

# Côte d'Ivoire

## BRIEFING PACK

MARCH 2006



## Table of Content

Maps of Côte d'Ivoire .....	3
Country profile .....	4
Recent developments in Côte d'Ivoire.....	5
Fact sheet on education .....	6
Fact sheet on protection.....	9
Fact sheet on health and nutrition .....	11
Fact sheet on water & environmental sanitation .....	14



# Maps of Côte d'Ivoire

## Reference map of Côte d'Ivoire



## Regional map of West Africa



## Country profile

### CÔTE D'IVOIRE Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Capital: Yamoussoukro

Government type: Republic

Surface: 322,460 sq km

Religion: Christian 20-30%, Muslim 35-40%, indigenous 25-40%

Climate: tropical along coast, semi-arid in far north

Official language: French



#### Statistical Data: (Source: State of the World's Children 2006)

<b>Demography</b>	
Inhabitants	17,872,000
Population < 5	2,751,000
Population < 18	8,829,000
% Population growth rate (1990-2003)	2.5
% Urbanized population	45
Total Fertility rate (per woman)	4.9
Life Expectancy	46
Crude birth rate (per 1000)	37
Crude death rate (per 1000)	17
Infant (<1) mortality rate (per 1000)	117
Under five mortality rate (per 1000)	194
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000)*	690
Annual no. of births (x1000)	661
Annual no. of <5 deaths (x1000)	128
<b>Socio-economic figures</b>	
GNI per capita (US \$)	770
GDP per capita ave. annual growth rate (%)	-0.6
% Population below 1\$ a day	11
Child labor force (5-14 years) (%)	35
<b>Nutrition</b>	
% children exclusively breastfed (<6 months)	5
% of infants with low birth weight	17
% < 5 underweight	22
% < 5 wasting	7
% < 5 stunting	21
% households consuming iodized salt	31
<b>Health</b>	
% pop. using improved water, total/urban/rural	84/98/74
% pop. using san. facilities, total/urban/rural	40/61/23
% routine EPI vaccines financed by government	58
% immunized 1yo TB/DPT3/Polio3	51/50/50
% immunized 1yo Measles/HepB3	49/50
Estim. # people (thousands) with HIV, low/high	390/820
% Adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate (15-49)	7
<b>Education</b>	
Net primary school attendance, male/female	62/53
% primary school entrants reaching grade 5	94
Adult literacy rate (%), male/female	60/38
Child (<18) marriage, total/urban/rural	33/24/43

#### Country Programme 2003-2007

UNICEF's activities in Côte d'Ivoire are coordinated in accordance with the Ivorian government by means of a 5-year plan, which runs from 2003 to 2007.

The main objective of this Country Programme is:

To contribute, in the framework of the national strategies in the fight against poverty, to the improvement of living conditions of children and women, while ensuring the respect and application of their rights, and with particular attention for the most vulnerable groups.

The **Health and Nutrition** programme aims at the reduction of maternal, infant and child mortality, and the improvement of survival, growth and development rates of children and women.

The goal of the **Basic Education** programme is to ensure that a maximum of children has access to quality Basic Education, while eliminating disparities between girls and boys.

The **Protection** component aims to contribute to the respect and application of the rights of children and adolescents by establishing national legislation in accordance with international conventions, and its integration in family, social, community and institutional systems.

Lastly, the objectives of the **Social Policy, Monitoring & Evaluation** Programme are to support the sectoral programmes for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the Country Programme; and the development of social policies.

\* Data refers to most recent year available.

## Recent developments in Côte d'Ivoire

Until the 1990s, Ivory Coast was a model of prosperity and peace, and the top cocoa grower in the world. A coup in 1999, however, exposed deep divisions along ethnic, political and religious lines. The current president, Laurent Gbagbo, came to power in a controversial 2000 election in which candidates from the two main parties - Côte d'Ivoire Democratic Party (PDCI) and Rally of the Republicans (RDR) were excluded from the race. Although peace returned to Côte d'Ivoire in the first two years of Gbagbo's presidency, political violence soon erupted.

In September 2002 a failed coup attempt ignited a civil war that split the country in two, with southern provinces controlled by the government and northern and most western provinces in rebel hands. Efforts to reunite the country have been characterized by delays, political squabbling and on-off violence.

Between 2003 and 2004 two peace accords were signed, but the deadlines for reform and disarmament were not met, leading to political deadlock and a bombing campaign against rebel targets in November 2004.

On November 6, an Ivorian aircraft bombed a French peacekeeping base, killing nine French soldiers. French forces retaliated by destroying most of the Ivorian air force, sparking renewed violence against foreigners. Subsequently, a large part of the foreign investors left the country.

On the 4th of December 2005, Charles Konan Banny, Governor of West Africa's Central Bank, was appointed as Prime Minister "acceptable to all parties" (as dictated by UN Security Council Resolution 1633). In spite of the nomination of the Prime Minister and his cabinet, the political and security situation in Côte d'Ivoire continues to be volatile.

In January 2006, violent protests broke out against the UN and in support of the current President. The movement of the Jeunes Patriotes managed to paralyze public life in Abidjan. In the West of the country, a stand-off with Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Guiglo caused five deaths, which led to the looting of all UN (among which UNICEF) and some NGO offices and the departure of the peacekeeping troops from the troubled region.

In February 2006, Ivory Coast's rival faction leaders met on home territory for the first time since the start of the three-year-old conflict and agreed on the need for renewed dialogue to unblock the peace process. They announced a number of measures to facilitate the UN-backed peace plan that foresees reunification, disarmament and peaceful elections by the end of October 2006.



In March 2006, after two years of civil disruptions, the Government decided to organize national examinations and eliminate, once and for all, the state of educational limbo affecting tens of thousands of children. This landmark initiative will help normalize children's lives and stop the violation of their right to an education.

## Fact sheet on education

The education sector is seriously affected by the partition of the country. In the government-controlled areas the demand for school enrolment exceeds the capacities of the educational institutions. In the FN-controlled areas, shortages of full-time teachers and the deterioration of school infrastructures have weakened the education system. 80% of the teachers in FN zones are volunteers.

The impact of the crisis is evident in the decrease of the number of students attending school, deterioration of educational infrastructure, and the lack of teachers. Over 70% of pupils do not have access to drinking water and adequate latrines at school.

In the Northern Zone, CEPE, BEPC, and BAC exams<sup>1</sup> have not been able to take place for more than two years. Although some schools have remained open, year-end exams were cancelled because of ongoing political turmoil. As many as 1 million children in the region have been denied their right to education since 2003, when civil and ethnic conflict forced many teachers and government workers to flee. Even where schools continued operating, communities lost confidence in classroom learning that was no longer officially validated by the standard exam process. Denying children the possibility to sit for exams not only robs them of a final result after hard work, but also increases the chance of them dropping out of school thereby increasing their vulnerability.

### UNICEF action and impact

Throughout the civil disruptions in Côte d'Ivoire, UNICEF continued to promote access to education through the organization of satellite schools and distribution of education kits for children and teachers. Psychosocial activities were also organized to help children affected by the crisis.

In 2005, UNICEF mobilized all UN agencies to work together for a back-to-school programme. As a result, 200 schools were re-equipped and 550,000 education kits distributed with special attention to girls, whose prospects for formal schooling are diminished because of gender discrimination.

The programme also has coordinated social mobilization activities, encouraging radio and television stations to broadcast messages highlighting every child's right to educational access. 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.



This year, the Government decided to organize sessions for all three exams in the North, Centre and West, to allow pupils to validate these two school years and continue their education. 93,000 children have been invited to take their exams. Overall participation reached an average of 60% in all centers. UNICEF took the lead in organizing the logistics for the final exams. Along with its partners, the organization helped secure 66 examination centres. All tests were transported under UN police escort to various Ministry of Education facilities.

---

<sup>1</sup> CEPE: Certificat d'Etudes Primaires Elémentaires  
BEPC: Brevet d'Etudes de Premier Cycle  
BAC: Baccalauréat

Coordinating the effort was a daunting task: An estimated 20 per cent of teachers and administrative staff were not able to reach the centres in time for the first day of exams. More worrying was the low student turnout in some locations due to a lack of information about the exact test dates. This led to additional urgent efforts to inform the population via churches, mosques and traditional storytellers.

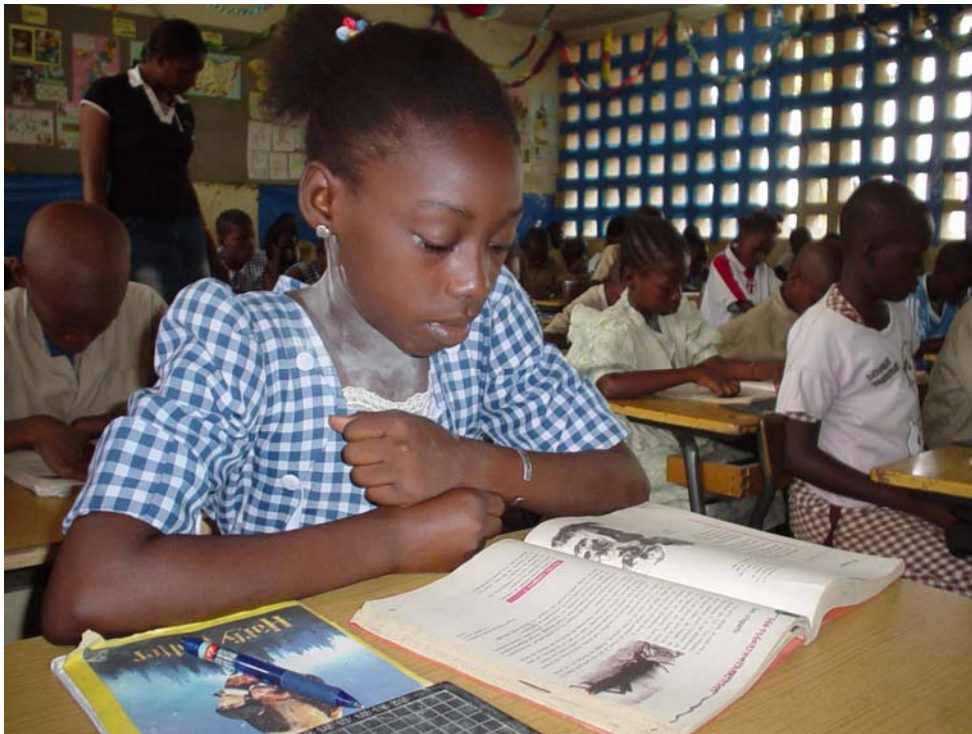
## Current priorities

The rehabilitation of schools is UNICEF's number one priority in education. The current afflux of children to schools will be annulled or hindered if schools are not in adequate conditions to receive the children.

## What your donation can buy

- \$1 will provide eight children with a pencil and exercise book.
- \$8 provides 10 children with a sketch pad and set of 8 colouring crayons each.
- \$20 is the cost of a double-sided chalkboard, 2 chalkboard dusters, 100 white chalk sticks and 100 coloured chalk sticks, providing a teacher with basic tools to teach a class.
- \$25 can buy 30 skipping ropes, promoting physical activity, particularly for girls.
- \$60 provides 2 volleyballs and 2 nets, enabling children to participate in team sports.
- \$200 is the cost of a school-in-a-box kit – a ready-made educational solution packed in a lockable metal box, containing equipment such as pencils, erasers, exercise books, writing slates, scissors and carrier bags sufficient for 80 pupils, and marker pens, posters, registers, and blackboard equipment for a teacher.
- \$800 – provides 3 recreation kits, containing items such as frisbees, skipping ropes, footballs, volleyballs (and net), handballs, whistles, a measuring tape, a chalkboard and chalk, enabling up to 270 children can enjoy physical activity and play at one time.





## Fact sheet on protection

Since the beginning of the crisis, there is an important increase in human rights violations against children and women, and in particular violence against and exploitation of children, sexual abuse, rape and association of children with armed groups. This trend is persisting and leaves family tissues, the primary traditional protection safeguard, seriously disrupted. Children are at risk of (voluntarily or involuntarily) joining armed groups, either for housekeeping, groceries or administration, but also to be incorporated as child soldiers.

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 children are exposed to all sorts of (sexual) abuse without access to health or judicial assistance.

### UNICEF action and impact

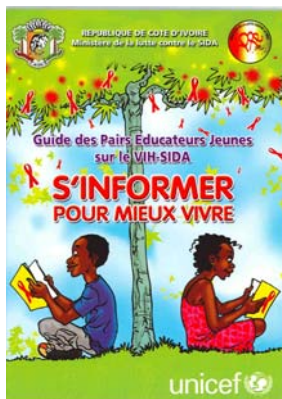


The purpose of UNICEF's protection programme is to contribute to the respect and application of the rights of children and adolescents by establishing national legislation in accordance with international conventions, and its integration in family, social, community and institutional systems. Due to the nature of the current crisis, the programme has mainly focused on child soldiers, whose participation in the conflict bears serious implications for their physical and emotional well-being.

UNICEF continues its efforts in the field of prevention, demobilization and reinsertion of children associated with armed groups. To this end, UNICEF carries out advocacy activities with the FN<sup>2</sup> and is, in collaboration with other UN agencies, actively involved in the execution of Security Council Resolution 1612. This resolution contains measures to fight against the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. After negotiations between the FN, UN Peacekeeping Forces and UNICEF, an agreement was signed in which the FN commits to

not use children in their ranks.

UNICEF has also launched awareness raising campaigns against Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting by spreading messages on national, local and religious radios and television.



Activities have been undertaken with regard to HIV/AIDS, which is affecting a significant number of women and children. UNICEF created income generating activities in favor of orphans and vulnerable children, and carried out STI/AIDS<sup>3</sup> prevention activities for adolescents.

Lastly, UNICEF is strongly advocating for the promotion of birth registration. Since there are no public structures in the FN-controlled zones, community and private initiatives have mushroomed here, but these initiatives suffer from a lack of organizational, structure and technical capacities. Birth registration is essential in order to obtain access to healthcare and to education, but also to protect young people from underage military service, forced marriage and child labor. Children have the right to a nationality, and this can also be achieved

<sup>2</sup> Forces Nouvelles: The New Forces that are in control of the Northern half of the country

<sup>3</sup> STI: Sexually Transmittable Infection

through birth registration.

## Current priorities

The most urgent needs are to continue to promote the prevention, demobilization and reinsertion of children that were formally associated with armed groups, and to contribute to the fight against sexual and gender based violence and exploitation (SGBVE) in conflict and crisis situations.

## What your donation can buy

- \$1 will provide eight demobilized children with a pencil and exercise book.
- \$8 provides 10 demobilized children with a sketch pad and set of 8 colouring crayons each.
- \$ 100 will provide a vocational training programme and reintegration kit with practical tools for 1 demobilized adolescent formally associated with armed groups.



## Fact sheet on health and nutrition

The provision of public health services has been seriously disrupted due to the crisis, particularly in the North and West of the country. 80 % of the 547 health units in these zones were closed after having been plundered or ransacked. The vast majority (85%) of the 3500 health workers based in these areas had left.

The crisis interrupted the disease monitoring system and reduced routine EPI (Expanded Programme of Immunization) coverage. Preventable or easily-treatable diseases remain the main killers of Ivorian children and women, with malaria, measles, respiratory infections and malnutrition responsible for the vast majority of deaths. Latest statistics not only indicate a rise in maternal and infant mortality rates but also an increase in acute malnutrition among children, especially those aged under five.



National Immunization Days for polio immunization were interrupted in 2003. This fact, together with the weakened routine vaccination coverage, has resulted in the reintroduction of the Wild Polio Virus in 2004 and the notification of 17 cases in 2004 in the country.

In 2005 this situation improved thanks to the successful implementation of five polio NIDs and strengthening of the surveillance system. No new cases of Wild Polio Virus have been observed this year.

### HIV/AIDS

Recent reports estimate that approximately 10 per cent of the population is HIV-positive. 40,000 children in Côte d'Ivoire are currently living with HIV, and 16,200 children are infected each year. Only 1,000 children benefit from ARV treatments.

8.25% of pregnant women are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS during prenatal consultations, but only 30% of seropositive women have access to ARV treatment for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. Delays in funding due to the crisis have hampered the start of activities in particular with regard to the national network of young people for HIV/AIDS prevention.

### UNICEF action and impact

Since 2004, UNICEF has pre-positioned essential drugs, medical supplies and Insecticide-Treated Nets to cover 32 conflict-affected health districts through a European Union (EU) grant and has rehabilitated most health districts, maternities, and health centres. This has facilitated the revitalization of more than 98% of health structures in the targeted areas (North, West, Centre, South-West). 75% of the population now has access to a fully operational health center within 5 km or at less than one hour walking distance. Constraints however continue to exist, specifically due to an insufficient return of qualified personnel, caused by a lack of political will for redeployment.

Some 5 million children were immunized in a major campaign between July and November 2005.

## Current priorities

UNICEF's current priorities are in malaria management, immunization, HIV/AIDS awareness raising and prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

## What your donation can buy

- 6 cents – the price of 1 sachet of oral rehydration salts, mixed with safe water to help children combat dehydration and diarrhea.
- 12 cents – can provide 1 dose of vaccine to immunize a child against polio.
- \$1 – is the cost of an HIV/AIDS rapid diagnostic test kit.
- \$3 – buys 100 5ml auto-disable syringes, so that 100 children can be immunized with safe equipment.
- \$10 – is the price of a vaccine carrier, enabling health workers to transport sensitive vaccine at the required temperature to reach children in their communities.
- \$15 – provides 2 long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets, protecting families from malaria that kills an African child every 30 seconds.
- \$20 – can buy 25 safety boxes, for the safe disposal of used syringes and needles after immunization.
- \$100 - can provide 700 doses of measles vaccine, protecting children from this deadly disease.
- \$200 – buys 9 first aid kits, containing items such as bandages, tape, gloves, scissors, a blanket, eye ointment, and disinfectant so that anyone can treat or dress a range of minor ailments such as a cut finger, minor burn or eye infection.
- \$6000 – can provide a complete emergency health kit with supplements, which contains medical supplies and equipment to meet the needs of a population of 10,000 people for 3 months.
- \$19,000 – is the price of a 30 m<sup>2</sup> walk-in cold room, an essential part of the cold chain, used for storing vaccine at the correct temperature until it is needed.





## Fact sheet on water & environmental sanitation

In light of the extreme difficulty of many communities in Côte d'Ivoire to access safe water of satisfactory quality and in sufficient quantities, the water and sanitation sector is one of the major concerns. Poor sanitation conditions (limited access to drainage infrastructures and latrines, difficulties of discharging household refuse in urban centres) coupled with poor rainfall and the drying out of water supply sources – especially in northern parts of the country under FN control - have become a critical public health and humanitarian problem.

As a result of the conflict, regular maintenance and repair of water supply infrastructures has sharply decreased especially in vast FN-controlled areas where public administration and technical organizations that were responsible for the provision of utility services, such as water and electricity, have not been fully operational for the past three years.



Lacking adequate support, village communities assigned with the responsibility of managing water pumps have been unable to maintain them. Due to a high number of broken water pumps - attaining a percentage of 75 to 95% - in the worst-affected areas, access to safe drinking water has become a serious problem. The situation coupled with often poor sanitation conditions, is of great concern since it increases the risk of transmission of waterborne diseases, both in rural and urban areas.

### UNICEF action and impact

In 2005, UNICEF repaired around 1,140 village pumps to provide safe drinking water to some 500,000 people. More than 1,000 Water management committees were reactivated and displaced populations and returning IDPs have benefited from improved access to drinking water. UNICEF installed adequate sanitary facilities in primary schools and provided hygiene products. Guinea worm infestation has steadily declined, with only 10 cases reported in 2005, against 21 cases in 2004.



### Current priorities

UNICEF's priorities are: rehabilitation of 1500 handpumps to provide safe drinking water to 600,000 people; training of 1500 village water committees; procurement of emergency water and for up to 100,000 displaced persons, and construction or rehabilitation of wells and sanitary facilities in schools.

## What your donation can buy

- 60 cents – can buy 50 water purification tablets, each treating 4-5 litres of water, enabling children to drink and wash safely.
- \$5 – is the price of three 10 litre collapsible water containers, for transporting and storing water.
- \$100 – can buy a basic family water kit, containing items such as water containers, buckets, soap and water purification tablets, sufficient to meet the needs of 10 families.
- \$ 1000,- can rehabilitate a water pump
- \$ 1400,- can buy a 5,000 litre collapsible water tank, which can provide 5 litres of water per day to 100 people during 10 days.
- \$13,000 – is the price of a mobile water purification unit that can purify 5 m<sup>3</sup> of water per hour, sufficient to provide safe drinking water in emergency situations for a population of 5,000 people.

