

Governance Profile and Informal Cost Exposure

Corridor Abidjan-Lagos | Enquête ENTRAVES 2025 | n = 845 usagers



Observation period
2025

Border posts covered
10 border posts

Users surveyed (2025)
845 users

1. Summary

Informal payments are a systemic reality across the entire Abidjan-Lagos corridor. Nine out of ten border posts record a forced payment rate above 50%; four exceed 80%. Receipts are nearly nonexistent, making every transaction opaque to any form of oversight.

74 %
of users made a payment

< 2 %
of payments
receive a receipt

99,8 %
filed no complaint

2. Prevalence of Informal Payments

Table 1: Informal payment exposure by border post (ENTRAVES 2025). Amounts converted to XOF and USD. Exchange rates: **1 GHS = 50 XOF**; **1 NGN = 0.41 XOF**; **1 XOF = 0.0018 USD**. Source: **XE.com**, April 22, 2026.

Border post	N	% Forced to pay	Médiane XOF	Médiane USD	Moyenne XOF	Mean USD	Receipt (%)
Noe	41	100 %	3 000	\$540	4 293	\$773	2 %
Noepe	110	84 %	1 000	\$1.80	2 216	\$3.99	0 %
Sanvee-Condji	6	83 %	500	\$0.90	700	\$1.26	0 %
Akanu	222	82 %	250	\$0.45	633	\$1.14	1 %
Elubo	93	80 %	2 000	\$3.60	2 757	\$4.96	0 %
Hillacondji	25	72 %	1 000	\$1.80	882	\$1.59	0 %
Aflao	169	69 %	1 000	\$1.80	1 487	\$2.68	0 %
Kodjoviakope	149	58 %	1 000	\$1.80	15 218	\$27.39	1 %
Seme	7	57 %	103	\$0.18	256	\$0.46	0 %
Krake	23	26 %	308	\$0.55	321	\$0.58	0 %

Note: Values in red = rate ≥ 80% or very high mean. The median/mean gap at Kodjoviakope (1,000 vs. 15,218 XOF) reflects a few exceptionally high payments; the median is more representative for the typical user. Sanvee-Condji (n=6) and Seme (n=7) are indicative only.

- **Noe**: 100% of the 41 users surveyed made a payment, with a median of 3,000 FCFA (\$540). No receipt was issued in 98% of cases.
- **Akanu**: 82% payment rate across 222 cases — the largest sample on the corridor. The median of 250 XOF (\$0.45) is low, but the near-universality of the phenomenon makes it a structural indicator.

3. Agencies Involved in Informal Payments

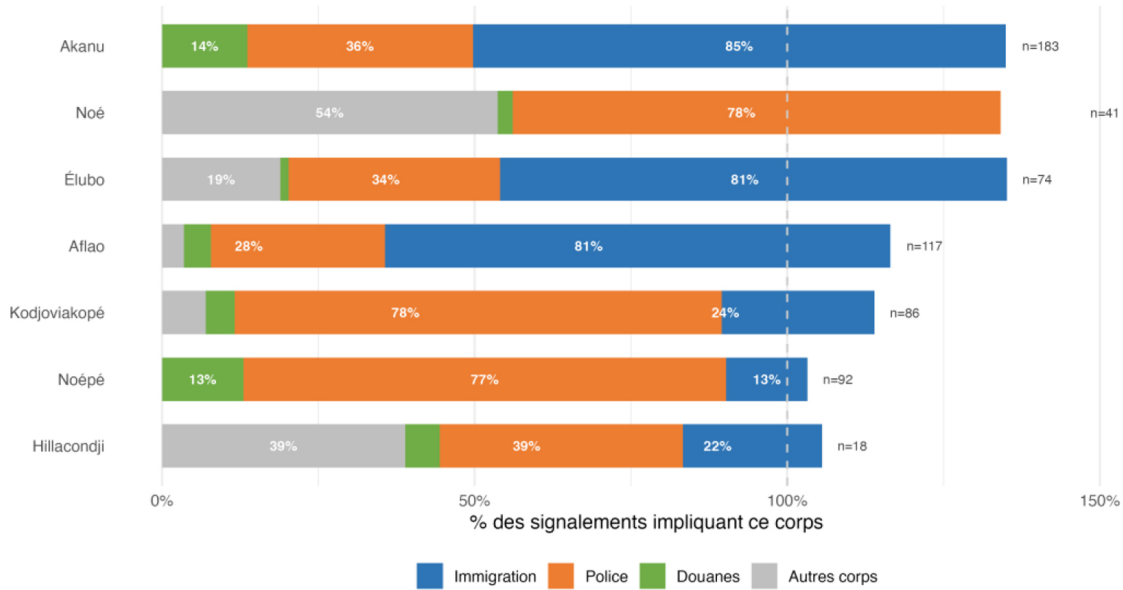
Immigration and Police are the two dominant agencies across the corridor, with differentiated profiles by post. Customs is a minority in harassment reports; its impact on users is procedural, not financial.

- **Immigration leads** reports at Akanu (85%), Aflao (81%), Elubo (81%), and Seme (100%).
- **Police leads** at Noépé (77%), Kodjoviakope (78%), and Noé (78%).

Posts with fewer than 10 respondents reporting a payment are excluded from the chart (Krake, n=6; Sanvee-Condji, n=5; Seme, n=4).

Corps impliqués dans les paiements informels par poste frontalier

Enquête ENTRAVES 2025 — parmi les usagers ayant déclaré avoir payé (n ≥ 10)
Plusieurs corps peuvent être identifiés par répondant ; les barres peuvent dépasser 100 %.



Les postes avec moins de 10 répondants ayant déclaré avoir payé sont exclus du graphique (Kraké, n=6 ; Sanvée Condji, n=5 ; Sémé, n=4).

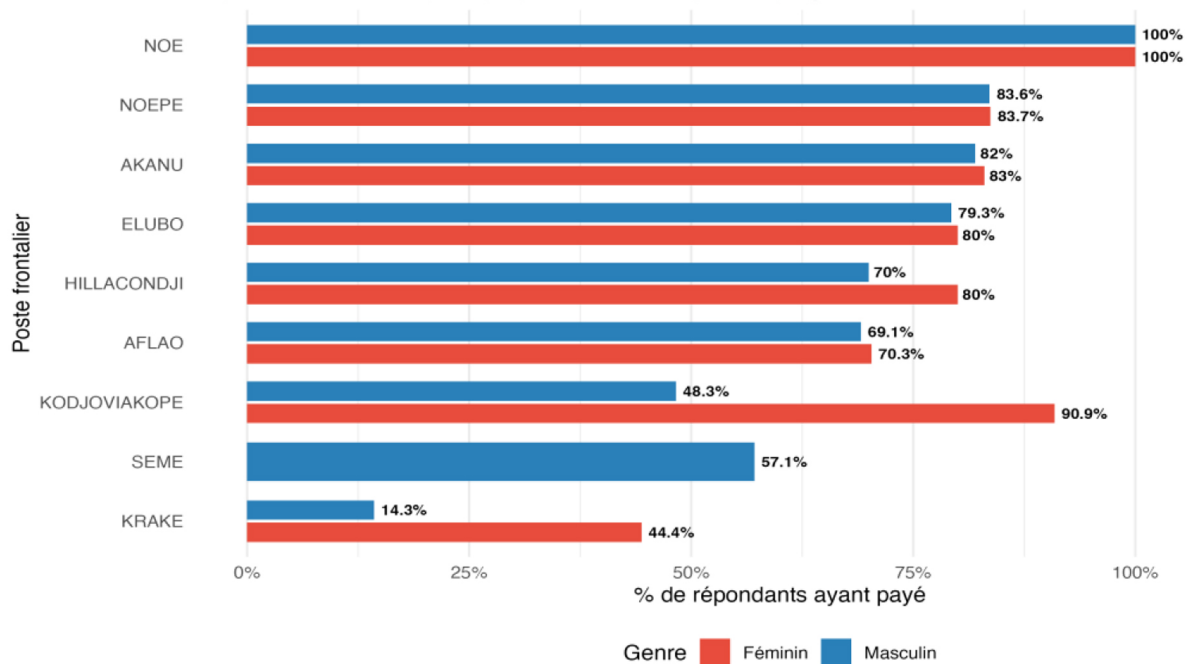
4. Gender Dimension: Differentiated Exposure

The ENTRAVES 2025 survey (n = 845) enables a first gender-disaggregated analysis. Women are more frequently forced to pay: 80% of them reported a payment, compared with 70% of men — a ten-percentage-point gap. Women also assert their rights less often: only 17% invoked their ECOWAS rights, compared with 24% of men.

The agencies involved differ slightly by gender: Immigration is identified in 61% of women's reports (versus 58% among men), while Police is more frequently involved in men's reports (53%). The largest gap concerns Kodjoviakope: 91% of women paid there versus 48% of men — the widest gender gap observed on the corridor. These findings suggest a structurally differentiated exposure by gender, which will need to be confirmed and examined in depth in future data collection waves.

Taux de paiement informel contraint par genre et par poste frontalier

Enquête ENTRAVES 2025 (n=845) — postes avec n ≥ 5 répondants par genre



5. Roadblocks Outside Official Border Posts

In 2025, the corridor has an average of 41 fixed roadblocks. Ghana and Nigeria account for the highest densities.

TABLE 2: ROADBLOCKS AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE ALTTFP STANDARD (2025)

Country	Segment (km)	Roadblocks (avg.)	Per 100 km	PFCTAL standard	Compliance
Cote d'Ivoire	170	5	2,9	≤3	✓ Compliant
Ghana	558	17	3,0	≤3	≈ Borderline
Togo	53	3	5,7	≤3	⚠ Exceeded
Benin	135	2	1,5	≤3	✓ Compliant
Nigeria	105	14	13,3	≤3	✗ Critical

Nigeria exceeds the standard by more than fourfold. Government reduction efforts are underway, resulting in a decrease from 22 to 14 roadblocks between 2023 and 2025.

6. Recommendations

N°	Actions recommandées	Responsables
R1	Establish a regional complaint-handling and follow-up mechanism with quarterly publication of results, to make accountability visible and credible.	ALCO / ECOWAS
R2	Train border agents (Immigration, Police) on ECOWAS user rights, prioritizing Noe, Noepe, Akanu, Elubo, and Aflao.	Member States
R3	Continue the rationalization of roadblocks on the Seme-Lagos segment (Nigeria) in support of ongoing government efforts, targeting the standard of 3 roadblocks per 100 km.	Nigeria / ECOWAS
R4	Sustain annual ENTRAVES data collection with a sufficient sample per post to enable robust cross-wave comparisons and measure the impact of reforms.	ALCO
R5	Extract QR code data over the same period as ENTRAVES and analyze them in parallel to measure under-reporting and the impact of reforms.	ALCO
R6	Systematize gender disaggregation of data in future ENTRAVES waves to track changes in the exposure gap.	ALCO / Member States

7. Conclusion

Informal costs on the Abidjan-Lagos corridor are a systemic phenomenon, structurally entrenched, and resistant to change in the absence of accountability mechanisms. The challenge does not lie in the regulatory framework, but in its implementation, supervision, and enforcement. OCAL has taken a first concrete step with the deployment, following the 2025 data collection, of a digital QR code reporting system that allows users to report irregularities once they have left the border post, thereby removing the main barrier to declaration. The impact of this mechanism will be measurable starting with the next data collection wave.

Methodological note: This brief draws on the ENTRAVES 2025 survey (n = 845 users). Field observations from TEMPS TRAVERSE 2025 cover a distinct population and are analyzed in Technical Brief 1. Conversions: 1 GHS = 50 XOF; 1 NGN = 0.41 XOF; 1 XOF = 0.0018 USD. Source: XE.com, April 22, 2026. ENTRAVES collection: November 10–28, 2025, via KoboCollect.