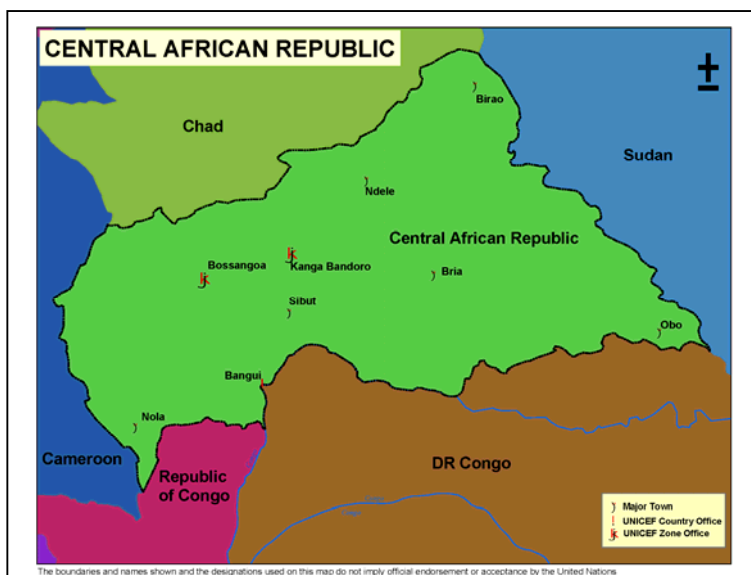


For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IN 2008



CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18* (thousands)	2107
U5 mortality rate	176
Infant mortality rate	106
Maternal mortality ratio	1335
Primary school enrolment ratio, net	51
% U1 fully immunized (DPT)	32
% population using improved drinking water sources	64
HIV prevalence rate	6.4
% U5 suffering global chronic malnutrition	38
% U5 suffering global acute malnutrition	10

Sources: CAR Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

* *The State of the World's Children 2008*

The Central African Republic is currently enduring a complex emergency. In the northern prefectures, more than 610,000 women and children continue to suffer from the long-running conflict and chronic poverty. With 212,000 people internally displaced, many are living in the bush and completely lack access to basic rights and services. This is having a significant impact on child survival and development. Humanitarian access remains a challenge due to the prevailing insecurity, high population dispersal and lack of infrastructure. International coverage of the issue also remains weak, meaning the Central African Republic continues to retain its label as one of Africa's most forgotten emergencies.

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008

Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	7,880,940
Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,036,550
Education	1,976,529
Child protection	1,877,850
Shelter/non-food items	1,790,200
Total*	15,562,069

* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The Central African Republic (CAR) is suffering from a multifaceted crisis. Located right at the heart of the African continent, the country has endured more than a decade of armed conflict. The worst affected regions are located in the north-east and north-west, where rebel forces and government troops clash frequently. The situation is most grave in Ouham, Ouham Pendé, Nana-Gribizi, Haute-Kotto, Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga. The 'Coupeurs de routes' (bandits) also roam freely across the north-west, looting villages and kidnapping children. The continuing waves of violence have created mass displacement and the complete decimation of public infrastructure. This is having a significant impact on the lives of women and children across CAR.

Current figures estimate that 292,000 people have been forcibly displaced; 212,000 of these have remained in the country and a further 80,000 have been displaced into neighbouring Chad, Cameroon and the Sudan. In return CAR has received thousands of refugees from the surrounding Sudanese and Chadian conflicts.

With an infant mortality rate of 106 for 1,000 live births and an under-five mortality rate of 176 per 1,000 live births, the country has some of the continent's worst child survival indicators. Malnutrition continues to be a significant problem: the recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006 (MICS 2006) has estimated that 38 per cent of under-five children suffer from global chronic malnutrition (GCM) and a further 10 per cent from global acute malnutrition (GAM). In addition, HIV rate prevalence (6.4 per cent) is amongst the highest in the region and with a third of the population completely lacking access to clean water and sanitation facilities, preventable diseases are easily spread. Only 51 per cent of children get the opportunity to attend primary school, the figure is much lower in CAR's conflict-affected prefectures as the majority of schools are closed due to the ongoing instability. In addition, lack of protection is a major issue for many women and children. Children continue to be used in armed conflict, particularly in the north-west. In addition, rape and gender-based violence remain prevalent.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

Despite funding constraints, poor access and security, UNICEF has continued to work closely with its specialized partner agencies in order to improve human welfare and development across the country. In close collaboration with local, national and international partners such as Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) and the International Partnership for Human Development (IPHD), UNICEF has effectively responded to the humanitarian needs of the Central African Republic's population. Actions have been focused on the priority areas of health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, water, hygiene and sanitation, education and child protection.

UNICEF has continued its 'National Child Survival Day' campaign where integrated high-impact health/nutrition packages are delivered to women and children across the country. In July 2007 alone, 12,083 children received DPT3 vaccines, 11,964 children received OPV3 vaccines, 20,560 children received measles vaccines, and long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) were distributed to 82,911 pregnant women and under-five children. UNICEF also increased its support to emergency feeding programmes at therapeutic feeding centres across the country. An average of 200 children currently receives treatment in Bangui and 320 in Ouadda Djalle per month. A new therapeutic feeding centre was opened in Bossangoa in October.

In the area of water, sanitation and hygiene, UNICEF has installed a pumping station in the Sam Ouandja refugee camp, where 3,000 Sudanese refugees are currently residing. The station is providing 40 cubic metres of drinking water per day to the camp. UNICEF continues its extensive training of peer educators, who are helping to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence. For example, in Ndele and Kaga Bandoro, UNICEF has worked alongside the Ministry of Youth and Caritas to train 570 community workers from 121 villages.

The bush schools project continued to expand over the past year. With the help of UNICEF's NGO partner COOPI, 12,500 children resumed schooling in the region's 97 bush schools and received school kits; and 295 parent teachers were trained.

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION REPORT 2008

In terms of protection, following the June tripartite action plan between the Union of Rwandese Democratic Forces (UFDR), Government of CAR and UNICEF for the 'Reduction and Elimination of Underage Recruitment and Utilization, their Demobilization and Reintegration', UNICEF has continued to work with approximately 500 children released from the UFDR rebels' ranks. Activities included the provision of education and vocational training. UNICEF also provided emergency supplies to 548 people (384 of whom were children) severely affected by the August flooding in Bossangoa.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

Coordination and partnership

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and is represented in all planning and coordination events. UNICEF participates in the UN Thematic Group Meetings supporting the Government in the various sectors assisted by UN agencies. UNICEF leads the education, nutrition, non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene sector coordination groups; it co-leads the protection sector with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and actively contributes to health sector meetings. It participates in the Inter-Agency Coordination Group with other UN agencies, NGOs and bilateral agencies, and also attends other national coordination meetings in the areas of health, education and child protection.

Regular programme

UNICEF played a key role in the 2004-2006 UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) review process and in the 2007-2011 UNDAF initiation and development, ensuring that women and children's rights and needs are adequately addressed by the entire UNCT. The new Country Programme document is aligned with the priorities of the new Medium-Term Strategic Plan and the Millennium Development Goals – girls' education; child survival and development; HIV/AIDS; child protection; advocacy and social policy.

Health and nutrition (US\$ 7,880,940)

A total of 2,167,893 women and children will benefit from the following key activities:

- Effectively prevent and control preventable disease epidemics through the vaccination of 468,479 under-five children and 663,452 women of childbearing age in the country's most conflict-affected prefectures; immunize children against DPT, BCG, yellow fever and measles;
- Prevent and manage childhood illnesses in the conflict-affected areas; provide 468,479 under-five children with a high-impact health and nutrition package;
- Reduce STI/HIV/AIDS transmission through the targeting of 1,035,962 adolescents/youths in Bangui and in conflict-affected prefectures;
- Strengthen emergency obstetric and neonatal care for 162,479 pregnant women and 649,918 women of childbearing age in conflict-affected areas;
- Prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and provide GBV survivors with medical, psychosocial and community-based support through the targeting of 3,000 GBV survivors across the conflict-affected zones.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (US\$ 2,036,550)

Some 39,000 people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country's northern prefectures, will benefit from the following key activities:

- Reinforce better hygiene practices across schools in conflict-affected prefectures, targeting 14,000 children, including IDPs;
- Ensure rapid provision of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to IDPs in northern CAR. This project aims to reduce the mortality and morbidity of displaced children due to water-related diseases. It also aims to enhance government capacity, improving their ability to deal with the ongoing emergency and the current lack of WASH facilities across the country. The programme will target 25,000 people, including 6,750 children, 13,025 women and 5,000 refugees.

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION REPORT 2008

Education (US\$ 1,976,529)

Some 113,000 children will be reached through the following key activity:

- Improve access to basic education for 113,000 conflict-affected children, through an extensive 'Back to School' campaign across the country's northern prefectures.

Child protection (US\$ 1,877,850)

Some 75,000 IDPs, 1,000 children associated with armed conflict and 185,000 vulnerable women and children will be targeted through the following key activities:

- Prevent child recruitment, protect and assist families and ensure community-based reintegration of 1,000 children associated with armed conflict;
- Provide protection to 110,000 orphans and other especially vulnerable children (orphaned by HIV/AIDS and war, unaccompanied IDP children, street children, children accused of witchcraft, Peuhl children and others) through improved access to protection and social services.

Shelter/non-food items (US\$ 1,790,200)

Some 105,000 people will be targeted through the following key activity:

- Increase access to basic and essential non-food items for 105,000 IDPs and returnees (63,000 children and 21,000 women).