

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



UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION CÔTE D'IVOIRE IN 2008



CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	9179
U5 mortality rate (2006)	127
Infant mortality rate 2006)	90
Maternal mortality ratio (2000-2006, reported)	540
Primary school enrolment ratio (2000-2006, net, male/female)*	59/51
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	77
% population using improved drinking water sources (total)	84
% HIV prevalence rate**	4.7
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight	20

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

* Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

** AIDS Indicator Survey 2005

The conflict in Côte d'Ivoire has gravely worsened the well-being and livelihood of children and women, particularly in the West and North-West of the country. In these areas, some 10 per cent of under-five children suffer from some form of acute malnutrition and only 60 per cent of the population has access to improved drinking water sources. Overall, some 70 per cent of the population has access to basic health services, and preventable or easily treated diseases remain the main killers of Ivorian children and women. Almost half (45 per cent) of all school-aged children remain out of school. Despite the signing of the Peace Agreement and conditions for rehabilitation and reconstruction slowly being put in place, relief efforts are still essential for the most war-affected areas and for the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons.

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008

Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	4,102,669
Water, sanitation and hygiene	703,000
Education	8,013,249
Child protection	517,880
Total*	13,336,798

* 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 political context in Côte d'Ivoire changed significantly following the signing of the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement on 4 March 2007, but slow redeployment of public administration in former rebel zones, poor basic social services, insufficient protection mechanisms and non-existent functional judicial systems continue to negatively affect the lives of children and women. Particularly the West has suffered from the consequences of the conflict. Subsequently, an important number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) left the western region mostly to find refuge in the South. Now that the Peace Agreement has been signed and conditions for rehabilitation and reconstruction are slowly put in place, the humanitarian community aims, amongst others, to facilitate the safe and dignified return and resettlement of IDPs.

Health and nutrition. Due to the crisis, access to basic health services was seriously affected. Thanks to advocacy and particularly since the signing of the Peace Agreement, medical personnel are slowly returning to their posts in the former Forces Nouvelles zones and 92 per cent of health centres have reopened. Côte d'Ivoire is the West Africa country most affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with an estimated prevalence rate of 4.7. Malaria remains one of the main causes of morbidity and under-five mortality. Maternal mortality ratio stands at high 540 for 100,000 live births. During the crisis, malnutrition cases increased in the West and North of the country, with acute severe malnutrition rates exceeding 10 per cent (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006).

Water, sanitation and hygiene. Since the crisis, water and sanitation infrastructures have suffered serious deterioration. Despite a decrease in the number of dysfunctional pumps thanks to pump repair, in the West, no more than two thirds of households use improved water sources. While in health centres and hospitals water and sanitation systems used to rely on central services, they are now often dysfunctional. Outbreaks of waterborne or excreta-related diseases have not been observed this year.

Education. During the crisis, the correct functioning of schools was hampered by a marked decline in the number of teachers, the deterioration of the school environment, high drop-out rates, and a lack of certification of education through state-organized school exams. 2007 was only the second year in a row that end-of-year exams were organized throughout the country. Access to education, however, is still alarmingly low: as per MICS, net enrolment ratio stands at 55 per cent (59 per cent for boys and 51 per cent for girls), with significant disparities between rural and urban areas, and between regions.

Child protection. Despite progress since the signing of the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement, women and children continue to be vulnerable to structural discrimination, resulting in unequal education and employment opportunities, in cultural acceptance of harmful traditional practices and in a persisting alarming trend related to sexual violence. In 2007 there was no substantiated evidence of active recruitment and use of children by armed groups and it is estimated that most of the children associated with armed groups were demobilized. At this stage, their full reintegration remains the major challenge. Growing poverty has increased the risk of sexual exploitation and exploitative labour conditions for women and children.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

In close collaboration with local, national and international partners, UNICEF has continued to respond to the humanitarian needs of the Ivorian population affected by the recent conflict. It has mainly focused on the priority areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and child protection. However, these interventions were hindered by the ongoing conflict and the subsequent insecurity in, and lack of access to, some parts of the country.

In the area of health and nutrition, routine immunization services have been improved: all of the 1,367 primary health-care centres now offer immunization services. UNICEF provided all health districts with deworming tablets, obstetrical equipment and clean delivery kits and supported the training of health workers in antenatal care and emergency obstetrics. The rehabilitation and equipment of 98 health centres is under way as well as the training of community health agents in community-based integrated management of childhood illnesses and in expanded programme on immunization (EPI) and preventative care. Pregnant women received HIV counselling and testing and, when necessary, antiretroviral drugs in prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) centres. In the West of Côte d'Ivoire, UNICEF supported the fight

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against severe acute malnutrition in therapeutic feeding centres, with 720 cases detected (end-June 2007), a recovery rate within the normal timeframe of 70 per cent, 6 per cent drop-out and 4 per cent loss of life.

In 2007, UNICEF provided sanitation materials to 117 schools and deworming tablets for approximately 40,000 pupils. Furthermore, UNICEF promoted life skills education training and established peace messenger and HIV clubs. The rehabilitation of schools is ongoing. A major 'Back to School' campaign, organized at the end of 2006, resulted in 11.4 per cent more children returning to school, whilst a total presence of 686,071 children and 5,912 teachers was counted.

UNICEF also provided assistance to victims of sexual abuse and trafficking and to children in conflict with the law and established protection committees for prevention activities. In the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 1612, UNICEF reports bimonthly on the six grave violations of children's rights. In collaboration with the pro-government militias and the Forces Nouvelles, UNICEF demobilized and reintegrated approximately 1,300 children (400 girls) formerly associated with armed groups. Holistic care was provided to 4,893 children (1,944 girls) formerly associated with armed groups or affected by the conflict. UNICEF also campaigned for birth registration and specifically targeted children aged 13-17 years providing them with identity documentation.

UNICEF repaired 800 village handpumps, revitalized their water committees, trained local craftsmen, equipped spare part shops, provided two hospitals with water storage facilities and over 50 per cent of all households in 150 villages with adequate excreta evacuation installations.

UNICEF is continuously active in providing technical assistance to its counterparts, in promoting community mobilization, in undertaking awareness-raising activities and in training local populations in all areas addressed by UNICEF for the improvement of the lives of children and women in Côte d'Ivoire.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

Coordination and partnership

UNICEF is working in close collaboration with other UN agencies through the UN Country Team (UNCT). Sectoral meetings coordinate relief efforts between all UN agencies and NGOs. UNICEF is sector lead for education and water, sanitation and hygiene.

Regular programme

UNICEF is currently implementing its 2003-2007 Country Programme. The activities proposed in the emergency appeal fall within the Country Programme's framework but highlight specific areas where the rights of children and women are especially endangered due to the current situation in the country. For 2008, a 'Bridging Programme' has been adopted in view of the political changes taking place, in order to provide a more appropriate response to the most probable future scenario.

Health and nutrition (US\$ 4,102,669)

A total of 184,262 children and 53,416 pregnant and lactating women in the areas of return and resettlement of IDPs will benefit from the following activities:

- Train health workers on inpatient treatment of severe acute malnutrition and community volunteers on early screening, referral and supplementary feeding in communities and therapeutic feeding centres;
- Provide therapeutic food, essential drugs, and anthropometric and communication materials for the treatment of malnutrition;
- Undertake early screening and promotion of best feeding practices with communities;
- Supply safe delivery kits for pregnant women and clean delivery kits for traditional birth attendants;
- Train 200 traditional birth attendants in hygienic delivery;
- Reinforce the referral system of complicated deliveries and stock management;
- Provide artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) for malaria case management and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) for preventive treatment of pregnant women;
- Train 7,600 staff, 100 auxiliary health personnel and 300 community health workers;
- Rehabilitate and equip 30 primary health facilities and 1 regional hospital.

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Water, sanitation and hygiene (US\$ 703,000)

Some 200,000 people, including 130,000 women and children, will be reached through the following activities:

- Provide water and sanitation systems' overhaul in 30 rural health centres;
- Construct latrines for outpatients and visitors in each centre;
- Construct incinerators and sharp pits;
- Train health centre staff on medical waste segregation and disposal;
- Train 200 local water management committees in 200 villages;
- Promote family latrines and hygienic behaviour in 200 villages, including the construction of five sample latrines per village;
- Rehabilitate/construct 100 wells and install rope pumps to provide safe drinking water.

Education (US\$ 8,013,249)

A total of 11,000 war-affected children and their teachers will benefit from the following activities:

- Support the construction of 100 temporary classrooms to provide 5,000 schoolchildren with reorientation classes;
- Train 100 community teachers, with special emphasis on peace education;
- Equip 5,000 pupils of reorientation classes with school kits (basic scholastic materials including notebooks, pencils and erasers) and provide didactic support to 100 teachers;
- Rehabilitate 1,020 classrooms, including installation of latrines and water points;
- Equip 20 schools with school furniture for a total of 6,000 pupils;
- Provide school furniture and teaching and learning kits (including handbooks, science kits, maps and science boards as well as computers for primary schools);
- Train 4,400 teachers to be redeployed in the area of skills-based pedagogy introduced by the Ministry of Education three years ago;
- Train 2,000 qualified volunteer teachers in the North, Centre and West who can be integrated as primary schoolteachers.

Child protection (US\$ 517,880)

Some 1,500 war-affected children, as well as 80,000 inhabitants of North and West Côte d'Ivoire, including those at risk/victims of sexual violence, will benefit from the following activities:

- Provide 1,500 professional reintegration kits for 1,500 war-affected children;
- Strengthen vocational skills of 1,500 children in informal, agricultural and breeding sectors;
- Support the finalization of the national plan against gender-based violence (GBV);
- Undertake awareness-raising and information campaigns, as well as social mobilization;
- Build the capacity of local NGOs, youth and women's groups and protection committees to promote GBV prevention and assist victims;
- Undertake training of trainers on the detection of signs of sexual violence and the provision of specific assistance;
- Provide medical/legal assistance as well as psychosocial support to all reported victims of sexual violence;
- Enhance women's capacity and support income-generating activities.