

Cote D'Ivoire

Part 1: Situation update in the country

Economic context

Cote d'Ivoire's economic growth continued to be among the most impressive in Africa. Growth of approximately 7 per cent was projected for 2018, but that growth is not inclusive. In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire supported the Ministry of Planning and Development to carry out the National Multiple Overlapping Deprivations Analysis (NMODA), the first country-led, multi-dimensional child poverty analysis, which will be officially launched in 2019. According to the analysis, 64 per cent of all children from Cote d'Ivoire suffered from at least three deprivations. Of the children under five, 23 per cent were deprived in at least three of the six selected dimensions, 22 per cent were deprived in at least four, and only 12 per cent were not deprived in any.

The multidimensional poverty incidence for children under five was an estimated 74.5 per cent. A significant percentage of children shared the same deprivations: 20 per cent of children under five were simultaneously deprived in health, water and sanitation, and in the South West, that number rose to 39 per cent. Seventeen per cent of children under five were simultaneously deprived in nutrition, health and sanitation; in the North, that number was 30 per cent. Eleven per cent of children five to 14 years old were simultaneously deprived in education and engaged in child labour (mainly agriculture). Multi-dimensional poverty incidence among children in Abidjan was an estimated 50 per cent. For children under five from Center West and North Eastern it was an estimated 75 per cent.

The overlap between monetary and multi-dimensional poverty is considered significant in Cote d'Ivoire, mainly because of the non-inclusive economic growth; high levels of inequities (the Gini index was 0.41 in 2015); massive unemployment; and insufficient investment in social sectors to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. Despite its recent strong economic growth, pro-poor spending from the state budget stagnated at 34 per cent in the last three years. The Côte d'Ivoire value for the Human Development Index (2017) was 0.49, positioning it at 170 out of 189 countries and territories.

The fertility rate declined but remained high, at 4.6 births per woman in 2018, with a persistent urban-rural gap (six births per woman in rural areas and 3.4 in urban). Cote d'Ivoire's population growth rate was 2.6 per cent in 2014, with 42 per cent of the population under the age of 15 years and 50 per cent under the age of 19. The dependency rate was an estimated 78.6 per cent. According to the latest projections, the population will double by 2045, increasing demands on social services and requiring massive investments in social sectors. Based on the 2014 census, the urban population, which already accounted for 50.6 per cent of the total, could reach 60 per cent by 2034. This demographic context has implications for UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire's work, both on the delivery of basic social services for a growing population, such as construction of classrooms and an immunization programme, and to address emerging issues such as youth employment in a more urban context.

In 2018, the Court of Accounts was established and operational, following pressure from international stakeholders to improve efficiency and transparency of public finance

management in Cote d'Ivoire. The weakest areas of public finance reform included public procurement and public investment, particularly the link between public investment and the most deprived regions of the country, and including children's access to social services.

Political context

In 2018, Cote d'Ivoire benefitted from relative political stability. There were some tensions related to the local elections in October, but they took place without significant conflict.

Progress was made in consolidating the rule of law, but political activity remained weak due to hesitant national dialogue and insufficient representation of the opposition in parliamentary debates. The upcoming presidential elections in 2020 and the uncertain reorganization of political forces could be sources of instability in the near future.

Cote d'Ivoire experienced political pressure from the international community; recurrent teacher, health worker and student strikes; and complaints from different population groups about the continuing aggravation of living conditions. In response, the Government of Cote d'Ivoire launched the development of a Government Social Plan (PSG 2018-2020) that identified key urgent interventions in social sectors. The plan focuses on six main interventions, several of which are directly aligned with the UNICEF Country Programme Document, to provide the population with local health services, nutritious and healthy food, and enhance social protection; improve school access and retention of children aged 6 to 16 years and students' learning conditions and living standards; and promote people's access to essential services, housing, energy, transportation, drinking water, essential consumer goods and services at an affordable price, and an adequate living environment. The plan also focuses on interventions to enhance employability and access of young people and women to a stable employment and decent work; create the conditions for improving the living conditions of the rural population and ensure food security; and evolve the action strategy and ensure efficient governance for the implementation of the Government Social Plan.

Social context

In the context of fragile social cohesion, Cote d'Ivoire faced a growing challenge of youth employability. Less than half of youth complete secondary education and those who do so struggle to find employment. Only four per cent of adolescents and youth who leave school receive vocational training.

Inter-community tensions persisted throughout the country due to disparities, the limited or lack of administration, and limited or lack of social cohesion and reconciliation despite state effort and progress.

Emergency

Moderate but frequent conflicts arose throughout the region. In May 2018, conflict between the indigenous Toura community and foreign populations from Burkina Faso in Gandie (Département de Biankouma) resulted in the burning of the entire village. In June 2018, conflicts between Kodjaga and Zanasso populations (sous-préfecture de Sanhala et Kolia) resulted in two deaths and several people wounded. As climate change puts pressure on resources, immigration from other countries continues and political tensions rise, such tensions may increase. Cote d'Ivoire does not have a Humanitarian Action for Children Plan. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire, in collaboration with other UN agencies, monitored the situation, notably through the two sub-offices located in Man and Korhogo (previously conflict-sensitive areas). Those two sub-offices could provide a first response should an emergency occur.

Côte d'Ivoire is highly vulnerable to climate risk. On a list of 169 least-resilient countries, it is ranked number 147, and its stock of natural capital is depreciating. There were regular floods and landslides during the rainy season. Coastal urban areas, particularly the District of Abidjan, which has several risk areas (132 slums), were the most affected. In June 2018, 20 deaths were recorded during torrential rains (18 were in Abidjan) and more than 5,000 families were affected in Abidjan and in the interior of the country. The country's economic development, coupled with rapid and insufficiently controlled urbanization, increased the vulnerability of the population to climate risks and disaster risks. Coordination of operations-level response remained weak; government preparedness, disaster risk reduction and crisis management mechanisms were not fully operational. The double burden of addressing the population's basic needs, as well as urbanization and climate change requires that UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire develop a staff with both technical development and innovation expertise.

'Leave no one behind' and the SDGs

In 2018, the monitoring and evaluation framework of the 2016-2020 National Development Plan was developed. It aligns with priorities of the national Sustainable Development Goals. The National Development Plan is based on five strategic pillars: enhancing the quality of institutions and governance; accelerating the development of human capital and social well-being; accelerating the structural transformation of the economy through industrialization; developing infrastructure that is equitably spread throughout the country and protects the environment; and strengthening regional integration and international cooperation. Using the Rapid Integrated Assessment tool, a review of the national strategies found that 87 of the 105 targets under the prioritization exercise were already addressed in the National Development Plan. Following the assessment, the Government identified 65 priorities and 11 key accelerators to achieve the objectives of the National Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Due to limited political will and leadership on the issue, and rivalries among government structures in coordinating the domestication process, Cote d'Ivoire has not yet finalized prioritization or domestication of the SDGs, nor the costing exercise. The Government expressed its willingness to prepare a voluntary report in 2018, which was postponed for 2019. As a result, the country is off-track in the process to achieve child-related SDG targets.

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire undertook the midterm review of its Country Programme Document 2017-2020. The midterm review assessed the lessons learned during the first two years of programme implementation; considered new data (mainly MICS 2016 data); and looked at ways to better align programming with emerging issues and the Government's priorities. The midterm review identified the need to better reflect UNICEF Key Results for Children in West and Central Africa and the 2018 partnership Generation Unlimited, particularly regarding cross-cutting themes of gender, communication, youth engagement, partnerships, convergence, advocacy, resource mobilization and innovation. Generation Unlimited is an opportunity for the HIV and Adolescents, Education, Communication for Development (C4D), Child Protection, Social Policy and External Communication sections to work together on programmes to engage young people, with a focus on adolescent girls' participation. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire's social media engagement and U Report offer platforms to communicate with youth and to reach a greater population with communication for development campaigns and messages.

The programme output structure was adjusted and a specific output on youth engagement was

created that will enable UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire to more effectively plan interventions in this area. The midterm review confirmed the importance of cross-cutting areas such as adolescents and youth empowerment, innovations and the engagement of the private sector.

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire maintained an excellent relationship with the Government of Cote d'Ivoire at national and operational levels. With the largest staff (105 staff, and two sub-offices) and the most substantial budget of the United Nations agencies in the country, UNICEF is positioned as the reference organization for children and women in Cote d'Ivoire. With the scale-up of U-Report, UNICEF made great strides in outreach to youth, reaching 404,869 people in 2018. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire also successfully introduced innovations that contributed to its reputation and visibility. As a result, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire doubled its resources (from US\$ 25,763,041 in 2017 to US\$ 51,280,620 in 2018). UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire carried over approximately US\$ 29 million for 2019 and beyond, and confirmed an additional US\$12 million for early 2019.

Part 2: Major results including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents

Goal 1: Every child survives and thrives

After a decade of crisis, Cote d'Ivoire has recently enjoyed a period of stability and strong economic growth. The under-five mortality rate fell by 12 percentage points, from 108 in 2012 to 96 in 2016, but remained high. Since 2012, neo-natal mortality in rural areas decreased by nine per cent (to 33 per 1,000 live births), approaching the same rate as urban areas (34 per 1,000 live births). The percentage of births attended by skilled health staff increased sharply, from 59 per cent in 2012 to 72 per cent in 2016 (the country programme document target is 85 per cent by 2020), but the maternal mortality rate remained among the highest in the world (614 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2012). Data highlight significant disparities across the country.

Improving the child survival rates requires that a supportive and protective environment be created, strategies to scale-up high impact interventions be implemented, and key family practices be adopted by more people. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire supported the Government to engage at all three of those levels.

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire supported the Ministry of Health in the development and adoption of key national strategy documents for maternal and child health. The adoption of the Strategic Plan for Community Health and related tools and the Every Newborn Action Plan were key to better positioning primary health care interventions. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire advocated for better integration of community health into the National Health System. In 2018, Cote d'Ivoire allocated major government resources to hospitals at regional and national levels. Balancing health investments toward the primary health care level remained a challenge that needs to be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire reinforced the vaccine/antigen supply chain; ensured no stock-out of vaccine at central level; reinforced health workers' capacities; and supported the organization of immunization campaigns (measles and rubella in January 2018 and meningitis in December 2018). Programmes benefitted from funding that allowed for nationwide coverage, such as the Expanded Programme of Immunization, carried out with GAVI Alliance funding. As

a result, the national routine immunization coverage was 99 per cent for pentavalent 3 vaccine; 98.3 per cent for measles and rubella; 99.20 per cent for poliomyelitis and 104.3 per cent for meningitis A. The country programme document target of 90 per cent of children under one year receiving three doses of pentavalent vaccine at national level was met. A national immunization coverage survey based on a new World Health Organization methodology will be conducted in 2019.

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire used the U-Report/RapidPro platform to support a nationwide measles campaign. Mobile money was used to pay more than 35,000 health workers, which reduced both operational costs and risk of fraud. RapidPro was the means of payment verification and was used to exchange information during the campaign. As a result, this innovative platform is being scaled-up as the standard operating procedure for UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire campaigns that make payments to beneficiaries.

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire supported the vaccine/antigen supply chain with cold chain equipment (183 refrigerators and four regional cold rooms). As a result, 80 per cent of the cold chain was equipped with an electronic device for continuous temperature monitoring to ensure vaccine quality. This aligns with the regional Key Results for Children #1: 'By 2021, at least 80 per cent of children under one year of age are immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases.'

In 2018, with Global Fund support, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire completed the national long-lasting insecticidal nets distribution, which helped increase the percentage of households using them from 50 per cent in 2016 to 79 per cent in 2018, with an 82.5 per cent utilization rate in rural areas. This preventive intervention, along with the integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) strategy, responds to several causes of post-neonatal mortality in Cote d'Ivoire: malaria (causes 17 per cent of mortality of children under five), pneumonia (12 per cent) and diarrhoea (7 per cent).

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire focused its support on the most vulnerable regions of the country. In 12 health districts in the North (with support from the French Cooperation, C2D), UNICEF trained and equipped 2,159 Community Health Workers (1,908 male, 251 female) to carry out activities in their communities. According to the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey 2016, 64 per cent of children aged 0 to 59 months had fever and received an appropriate treatment; 30 per cent had symptoms of pneumonia and received an appropriate treatment; and 43 per cent had diarrhoea and received oral rehydration therapy with salt in the last two months. The Country Programme Document target is 80 per cent for all three by 2020.

In response to high neonatal and maternal mortality rates in Cote d'Ivoire, UNICEF introduced an innovative technique using the intra-Uterine Balloon Tamponade (UBT) that saves the lives of mothers with postpartum haemorrhage. In 2018, 409 qualified health workers from 12 health districts were equipped to offer Basic Emergency Obstetrical and Neonatal Care (BEmOC), including both the management of postpartum haemorrhage with the UBT and the resuscitation of newborns during the first minute after birth. A total of 379 out of 396 newborns were resuscitated, and UBT saved 57 out of 64 mothers who had developed severe postpartum haemorrhage. UNICEF distributed 5,000 UBT to health centres and enabled Cote d'Ivoire's central drug store, Nouvelle Pharmacie de Santé Publique (NPSP) to locally produce an additional 10,000 UBT kits to scale up this high-impact intervention nationwide.

To increase the percentage of children registered at birth within the legal deadline, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire advocated for and successfully piloted the integration of birth registration into

maternity units' routine activities. Based on this successful integration, birth registration also will be integrated into routine immunization services.

The prevalence of stunting among children under the age of five dropped from 29.8 per cent in 2012 to 21.6 per cent in 2016. At the current rate (down 1.7 per cent per year), Cote d'Ivoire is on track to reach the country programme document target of 20 per cent, and the World Health Assembly 2025 target to reduce by 40 per cent the number of children affected by stunting. This will contribute to achieving the UNICEF regional Key Result for Children #2: 'By 2021, 80 per cent of girls and boys aged under five years, especially those who are marginalized and those living in humanitarian conditions, have access to high-impact nutrition services to prevent stunting.'

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire was the technical lead for nutrition in Cote d'Ivoire. Building on momentum from hosting the 2017 Scaling-Up Nutrition Global meeting in Abidjan, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the Prime Ministry and the sectors involved in nutrition to set up a national multi-sectoral nutrition information platform. This European Union initiative will generate nutrition-quality data to reduce stunting with joint and coordinated interventions, including prevention, through a multi-sectoral community nutrition strategy to be defined and validated in early 2019.

The prevalence of acute malnutrition fell from 7.5 per cent in 2012 to 6.0 per cent in 2016, with regional disparities: 7.2 per cent in the Centre-North region and 6.7 per cent in the Centre-West. In 2018, in 503 health facilities, 9,166 children were admitted with severe acute malnutrition, with a cure rate of 77.8 per cent in the 22 districts supported by UNICEF, exceeding the target of 75 per cent. Nationwide, 9,472 children were admitted with severe acute malnutrition, which highlighted the limited availability of nutrition data in the national health information system. The coverage and quality of services available to manage severe acute malnutrition remained low, and there was a lack of active screening. UNICEF signed an agreement with the World Bank and the Ministry of Health to extend severe acute malnutrition management to an additional 155 health centres. This will increase coverage from 33 per cent of health facilities in the 12 districts already supported by World Bank funds to 91 per cent. Agreements will be signed between the World Bank, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health to extend the programme to a total of 62 districts in 2019 (out of the country's 86 health districts).

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire was the main supplier of nutrition supplies in the country, including Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), routine medicines, Vitamin A capsules and deworming tablets. The agreement signed between UNICEF and Cote d'Ivoire's central drug store, Nouvelle Pharmacie de Santé Publique (NPSP) was the cornerstone for dispatching of nutrition supplies through a nationwide supply-chain system. In 2018, there were no stock-outs of RUTF reported at central level.

Following the progress achieved in polio eradication, and thus the end of polio campaigns, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to plan the transition of campaign-style events to routine contacts for Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) and deworming. In 2018, UNICEF supported the transition to the routine VAS and the deworming in 29 districts. UNICEF also supported two rounds of national campaigns in 86 districts for VAS and 59 districts for deworming. The post-coverage survey of the second round indicated 90.7 per cent coverage for VAS and 88.6 per cent for deworming. (The target was 90 per cent.)

HIV prevalence fell from 3.7 per cent in 2012 to 2.5 per cent in 2018 (3.6 per cent for women

and 1.4 per cent for men), but Cote d'Ivoire continued to experience gaps in testing and treatment of HIV-infected persons. The percentage of pregnant women who were tested for HIV and received results and counselling rose from 27.3 per cent in 2012 to 60.5 per cent in 2016. (The target is 95 per cent by 2020).

Access by women who are pregnant living with HIV to treatment for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) fell from 79 per cent in 2014 to 74 per cent in 2017 according to the National AIDS Control Programme PNLIS 2017. The target is 95 per cent by 2020. The percentage of HIV-infected children aged 0-15 years with access to antiretroviral treatment doubled over three years, but remained low, at 31 per cent in 2017. (The target is 45 per cent by 2020). The situation of adolescents and youth was troubling: only 4.7 per cent of eligible adolescent boys and young men and 13.7 per cent of eligible adolescent girls and young women had access to antiretroviral treatments. (The target is 32 per cent for 15 to 19 year olds by 2020). The national percentage of rural women with comprehensive knowledge about HIV has doubled since 2012, but stood at 14 per cent in rural areas (vs. 27 per cent in urban areas). The target is 50 per cent by 2020.

To address this situation, UNICEF and partners supported the Government in developing the 2018 HIV Acceleration Plan. Twenty-four districts, accounting for 70 per cent of response gap, were identified as priority districts and coordinated action with partners was put in place to follow up and boost delivery of results. UNICEF supported four districts (Soubré, San Pedro, Bangolo and Duékoué) with monthly monitoring visits to the district health medical team.

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire implemented an integrated approach to adolescent-responsive health services that included HIV prevention, menstrual hygiene, good health practices, nutrition counselling and prevention of substance abuse. UNICEF provided financial and technical support to the national school and adolescent health programme. As a result, 615,000 annual systematic health visits took place (51 per cent for girls, 49 per cent for boys); 1,756,085 consultations (49 per cent for females, 51 per cent for males) were provided by programme centres; and more than 180,000 youth aged 10 to 24 years were reached by behaviour change interventions. A total of 30,965 young people (boys 50 per cent; girls 49 per cent) were tested for HIV and 402 tested HIV-positive and initiated treatment. A total of 138 health service providers were trained on adolescent-friendly health services. At year end, 3,092 adolescents and youth living with HIV (64 per cent of them girls) were receiving quality services provided by the centres.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

The preschool gross enrolment ratio was 16.4 per cent (exceeding the target of 11 per cent), and the number of preschools, classrooms and teachers increased sharply. The primary school net enrolment ratio (91.06 per cent in 2017-2018) rose, and rates for girls were catching up with those for boys. The school completion rate rose by 14 points between 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, according to Education Management and Information System (EMIS) data. The 10-point gap between boys and girls was cut in half, however it stands at 63.9 per cent. The target is 94.2 per cent for both genders. The gross intake ratio to the first grade of secondary education reached 66.9 per cent. The gross enrolment ratio was growing faster for girls than for boys, although a substantial gender gap remained. (Gross enrolment rate was 71.5 per cent for boys and 61.4 per cent for girls). The completion rate in lower secondary education increased by more than 13 percentage points between 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. The completion rate for girls was 49.2 per cent, almost reaching the target of 50 per cent by 2020. The completion rate

for boys was well above the target, at 59.4 per cent.

The Government of Cote d'Ivoire demonstrated a strong political will to invest in education by adopting a law on compulsory education for children ages 6 to 16 and developing an Education Sector Plan for 2016-2025.

To increase girls' access to education, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire organized an awareness and social mobilization campaign in 2018 that reached an estimated 4,500 people (3,500 in Abidjan and 1,000 in Odienne). The campaign, which included discussion panels with young women leaders, emphasized the importance of enrolling girls in school and providing a second chance for those who have missed out on education. To help tackle harmful social norms, awareness-raising activities involved female leaders as well as young men and elders as champions for girls' education.

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire also used U-Report to amplify the voices and opinions of ordinary people, especially of young girls and women, around the main challenges facing women and girls in the country. Those challenges included limited access to education, illiteracy and violence. In 2018, UNICEF continued to support the Education Management and Information System (EMIS), notably with the inclusion of violence and gender indicators in the annual routine data.

In line with the regional Key Results for Children #3, 'By 2021, the proportion of out-of-school children of primary and lower secondary school age is reduced from 34 per cent to 28 per cent,' with support from UNICEF and other partners, the Government reduced the number of out-of-school children aged 6 to 15 from 2 million in 2015 to 1.6 million in 2017 (27 per cent of primary and lower secondary school-aged children are still out of school). In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire directly supported 8,193 out-of-school children to access early childhood and primary education (exceeding the annual target of 6,000).

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to conduct a GPS mapping exercise to understand the scope of Islamic schools. The exercise complemented qualitative research on 'talibé' (students who study the Quran) conducted by the NGO Interpeace with UNICEF support. The GPS mapping exercise identified 2,402 Islamic schools nationwide, hosting 316,691 pupils, including 139,595 girls (44 per cent of enrolment). UNICEF resumed its role in 2018 as the coordinating agency for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and as lead of the Education Sector Group. The Ministry of Education requested UNICEF support to undertake regional restitution workshops in 2019 to develop a step-by-step approach for a national integration strategy of the Islamic schools into the formal system.

According to national standards and in line with the law on compulsory education, an additional 15,000 classrooms will be needed to give every child access to school. In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire embarked on an innovative construction project to build classrooms using recycled plastic bricks. This technique has several benefits. It recycles plastic waste that pollutes the country and cities; engages women in plastic waste collection; and accelerates lower-cost construction of additional learning spaces for children. The first classroom was built (in Gonzagueville) with support from the Colombian social enterprise ConceptosPlasticos, which is installing its factory in Abidjan to produce plastic bricks with a new economic and social model, engaging women and the community.

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire supported the Ministry of Youth and the State Secretariat of the national

civic service that gives a second chance to out-of-school children from 16 to 24 years old. In 2018, UNICEF supported the participation of 150 young people in a nine-month civic service training programme as part of a pilot initiative that will be scaled up over the next several years

Goal area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey-2016, 86.5 per cent of children aged one to 14 years and 72.5 per cent of children aged one to two years had experienced violent discipline. UNICEF helped strengthen the child protection system and made progress on prevention and response to violence and exploitation of children in Cote d'Ivoire, in-line with Sustainable Development Goals 16.2 and 8.7 and the regional Key Result for Children #5: 'By 2021, at least 15 per cent more children affected by violence will be provided with protective services to prevent and respond to violence in both humanitarian and non-humanitarian settings.' In 2018, more than 10,000 children benefitted from services directly supported by UNICEF, compared to 7,172 in 2017.

The coordination of child protection interventions remained a challenge in Cote d'Ivoire in 2018. Debate continued on leadership of such interventions, which hampered the development of a holistic vision for child protection and social services in the country. In this context, it is important to strengthen evidence to advocate for child protection planning and monitoring. In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire provided financial and technical support to the Ministry of Women, Family and Children to strengthen the routine child protection data collection and management mechanism. This enabled the new, integrated Child Protection Information Management system to operate in 57 of the front-line social service structures (38.5 per cent of the social structures in the country), which can now regularly collect routine administrative data and report it to central level. This major advancement, which will go to scale in 2019-2020, will be the first time that truly national data on child protection will be available.

In 2018, the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) supported the Violence against Children Survey. UNICEF provided inputs and advice for staff training and developed a response plan to manage cases of child victims who were identified by data collectors during the survey. UNICEF piloted the use of payments by mobile money to respond to more than 200 cases of violence against children and youth identified during the survey.

Support for justice for children was a priority for UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire in 2018. Funding from the European Union enabled UNICEF to increase services to child victims, child witnesses, children in conflict with the law and pre-delinquent children. Expanded services included social workers going into communities more often and the addition of five new judicial services for child protection. As a result, in 2018, 3,027 children (2,832 victims of or at risk of violence and exploitation, 165 pre-delinquent children and 30 other types of vulnerable children) benefitted from social service assistance, and 7,030 children accessed child-friendly justice services.

In 2018, the percentage of children aged 5 to 17 years who were engaged in child labour was 31 per cent (19 per cent in urban areas and 41 per cent in rural). With UNICEF support, the Child Rights Impact Assessment on the Cocoa Sector was finalized in 2018. Government and industry discussions during the process enabled UNICEF to propose innovative solutions and change the focus of the new National Action Plan on Child Labour from case management/remediation to a broader focus on prevention and tackling root causes. The new National Action Plan on Child Labour and Trafficking is scheduled to be approved in 2019. The private sector showed interest in addressing root causes of child labour and in undertaking a

broader community outreach approach to help take the programme to scale.

Major progress was made in the reform process of the civil registration and vital statistics system. UNICEF supported the development of the national strategy on birth registration and identity. As the result of advocacy, in 2018 Government of Cote d'Ivoire approved the strategy and its budgeted action plan. The percentage of registered children under the age of five increased from 65 per cent in 2012 to 71.1 per cent in 2016 according to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016. Côte d'Ivoire is on track to meet the target of 75 per cent registration by 2020.

The global birth registration rate increased from 72.8 per cent in 2015 to 74.8 per cent in 2017. Birth registration within the legal delay of three months decreased from 59 per cent in 2016 to 54 per cent in 2017. The target is 80 per cent in UNICEF-targeted regions by 2020. The birth registration rate decline is a consequence of a decade of political and military crises in which civil registration centres were looted and destroyed, as well as poor quality of services offered by the civil registration centres, limited geographic access to civil registry services and population perceptions related to the importance of birth registration.

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health to implement two new mechanisms to record births and deaths, as per the regional Key Result for Children #7: 'By 2021, 30 per cent more children under-1 have their births registered.' A community mechanism that records births and deaths that occur outside the health system was implemented in 1,172 villages in the Southwest, North and Centre-West of Cote d'Ivoire and enabled the registration of 8,164 births. In an initiative linking the health system with the civil registration system, health workers collected information on births that occur in the health facilities and reported them to the civil registration services using special forms. Implemented in 10 health districts covering 405 public health centres and maternities in the Centre-West, North-West, North and Abidjan, this mechanism enabled the registration of 25,641 newborn babies in the first three months.

As a result of a Special Operation started in 2017 with UNICEF support, 492,404 schoolchildren were registered outside the legal delay in 2018. The Special Operation, conducted by the Ministry of Justice with support from Ministry of Education, the first Lady and Ministry of Interior, was an innovative approach to identify pupils in primary school who were not registered at birth and provide them with birth certificates. There were some administrative and financial challenges and some programmatic delays, but the operation did provide 492,404 children with a birth certificate. The value for money of this operation is estimated at US\$2.00 per birth certificate, providing significant savings over the usual cost for late registration of US\$50 per birth certificate.

Goal area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

From 2012 to 2016, access to basic water supply services increased from 67 to 69 per cent in rural areas. (The target is 70 per cent by 2020). Practice of open defecation decreased from 57 to 39 per cent in rural areas for the same time period, meeting the target. UNICEF's contribution to this achievement represents as much as 56 percent of the national result. From 2012 to 2018, more than 950,000 people in rural areas ended open defecation as a result of direct UNICEF support. However, with 39 per cent of the rural population (more than 4.5 million people) still practicing open defecation, a challenge remains to reach Key Result for Children #8: 'By 2021, the proportion of the West and Central Africa Region population practicing open

defecation will reduce from 25.4 per cent to 15.6 per cent.'

The percent of rural households with handwashing disposal, water and soap increased from 12 per cent in 2012 to 27 per cent in 2016, meeting the target. However, the population faced a challenge of water quality: at the national level, 78.5 per cent of households used drinking water contaminated with E-Coli, either at the source or during storage; in rural areas, that number rose to 94.2 per cent of households. The Government's strategy was based on facilitating local production and the distribution of water treatment products and also included implementation of the Water Supply Plan at community level and establishment of a national protocol.

Schools and health facilities often lacked basic WASH services. More than half of primary schools did not have access to basic sanitation and water services. Thirty nine per cent of health facilities did not have access to water and 29 per cent with unimproved water source. Health facilities that were connected to an existing water network were often affected by electricity service interruptions and had no water storage system. The lack of safe water in health facilities also resulted in poor hygienic conditions for child delivery and neonatal care, thus contributing to the high levels of maternal and neonatal mortality. In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire reinforced the synergies between the WASH sector and health and education sectors by targeting the same geographic regions (Northwest, Southwest and West) and providing an integrated package of interventions. With these measures and with World Bank and Dutch government funding, in 2018 UNICEF improved water and sanitation facilities for the benefit of 36,750 patients in 90 health care facilities, and for 3,174 pupils and in 110 primary schools, in 13 targeted regions with the lowest rates of access to basic water supply services.

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire provided technical and financial support to reinforce the WASH sector enabling environment, notably through the finalization of a study on innovative financing with analysis of the country's potential to increase resources allocated to the WASH sector. The study recommended ways to gradually optimize and increase the existing financial resources and to close the funding gap through improvement of fiscal space.

During 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire engaged with the private sector and also encouraged the Government to develop partnerships with the private sector. The 2018 Hand Washing Day and the 2018 World Toilet Day were organized with the private sector and a national consultation with the private sector was planned to develop the sanitation products' market in 2019. Open defecation free communities were promoted through a national workshop with involvement of national and sub-national level local authorities, civil society and traditional leaders. Strategies to scale up were defined, with better definition of sub-national actors and local authorities' roles to ensure sustainability. At operational level, with UNICEF support, 6,814 men and 6,366 women living in 2,338 communities had access to basic sanitation. A total of 2,100 additional people in rural areas had access for the first time to basic water service thanks to the construction and rehabilitation of 23 manual and 33 mechanic boreholes equipped with pedal pump and installed in open defecation free communities. Thirty-one local media covering three health districts reached 3 million inhabitants with messages on hand washing with soap, water treatment and storage, and the use of latrines. Door-to-door sensitization also was conducted for 1,200 households on Hand Washing Day. In the framework of the Interagency Contingency Plan and the UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire Emergency Preparedness Plan, contingency stock on WASH non-food items for 10,000 people was pre-positioned at national and sub-national levels.

UNICEF convinced the Government to partner with local companies on programmes. Two private companies were identified that are interested in locally producing chlorine-based water treatment, inspired by Sûr'Eau. Their products meet quality requirements and received conformity from the National Institute of Public Health. For the first time in 13 years, the private sector was involved in the Handwashing Day celebration. The private sector also participated in World Toilet Day, with exhibition of sanitation products by private local companies who were benefiting from the regional Sanitation Industry Consultation.

Goal area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire's advocacy to ensure government ownership and leadership in measuring child poverty resulted in the development of the first country-led National Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA).

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Budget in the development and validation of the law on financial and budget control. UNICEF continued to develop investment cases in child-related social sectors, including a study on budget space to finance the investment case of adolescents that was shared with line ministries and partners. The study will serve as an advocacy tool to increase efficiency and effectiveness of budget allocations in social sectors.

Citizen participation in the budgeting process, particularly the youth NGOs or NGOs working with children from five regions, was strengthened by launching a partnership with the Forum of NGOs and the Ministry of Budget on this key area of good governance. In partnership with the Ministry of Budget, UNICEF, with children's participation, developed a brochure in French on budgeting in Cote d'Ivoire, the first such publication in the francophone region.

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire positioned itself as a lead voice for children through a dynamic national communication strategy, including the nomination of UNICEF champions and high-quality photos/videos, the expansion of its social media presence and the development of its youth engagement strategy. A total of 404,869 people (242,922 males and 161,947 females) were recruited on U-Report, the second-highest number of any country, and the highest in a francophone U-Report country. Information centres were consulted more than 349,000 times and young people led close to 300 U-Actions for positive change in their communities. UNICEF Côte d'Ivoire's youth engagement strategy was selected as one of the 20 Generation Unlimited solutions.

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire strengthened its emergency preparedness and response system through review of its contingency plan; review of the emergency supply plan and repositioning of supplies; training of staff; and development of cross-sector standby agreements with partners. The review of the contingency plan included review of the risk analysis, risk monitoring, preparation and emergency response plan. It addressed all sectors' needs and capacity to respond to emergencies.

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire's social media presence and engagement rose significantly in 2018. A digital and social media strategy was implemented to extend UNICEF's voice to reach, engage and seek new supporters around children's rights and programme priorities. The number of followers on Facebook doubled, from 43,000 in 2017 to 87,000 in 2018. The number of Twitter followers rose from 3,200 in 2017 to more than 14,700 in 2018. And the number of Instagram followers rose from 1,500 in 2017 to 6,600 in 2018. A LinkedIn account was created and grew to more than 16,200 followers.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Lessons learned

UNICEF benefits from a trusted relationship with the Government, based on strong collaboration since the UNICEF Country Office was established in Cote d'Ivoire in 1986 (including during the 2002 to 2012 civil war). UNICEF is a resource in the country in child development and protection, especially in nutrition, education, WASH and child protection. In 2018, UNICEF reinforced its relationship with its line ministry, the Ministry of Planning and Development, notably through continuous technical support for revision of the National Development Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and for the organization of joint field missions as part of the country programme document midterm review exercise. This positioned UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire as a strong technical partner, delivering results at the field level based on evidence.

In 2018, with this privileged relationship, UNICEF moved forward a number of items on the Government agenda for the benefit of children and women. These included a stronger focus on primary health care; strengthening routine child protection data collection and management mechanisms; and the adoption of the multi-dimensional child poverty analysis (N-MODA). UNICEF engaged in the revision of the National Action Plan on Child Labour and Trafficking and released preliminary results of a report on the 'talibé' developed in collaboration with the NGO Interpeace.

The country programme document theories of change were validated during the 2018 midterm review and the strategy notes were refined to reflect new data and emerging priorities and to better align with the Government's priorities. The midterm review was an opportunity to reinforce collaboration with the Government and to refocus UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire's interventions around the regional Key Results for Children. Internally, the Key Results for Children provided a tool to evaluate existing approaches, determine success or the potential to be scaled-up and to systematically brainstorm on how innovations could speed up the results. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire developed a Key Results for Children monitoring tool to ensure trimestral follow-up of progress against goals during PCT and CMT meetings.

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire introduced or scaled up several innovations. U-Report had more than 400,000 U-Reporters, placing Cote d'Ivoire as the second highest U-Report country in the world. Cote d'Ivoire's youth engagement and participation projects were selected for the Young People Agenda book. Other innovations worth noting were the Intra-Uterine Balloon Tamponade (UBT) that saves the lives of mothers with postpartum hemorrhage; the use of mobile money for cash transfers; and a special operation for birth registration of almost 500,000 school children. A partnership with the social enterprise ConceptosPlasticos supported construction of classrooms with bricks made of recycle plastic waste. The 'culture of innovation' became a reality in 2018 and is a driving motivation force for UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire.

As a follow-up to the 2018 midterm review and a consequence promoting innovations, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire repositioned itself as a child rights and youth engagement advocate. Several ministries requested more support from UNICEF to tackle new challenges such as youth employability and the response to climate change.

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire doubled its resources. This was due to several factors, including the stability of the political and economic context and thus the trust of the international community and UNICEF's position as the main organization for children rights. The technical expertise of the UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire staff supported the Government signing tripartite agreements for channelling World Bank, Global Fund, GAVI and French Cooperation grants through UNICEF, mainly in the areas of child survival and education. The Value for Money exercise was a new avenue in 2018 to attract new donors from the private sector and high net worth individuals.

For the first time, the Country Programme Document 2017-2020 included specific objectives regarding the private sector. Developing effective relationships with the private sector is an investment that sometimes results in quick wins and sometimes requires a long-distance run. In 2018, efforts undertaken with the cocoa sector paid off. Partnerships with leading chocolate companies included high-level advocacy during key international events such as the European Union parliamentary hearing on child labour in cocoa and the World Cocoa Conference. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire successfully advocated for a change in focus of the 2018-2020 National Action Plan on Child Labour, moving from a small project and response focus to linking more strategically into other sector plans and a focus on prevention.

Constraints

In 2018 UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire innovatively found solutions to each problem that arose. The Innovation Specialist worked under the direct supervision of the Chief of Operations, and the Representative was engaged in introducing innovations, both of which helped support success. The operations team engaged with UNICEF Headquarters, notably Supply Division, the Innovation Global team and DFAM, to find a way to bring technical expertise from the Colombian social enterprise ConceptosPlasticos to Cote d'Ivoire. The visits to Cote d'Ivoire of the Supply Division Director, Headquarters Innovation team and the Regional Director were key to move the innovation agenda forward. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire will continue to benefit from support from Headquarters and the UNICEF Regional Office **to overcome administrative challenges**. Additional expertise will be needed to face new demands such as the construction of school latrines with plastic bricks.

In 2017, the Ministry of Justice requested UNICEF support for a Special Operation to provide birth certificates to school children who are registered in the school system without a birth certificate. Challenges arose with collaboration between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and the Interior Ministry. The Ministry of Justice was not able to provide justification or results until late 2018, due to reasons including strikes and mismanagement. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire thus carried a DCT over nine months in 2018. However, although the activity took more time than expected, the result to date of 492,404 schoolchildren provided with a birth certificate was still unprecedented in Cote d'Ivoire. The projected financial value of the Special Operation is estimated at US\$2 per birth certificate, compared to the usual cost of US\$50 for late registration.

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire's limited budget for youth and adolescent programming poses challenges. However, UNICEF is well positioned in Cote d'Ivoire to scale-up promising interventions both for 'connected' young people and more marginalized and vulnerable youth. UNICEF's partnership with Generation Unlimited offers a new advocacy opportunity to leverage funding or mobilize resources.

In 2018, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire had a staff of 105 (90 in Abidjan, 5 in Korhogo sub-office and 10 in Man sub-office). Seven national staff were promoted to international positions and 13 went on stretch assignments or surge missions. The recruitment of national staff with technical expertise in the areas of the harmonized approach to cash transfers, communication in general and communication for development (C4D) was challenging, with several positions unsuccessfully re-advertised.

Forward-looking

In the final two years of the Country Programme Document 2017-2020, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire programme implementation will be guided by the recently revised Thematic Strategy Notes. Those strategy notes and monitoring progress toward the regional Key Results for Children will be key in maintaining focus on interventions aligned with the UNICEF Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In developing the 2019-2020 Rolling Work Plan, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire engaged in discussions with technical ministries to scale-up promising interventions, including the intra-Uterine Balloon Tamponade; the construction of classrooms, latrines and warehouses with recycled plastic bricks; the use of RapidPro and mobile money; the engagement of the private sector; and the extension of U-Report. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire will intensify successful approaches and implement new ones to achieve Key Results for Children #1, #3 and #7.

UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire will conduct at least two evaluations in 2019 as part of the revised Country Programme Document Costed Evaluation Plan.

The finalization of investment cases (health, including GFF and immunization; adolescents, WASH and birth registration) and Value for Money exercise (WASH, education) will help leverage resources for existing gaps, notably in the areas of WASH and adolescents.

In 2019, UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire will prepare for the next National Development Plan 2021-2025, UNDevelopment Assistance Fund and Country Programme Document. UNICEF committed to support the Government of Cote d'Ivoire in conducting the next Multi Indicator Cluster Survey. UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire also is pushing the United Nations system to undertake a Common Causes Analysis to feed into the Common Country Analysis.

In 2019, UNICEF will conduct a Gender Programmatic Review and a Conflict Analysis. UNICEF also will build out existing sectoral data to develop the new Situation Analysis for Children and Women (SitAn) as a prelude to the next country programme document.

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