

PROPOSAL



UNICEF/Cole d'Ivoire 2006/Alexandra Westerbeek

FIGHTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

January 2007- December 2007

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



PROJECT SUMMARY:

PROJECT	FIGHTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN
COUNTRY	Côte d'Ivoire
PERIOD	January 2007 – December 2008
PURPOSE	To strengthen local capacities to prevent and provide adequate responses to sexual violence in the areas of Guiglo, Bangolo, Bouaké, Korhogo and San Pedro.
OBJECTIVES	The main objectives of the project are: (1) provide adequate care and support to victims of sexual violence in the targeted localities through medical assistance, psychosocial support and legal assistance; (2) prevent sexual violence through awareness raising activities and design of a national plan to fight sexual violence; (3) collect reliable quantitative and qualitative data on sexual violence.
ACTIVITIÉS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary assessment of the situation with national partners intervening on the issue of violence in order to understand the nature and scope of the phenomenon. This preliminary assessment will contribute to data collection on sexual violence and determine the existence and shortcomings of existing (public, community) response services; • Assessment of material and training needs: this assessment will identify existing guidelines, manuals, procedures as well as logistic and material needs for the realisation of the training; • Training of 150 members of social/health centres, women's associations, security forces and Courts (magistrates) on: detection of signs of sexual violence and provision of specific assistance; existing legislative measures and criminal procedures related to sexual violence; • Supply of drugs and other materials to 8 health centres; • Provision of material support for 8 social centres involved in psychosocial care and support to victims of sexual violence; • Provision of medical assistance, psychosocial support and legal assistance to victims of sexual violence; • Realization of activities of social mobilization and 60 radio spots in 5 towns (Guiglo, Bangolo, Bouaké, Korhogo and San Pedro) and 20 villages nearby; • Establishment of a sector and cross-sector coordination mechanism for care and support to victims of sexual violence; • Advocacy among the competent authorities to design a national plan to fight sexual violence; • Creation of a database on sexual violence.
BENEFICIARIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported victims of sexual violence; • 48,000 people of 20 villages and 5 towns as well as their community leaders.
PARTNERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN agencies: UNFPA, UNOCI;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International and local NGOs; • Ministry of Family and Social Affairs; • Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene; • Ministry of Internal Security; • Ministry of Defence; • Ministry of Justice. <p>UNICEF has a long partnership experience with the above-mentioned ministries and NGOs.</p>
BUDGET	\$ 317,790

SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY

Côte d'Ivoire covers an area of 322,000 Km, with a population of about 19,657,734 inhabitants. It is the most HIV/AIDS affected country in West Africa. According to the results of a recent survey, the HIV prevalence rate amounts to 4.7%. Today, 570,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS; 530,000 adults aged 15- 49 years and 40,000 children aged 0-14 years; a total of 47,000 people have died due to AIDS. AIDS is the second cause of mortality among young female adults and since 2000, there has been a feminization of the epidemic.

This situation is further compounded by the unprecedented military-political and identity crisis facing the country since 19 September 2002, when it was divided into two parts, with the Forces Nouvelles in the North, and the Government in the South. Militia are wreaking havoc on the civilian population.

The main consequence of this situation is a constant violation of human rights. Indeed, the crisis has caused an upsurge of insecurity in all its forms, particularly violent acts. If the clashes between the ex-rebels and the Defence and Security Forces have ceased, the civilian populations continue to be victims of attacks, especially in the West of the country and tension remains strife on the entire national territory. Criminality and rapes are becoming increasingly frequent. The present project is meant to address this type of human rights violations.

JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJET

The lack of a functioning judicial system, the breakdown of public administration, the destabilization of the traditional protection structures (family, communities) and the precarious nature of livelihoods leave women and children exposed to all sorts of exploitation, abuse and sexual violence.

The report of Amnesty International published in March 2007¹ showed that the humanitarian crisis and subsequent violations of human rights caused by the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people have increased the vulnerability of women. Women of all ages and all origins have been raped by all parties involved in the conflict without possibility of accessing neither medical care nor effective legal compensation.

Although adequate statistics on the situation are not available, qualitative studies carried out by Save the Children show that nowadays sexual violence is a very common phenomenon. Beyond being affected physically and psychologically, victims of sexual violence are also exposed to HIV.

At the level of social and health structures there is no appropriate response to these problems: only few hospitals ensure an effective response to cases of sexual violence. Access to antiretroviral therapy and post-exposure prophylaxis is equally limited.

¹ Côte d'Ivoire Women, forgotten victims of the conflict

In view of this situation, prompt actions are needed in order to i) mitigate the spread of STIs/HIV-AIDS. ii) reduce the impact of the psychological trauma suffered by the victims; iii) put in place a legal framework aimed at preventing abuses, acts of violence and sexual exploitation.

In this perspective and in line with its Master Plan of Operations UNICEF Côte d'Ivoire has specifically addressed the problem of sexual violence in its 2007-2009 action plan.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the project are: (1) provide adequate care and support to victims of sexual violence in the targeted localities through medical assistance, psychosocial support and legal assistance; (2) prevent sexual violence through awareness raising activities and design of a national plan to fight sexual violence; (3) collect reliable quantitative and qualitative data on sexual violence.

STRATEGIES

The project relies on 2 strategic axes: response and prevention. As per the response, a mechanism will be established in order to provide adequate care and support to victims of sexual violence in targeted localities. This will include medical assistance, psychosocial support offered by social workers and specialized educators as well as legal assistance to victims who wish to seek compensation/justice through court action.

With regard to prevention, adequate dissemination of information and awareness raising activities will be carried out. Advocacy activities will be also conducted and technical support will be given to facilitate the establishment of a national policy against sexual violence.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The main activities of the project are:

- Preliminary assessment of the situation with national partners intervening on the issue of violence in order to understand the nature and scope of the phenomenon. This preliminary assessment will contribute to data collection on sexual violence and determine the existence and shortcomings of existing (public, community) response services;
- Assessment of material and training needs: this assessment will identify existing guidelines, manuals, procedures as well as logistic and material needs for the realisation of the training;
- Training of 150 members of social/health centres, women's associations, security forces and Courts (magistrates) on: detection of signs of sexual violence and provision of specific assistance; existing legislative measures and criminal procedures related to sexual violence;
- Supply of drugs and other materials to 8 health centres;
- Provision of material support for 8 social centres involved in psychosocial care and support to victims of sexual violence;
- Provision of medical assistance, psychosocial support and legal assistance to victims of sexual violence;
- Realization of social mobilization activities and 60 radio spots in 5 towns (Guiglo, Bangolo, Bouaké, Korhogo and San Pedro) and 20 villages nearby;
- Establishment of a sector and cross-sector coordination mechanism for care and support to victims of sexual violence;
- Advocacy among the competent authorities to design a national plan to fight sexual violence;

- Creation of a database on sexual violence.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Reported victims of sexual violence are provided with medical and psychological care and support, 400 of whom are receiving legal assistance;
- 150 members of social/health centres, women's associations, security forces and Courts (magistrates) are trained on: detection of signs of sexual violence and provision of specific assistance; existing legislative measures and criminal procedures related to sexual violence;
- 48,000 people are sensitized on the consequences of sexual violence;
- 16 health and support centers are strengthened;
- A national plan to fight sexual violence is drawn up;
- The legal framework for protection of women against sexual violence is improved;
- A document on care and support to victims of sexual violence specifically addressed to the Ivorian context is prepared.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES, PERIOD AND INTERVENTION AREAS

The beneficiaries are the following: All reported victims of sexual violence and abuse, as well as 48,000 people of 20 communities and 5 towns as well as their community leaders.

The project will be implemented in the areas of Guiglo, Bangolo, Bouaké, Korhogo and San Pedro.

PROJECT MONITORING INDICATORS

- Number of victims receiving medical, psychosocial and legal care and support;
- Number of complaints registered at police stations;
- Number of victims receiving care and support according to guidelines in health centres and hospitals;
- Number of sensitized people that subsequently have adopted favourable attitudes for the protection of children and women against sexual violence;
- Number of organisations fighting against sexual violence;
- Existence of a national coordination mechanism for activities aimed at fighting sexual violence;
- Activity reports.

RISKS, CONSTRAINTS

The possible risks undermining the project are:

1. A rise in tension between the fighting forces, which could lead to a resumption of the fighting and thereby prevent the implementation of the project activities, as it may i) lead to the departure of some partners of the project in areas close to the front line and ii) to hinder or even prevent the supply of drugs and other material support to partners who remained in the zone under the control of the Forces Nouvelles.
2. The persistence of strong socio-cultural harmful attitudes and practices where gender violence is not understood in its entire gravity.

BUDGET:

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT \$
Staff	75,000
Preliminary assessment	10,000
Psycho-social, medical and legal assistance	100,000
Training	25,000
Drugs (STIs and ARVs)	15,000
Equipment, Supplies	20,000
Travel, transport, communication	10,000
Information, media, publications	15,000
Sub-Total	270,000
Management coordination and Follow-up	27,000
Recovery costs at Headquarters (7%)	20,790
TOTAL	317,790