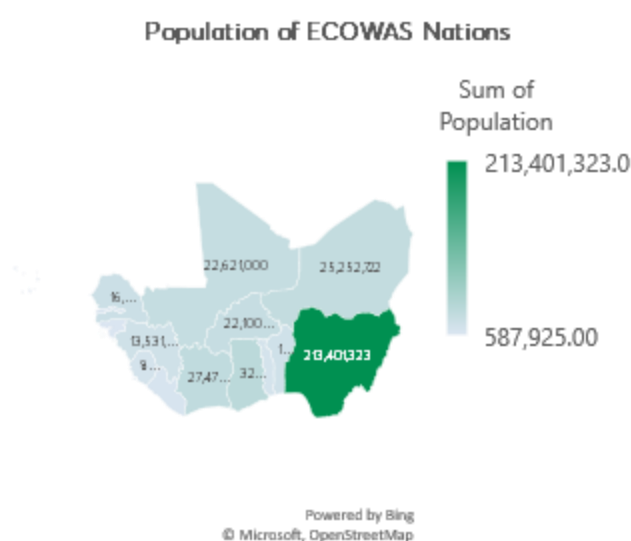
ECOWAS: THE WITHDRAWAL DILEMMA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

Formed in 1975 by 15 West African nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) aims to unite the region economically. Spanning a vast 5.2 million square kilometers, this bloc seeks to bridge borders and foster shared prosperity through increased trade and cooperation as outlined in ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS)

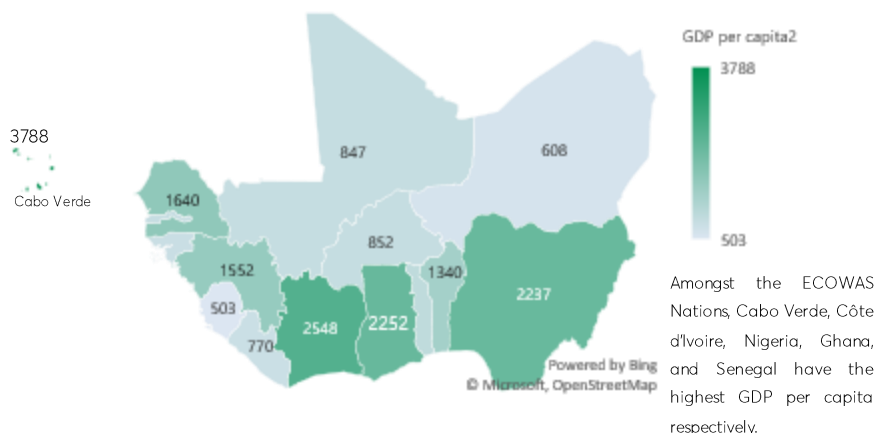
The 15 West African Members of Ecowas



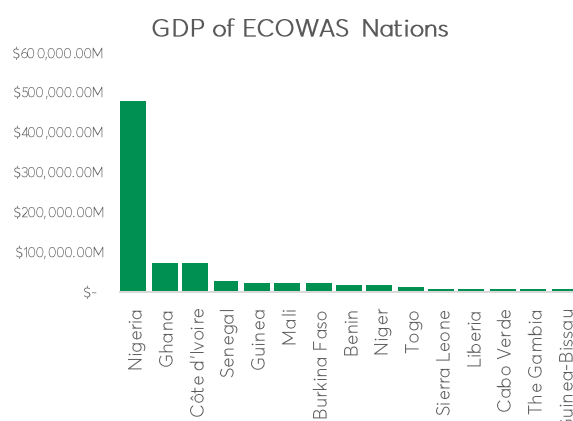
Nigeria Population Constitutes 52% of ECOWAS Population



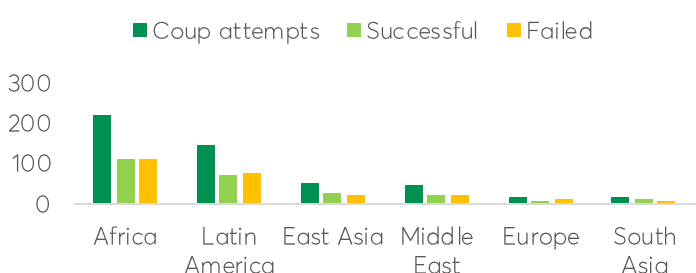
GDP per Capital of ECOWAS Nations



Nigeria GDP Constitutes 63% of ECOWAS Total GDP



Coup D'etat in the World_ 1950 - 2022



Africa is the region with the highest coup attempt in the world since 1950

On January 28, 2024, a potential fracture emerged within the West African bloc ECOWAS as Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso, all led by military governments, announced their withdrawal. This move stemmed from a confluence of factors:

- Accusations of "inhumane" sanctions imposed by ECOWAS after military coups.
- Disagreement over timelines for returning to civilian rule.
- Dissatisfaction with perceived lack of support in combating jihadist insurgency.

Back story:

Following 2 Coups d'état in Mali, the military successfully ousted the elected government in August 2020. Burkina Faso's military followed suit in 2022 and most recently, a July 2023 coup d'état in Niger deposed President Mohamed Bazoum.



ECOWAS Sanction:

Following ECOWAS suspension and varying degrees of sanctions (particularly in Niger and Mali), the three nations have strengthened their collective stance through the "Alliance of Sahel States."



Implications:

- Potential fragmentation of West Africa.
- Weakening of regional security and economic cooperation.
- Increased isolation for the three countries.

Moving Forward:

- Uncertainties remain regarding the withdrawal's validity and potential reintegration.
- ECOWAS seeks dialogue and a negotiated solution.
- Future of regional stability and development hangs in the balance.

Conclusion

To avoid political and economic offset in the region, it is important that ECOWAS and these 3 countries find a common solution to the ongoing disagreement. ECOWAS should take up the responsibility of initiating a dialogue to understand the pain points of these countries adopting coup d'état as opposed to imposing sanctions on them. Understanding their pain points and addressing it will restore normalcy to the countries and the region as a whole

Source: [ECOWAS](#), [Voanews](#)

At Spurt! we tackle the challenges facing small businesses and amplify them from local ventures into regional giants by leveraging the expertise of a pool of consultants.



spurt.solutions



research@spurt.group



+2348161130265

© 2023 Copyright owned by Spurt!. All rights reserved.