

# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## Central African Republic

### SUMMARY FOR 2005

#### Critical Issues for Children and Women

The Central African Republic is one of the world's forgotten humanitarian crises. Although a National Union Government has been established since 2003, the population continues to endure the severe consequences of the decade-long disruptions which have resulted in the collapse of all basic social services, especially affecting women and children.

The latest surveys indicate that around 20% of the children die before the age of 5. Only 30 to 35% of girls attend primary schools. Less than 30% of children are immunized against vaccine preventable diseases. Moreover, the country is becoming a real corridor for epidemics (14 cases of polio have been registered in 2004). HIV prevalence rate has already reached 15%, the highest in the region, resulting in a rise in the numbers of orphans and vulnerable children, among them 6,000 street children.

#### Planned Humanitarian Action for 2005

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Coordination Country Team and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group. UNICEF leads the Education and HIV/AIDS Working Groups, and contributes to the Health, Nutrition, and Protection Working Groups. UNICEF's humanitarian assistance programme is part of the CAP for 2005.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will re-launch the EPI and support national immunization days against measles and polio. UNICEF will support the revitalization of the health systems, and train health workers on integrated management of child illness. Additionally, UNICEF will further support therapeutic feeding programme in all affected districts.

Water and Environmental Sanitation: UNICEF will rehabilitate existing wells and boreholes, install new hand pumps, and construct latrine facilities in schools, health centres and local communities. UNICEF will also promote hygiene education. Local water management committees will be trained in care and maintenance of water points.

Education: UNICEF will provide school stationary, teaching materials and equipment. Gender sensitive training for teachers will be conducted in affected districts. UNICEF will also implement Child-Friendly school concept in collaboration with WFP and FAO.

HIV/AIDS: UNICEF will build capacities of health workers in the Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission, train teachers on HIV/AIDS, supply HIV testing kits and medical supplies, conduct social mobilization and collaborate with UNFPA to introduce youth-friendly reproductive health services.

<b>Summary of UNICEF Financial Needs for 2005</b>	
<b>Sector</b>	<b>US\$</b>
Health and nutrition and HIV/AIDS	4,575,879
Water and environmental sanitation	500,000
Education	1,795,455
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6,871,334</b>

<sup>1</sup> The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 12 per cent. The actual recovery rate on individual contributions will be calculated in accordance with the Executive Board Decision 2003/9 of 5 June 2003.