

# UNICEF COTE D'IVOIRE

## HIV/AIDS PREVENTION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS: FOR A NEW GENERATION OF CHILDREN WITHOUT HIV/AIDS

### Situation analysis

Since 1985, Côte d'Ivoire has become one of the most severely affected countries in West Africa, with an HIV/AIDS prevalence of 4.7%. The general objective of the National Strategic Plan 2006-2010 is to reduce HIV prevalence from 4.7% to 3.5%.

One of the primary targets of this plan are children from 0-15 years old.

Sexual relations remain the dominant mode of transmission and the fight against HIV/AIDS rests mainly on preventive actions, aiming at the adoption of less risky sexual behavior. In schools, prevention policies and activities target only secondary schools. Primary school children are only punctually and unequally targeted. Nevertheless, these children are also exposed to various influences (media) and are sexually active at an increasingly early age.

Sexual precocity of children becomes more and more problematic, and the sexual act sometimes takes place under the constraint of an adult. Sexuality and HIV/AIDS are not discussed in family settings and children grow up in an environment where the disseminated information on HIV/AIDS is not correct and not adapted to their age.

It is easier to lead children to adopt preventive behavior rather before they're sexually active, than to encourage them to change their behavior when they are older and active. Education on sexual health does not encourage sexual activity; on the contrary, it is observed that it delays the start of sexual activities.

With the collaboration of the Ministry of Education, UNICEF has elaborated a booklet which has just been evaluated. The evaluation indicated that thanks to the booklet, children had developed life skills and good communication abilities with regard to HIV/AIDS. The challenge now is to accelerate the scaling up of the dissemination of this expertise.

### Global objective

Empower children of primary schools with knowledge and life skills in order to prevent HIV/AIDS.

### Specific

- To provide 100,000 children in 500 schools with the booklet in view of the struggle against HIV/AIDS.
- To reinforce the capacities of 2,000 teachers for the usage of the HIV/AIDS prevention booklet in order to develop positive behavior among children.
- To train 8,000 children of primary schools as peer educators to communicate on HIV/AIDS.

### Expected results

1. Communication tools for HIV/AIDS prevention in primary schools are available in 500 schools.
2. 100,000 children of primary schools have access to information on HIV/AIDS, have knowledge and know how in order to prevent HIV/AIDS and adopt preventive behavior.
3. Communication activities on HIV/AIDS are organized by 8,000 peer educators in 500 primary schools. These activities are managed by 2,000 teachers.

### Strategies

- Reproduction and distribution of the booklet in 500 schools
- Capacity building
- Peer education and animation of health clubs in 500 schools.

### Key activities

- Train 8,000 children as peer educators in 500 primary schools (16 children per school and 4 per class) in the use of the booklet and the animation of sessions on HIV/AIDS prevention through health clubs.
- Train 2,000 teachers (4 per school) in the management of child peer education activities.
- Reproduce and distribute 50,000 copies of the booklet on HIV/AIDS prevention in primary schools.
- Create and reinforce 500 health clubs in primary schools on the theme of HIV/AIDS prevention.

### Budget

Description	Total costs (in US\$)
Capacity building of 8.000 children peer educators and of 2.000 teachers : 10.000 X 30 \$	300,000
Reproduction and distribution of 50.000 copies of the booklet 50.000 booklets X 2 \$	100,000
Management, Staff, Monitoring and evaluation cost	44,285
Operational costs	44,400
<i>Subtotal Direct costs</i>	<i>488,685</i>
Indirect costs (7%)	34,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 522,885</b>

### Cost-effectiveness:

**Costs per child informed about HIV/AIDS: 1 US\$**

**Costs per peer educator/teacher, who informs other children on HIV/AIDS prevention: 30 US\$**