

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

SUB-REGIONAL CRISIS

DONOR UPDATE 15 SEPTEMBER 2003

- The 10-month armed crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has displaced more than 500,000 people, mainly those from Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea.
- The crisis in Liberia further de-stabilises the sub-region, aggravating the plight of people trapped between the wars in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia.
- The socio-economic consequences of the crisis continue to ravage neighbouring countries especially Mali and Burkina Faso.
- The intense pressure on already weak and overburdened social service delivery systems in Guinea, Burkina Faso and Mali has severely taxed the absorption capacities of host communities.
- UNICEF appeals for US\$ 18.6 million to provide assistance to some 3 million people in the sub-region. Only 20% has been funded so far.

1. EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

The 10 months of armed conflict that wracked Côte d'Ivoire has crippled the political, economic and social foundation of the country, with severe implications for the lives and livelihoods of other countries in the sub-region. Half a million people, mainly migrant workers from Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea, have fled Côte d'Ivoire as a result of targeted attacks and bitter ethnic tensions. The recent escalation of violence in Liberia has further highlighted the dynamic interplay between war and armed conflict across the sub-region in fuelling both domestic crises and regional instability.

As Côte d'Ivoire embarked on its process of 'normalisation', the government formally announced the end of hostilities on 4 July 2003, marked by a joint warning from the 'reunited' military (which includes both army and rebel groups) against civilians who tried to incite unrest. Yet the situation remains fragile as reflected by the attack against a key leader of the Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI). Authorities



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official UN endorsement or acceptance.

in Paris recently foiled an alleged coup attempt and arrested several individuals. The killings of two French soldiers in clashes with former rebels has also heightened tensions in the divided country. Within this stormy political climate, the critical issues for the full implementation of the Marcoussis Accord remain to be tackled. These include: the complete implementation of a "disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration" programme; the extension of public services and state authority to areas still under control of the '*Forces Nouvelles*'; the appointment of the ministers for defense and interior security; the dismantling of militias throughout the country and the termination of mercenary activities and the purchase of weapons – issues which haunt any real prospect for peace.

In early July, a regional mission of the UN Security Council was in Abidjan to discuss sustainable peace and urged all political forces to commit to the strict implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. Parliament also overwhelmingly voted the amnesty law for rebels, while specifically excluding economic crimes, "serious violations" of human rights, mercenaries and other foreigners who were part of unofficial militia groups. While these are hopeful signs, a more vigorous and sustained approach is critical to sustain the momentum for lasting peace. The widespread displacement of people in the sub-region, the resulting loss of thousands of lives and livelihoods, the severe economic and social consequences and its long-term impact highlight the challenges that continue to confront the sub-region.

Access to the western part of Côte d'Ivoire has finally been ensured by the West African peace keepers and the French troops. Nonetheless, the security situation remains fragile as civilian populations remain vulnerable to the attacks of armed groups. Civil service personnel have yet to return to their posts for fear of continued violence and insecurity. Struggling with a collapsed health care system and food shortages, the humanitarian situation in the west has been further aggravated by the renewed violence in Liberia. The continuing rainy season has further reduced access to many remote villages. Where tens of thousands of civilians remain uprooted from their homes in the north, the absence of a functioning government authority severely curtails efforts to restore basic social services.

The flow of people in the areas bordering Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia reflect the volatility of the surroundings where large populations are sandwiched between the ravages of two wars. About 30,000 refugees fleeing the civil war in Liberia were reported to be concentrated around the port town of Tabou in the south-west. In the meantime, weekly humanitarian evacuations of up to 1,000 Third Country Nationals (TCNs), mostly nationals from Burkina Faso from the towns of Duekoué and Guiglo in western Côte d'Ivoire continued over the past two months. In the face of hostility and bitter ethnic tensions, there are tens of thousands who may still require support for repatriation

Guinea has witnessed constant population movements from Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia over the past months. The mass influx witnessed between September 2002 and March 2003, has been progressively replaced by smaller numbers of incoming civilians. They are mostly Liberian refugees and TCNs.

Ghana has registered the arrival of 16,297 TCNs (mainly Burkinabe, Malians and Nigerians) from the beginning of the crisis to date. Of these, 36% are children and 32% are women. Many others have been known to cross unregistered, through unofficial border crossings. The relative calm in Côte d'Ivoire has stabilised the flux of people entering Ghana, although the situation region remains unstable.

According to official estimates, about 44,000 Malian nationals returned to Mali along with over 370 refugees who sought permanent asylum and close to 6,100 other nationals who transited through Mali.

The mass flow of people into neighbouring countries and communities within their countries has generated intense pressure on already weak social services systems giving way to tensions and disputes with the potential to threaten domestic security and perpetuate violent conflict. According to the report of the UN Secretary General, the continued partitioning of Cote d'Ivoire into north and south further perpetuates a climate of uncertainty, reinforcing 'fears about possible new hostilities.'

2. UNICEF RESPONSE AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Working sub-regionally and within each country, UNICEF continues to address the immediate and life-sustaining needs and protection of the affected displaced and host community children and women. The focus on refugees, returnees and TCNs is complemented by the attention to the capacities of host communities, in recognition of the intense pressure that new arrivals exert on already over-stretched systems. Building on the synergy of partnerships and collaboration, UNICEF continues to work closely governments, other UN agencies, NGOs and partners.

In each of the five other countries in the sub-region affected by the crisis, UNICEF country programmes have taken the following steps:

- Identified and established suitable transit sites for moving populations;
- Initiated emergency response activities;
- Developed contingency plans and strengthened humanitarian response coordination mechanisms with UN, NGO and governmental partners and;
- Pre-positioned relief stocks.

Since January 2003, UNICEF's emergency response activities continue to focus on the areas of health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation, education and protection. In collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, UNICEF has also supported emergency shelter (Mali) and transport (Ghana) interventions for populations on the move to their countries of origin.

The following provides a country specific overview of the key sectoral activities.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Although the 'war' in Côte d'Ivoire is officially over, the fatal consequences of this sub-regional crisis continue to unfold. The heavy costs of war such as the rising food insecurity linked to the poor harvest, the near total collapse of social service delivery systems, the absence of government and administrative personnel to support health and education systems especially in the north and west and the deep ethnic and communal tensions make the everyday challenges of survival more real for thousands of women and children affected by the conflict. Experts warn that it will take many more months of sustained action to recover from the severe blows inflicted by the war for a complete reversal of the situation.

The ongoing UNICEF activities are as follows:

Education

UNICEF has been supporting the second school year (February-August) organised especially for displaced children in the southern part of the country and has launched a campaign for the return to school of all children. As part of this campaign, UNICEF has supported the provision of school supplies, and recreational kits for about 30,000 displaced pupils in government-controlled areas. 120,000 children have benefited through the provision of kits for educational and recreational initiatives in Bouaké, Korhogo, Duékoué and Man. UNICEF has also supported 30 child care centres with educational aids and furniture in Abidjan and Bondoukou for about 1,800 children between 3 and 5 years.

In recognition of the importance of a culture of peace to heal and rebuild the trust between communities and to prevent the recurrence of violent conflict, UNICEF has supported the development of a teacher's manual on peace education. The first training on 'Education for Peace and Tolerance' was organised in Yamoussoukro for 129 participants.

HIV/AIDS

Côte d'Ivoire has approximately 600,000 orphans due to HIV/AIDS. In Bouaké, Abidjan and Bondoukou, UNICEF has established three NGO networks for the care and treatment of 22,500 orphans and vulnerable children ranging from 0 to 18 years. This has been possible through the funds from the French Committee for UNICEF. Through these networks, UNICEF has channelled the supply of drugs and technical assistance. UNICEF has actively supported the Ministry of HIV/AIDS in the development of a national plan of action for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS. In addition, UNICEF and partners are also preparing a review of the Prevention of Mother and Child Transmission (PMCT) programme from 1999 to 2003. The review is expected to provide an exhaustive overview of PMCT interventions, reorganisation of the drugs distribution network and inform the development of a national plan of action for PMTC.

Health and Nutrition

In collaboration with public health centres, *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF) and *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF), UNICEF has provided therapeutic milk, protein biscuits and antibiotics for the treatment of 4,470 children, with severe cases of malnutrition. This initiative covered Bouaké, Yamoussoukro, Man, Duékoué, Guiglo and Abidjan.

UNICEF is assisting the Ministry of Health in the preparation of the second phase of the measles immunisation campaign to be held in December. In preparation of the polio NIDs scheduled for mid-October and early December, UNICEF has ordered 9,800,000 polio vaccine doses.

Protection

UNICEF is supporting the programme on the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of child soldiers in Bouaké and Man. In Bouaké, UNICEF supported a census of child combatants in collaboration with the MPCF, Save the Children, and a local NGO called *Maison de l'Enfance*. The research which covered four categories of child soldiers between 7 and 18 years revealed that many of these children did not have access to education before the crisis. Ten per cent of them are girl victims of sexual abuse. Plans are ongoing to work towards the demobilisation of child soldiers when transit centres are identified, followed up with subsequent support for the reunification of 300 child soldiers with their families.

In Abidjan, the economic capital that hosts thousands of displaced families, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice with a birth registration campaign. Birth registration is critical to ensure a child's right to an identity, which lays the basis for their access to subsequent rights. Over 8,600 children were registered and will benefit in the coming months from legal birth registration documents. Given the overwhelming success of the campaign, UNICEF and the Ministry of Justice will extend this operation in a second phase to regions which have received large numbers of displaced persons, namely San Pedro, Tabou, Daloa, Guiglo and Yamoussoukro.

Water and Sanitation

UNICEF has built 75 latrines in 6 reception centres for refugees and displaced persons, and 13 primary schools for displaced children in Abidjan. This includes a block of 6 latrines and 9 bathrooms in the Mié N'gou Centre in Yamoussoukro.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At the end of July, a national survey was launched on the impact of the crisis on children and women, and government and community responses to the crisis. A total of 2,025 households affected by the crisis will be surveyed. The first phase will commence in the zone under government control. When secure access is granted to government counterparts, the survey will be undertaken in the zone under the control of the '*Nouvelles Forces*'.

BURKINA FASO

Over the past 10 months, Burkina Faso has been the refuge of 341,825 returnees fleeing the turmoil in Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, the crippling economic dependence of Burkina Faso on the economy of Côte d'Ivoire has resulted in severe socio-economic implications for communities and families, especially children and women. After more than a year of closure, the border with Côte d'Ivoire was recently opened. However, the consequences of the crises continue to unfold. The economic instability is further aggravated by the recurrent drought, curtailing agricultural production and leading to significant revenue losses and food insecurity. International response to the plight of returning migrants as a category affected by war with humanitarian needs, especially in the situation of extreme poverty, is minimal. UNICEF Burkina Faso used \$100,000 of its regular resources to support emergency programming activities.

The ongoing UNICEF activities are as follows:

Health

Since September 2002, UNICEF has been supporting the four health posts that are officially designated by the government as reception points where incoming returnees receive initial medical screening and care. This has consisted of support for transportation, supervision and other operational costs for the health services involved in the management of the organised repatriation programme (Opération Bayiri).

Measles vaccines have covered over 2,263 children between 6 months to 5 years. In addition, 4,070 pregnant women and women of child-bearing age have benefited from tetanus shots. Close to 3,000 children between 0 to

5 years have received oral polio, and meningitis vaccines have targeted more than 13,300 people, including children and adults. Over 1,000 children between 9 and 11 months have also been vaccinated against yellow fever and some 6,500 children between 6 and 59 months received vitamin A.

A study is underway with the support of the Monitoring and Evaluation Section to update information on services provided to returnees at entry points since September 2002, disaggregated by age and gender, their destination and localities. This will assist the Ministry of Health and UNICEF to plan the distribution of additional vaccines and vitamin A that was ordered to address the needs of the returnees. It will also assist the revision of district plans for emergency responses and the refinement of programme communication strategies to promote returnees' utilisation of health services.

Water and Sanitation

During the past two months, UNICEF has constructed 20 shower baths, four new latrines and rehabilitated 10 old latrines for the reception sites at Ouagadougou. In terms of water supply, the site receiving 7 polytanks has been rehabilitated and a new polytank has been installed to deliver the required quantity of water for the returnees. In addition, 3,000 soaps, 3,000 sleeping mats, 1,000 blankets and 10 bundles of clothes for girls and boys have also been provided.

Education

At least two-thirds of the 116,000 children returning from Côte d'Ivoire are of school going age, making education the most critical immediate issue currently facing the country. These children need immediate assistance to enroll in school for the new school year starting September. In preparation for the new school year, UNICEF has made provisions for 28,500 notebooks for all 6 grades, 18,000 books and 95,000 various small supplies at a total cost of US\$49,980.

Over the past months, UNICEF has supported the integration of about 1,000 school children repatriated from Côte d'Ivoire into schools in Burkina Faso. The response to the education for peace programme covering 250 teachers and 3,650 children has been positive. There is an increasing demand to extend this innovative programme to other provinces.

Communication

The Government has prioritised communication as an essential component of Burkina Faso's response to the crisis. UNICEF is working through private rural radio, drama troupes, and religious communities to launch discussions on peace. Enhancing the resilience and coping capacities of communities to violent conflict is critical to address the tensions and disputes, arising out of the challenges of displacement and reintegration. The intervention focuses on a few communities in five provinces where incidents of tensions were reported. The need for land for cultivation by returnees and host communities were at the heart of many of these tensions.

UNICEF has also supported another sensitisation campaign for parents and communities to promote education, especially for girls, with a special focus on the needs of returnee children.

Protection

More than 1,500 women and 1,730 children repatriated from Côte d'Ivoire to Fada N'gourma have benefited from UNICEF assistance which includes psycho-social support such as counseling and care. In addition, UNICEF has trained about 360 returnee women from 15 women's groups on management and funding procedures in collaboration with *Fonds d'Appui aux Activités Remunératrices des Femmes (FAARF)*. 100 bowls, 20 carts, 100 tumblers and other materials were also distributed to support women in income generating activities.

The Ministry of Social Welfare organised a holiday camp to provide recreational opportunities which benefited 80 returnee children, including some orphans. Civic training, information on children's rights and HIV/AIDS, excursions and visits to government authorities were some of the activities in the camp.

GHANA

The crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has resulted mainly in the influx of TCNs transiting to their countries of origin, as well as asylum seekers, Liberian refugees and Ghanaian returnees. According to the immigration statistics, a majority of TCNs do not seek asylum in Ghana. The government of Ghana has so far been forthcoming in the granting of refugee status to the Ivorians. Notwithstanding reluctance to approve identified sites and provide land for the establishment of transit centres, the Western Regional Authorities recently approved UNHCR to use Essipong as a reception centre for the next one-year.

The ongoing UNICEF activities are as follows:

Water and Sanitation

To better serve refugees and TCNs transiting through Ghana at the Essipong Borstal Home in Sekondi, UNICEF provided the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) in June with 400 pieces of water containers and 400 water purification tablets. These contained 55 tablets per package.

Health and Nutrition

Ghana Red Cross continued, with the support of UNICEF and WFP, to conduct health and nutrition screening of all incoming TCNs at the Elubo border post. UNICEF supported the metropolitan Health Authority in Takoradi and Sekondi and the Western Regional Health Authority by supplying health kits and supplementary supplies to provide basic health care to TCNs and asylum seekers in Ghana. UNICEF also provided 40 bags of UNIMIX to UNHCR for use in the Kristan Refugee camp in the Western Region (2,000 refugees) and for the Essipon reception facility.

Protection

Ten recreation kits for children have been provided to NADMO for transiting TCNs at the Essipon Borstal Home in Sekondi.

Others

Thirty-five pieces of tarpaulin/plastic sheet rolls were provided to NADMO to be used at the Essipon Borstal Home in Sekondi.

GUINEA

Over the past months, Guinea has been severely burdened by the humanitarian demands of refugees from the Liberian conflict as well as refugees, returnees and TCNs from the Côte d'Ivoire conflict. In the context of weakening social systems are the challenges of host communities whose coping capacities are being severely taxed by these crises. The escalation of violence in Liberia also draws attention to the potential spill over effects into Guinea, especially as sporadic confrontations are ongoing in the areas bordering Liberia. Guinea is in UN Security Phase I, with some areas in Forest Guinea in Phases III and IV. In addition, Guinea faces critical economic and social challenges. Almost 9 months of erratic distribution of electrical power and water in the capital city of Conakry highlights the unbuckling of an already weak social system, with definite socio-economic impacts especially at a household level, for women and children.

The ongoing UNICEF activities are as follows:

Health/Nutrition

With the continuing inflow of people from Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, UNICEF continues to monitor and support the vaccination teams targeting all newly arrived children into Guinea between 6 months and 15 years against measles. Vaccines have been given to over 16,000 children since the beginning of the campaign in January 2003. Vaccinated children aged between one and five years also receive Vitamin A and BP5 biscuits (three-day ration). 3.7 MT of BP5 biscuits have been distributed since January 2003.

UNICEF supported the planning and supervision of the vaccination campaign for Laine refugee camp and village. So far, a total of 19,586 persons were vaccinated in four days (14,847 in Laine refugee camp and 4,739 in Laine village). 9,400 were children less than 15 years, representing 48% of the total targeted population. UNICEF also provided 307 injection safety boxes (collecteurs de déchets) as part of the logistical support.

A yellow fever mass immunization campaign is ongoing in the Yomou and Nonah camps targeting 151,685 children, 9 months and older. A training of health workers has been conducted. So far 58,285 people have been vaccinated in Youmou sub-prefecture. 1,545 people have been vaccinated in the Nonah refugee camp.

Over 25,000 insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets have been distributed for children under one year and to pregnant women in Forecariah and Kissidougou in zones receiving IDPs and refugees.

Education

A new project is planned to provide school supplies for 3,000 children in Nonah camp. These will consist of 10 education kits, 10 recreation kits, incentives for 25 teachers and two school tents. An agreement is under finalisation with Save the Children to benefit 961 Ivorian pupils identified in the Nonah Camp.

In addition, 10 recreation kits and 9 education kits have been provided to International Rescue Committee for refugee schools for the camps at Laine. More than 5,000 students are registered in these schools and the numbers of students is increasing.

Protection

An investigation on child soldier recruitment mechanisms highlighted the recruitment of children by , Liberians United For Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) officers and some businessmen (both Guinean and Ivorians). A demobilisation and reintegration project for young volunteers and child soldiers will be finalised by the end of September. The Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Guinean Committee for the follow up of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and UNICEF have undertaken a joint mission in the concerned areas with a view to assess, advocate and sensitize officials - both civilian and military - to this practice.

A small-scale study was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Women and UNICEF. 60% of a total of 60 women commercial sex workers are refugee women with children. A workplan will be drafted by UNICEF in collaboration with UNHCR and the Ministry of Women, the NGO ARC/CSI to assist the women and children.

Given women's specific gender-based vulnerability to violence, especially during armed conflict, a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response programme is being implemented in partnership with UNHCR and IRC, for the past 3 years. The programme targets 30,000 refugee women and girls in the N'Zerekore region. Through the project, monthly meetings are held regularly. 101 cases of violence were reported in Kountaya camp and 7 cases in Telikoro. The forms of violence identified are domestic violence, to some extent forced marriage, and few cases of rape. Husbands (domestic violence); heads of household, fathers, uncles, aunts (forced marriage), as well as young people under the influence of drugs (rape) were identified as the key perpetrators. Through the ongoing provision of legal protection, health care, psychological assistance and physical security, the project seeks to support the victims of gender-based violence.

The demobilisation and reintegration programme is underway in Kissidougou for 350 volunteers. It provides psychosocial care and assistance, socio-economic reintegration, and professional training. Basic literacy, numeracy as well as awareness to HIV/AIDS are part of the activities.

During the celebration of the Day of the African Child (16 June) UNICEF also supported a mass sensitization campaign on birth registration in the refugee camps.

Water and Sanitation

An agreement is in the process of finalisation for the drilling of 20 boreholes equipped with pumps for N'zerekore and Lola prefectures. At Lola, a total of 16 boreholes will be drilled, including where UNHCR intends to build a 100,000 capacity camp, and for a transit camp hosting 22, 225 refugees.

LIBERIA

The fourteen years of war has had serious consequences on the humanitarian situation in the country, with effects spilling over into the neighbouring countries, including Côte d'Ivoire. The recent resurgence in violence increased the flow of Liberian refugees into Côte d'Ivoire, exerting additional pressures on a system trying to cope with the disastrous consequences of its own 10-month crisis. The relative stability ushered in with the fragile peace agreement is shadowed by the possibility of a relapse into widespread violence. The complex situation in Liberia has wide implications in the sub-region, where the instability in Liberia has found expression in the armed conflicts of neighbouring countries notably Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone. Much of UNICEF programming over the past two months has been disrupted due to the political upheavals in Liberia. Efforts are now ongoing to re-establish basic services, including health, nutrition, education and protection. The UN Security Phase V declared by the UN system on 6 June 2003 remains in place in much of the country.

UNICEF activities are as follows:

Health

In partnership with IOM, UNICEF provided essential drugs, BP5 biscuits and non-food items to TCNs who were preparing to leave Liberia through the port of Harper. Essential drugs were supplied to clinics to provide basic healthcare to the most affected counties by the Côte d'Ivoire crisis.

MALI

The cost of economic dependence on Côte d'Ivoire has been severe for a landlocked country like Mali. Côte d'Ivoire was the centre for up to 2 million Malians, as well as a transit point for more than 70% of foreign exchange and close to 85% of petroleum products. The crisis has generated a range of economic and humanitarian challenges. In the face of plummeting prices in key trading sectors and shrinking revenue options, family incomes have been jeopardised with severe implications for the wellbeing of children and women. The influx of displaced people have further strained the resources of already impoverished host communities. Much remains to be done in terms of local integration and support to host communities. The Sikasso region - the main regional capital directly affected by population influx - has registered a noticeable increase in urban and rural banditry. In the face of limited information on the humanitarian, socio-economic and security impacts, donor response has been minimal.

The ongoing UNICEF activities are as follows:

Health and Nutrition

Twenty-one emergency basic health kits catering to the needs of 21,000 persons for 3 months have been provided to the government. Two emergency basic kits have been positioned in the health centres of Loulouni and Faragouaran. Nearly one complete emergency health kit to address the needs of 10,000 persons over a period of 3 months is on standby.

Education

A UNICEF-led assessment team has produced an action plan whose interventions target both Ivorian and Malian evacuee children. One recreation kit is positioned in Loulouni. With the support of USAID, and in collaboration with Save the Children, eight school classes have been set up in Loulouni and Faragouaran -- four in each camp. In total, 12 teachers have been hired to take care of 114 displaced children. Technical and financial support has also been provided to Sikasso academy to cope with the increased enrolment in regular school as well as monitoring and evaluation of the temporary schools.

HIV/AIDS

UNICEF has been supporting activities on HIV/AIDS with partners such as UNAIDS and USAID. These activities cover the towns of Sikasso, Loulouni and Zegou, targeting about 30,000 adults and adolescents representing both displaced and host communities. The distribution of condoms and animation activities on the prevention of HIV both in refugee camps and communities are ongoing.

Water and Sanitation

Due to the stabilisation of population influx in the camps, there has been no acute need for additional water sources in refugee camps over the past two months. However, additional supplies (pump fittings, water containers, water purification tablets) have been ordered for a contingency stock to prepare for sudden emergencies.

Initially, UNICEF has provided a range of support, including hand pumps, tanks, water containers and latrines. UNICEF has been supporting the maintenance and management of equipment and infrastructure. One broken down hand pump was repaired. A hygiene committee was set up in Loulouni camp to address issues of sanitation and hygiene.

Shelter

150 tents (for 8 people each) were supplied for displaced populations in camps/transit centres in Zegou, Loulouni and Sikasso.

Protection

Given the increased vulnerability of children and women in an emergency, UNICEF has finalised a plan of action to improve the capacity of local authorities and NGOs to ensure adequate protection and prevent abuse of displaced children and women. Training will be carried out in the coming days in the Sikasso region. Funds are available for the partial implementation of the project.

3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

In response to the humanitarian crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and neighboring countries, UNICEF is requesting US\$ 18.6 million to provide humanitarian assistance to the targeted children and women in the six affected countries up until December 2003. The table below gives the sectoral as well as country breakdown of the appeal through December 2003. It is to be noted that in addition to being part of the Côte d'Ivoire Sub-regional Appeal, Guinea and Liberia have separate Consolidated Appeals. Their respective funding requirement can be found in their individual donor updates.

Table 1: FUNDING REQUIREMENTS APRIL THROUGH DECEMBER 2003							
Sector	Côte d'Ivoire	Burkina	Ghana	Guinea	Liberia	Mali	Total
Protection	900,000	134,380	118,000	615,000	425,000	83,000	2,275,380
Education	1,431,600	484,368	-	1,009,120	800,000	130,000	3,855,088
Health/Nutrition	5,655,660	185,500	275,000	2,171,516	1,118,800	363,500	9,769,976
Water/Sanitation	970,000	125,500	413,000	408,730	400,000	382,000	2,699,230
Total	8,957,260	929,748	806,000	4,204,366	2,743,800	958,500	18,599,674

The table below outlines the current funding situation in each country.

Table 2: 2003 CAP APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING AS OF AUGUST 2003				
Country	Target (US\$)	Funded (US\$)	% Funded	Unfunded (US\$)
Côte d'Ivoire	8,957,260	2,959,297	33	5,997,963
Burkina Faso	929,748	250,000	27	679,748
Ghana	806,000	131,209	16	674,791
Guinea	4,204,366	150,000	4	4,054,366
Liberia	2,743,800	101,209	4	2,642,591
Mali	958,500	149,706	16	808,794
Total	18,599,674	3,741,421	20	14,858,253

The table and graph below give the contributions received by donor governments so far. UNICEF is thankful to the governments of Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and USA, for their generous contributions to support its humanitarian activities. ECHO contributed US\$ 835,421 out of which US\$ 684,150 is available for immediate use for the Côte d'Ivoire office. UNICEF received a contribution from the French National Committee against the Flash Appeal.

Table 3: FUNDS RECEIVED FOR 2003 APPEAL BY DONOR AS OF AUGUST 2003		
Donor	Income/Pledge (US\$)	Sector
ECHO	835,421	Health
Govt. of Belgium	590,967	Health
Govt. of Ireland	269,108	WES
Govt. of Netherlands	600,000	No sectoral earmarking
Govt. of Norway	565,697	No sectoral earmarking
Govt. of Sweden	814,870	No sectoral earmarking
Govt. of South Africa	19,358	No sectoral earmarking
USAID	46,000	Education
Total	3,741,421	

In addition, the government of Sweden has authorised the use of US\$ 600,000 previously allocated for the child trafficking component of the protection programme for Côte d'Ivoire to be used to support emergency protection activities, until the situation allows for the resumption of activities on child trafficking.

4. IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- Only 348,908 out of 8,300,000 children between 6 months to 14 years were vaccinated against measles in April 2003. This campaign covered only 4 districts out of 65 districts in the country.
- Education interventions have been limited and certain regions in rebel held territory have not benefited from education programmes. The problem of education for refugee children still needs to be addressed. The intended project to support 6000 young children has not reached its expected objectives.
- Out of 15,000 children targeted, only 6,500 have benefited from protection programmes. In addition, UNICEF has been unable to provide psychosocial support to victims of sexual abuse and the reintegration and rehabilitation of children affected by the armed conflict.
- UNICEF has scaled back responses in water and sanitation. Recurrence of guinea worm disease and the incidence of cholera have been reported in certain areas. The lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities in the transit camps in Guiglo, Taboo, Duékoué increases children's vulnerability to diseases.
- Inability to provide adequate support to host communities has further intensified tensions and violent conflict.

Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Prevention of measles outbreak	1,862,000 children between 6 months to 14 years	2,932,407
2. Basic education for children and adolescents in areas affected by the violent conflict	500,000 children and adolescents; 4,000 teachers, 6,000 young children between the of 3-5 years	869,000
3. Protecting children affected by armed conflict	300 child soldiers, 30,00 children , 400 social workers	360,000
4. Provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene promotion	240,000 beneficiaries	350,000

BURKINA FASO:

- Health services in host areas have been over-stretched. In the absence of increased funding, technical and financial capacities of the reception sites and existing health infrastructures have been strained to provide quality primary health care and referral services to children and women.
- There are difficulties to provide and expand education for children. Non-enrollment in school puts children at increased risk of joining the ranks of street children, trafficked children, working children (including child domestics), and children led into prostitution, unwanted pregnancies or early marriage.
- The absorption capacity of host communities to cope with the population pressure has diminished, creating tensions between receiving communities and returnees.

Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Health (operating cost)	3 reception sites and 4 transit centers to target 150,000 returnees	35,000
2. Protection of vulnerable groups among returnees	150,000 returnees (75 % are women and children)	128,000
3. Water /Sanitation	110,000 returnees (75 % of whom are women and children)	74,500
4. Restoring Access to basic Education and IECD	10,000 children of 7-12 years 2,500 out of school adolescents of 12-18 years 13,000 children of 3-6years 1000 teachers	434,368

GUINEA:

- The education of 20,000 children in refugee camps is at risk as NGO partners may close down due to funding shortages. If funding is not found, the schools in the camp will close, increasing tensions in the camps as parents feel further despair for their children's futures.
- The coverage of the yellow fever mass campaign was restricted. Only around 200,000 people out of about 1,200,000 were covered. The poor health situation in Sierra Leone where hemorrhagic fevers have been recently registered signals new dangers.
- In order to reduce and prevent further cases of separation, violence, exploitation and trafficking against children, UNICEF and its partners need to maintain its current projects and further develop them. The lack of proper screening will allow former child soldiers to go unrecognised, depriving them of support for reintegration, and more cases on violence and sexual abuse will go unnoticed, unrecorded and unassisted.

Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Education of refugee children in the camps	Up to 20,000 children	200,000
2. Protection	10,000 women and children	200,000
3. Health – yellow fever immunisation campaign	1,200,000 people	1,000,000

MALI:

- No mass campaign for measles was conducted last year, possibly putting about 160,000 children under 15 at risk in the event of an epidemic, especially given the near collapse of the health system in North Cote d'Ivoire.
- There are 123 cases of cholera in 3 districts of the country. In the face of limited water and sanitation services, a large concentration of displaced population, particularly in the Sikasso region, will be at risk to a cholera epidemic. (Mali is already facing a cholera outbreak currently limited to the Segou region).
- As children represent nearly 60 % of the displaced population, access to basic education for both Ivorian and repatriated Malian children is a major issue, especially for the new school year starting on 1st October.
- Protection of separated children will be inadequate, and child abuse may be a serious issue if all stakeholders have not been sensitized or have received appropriate training, and if monitoring mechanisms are not set up.

Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Water & Sanitation	51,500 displaced persons, 100,000 host population	355,000
2. Health & Nutrition	160,000 children under 15, 16,000 pregnant women	310,000
3. Education	20,000 children 3-18 years	84,000
4. Protection	100 separated children, 4000 girls between 13-18 years and 12,000 women	58,000

Ghana:

- Ongoing funding will further strengthen services to address the needs of the transit population. UNICEF is expected to construct appropriate and adequate water and sanitation facilities in the temporary sites to be established by UNHCR. If the funding is inadequate, the transit population will not be able to access critical water, sanitation and health services leaving them vulnerable to a range of diseases.

Table 8: PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2003		
Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Health & Nutrition	Refugee and asylum seekers Transitees Ghanaian evacuees	275,000
2. Protection	Children and women in transit camps, reception centres; Unaccompanied minors and children separated from their families	118,000
3. Water and Sanitation	Refugees and asylum seekers, people in transit	413,000

Liberia

- Owing to the unstable situation in the country, UNICEF is not able to effectively plan and conduct humanitarian activities.

Further details of the Côte d'Ivoire sub-regional emergency programme can be obtained from:

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