

## UNICEF COTE D'IVOIRE

### COMMUNITY THERAPEUTIC CARE OF SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION: A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN REDUCING UNDER FIVE MORTALITY

#### Issue:

In Côte d'Ivoire, the sociopolitical crisis that started in 2002 has caused an increase of malnutrition cases in the West and North of the country with chronic severe malnutrition rates of over 10%, according to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006. This increase of severe malnutrition has had a negative effect on the under five mortality rate.

In view of this situation, NGOs like MSF, in collaboration with UNICEF and WFP, have created Therapeutic Feeding Centers in Man, Danané, Zouan Hounien, Douékoué, Guiglo, Odienné and Boundiali, cities located in the West and North, where public administration has been absent since 2002, in order to provide care to cases of severe acute malnutrition that were admitted in health structures.

The end of the sociopolitical crisis in Côte d'Ivoire will lead to the departure of NGOs that worked in emergency contexts and therefore in the desertion or interruption of the functioning of the above mentioned centers.

In view of this development, it is imperative to develop a system of early detection and assistance to severe acute malnutrition cases without medical complications at the community level, which will allow for coverage of an important number of malnourished children, and as such, mitigate the effect of the departure of the NGOs.

#### Global Objective:

Ensure adequate assistance to cases of moderate and severe acute malnutrition without medical complications in the health districts that benefited from the support of NGOs during the crisis period.

#### Specific Objectives:

1. Train Community Health Workers (CHWs) in early detection and treatment of malnutrition cases in the villages and referral of complicated cases to health centers in the seven health districts of the West and North;
2. Provide CHWs with testing and communication materials and therapeutic feeding;
3. Strengthen capacities of local NGOs for the monitoring of CHWs in malnutrition treatment at community level.

#### Strategies:

- Production and distribution of communication and community mobilization tools for malnutrition prevention.
- Capacity Building
- Child growth surveillance

- Supplementation and treatment of malnourished children.

#### Key activities:

- Identify and train CHWs in malnutrition treatment; 1 CHW for 35 households;
- Provide CHWs with materials and therapeutic feeding;
- Identify and train local NGOs in close monitoring of CHWs;
- Disseminate messages on malnutrition prevention through different local channels;
- Monitor CHW activities and assess the assistance provided to malnutrition cases.

#### Expected results:

- 80% of children under 5 benefit from a correct growth monitoring performed by CHWs.
- 60% of moderate and severe acute malnutrition cases without medical complication among children are being treated in the villages
- More than 90% of complicated cases of malnutrition are referred to health centers
- Testing material and therapeutic feeding for malnutrition treatment are available in the villages.

#### Impact:

Reduction of under 5 mortality in the West and North of Côte d'Ivoire through community assistance and care of acute malnutrition cases without medical complications.

#### Budget:

Description	Total cost (in US \$)
CHW training	30,000
Production of communication tools	25,000
Provision of materials and therapeutic feeding	150,000
Dissemination of messages for malnutrition prevention	35,000
Monitoring of activities and assessment of case treatment.	20,000
Technical Assistance	40,000
Operational costs	30,000
<i>Subtotal Direct Costs</i>	<i>330,000</i>
Recovery costs at Head Quarters (7%)	23,100
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>353,100</b>