

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The situation of the Pool Department, most affected by the armed conflicts that shook the Congo for a decade, is gradually evolving. Incidents with militiamen have diminished making it possible for the Pool to participate in local elections in 2008. These trends confirm a progressive return to peace and the reintegration of the Pool into the national political agenda. However, access to social services remains critically low, resulting in the persistent spread of waterborne diseases, which continue to negatively affect the health and nutritional status of children and women. Other areas, bordering the Pool Department, are periodically facing cholera epidemics due to the use of unprotected wells, rainwater and rivers as the main sources of drinking water and the absence of sanitation systems. UNICEF's support includes the rehabilitation/construction of water and sanitation facilities in health centres and schools, community-based nutrition, prevention and treatment of malnutrition, and communication for behaviour change.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

UNICEF has established partnerships with NGOs and faith-based organizations to conduct assessments, implement nutrition interventions, construct/rehabilitate works, support birth registration as well as undertake community-based communication activities. UNICEF's emergency interventions are fully integrated within the Country Programme of Cooperation. There is no cluster mechanism in place.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will administer vitamin A and distribute long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to at least 10,400 children under age five and 2,480 pregnant/lactating women (80 per cent of target population); procure deworming tablets for at least 9,200 children aged 6–59 months (80 per cent of target population); provide iron supplementation for anaemia prevention and access to intermittent preventive treatment (IPT) for at least 2,480 pregnant/lactating women (80 per cent of target population); ensure community-based treatment of malnutrition for at least 500 cases (50 per cent); and support access for at least 60 per cent of households to adequate information on the prevention of childhood diseases and ensure the early detection of complications for referral to health centre.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: UNICEF will provide safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities by constructing/rehabilitating wells for 5,000 people in Goma Tsé Tsé and Mindouli Districts; construct a reinforced tank for 12,000 people (37 per cent of target population) at Loudima centre (Bouenza Department), construct 10 latrine blocks (three cabins each) for the needs of 750 people in Goma Tsé Tsé and Mindouli Districts; and sensitize the population on key hygiene and sanitation practices.

Education: UNICEF will provide school materials for 7,000 primary schoolchildren; support the rehabilitation of 10 schools, including the installation of water and sanitation facilities for the benefit of 3,000 pupils; train 150 teachers in basic education and life skills activities, with special emphasis on hygiene and water-related practices; provide remedial teaching for 600 pupils for catch-up purposes, with special focus on girl teenagers; and provide nutritional supplementation and deworming at school level for 1,000 children in need.

Child Protection: UNICEF will support birth registration campaigns and sensitization activities for the benefit of 6,000 children (17 per cent) without birth registration; and implement social mobilization activities against sexual violence at school level and in religious congregations.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*

Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	1,124,077
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	750,043
Education	310,000
Child Protection	450,000
Total**	2,634,120

* Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use those funds to support other underfunded emergencies.

** 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.