

COTE D'IVOIRE

The vision of the Joint Programme (JP): All children and adolescents achieve the highest possible standard of mental health and psychosocial well-being and development.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Despite progress in stability and development, Côte d'Ivoire continues to experience regional fragility, displacement and protection risks that disproportionately affect children in the north and conflict-affected areas. Humanitarian spillovers from neighbouring crises, gaps in service access, and displacement strain education, health and child-protection systems, increasing psychosocial needs among affected children and families. Strengthened multi-sectoral humanitarian and development responses are required to reduce vulnerabilities.

GLOBAL INDICATORS		JOINT PROGRAMME REACH INDICATORS (UP TO 2025)	
Total population (000s)	25,716	Total individuals directly reached through the Joint Programme	108,485
Total child and adolescent population (000s)	14,912	Total individuals trained in child and adolescent mental health, psychosocial support and/or development	195
Suicide rates (per 100,000 population)	15.66	Total individuals predicted to reach through trained professionals, annually (<i>indirect reach</i>)	196,560
Stand-alone or integrated policy or plan for child and/or adolescent mental health	No	Total individuals reached through multisectoral care, and prevention/promotion services	100,794
Stand-alone or integrated strategy/policy/plan for suicide prevention	No	Total individuals with access to multisectoral care services (<i>indirect reach</i>)	32,784
Mental health workers in child and adolescent mental health services	38		
Integration of mental health into primary care is considered functional (self-rated 5 points checklist score; ≥ 4 = functional integration)	1		

Sources: *WHO Mental Health Atlas 2020; WHO Global Health Estimates, 2024*

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS ENABLING IMPACT

Multisectoral leadership and coordination	Multisectoral service delivery and care systems	Promotion and prevention in mental health	Data, evidence, and research systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A multisectoral working group was created to develop Côte d'Ivoire's national workplan, integrating community-level prevention and promotion, strengthening basic social services such as health and social care, and enhancing specialized services for treatment and support. Supported the revision of the National Strategic Plan, including development of indicators. Supported integration of mental health and psychosocial care into child protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pool of 30 trainers in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) was established through capacity-building initiatives responding to the Central Sahel crisis and refugee influx in northern Côte d'Ivoire. Efforts included training 32 social workers on child protection and MHPSS, developing harmonized guidelines, and creating online certified modules. A workshop defined a minimum MHPSS package and draft training guide. Twenty social workers were deployed to emergency areas, and key professionals trained on the EQUIP tool to strengthen supervision systems across sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the largest Sub-Saharan African music festival with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) communication and activities, including youth awareness sessions during the 16th Urban Music Festival in Côte d'Ivoire. Engaged U-Reporters' communities in awareness and training initiatives. Technical and financial assistance was provided for World Autism Awareness Day, World Suicide Prevention Day, and World Mental Health Day, promoting advocacy and public engagement on mental health issues across diverse platforms and events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pool of 30 MHPSS trainers was established alongside a roster of 32 social workers trained and deployed to emergency areas in northern Côte d'Ivoire. Harmonized guidelines, certified online modules, and an MHPSS minimum package were developed. Key professionals were trained on the EQUIP tool to strengthen supervision systems. Additional initiatives included a survey on youth mental health, an international study on suicides, technical support for the ECHO-Autism Project, and World Bank-backed community awareness activities linked to Neurodevelopmental Disorder screening missions.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

Key partners include UNICEF, WHO, and the National Mental Health Programme, working closely with ministries responsible for health, social protection, education, women, family, and children. Additional stakeholders include the National Social Work Institute, regional and local authorities, community social workers, frontline health workers, U-Report youth groups, festival organizers, and international research institutions supporting evidence generation.

FUTURE OUTLOOK AND PRIORITIES MOVING FORWARD

Multisectoral leadership and coordination	Multisectoral service delivery and care systems	Promotion and prevention in mental health	Data, evidence, and research systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise and implement national level strategic planning for mental health. Define service standards and guidelines for planned services. Promote multisectoral engagement through policy dialogues and knowledge exchange. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train psychologists and youth volunteers to provide interventions in newly established school and university-based care and support services providing interventions. Develop and expand community-level CAMH service delivery and workforce through training and supervision. Strengthen identification and referral pathways for children and adolescents at risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide mental health information and preventive messaging within schools and communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen data systems by applying results from mapping to improve evidence use. Create standardised M&E tools to track service delivery, quality, and outcomes.