

DRC

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY





UNICEF DRC

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PO Box 7248 Kinshasa
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Phone : (243) 081 519 8142

Fax : (243) 880 30 06

Email: Kinshasa@unicef.org

Photography and design: Giacomo Pirozzi
Text: Unicef DRC / Michel Arseneault





FORWARD

The Democratic Republic of Congo, with its 2,345,000 km², is amongst the biggest countries in Africa. The country has faced armed conflicts and insecurity for years which seriously hampers the social, economic and humanitarian situation. The DRC is ranked 167 out of 177 in the UNDP 2005 report on Human Development. Basic social services for women and children are in great need of attention.

The reality of the lives of most Congolese children is dire. Only 3 out of 4 Congolese children lives to see their fifth birthday. Only half of Congolese children enroll in primary school and over one third are malnourished. Statistics alone are a stark but poor depiction of the realities faced by Congolese children. This information kit contains real accounts of experiences of children in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which give a better description of the challenges they face and also some of the positive things that can be done to improve their lives.

In DRC, UNICEF works with government, non-governmental organisations and civil society on a variety of programme interventions in the areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, Water and Sanitation, Protection, Social Planning and Social Communication. UNICEF's work shows that it is possible to make a significant improvement in children's lives with relatively low-cost interventions. For US\$ 3



a child can be supported to start primary school and have the chance of a better future. For US\$ 0.42, a child can be immunised against polio and receive Vitamin A and deworming tablets sufficient for 6 months. Further examples of challenges, of achievable and affordable solutions are mentioned in this information package.

Children have a right to a better future. By putting children at the centre of the development agenda the whole country can develop positively around them. Everyone can make a contribution to make a difference. I hope this information will help you do that.

Anthony Bloomberg
UNICEF Representative,
Democratic Republic of Congo

