

TOGO : EMERGENCY FIGHT AGAINST MALNUTRITION

NUTRITIONAL SITUATION: THE SAVANES, KARA AND MARITIME REGIONS ARE THE MOST AFFECTED AREAS.

- ☛ In Togo, 108 children out of a 1 000 die before their fifth birthday. Many of these deaths are linked with malnutrition. This high rate of infant mortality could be avoided with simple interventions and education on nutrition for parents
- **The national rate of severe malnutrition** among children under the age of five is at **14.3%**
- **In the three most affected region, nearly 50, 000 children under the age of five are suffering from malnutrition**
- **97 Togolese children out of 100** do not benefit from a diet that meets the appropriate nutritional criteria
- **The rate of severe malnutrition among children under the age of five is higher than the critical level set by the WHO (>10%)** in 3 regions: Maritime region (not including Lomé), in the Kara region and in the Savanes region

SOLUTIONS

- ☛ **Setting up of the communitarian approach for child survival and taking care of moderate and severe malnutrition without complications within the communities.**
 - Nutritional care provision
 - Promotion of exclusive maternal breast feeding and complementary feeding
 - Monitoring and follow up of children's growth
 - Fight against deficiency of micronutrients
 - De worming
 - Promotion of hygiene
- ☛ Opening of new nutritional rehabilitation centres
- ☛ Distribution of therapeutic food and other food supplies in association with WFP and the National Nutrition Service
- ☛ Raising awareness within the populations on malnutrition through local and national media
- ☛ Achievement of a nutritional study at the national level



Photo UNICEF Togo 2007 / Julie Pudlowski



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2007 what we did

➤ Caring for and preventing severe malnutrition among children under the age of five :

- **Detection and reference of malnourished children** and setting up a system of data collection, treatment and analysis
- **Providing care for 4,000 malnourished children** in the nutritional rehabilitation centres
- **Partnerships with local NGOs** for the training of community health agents

➤ Capacity building for health staff and for community health agents :

- **Opening and equipping of 77 nutritional rehabilitation centres**
- **Training in providing care for malnourished children**
- **Supply of therapeutic food and medicine and anthropometric material** (impregnated bed nets, utensils and vehicles for health centres)

➤ Constraints :

- **Lack of financial resources for the equipping of nutritional rehabilitation** in order to treat all 93,000 malnourished children
- **Lack of available health staff** in the nutritional rehabilitation centres
- **The lack of financial resources within the population** does not allow mothers to bring their malnourished children to the health centres
- **Mothers have a poor knowledge** of malnutrition

How to help us?

0.35\$. That is the price of a bag of Plumpy Nut. **A bag a day for a month will ensure that a malnourished child regains normal weight** and benefits from all the major micronutriments needed for a full return to health.

3.40\$. This is the price of a therapeutic milk bag which gives the malnourished child the amount of iron that he needs to have a normal development.

71.16\$. This amount of money represents the average cost of treatment for a child suffering from severe malnutrition with complications. Almost 14,000 children suffer from it in 3 of the 5 regions in the country.

296\$. This is the cost of training for a health agent on caring for the malnourished. At least 2 agents for each nutritional rehabilitation centre would be needed.

407.39\$. This will enable us to equip a nutritional rehabilitation centre with height gauges, scales, bed nets, medical tools, registers, cooking material and toys. **125 centres would need to be created in order to treat the 50,000 malnourished children in the Savanes, Kara and Maritime region.**

The statistics in this document are taken from the MICS, originally conducted in 2006 and extrapolated to 2008, and data from the 2008 State of World's Children.

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