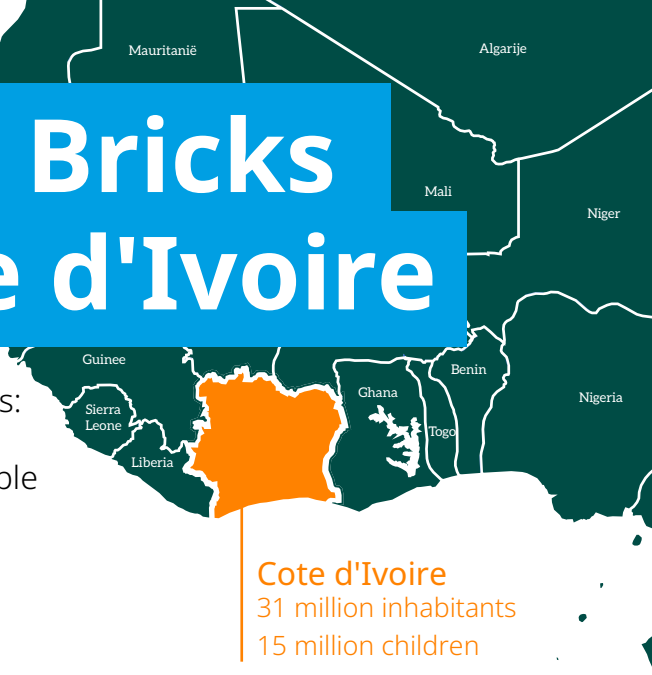


Plastic Bricks in Côte d'Ivoire

From waste to classrooms:
a leading example of
climate-resilient sustainable
development



Cote d'Ivoire
31 million inhabitants
15 million children



unicef 
for every child



What are the challenges?



Plastic waste accumulates in large cities and only **5%** is recycled.



Diseases spread more easily due to the waste problem



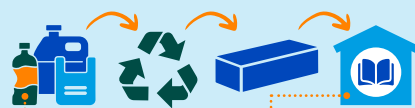
Many families live in **poverty**



The country faces a severe **shortage of classrooms**, and the **quality of education is often inadequate**.

What is our solution?

Together with partners, UNICEF has developed a **sustainable recycling chain** that transforms plastic waste into building materials for classrooms.



Women have been trained in waste collection and recycling and receive a fair price for their work. We train teachers for the newly built classrooms.

- ✓ **Less pollution**
- ✓ **More jobs**
- ✓ **Better education**

What have the Business Buddies helped us achieve?



516 classrooms have been built.



Approximately **25.000 children** have gained access to education.



More than **17.000 teachers** have been trained to improve foundational skills and grammar.



New prototypes have been developed from recycled plastic waste, including school desks

These results were achieved between 2019 and 2025.

Objectives for 2026

1

1. Better access to education and less environmental pollution.

2

Improve the quality of education.

3

Equality and (digital) education for every child.

Read more about these objectives on the next page





1. Better access to education and less environmental pollution

We create more opportunities for children to learn by building new classrooms from recycled plastic and renovating existing classrooms. From late 2026 onwards, our goal is to deliver approximately 240 plastic classrooms annually, significantly increasing access to safe and sustainable education.

All classrooms will be equipped with school furniture made from recycled plastic waste collected within the country. Between 2026 and 2030, we aim to provide 3,000 school desks.



2. Improve the quality of education

UNICEF strengthens the education system and improves educational quality by training teachers, enabling them to further develop their pedagogical skills and help children learn effectively. Teachers also receive training in inclusive education, including support for children with visual or motor impairments, children who are deaf, and children with autism.



3. Equality and (digital) education for every child

In remote villages without internet or electricity, UNICEF literally brings education to children through DIGIBOXES: portable cases containing tablets and pre-installed lessons.

Travelling teachers, often using motorcycles, provide lessons in communities that do not yet have a full school because, for example, there are too few children living there. This gives even the youngest children the opportunity to learn and eventually transition to regular schools.



Scan the QR code for more information on the UNICEF website.

