

UNICEF Executive Board
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Item 5 (a) Country Programme Documents

Cote d'Ivoire Minister of Planning and Development Nialé Kaba's Speech

Extended Speech for presentation of the 2021-2025 CPD at the Executive Board

President of the Executive Board, Madame Audra Plepytė, Permanent Representative of Lithuania

Executive Director of UNICEF – Ms. Henrietta Fore

Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF – Mr. Omar Abdi

Ambassador Kacou Houadja Léon Adom, the Permanent Representative of Cote d'Ivoire to the United Nations

Distinguished Members of the UNICEF Executive Board

Distinguished guests

First of all, let me thank you for the opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, to share our experience and describe our successful partnership with UNICEF.

Côte d'Ivoire, under the authority of **His Excellency Alassane OUATTARA, President of the Republic**, is proud to have recorded a sustained growth rate of around 8 per cent on average over the last decade since 2012. This growth has led to significant investments in socio-economic infrastructure and social sectors, including education, health, nutrition and safe water. This economic performance has helped to improve the quality of life of Ivorians and improve national health indicators.

These results have been amplified by the Government's Social Programme (PSGouv). The infant mortality rate (under five years) has fallen to 96/1000 live births thanks to investments in the primary health care system and more innovative and effective solutions. In addition, pro-poor spending rose from 7.9 per cent of GDP in 2012 to 9.9 per cent in 2018.

However, this performance was dampened by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Faced with this pandemic, the Ivorian economy nevertheless has been resilient and recorded a growth rate of 1.8 per cent in 2020. Immunization coverage had declined up to 50 per cent in some health districts. However, thanks to communication efforts and support from our partners, particularly UNICEF, the population has renewed its use of healthcare services and by October 2020, immunization coverage had reached 95 per cent in health districts.

This recovery was only possible thanks to UNICEF's support in sustaining the continuity of health services and in restoring demand for services, enabling women and children to access the health care they deserve.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Recognizing the many challenges it faces in ensuring quality health care, especially for the most vulnerable women and children, the Government has begun the development of the National

Development Plan (NDP 2021–2025). The Plan aims to accelerate the structural transformation of the economy with strong and sustained growth while ensuring a more equitable distribution of growth benefits, including investing in the development of human capital.

With the support of UNICEF and all development partners, our efforts will be amplified through a multi-sectoral approach and the use of digital innovations introduced as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response to reach every mother and child, with reinforced primary healthcare services.

Vulnerable areas in the north and west, as well as the periurban districts of Abidjan, will benefit from integrated interventions by the Government and UNICEF, as well as the entire United Nations system. Multi-sectoral interventions in the areas of health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation will be implemented with complementary strategies to change hygiene behaviour provide protection from violence and improve access to birth registration. Engagement strategies will draw on the perspectives, energy and participation of adolescents, especially young girls.

The Government is pleased that with the involvement of UNICEF and other partners in the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents, significant resources will be allocated to primary health care as evidenced by the Government's commitment to provide funding for community health workers. We are also confident that through the programmatic changes proposed under the Country Programme 2021–2025, UNICEF will help the Government achieve its ambitious goals under the National Development Plan. The Government is also counting on UNICEF to help it take a holistic approach to reducing inequality and enabling all children to reach their full potential in an emerging Côte d'Ivoire.

Thank you.