

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION UPDATE

Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia

16 March 2011

UNICEF requires US\$ 51 million to respond to rapidly increasing needs of children and women affected by the post-elections crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia

- Ongoing political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire threatens to escalate to armed conflict
- Over 300,000 Ivorians, of which an estimated 60 per cent are women and children, are displaced by the conflict. Continued confrontations are likely to increase the figure to 450,000
- Some 1.5 million persons are at risk of lack of provision of safe water in the Centre, North and West (CNO) of Côte d'Ivoire and health services are significantly affected by shortages in personnel and supplies around the country
- School closures in the north of Côte d'Ivoire is currently affecting more than 800,000 children
- The presence of up to 90,000 Ivorians refugees in Liberia is putting extreme pressure on resources and basic services in the local host communities
- Increased levels of preparedness and response is urgently needed in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia



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A UNICEF-trained peer educator presents a hygiene and sanitation lessons to children at an abandoned holiday complex, now a settlement for displaced people, in the western town of Man. An estimated 260 people displaced from the town of Duékoué, a site of recent violence, have sought shelter in the complex. They are receiving support from UNICEF and partners.

Many factors such as a lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services, female genital mutilation/genital cutting, extreme poverty and gender inequality greatly exacerbate the risks of mortality among young mothers and children, including the risk of HIV infection particularly exacerbated during crisis and displacement. Côte d'Ivoire has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the region, 3.9% (2008, UNAIDS). The risk of spreading of HIV infection among displaced persons and host populations is extremely high due to repeated sexual violence against women and girls and limited access to information on HIV prevention and antiretroviral (ARV) drugs.

Liberia

The unfolding political crisis and escalating violence in Côte d'Ivoire has escalated into a serious and complex humanitarian situation in Liberia. The presence of close to 90,000 Ivorians, a vast majority of them children and women, are putting extreme pressure on resources and basic services in the local host communities. The numbers continue to rise and are expected to increase to 150,000 refugees by the end of May 2011. The refugees are currently being absorbed by more than 70 border villages, 15 designated relocation communities, and one refugee camp at Bahn in Nimba County. In light of the recent high influx of refugees the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and UNHCR have already identified an additional two camps and host communities. The situation of children and women is worsening every day with shortage of food, water and shelter. Various assessments have found high levels of acute malnutrition among refugee children as well as host communities. More than two thirds of children in the region are thought to be anaemic. Diarrhoea and malaria cases continue to escalate, and with the high influx of refugees over the past two weeks, security and protection of children from violence and abuse need immediate attention.

The number of persons particularly at risk – adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers, child headed households and single mothers – is high. Cramped shelter conditions increase the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse among women and children. Additionally, there are rising concerns about recruitment of children by armed groups due to the overall deteriorating security situation, high vulnerability among children and the presence of militia groups in the region.

Families have had to move sporadically and in an unplanned manner. The risk for increased family separations is real and needs urgent preventative action. Children need to have access to safe learning environments where they can continue their education and reduce their risk of recruitment into armed forces or groups.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

Côte d'Ivoire

In response to the deteriorating situation, expected to affect an overall 2 million persons, UNICEF has developed a three-pronged strategy with a set of priority activities focusing on life saving interventions:

- Responding to the most pressing humanitarian needs for IDPs in camps and vulnerable host families, in line with UNICEF Core Commitments in Humanitarian Action.
- Strengthening the provision of basic services in the most vital sectors.
- Increasing the resilience of vulnerable families.

UNICEF is working with technical officers in line ministries and with local authorities in the areas of interventions. UNICEF country office has established partnership and cooperation agreements with NGOs to assist in the implementation of life-saving and life sustaining activities. UNICEF ensures effective cluster lead for WASH, nutrition, co-leads the education sector with Save the Children and leads the child protection sub-cluster. UNICEF is requesting additional contributions incorporated in the budgets to strengthen humanitarian cluster coordination and for strengthening Côte d'Ivoire humanitarian coordination.

To date, over 1.7 million children aged between 6 months and 5 years have been vaccinated against measles and other illnesses through UNICEF support; thousands of children have been screened for malnutrition, and partner NGOs are being mobilized to respond to urgent needs for supplementary (along with WFP rations) and therapeutic feeding provided by UNICEF. UNICEF has provided WASH facilities for some 20,000 IDPs in camps but also host communities through the repair of hand pumps and boreholes. In Abidjan and elsewhere in the country UNICEF is supporting some 20,000 children with school materials. Continuous advocacy will

hopefully lead to the reopening of schools in the Centre, North and West (CNO) by the end of March. Support has been provided to reunite over 100 unaccompanied children with their family and recreational activities have been set up in the IDP camps.

The following interventions are planned over the next three months.

NUTRITION (US\$ 6,550,000)

In collaboration with international NGOs, the WFP, WHO and the Ministry of Health, UNICEF will treat 50,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition through both in- and outpatient care. This will be complemented with preventive interventions based on the Child Survival Strategy, which includes follow-up on the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, as well as the implementation of vitamin A supplementation and deworming for an estimate 3 million children during immunization campaigns. UNICEF will also carry out blanket feeding programmes with Nutributter¹ targeting 300,000 children aged 6-23 months in most vulnerable areas. Health workers and NGO staff will be trained on active screening, management of acute malnutrition, counselling skills, blanket distribution, and monitoring and evaluation. UNICEF will support the development and roll out of a nutrition surveillance system to provide timely and accurate information on the nutritional status of children countrywide.

HEALTH (US\$ 6,500,000)

Some 3 million children and 600,000 pregnant and lactating women in areas of displacement and camps will benefit from immunization programmes under the expanded programme on immunization (EPI). Preventive immunization campaign against measles and yellow fever for children between 6-59 months will be organized and the cold chain system will be supported. UNICEF and WHO have taken initiatives for the provision of adequate stocks of vaccines against meningitis, Côte d'Ivoire being part of the meningitis belt. Emergency obstetrical and neonatal care will be improved through the provision of delivery kits accompanied by training for some 2,000 traditional midwives. UNICEF will further support on-the-job training for District Health Team (DHTs) on the coordination and supervision of the health program. Emergency key family practices will be promoted including diseases prevention by immunization, hand-washing with soap, breastfeeding, use of long-lasting mosquito nets by children under-5 and pregnant women.



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Diomande Makagbe holds the youngest of her five children outside the home of their host family, in the western town of Man. Their family escaped violence by walking an estimated 60 kilometres before securing a ride the rest of the way to Man. "When we arrived, children had sores all over their feet," she said.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) (US\$ 7,770,000)

UNICEF will respond to immediate needs in terms of water, hygiene and sanitation of IDPS in camps in the west and centre of the country and in the capital city. UNICEF will also support the strengthening of service delivery and household or community solutions for water and waste management in urban dwellings in the north, centre and west of the country. UNICEF will reach out to some 1.5 million beneficiaries in the north by ensuring provision of safe drinking water through the maintenance of water schemes. This will be accompanied by the promotion of key hygiene practices promoting community resilience. UNICEF will

¹ Nutributter® is a nutritional supplement (LNS = Lipid-based Nutrient Supplement) in the form of a ready-to-use paste, intended to fortify the food supplements of young children.

continue to respond to the cholera outbreak in Abidjan where some 400 cases were recently treated and to provide WASH services to IDPs in the west, centre and Abidjan.

Communal WASH infrastructure and management services will be provided alongside hygiene kits and hygiene education to 10,000 IDPs in camps. Household water treatment, hygiene kits and sanitation promotion will be delivered to 50,000 hosting households in urban and rural areas. In addition, 100,000 households, 85 schools, 34 religious institutions and 25 health centres in Abidjan will be targeted by a mass-media campaign and will receive hygiene education, water treatment and latrines disinfection materials. UNICEF will also respond to major health threats posed by the accumulation of garbage in the main cities in the Centre/North/West and by the proven vulnerability of the urban water systems connected to the electrical grid. UNICEF will support 4 municipalities (1,000,000 people) in the north and west to restart their waste management systems and support 62 localities in backing up their water pumping and treatment plants (1,500,000 people) through provision of generators for high priority sites such as hospitals.

CHILD PROTECTION (US\$ 2,200,000)

UNICEF's response to address identified child protection risks mainly focuses on: i) developing child rights violations monitoring and reporting system; ii) supporting child protection action networks; iii) preventing child recruitment/utilization by armed groups/forces; iv) strengthening alternative care and psychosocial assistance; v) assistance and protection interventions for displaced children (including separated and unaccompanied children),

Interventions will be developed in 16 priority districts in 7 regions and in the district of Abidjan, for improved rights protection of 1,242,000 children aged 10-17 years (including 602,000 girls) against violence, abuse and exploitation. 700 children deprived of parental care will receive direct assistance. 500 victims of sexual violence will be referred to adequate care. 6,175 displaced children and at-risk women will receive assistance.

EDUCATION (US\$ 6,690,000)

Due to the current school closure caused by the call for civil disobedience and the disruption of education due to displacement and violence, children are exposed to the risk of missing out on an entire year of schooling.

UNICEF's Basic Education and Gender Equality interventions aim at ensuring that boys and girls aged 5 to 13 years old have access to quality education and complete the primary school level with appropriate learning achievement. The priority targets are: 1) ensuring access to quality education for 45,000 pre-school and school-aged internally displaced children in the west, east, centre and south; 2) supporting relevant and quality education in safe, protective and functioning schools in the South for 420,000 pre-school and school-going children; 3) enabling at least 800,000 pre-school and school-aged children to go back to school in the CNO of the country. In order to achieve this, UNICEF will undertake rapid assessment of educational needs of 45,000 displaced children in the IDP sites, support the integration of displaced children in formal schools, set up 15 temporary learning spaces for out of school children in the IDP sites, procure teaching and learning kits for teachers and children attending 1,334 functional schools in the west, conducting capacity development of 250 teachers and animators in life skills, as well as ensure well functioning coordination and information management.

HIV/AIDS (US\$ 1,220,000)

UNICEF and partners will strive to ensure continuity of access to quality HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment services, including access to ARVs. More specifically focus will be on: 1) ensuring continuity of treatment for 15,000 women and 4,443 children, 2) provision of behaviour change interventions (i.e. mass media, peer education, community education, condoms distribution, etc.) to 5 million boys and girls to reduce the risk of HIV transmission, 3) reaching about 1 million women and adolescents with quality prenatal care and PMTCT services and sexual and reproductive health services including adolescent-friendly services, 4) supporting life skills education and awareness-raising on gender and HIV in a variety of settings, and 5) ensuring that at least 10,000 orphans have access to psychosocial and care services based on their appropriate needs during emergencies.

In addition to the above, supplies of ARVs, PEP kits and other commodities, coordinating mechanisms, monitoring and reporting information on program implementation for decision making will be supported.

COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (US\$ 490,000)

UNICEF and its partners will reach out to some 1,000,000 children, youth, mothers and adults on key messages related to hygiene, sanitation, vaccination campaigns and EPI activities, as well as reach out on the "Back to School" programme and HIV activities including Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMCT) and voluntary testing/counselling. Considering the very complex emergency in Cote d'Ivoire involving thousands of displaced within the country combined with high risks of malnutrition, meningitis, cholera and measles, major initiatives will be incorporated into UNICEF and counterparts programmes to sensitize communities as well as support major (measles, WASH, meningitis, cholera, etc.) campaigns covering the entire nation with key messages. The strategy will be to provide adequate information to families and communities to promote preparedness and resilience building. Key intervention include social mobilization with the involvement of all stakeholders including community leaders where UNICEF programmatic interventions are taking place, capacity building of stakeholders for communication and relay information, interpersonal communication by NGOs, networks, associations and relays and mass communication through community radio.

CLUSTER COORDINATION (US\$ 700,000)

UNICEF ensures effective cluster coordination for WASH, nutrition, co-leads the education sector with Save the Children and leads the child protection sub-cluster. Adequate funding will allow UNICEF to hire and maintain dedicated cluster coordinators and Information Management Officers required supporting the clusters in collecting, monitoring and analysing data. The cluster approach will facilitate information gathering, provide technical guidelines and identify gaps for a more effective response between cluster members.

Liberia

UNICEF will respond to the needs of affected populations in line with its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. These beneficiaries include IDPs, returning nationals, third country nationals and host community members as well as refugees. Refugee response will be coordinated with UNHCR.

NUTRITION (US\$ 3,942,308)

The overall aim of UNICEF interventions is to prevent nutrition deprivation, thereby reducing child morbidity and mortality and ensuring continued adequate growth and development of children affected by the crisis. UNICEF will continue the coordination of the nutrition sector for effective emergency nutrition response.

UNICEF interventions aim to prevent and treat malnutrition in children among refugee and host populations through the

distribution of ready- to- use high energy and micronutrient dense foods or supplementary

feeding of moderately malnourished children, provision of nutrition support, including food supplementation, to pregnant, lactating women and HIV affected families. Regular monitoring will be conducted, the nutritional situation of affected populations assessed and the effectiveness of the nutrition interventions evaluated. UNICEF will support existing treatment sites for acute malnutrition and establish new sites in transit villages and camps in counties with refugee influx. The treatment will be integrated with mobile clinics when deemed



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Children and women queue at a distribution point in the village of Gblarlay, in Nimba County.

necessary. Efforts for the protection and promotion of breastfeeding and infant feeding in emergencies will be intensified through media and counselling activities. Promotion of essential nutrition actions will be continued through training and support for health workers will be ensured. Vitamin A and deworming campaign will be conducted. As a result it is expected that 4,500 children under 5 suffering from moderate acute malnutrition will receive ready-to-use high energy and micronutrient dense foods. 2,250 children will be treated for severe acute malnutrition, 37,500 children will benefit from promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding practices and other essential nutrition actions, and all children aged 6-59 months will receive vitamin A supplementation and deworming.

HEALTH (US\$ 1,005,800)

UNICEF interventions aims to reduce morbidity and mortality among crisis affected people and their host communities by establishing and/or strengthening health system, provide quality health, nutrition and HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care services and monitoring, analyzing and reporting information for decision making. A minimum package of health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS services will be provided to around 150,000 affected people. This package will include prevention and management of common endemic and epidemic diseases including childhood illnesses, acute severe malnutrition, physical injuries and traumas, gender-based violence, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, and promotion of essential health practices including family practices for pregnant women and children.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) (US\$ 3,089,304)

The expected outcome of UNICEF interventions is to provide access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene to 54,000 beneficiaries respecting minimum standards². UNICEF will fulfil its role as lead of the WASH emergency working groups at Monrovia and county level. This critical role will involve working together with the Government of Liberia and other emergency working group partners on country level coordination of WASH interventions, the development of sector response plans, systematic and transparent monitoring and information management, and the development and dissemination of standards.

UNICEF and partners will continue to concentrate efforts on host communities including those serving as entry points and way stations, while UNHCR will cover the camp settings in collaboration with UNICEF as necessary. Building on WASH support to 38 communities since December 2010, UNICEF and partners in collaboration and coordination with UNHCR will continue to supply sufficient, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to the population impacted by the crisis. Water provision will be carried out with an increased focus on emergency water tankering, pumping from existing ground water sources, and temporary water bladder systems. Safe water points will continue to be constructed and repaired/rehabilitated in villages affected by the crisis and those accommodating displaced people. Family water and hygiene kits, including jerry cans, soap, and water purification tablets, will continue to be provided to the vulnerable population in host villages allowing water to be treated and clean water to be stored for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene. Sanitation facilities will be constructed respecting minimum standards and hygiene education will be promoted on key behaviours, including the use of latrines and hand washing with soap.

CHILD PROTECTION (US\$ 3,892,125)

UNICEF is co-leading the Child Protection sub sector together with the Ministry of Gender and Development, which has an activated working group, coordinating assessments and planning responses to the influx. In order to respond to the child protection needs in Liberia, three activities are proposed in collaboration with UNHCR: 1) Strengthen preparedness, capacity and coordination of child protection actors at all level, 2) Prevent and respond to family separation, illegal recruitment, violence, abuse and exploitation of children and youth and 3) Child friendly spaces and psychosocial support. The main outcomes of UNICEF support is the increased protection for 36,000 women and 93,000 children from abuse, violence and exploitation and the increased protection of all children against recruitment by armed forces and armed groups. Effective community protection systems are expected to be set up in the 15 designated relocation communities and refugee camp for women and children. An estimated 28,000 children will have access to child friendly spaces and psychosocial care and support.

2. Clean water [$>15l/p/d$]; Secure and user-friendly sanitation [>1 latrine/20 p]; Hygiene kit [250g soap/p/m, jerry cans, etc.]; Promotion on key hygiene behaviours [hand washing with soap, and latrine use]

EDUCATION (US\$ 6,952,596)

UNICEF is leading the Education Sector together with Save the Children and works with the Government of Liberia and partners to ensure that pre-school and school aged boys and girls affected by the crisis have access to quality and relevant education opportunities in a safe and protective learning environment that promotes the protection and the psychosocial well-being of learners. A total of 75,000 children, 18,000 adolescents, 1,000 primary school teachers and 1,667 pre- school care givers will benefit as a result of various interventions such as Early Child Development centres for 25,000 children, Child Friendly Spaces for 50,000 children/adolescents and 175 Temporary Learning Spaces for 50,000 primary school children in camps, including provision of furniture.

3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

UNICEF is requesting a total of **US\$ 51 million** for its humanitarian work in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia over the next three months, to assist an increasing number of children and women affected by the extremely volatile situation following the November presidential election. This Humanitarian Action Update supersedes the UNICEF planned response for Cote d'Ivoire included in the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) launched on 7 March and feeds into the on-going inter-agency revisions of the Emergency Humanitarian Action Plans (EHAP) of both Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia. UNICEF's planned response will be reassessed and revised again through the mid-year review of the HAC in line with the evolving the situation.

Table 1. Côte d'Ivoire- Estimated funding requirements March to June 2011 with funds received against appeal

Appeal Sector	Requirements by Sector	Funds Received (US\$)	Unmet requirements (US\$)	% Unfunded
Nutrition	6,550,000	403,594	6,146,406	94%
Health	6,500,000	3,055,004	3,444,996	53%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	7,770,000	1,292,048	6,477,952	83%
Child Protection	2,200,000	257,240	1,942,760	88%
Education	6,690,000	0	6,690,000	100%
HIV/AIDS	1,220,000	0	1,220,000	100%
Communication for Development (C4D)	490,000	323,520	166,480	34%
Cluster Coordination	700,000	0	700,000	100%
Total*	32,120,000	5,331,406	26,788,594	83%

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF's Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

Table 2. Liberia- Estimated funding requirements March to June 2011 with funds received against appeal

Appeal Sector	Requirements by Sector	Funds Received (US\$)	Unmet requirements (US\$)	% Unfunded
Nutrition	3,942,308	190,272	3,752,036	95%
Health	1,005,800	231,624	774,176	77%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	3,089,304	564,945	2,524,359	82%

Child Protection	3,892,125	700,000	3,192,125	82%
Education	6,952,596	224,875	6,727,721	97%
Total*	18,882,133	1,911,716	16,970,417	90%

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF's Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

UNICEF wishes to express gratitude to all donors who continue to provide the unwavering support that enables UNICEF to address the humanitarian issues of the most vulnerable children and women in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

Further information on the UNICEF emergency programme in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia can be obtained from:

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