

UNICEF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

RAISE IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE, VITAMINE A SUPPLEMENTATION AND DE-WORMING IN COTE D'IVOIRE:

A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE REDUCTION OF CHILD MORTALITY

Issue

In Côte d'Ivoire, three out of four children did not receive their full vaccination in the routine programme before their first birthday. More than half of the children did not receive their two annual doses of Vitamin A supplementation that protect them against infections. Many children suffer from anaemia. Children are exposed to diseases that can be easily prevented.

This situation is due to the crisis, as the health services are not effectively delivered anymore. Côte d'Ivoire is one of the 14 countries in the world where the child mortality rose since the definition of the Millennium Goals. It should reduce its under five mortality rate by 11.9% every year to reach MDG4 by 2015.

Action and impact

Full vaccination coverage of children under one, two yearly doses of vitamin A supplementation and de-worming of children under five in the whole country, can effectively prevent approximately 69,800 child deaths each year nationwide¹. In the intervention zone of UNICEF, which covers 50% of the population, 34,900 child deaths would be saved.

UNICEF supports health service delivery in 41 health districts affected by the conflict, although assistance is provided at national level regarding guideline development for high impact interventions on child mortality and supply of vaccines, injection material, vitamin A and de-worming tablets.

Integrated intervention packages are delivered through increasing access to service delivery in primary health care centres and outreach activities in remote (>5km) areas. Adequate service delivery uptake is enhanced by social mobilization and communication for behaviour change, using a participatory approach. The quality of delivered care is improved by training, supervision, monitoring and planning.

Global Objective:

Reduce child mortality by 5%

Specific objective:

80% of children of the target population received the integrated intervention package of 8 vaccinations, two yearly doses of vitamin A and de-worming

Expected results:

By 2008, in 41 health districts out of 79:

- 244,000 of children under one received all vaccinations
- 1,436,000 of children aged between 6 and 59 months received two yearly doses of vitamin A

- 1,193,000 children aged between 12 and 59 months received two yearly doses of mebendazol (de-worming)

Key activities:

Ensure the integrated delivery of high impact preventive care package to children under five through:

National level:

- Introduction of reporting tools for high impact intervention package on child mortality
- Supply of vaccines and injection materials and mebendazol

In 41 health districts:

- Reinforcement of the cold chain by the supply of refill for gas bottles and cold chain maintenance kit;
- Training of 1050 health workers (PHC centres, health districts, regions, national level) in planning, management and monitoring of vaccination services and waste management;
- Support to outreach with supply of 300 motorcycles, fuel and per diem for all PHC centres in 41 health districts;
- Supportive supervision of health workers of PHC centres, health districts and regions;
- Training of 5,900 community health workers in community participation for preventive care and distribution of bicycles and health promotion kits for increasing uptake to preventive care;
- Social mobilization for behaviour change;
- Monitoring and micro-planning for improvement of key indicators;

Budget:

Description	Total cost (in US\$)
Introduction of reporting tools	50,000
Supply of vaccines, injection materials and mebendazol	880,000
Reinforcement of cold chain	70,000
Training of health workers	165,000
Training of community health workers	284,000
Supply of motorcycles for outreach	720,000
Fuel and per diem for outreach	300,000
Supportive supervision	127,000
Social mobilization	284,000
Monitoring and planning	90,000
Technical assistance	870,000
Operational costs	384,000
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>4,224,000</i>
Recovery costs at head quarters (7%)	295,680
TOTAL	4,519,680

Cost-effectiveness:

Cost per child that benefits from the immunization plus package: USD 3.15

69,800 deaths among children under five will be averted in two years¹

The project invests USD 65 per death averted¹

¹ Assumptions:

% that measles, pertussis and avitaminose A attributes to child mortality: 20%

Clinical effectiveness: 95%

Actual coverage of the intervention package: 25%

Target coverage the intervention package: 80%

Rise in coverage among children under one : 55%

Impact on child mortality rate: reduction of 10% nationwide and 5% in 41 health districts supported by UNICEF