Casamance is a priority area for UNICEF interventions in Senegal. In collaboration with the government, UN partner agencies, NGOs and civil society partners, UNICEF helps strengthen the foundation for lasting peace in the region. The UNICEF sub-office was established in 1999 in Ziguinchor to provide support for education, health, stress management, conflict and mine prevention activities.

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“It is easy to rebuild buildings. But souls also need to be healed for Casamance to be at peace.”
Marguerite Colu Kémi, President of the Women of Kabonketoor, a UNICEF-supported organization whose members have worked to heal emotional pain in Casamance.

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Protection

**UNICEF Focus**
- Emergency education
- Support to universities
- Support to juvenile detainees
- Psychosocial stress counselling
- Mental health services
- Conflict prevention
- Preventing violence from exploitation, abuse and violence

The closure of health centres during the conflict, plus the shortage in equipment and personnel of difficulty in access, lead to a much higher infant mortality rate than in other parts of the country.

**UNICEF Focus**
- Implementing ELP package for schools
- Improving the quality of education
- Support to localisation to children in schools
- Life skills

Education

**UNICEF Focus**
- Complete vaccination for a child under the age of 1: US$ 20
- Community based Care
- Mortality and morbidity
- Protection for orphans and vulnerable children
- Early childhood development
- Maternal and child health
- Nutrition and malnutrition
- Reproduction health and maternal health
- Nutrition and malnutrition
- Water and sanitation

Dysfunctional schools and lack of available teachers have added to the psychological stress that students and their teachers are experiencing.