

IVORY COAST

Plastic waste as building blocks for the future

Investing in a cleaner environment, employment and education



In Ivory Coast, kilos of plastic are produced and dumped every day. The waste ends up in landfills and contaminates the groundwater. This increases the risk of diseases. Only five percent is recycled. Women who collect the plastic are often underpaid. There are also many challenges in the field of education. By recycling plastic into building blocks for schools, we achieve several goals: a better environment, more work and income and more classrooms.

Results we would like to achieve - duration until 2025

- **Train 150 women in the collection, safe storage and processing of plastic waste** and other crucial skills such as collaboration, communication and entrepreneurship. The women receive a fair price for their work and can thus build a new future for their family.
- **We contribute to the construction of 528 classrooms** in areas with a school shortage, made from recycled plastic. With funds from the Netherlands, at least two schools with a total of five classrooms will be built. Each classroom is provided with educational materials.
- With support from the Netherlands **we train at least 135 teachers** in, among other things, their pedagogical skills. In addition, we provide 15 schools with water points and sanitation facilities.
- **Provide access to education for 25,000 children.** The five classrooms, which are being built with support from the Netherlands, will give access to 250 children.
- Since January 2023, **we contribute to the development of new prototypes** which are made from recycled plastic waste in Ivory Coast, such as school benches.

NUMBERS

Number of inhabitants:

26 million



Number of children < 18 years

13 million

50% of the total population

For every 1,000 births in Ivory Coast,

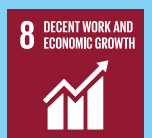
90 children

die before the age of 5



1.5 million children

in Ivory Coast are still out of school



Why more help is needed

The city of Abidjan alone produces 288,000 kilos of plastic every day. This creates a lot of waste, leading to serious groundwater pollution and blocked water drains. This increases the risk of diseases. Only five percent of the waste is recycled. This is often collected by poor women who sell it on the black market. They receive low wages and are seen as inferior by their community. It is therefore of great importance to help these women and to work on a sustainable chain for waste collection and processing.

In addition to the waste problem, there is also an education problem: about 1.5 million children do not go to school, partly due to a shortage of schools. It is estimated that 30,000 new classrooms will be needed by 2025. Help is needed.

What UNICEF does

With this program, UNICEF tackles both problems. We are setting up an innovative chain in which plastic waste is reused for the construction of schools. UNICEF involves underprivileged women who receive a fair price for their work thanks to the program and can thus build a better future for their families.

UNICEF has the ambition to train at least 150 women in collecting and processing plastic and other skills such as collaboration, communication and entrepreneurship. The production of the plastic building blocks for schools takes place in a special factory that was set up in 2019. The factory can process 9,200,000 kilos of plastic annually. The aim is to build at least 528 classrooms from recycled plastic that will provide space for 25,000 children.

Finally, UNICEF helps to improve the quality of education by, for example, training teachers and to improve environmental awareness by planting greenery together with children.



"I often thought that the tent in which our children were schooled would collapse," says N'Dri. She witnessed a true metamorphosis when a truck with plastic bricks drove into the village last year. Within a few days a whole new school was built. Everyone was impressed. According to N'Dri, it is much safer now. "In the past, there were pieces of metal behind the tent that hurt children. It also happened regularly that classes were interrupted by reptiles." The secretary of the school also sees another advantage: "The new school motivates parents to enroll children, which helps to combat child labour."

For more information, [click here](#).

Gift Examples

- With **€ 6** you purchase a plastic building block.
- With **€ 60** you purchase a teaching table that will be used by two children.
- With **€ 200** you will help train a teacher in pedagogical skills and increase students' environmental awareness.
- With **€ 7,500** you will enable us to purchase teaching materials for a new classroom, train two teachers and create a parent club to improve teaching quality and increase engagement.
- With **€ 10,000** you provide sufficient building blocks for a new classroom (foundation and roof excluded).
- With **€ 20,000** you will help build an entire classroom including foundation, roof and windows.
- With **€ 40,000** you help to provide a school with new toilets and washbasins.
- With **€ 100,000** you will enable us to build a complete school with three classrooms and sanitary facilities.