

UNICEF COTE D'IVOIRE

GETTING CHILDREN REGISTERED AT BIRTH

Issue:

According to the preliminary results of the MICS 2006, nearly 77% of the children in Northern Côte d'Ivoire are not registered at birth.

There is no doubt that the war and its consequences have contributed to an increase of these figures; however, registration is one of the first recognized rights of the child as stated by the Convention of the Rights of the Child which is ratified by Côte d'Ivoire.

The lack of a functioning judicial system and state representatives in the North has negatively affected the capacity to undertake birth registration activities, resulting in thousands of children not being registered at birth.

Régions	Children not registered (%)
West	76.7
North-West	76.5
North	59.3

In view of the foregoing, UNICEF Côte d'Ivoire would like to increase the capacity of the birth registration system, in order to do the utmost to enable parents to realize their children's fundamental right. Indeed, without a birth certificate, a child is not recognized by the State, has no access to education, has no social and legal protection and is at risk of becoming victim of trafficking or of being forcibly enrolled with armed groups.

Global Objective:

Contribute to a better realization of children's rights and practical needs by securing their right to a nationality.

Specific Objective:

Ensure that in the 3 focus regions the number of registered births increases with at least 10%.

Expected results:

- The existing birth registration system is assessed and a plan of action is proposed;
- At least 40% of children are registered at birth as an average in the 3 focus regions;
- Increased awareness among population of their right to and the importance of birth registration;
- Concerned officials provide correct information on the birth registration process to families.

Approach:

- Developing a clear picture of which children are not registered, where they are, and why they are not registered;
- Raising awareness on the importance of birth registration;
- Working closely with Government and local authorities to encourage greater attention to, and resources for birth registration;
- Providing support to birth registration systems;
- Training staff in the three focus regions to provide information and adequately register new births;
- Providing technical support to the government to develop legislation, policy and an action plan to implement birth registration.

Key activities:

- Assess and develop routine guidelines on birth registration processes with all stakeholders (Government / NGOs / Civil Society).
- Print and distribute birth certificates to social workers in charge of registration.
- Train birth registrars, social workers, and medical personnel on referral systems and filling in the certificates.
- Conduct awareness raising activities on the importance of birth registration in the target communities.
- Advocate for adequate staffing at birth registration sites and work closely with Government and local authorities to encourage greater attention to, and resources for, birth registration.
- Monitor and evaluate the process.

Budget:

Description	Total costs (in US \$)
Assessment /advocacy for the legislative and policy reform	50,000
Training and awareness raising activities	50,000
Logistic and administrative support for routine registration	100,000
Training of civil service workers	30,000
Supervision, monitoring and evaluation	25,000
Operational costs	25,500
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>280,500</i>
Recovery costs at Headquarters (7%)	19,635
TOTAL COSTS	300,135