

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

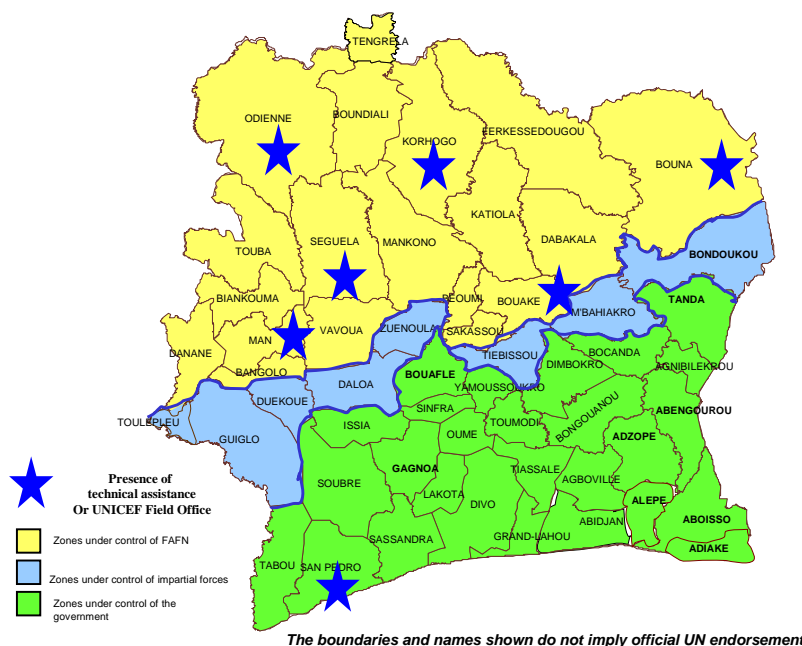
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

DONOR UPDATE

27 MARCH 2006

UNICEF NEEDS \$ 13,373,090 TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND PROTECTION

- Only US\$ 2.8 million received for 2006 appeal to date
- Child mortality is on the rise
- Increased violation of children's rights
- Resuming of peace process brings hope for continuation of humanitarian and development activities



1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The political-military crisis is persisting in Côte d'Ivoire, dividing the country in a Government-held South and a Forces Nouvelles (FN)-controlled North with in between a "Zone of Confidence", a buffer zone with UN Peacekeeping forces and French Licorne soldiers. The security situation remains tense, and the cease-fire is not fully respected, while the militia are wreaking havoc on the civilian population. This precarious situation seriously endangers the safety and well-being of children and women throughout the country. Therefore, UNICEF's first and foremost objective is to adequately respond to the crisis to mitigate its devastating consequences.

The health system, which was gravely disrupted due to the crisis, has been reactivated in 2005, but suffers from an insufficient return of qualified personnel. This situation, in combination with poor nutrition and disease monitoring and reduced routine EPI coverage, has contributed to a serious increase in child and infant mortality rates. A recent meningitis outbreak caused several deaths before UNICEF could respond with a vaccination campaign in the targeted area.

Access to safe drinking water is problematic due to a high number of broken water pumps and absence of public administration personnel in FN-controlled areas.

According to the latest estimates, 40,000 children in Côte d'Ivoire are currently living with HIV/AIDS, and as long as the crisis continues, this rate is likely to increase.

Loss of harvests, food reserves and the massive displacements of persons have seriously affected the nutritional status of children and women, leading to 11% of children in the Northern half suffering from wasting, and over 20% from stunting.

The Education sector has been seriously affected as well, with excess enrollment demands in government controlled areas and shortages of teachers and deterioration of school infrastructures in the FN-controlled areas. In addition, national exams have not been held in the latter for more than two years, but this situation is currently being addressed with some 93,000 children convened to take exams in the FN-controlled zones.

The lack of a functioning judicial system and state representatives in the North negatively affects the protection of children and women. Birth registration is problematic and girls have been exposed to all sorts of sexual abuse without having subsequent access to health or judicial assistance.

January 2006 saw pro-government manifestations, looting and general uproar directed against the UN/International Community, due to the recommendation of the International Working Group to dissolve the National Assembly. This situation constitutes a major constraint for all programmes and entailed that numerous activities had to be interrupted, personnel was evacuated and interventions were hindered by the subsequent insecurity and lack of access to some parts of the country.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS (JAN-MAR 2006)

However, in close collaboration with local, national and international partners, UNICEF continues to aim at meeting the most urgent needs for children and women like access to potable water, healthcare and education, while our protection activities concentrate on prevention, demobilization and reinsertion.

The Back to School campaigns that were recently held in FN-controlled areas resulted in an overall 40% increase in school attendance. Girls' Education was strongly promoted in the Korhogo region, leading to a sharp increase in girls' attendance (exact numbers as yet unknown). In March, children in the North could finally sit their exams, after having been deprived of this possibility for over two years. 93,000 children have been invited to take the exams and UNICEF is one of the main partners in facilitating the exam. Overall participation amounts up until the time of writing to 60%.

In the area of Health, UNICEF rapidly responded to a meningitis outbreak and provided medication and funding. 24,953 people were vaccinated, limiting the outbreak to about 75 cases, with 23 deaths. Furthermore, a Working Group was established with members of the Government and UN agencies in order to draft and validate an action plan in response to a possible bird flu epidemic. Preventive actions have been taken.

Main activities in the EPI sector during the first quarter consisted of (i) providing support to advanced strategies for routine vaccination in 36 districts, resulting in higher vaccination coverage, (ii) site preparation and re-evaluation for the installation of several cold chambers, (iii) a yellow fever emergency vaccination campaign resulting in 156,235 vaccinations and limiting the number of cases to 1, and (iv) the development

of inter-sectoral programmes in order to provide Ivorian children and women with an extensive preventive care package.

HIV/AIDS activities performed over the past three months include the drafting of the yearly Action Plan between the government and UNICEF, and the dissemination of information and awareness raising with regard to HIV/AIDS prevention among young people associated with armed groups.

In the North and West of the country, nutritional surveillance is carried out among some 176,000 children under the age of 5 and 40,000 pregnant and lactating women, complemented by mobilization activities for the consumption of iodized salt. Furthermore, UNICEF provides therapeutic foodstuffs to nutrition centers in order to combat severe and moderate malnutrition and reduce infant and child morbidity and mortality. Exact numbers with regard to the last three months are not yet available.

Watsan activities during the first quarter of 2006 include the continuation of the rehabilitation of 1,175 village pumps and the reactivation of village water management committees in different areas in the Northern half of the country, for the benefit of a total of 412,040 villagers. Until now, approximately 700 pumps have been repaired. In January, 10 masons received training in the fabrication of Sanplat stones for the construction of latrines and UNICEF has provided financial aid for the production of 210 stones, 70 of which have already been manufactured. An assessment is currently carried out in collaboration with the Education section for the rehabilitation of 200 schools.

UNICEF has continued its efforts in the field of prevention, demobilization and reinsertion of children associated with armed groups by means of advocacy activities with the FN. UNICEF, in collaboration with other UN agencies is actively involved in the execution of SC Resolution 1612, which entails a monitoring and reporting mechanism on the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. At the beginning of the year, UNICEF also launched an awareness raising campaign against Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting through publicities on national, local and religious radios and television. Lastly, advocacy activities were performed for the promotion of birth registration.

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

As part of the joint CAP (Consolidated Appeals Process) 2006, UNICEF currently needs US\$ 16,164,878 to be able to adequately respond to the needs of children and women in Côte d'Ivoire. Thus far, the donor community has not responded to this appeal, and no contributions have been received.

If and when contributions will be received, UNICEF will continue to proceed with the implementation of our programmes, which are carried out through and in coordination with our two field offices (Man and Bouaké) and 5 antennas that are spread all over the country. Both field offices comprise of one international and about 10 local staff members.

Table 1: Funds Received against Appeal

Appeal Sector	Requirements by Sector	Funds Received (US\$)	Unmet requirements (US\$)	% Unfunded
Health and Nutrition	6,364,480	1,075,193	5,289,287	83%
Water and Environmental Sanitation	2,445,600	0	2,445,600	100%
Education	4,347,598	180,038	4,167,560	96%
Child Protection	1,898,400	481,179	1,417,221	75%
HIV/AIDS	1,108,800	0	1,108,800	100%
Sub-total	16,164,878	1,736,410	14,428,468	89%
Thematic funding		1,055,378*		
Total*	16,164,878	2,791,788	13,373,090	83%

* This amount reflects an unearmarked thematic contribution from the Government of Sweden.

Table 2: Funds received by Donor

Donor	Funds Received **(US\$)	Sector
CIDA Program Against Hunger, Malnutrition, Diseases	338,265	Health and Nutrition
Government of Ireland	592,415	Health and Nutrition Education Protection
Government of Sweden	1,055,378	Unearmarked (Global Thematic Funding)
UK National Committee	86,956	Protection
French National Committee	269,384	Protection
CDC Department of Health and Human Services	449,390	Health and Nutrition
Total	2,791,788	

4. IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

Lack of funding is the major constraint for the successful execution of most programmes, in combination with the precarious security situation and for certain sections delays in administrative procedures at government level. The major issue in the progress of Watsan activities is the availability and supply of spare parts.

UNICEF's financial requirements for emergency funding are unmet. At the moment, key projects are on hold and remain unimplemented due to the shortage of funds. Should contributions fail to materialize soon, UNICEF may be forced to revise the size and scope of its planned activities. In the health sector, activities that are paramount in reducing child mortality and morbidity such as the fight against malaria, vaccination, nutrition and HIV/AIDS prevention activities as well as providing access to safe drinking water will be seriously hampered. With regard to education, major problems can be foreseen in the rehabilitation of schools, since the current afflux of children to schools will be annulled or tempered when schools are not in a condition to facilitate them. Under-funding of our protection activities will enhance the risk of a relapse of acquired commitments and results, a possible return to the recruitment of children within the armed forces and an increase of the amount of children at risk of being denied of their fundamental rights.

UNICEF hopes that donors will soon extend their support. The timely provision of resources will allow UNICEF to avoid any critical disruption in the provision of essential services and supplies across its five sectors of intervention, as well as to launch new important projects.

Table 3: Urgent priority requirements

As of March 2006		
Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Emergency Primary Health Care – Malaria Management	5 million people, of which 1,000,000 children and 250,000 pregnant and lactating women	761,600
2. Expanded Programme of Immunization – routine vaccination	32 districts	1,584,000
3. HIV/AIDS – Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission	Pregnant women and their husbands, children	1,108,800
4. WATSAN – Partnership programme for restoration of hydraulic pumps and support to village committees	600,000 people	1,782,000
5. Education – Back to School	700,000 children	3,727,598

Ensure children go back to school and have access to quality education in safe conditions, including rehabilitation of facilities		
6. Protection – Social and family care and reinsertion of children directly victims of the conflict	30,000 children	1,898,400
Total Priority needs		10,862,398

Details of the Côte d'Ivoire emergency programme can be obtained from:

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