

## YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

# Accelerating girls' education through child-friendly schools

In the city of Fada Ngourma in eastern Burkina Faso, school enrolment rates are among the lowest in the country. But Gomore Community School is one UNICEF-supported school where this situation is beginning to change.

Boniface Idani, the head of Fada Ngourma's teacher training program, recalls what it was like at Gomore Community School. "Before, the school was not equipped with separate latrines, or a canteen, let alone a borehole. You can imagine how girls, particularly, were uncomfortable." Mr. Idani remembers that because of the shared washroom facilities many girls at Gomore would avoid using them.

To add to this already uncomfortable situation, the lack of a school canteen made children's lives very difficult, as most of them were not living close to the school. "Around twelve," Mr. Idani recalls, "the little ones would almost collapse [from hunger], trying hard to follow their lessons."

UNICEF initiated a project to put in place a girl-friendly environment in schools in Burkina. Fada Ngourma was targeted as a pilot for this project because girls' enrolment and retention in school there was a major concern.



A young girl proudly reads aloud to her class at Gomore Community School, the first UNICEF sponsored girl-friendly school in Burkina Faso.

As part of this project, Gomore Community School benefitted from a canteen, separate latrines and new boreholes. A school garden was also set up to help supplement children's diets with nutritious food to enhance their learning capacity.

The new child-friendly classrooms with safe sanitation facilities for girls and boys are improving access to quality education for the children of Fada Ngourama. Already girls' enrolment has increased and is closer to that of the boys: 42.6 percent compared to 47 percent. And with the generous support of donors, like you, this trend will continue in the years to come.



Global Parents, Robert and Delphine, share their story

**Name:** Robert & Delphine L.  
**Type of Donation:** Monthly donations  
**Donors Since:** 1982

### What does UNICEF mean to you?

It was just before we began our monthly donations that we realized, for a large portion of the world's children, every moment of their lives is an 'emergency'. UNICEF is an organization that is there to help consistently through each of those moments.

UNICEF also means lots of volunteers, excellent and dedicated workers with real expertise, a measure of long-term thinking and planning, and low administrative costs. And, of course, all the international ambassadors over the years!

### Why did you first decide to become a Global Parent?

Through our involvement in other organizations with global concerns, we met the then President of UNICEF Canada, who happened to be a Newfoundlander. She was a guest in our home on one of her trips to our area of the province. It was shortly thereafter that we signed up for the automatic monthly donations because we were inspired by the work of UNICEF.

### What does being a Global Parent mean to you?

I would have to say that we don't think about it very much. It's just something we do – an extension of parenting our own children.

Donate to help Canadian children make a difference this Fall. This year's campaign will help ensure that all children have the chance to receive a quality education – and a life of opportunities. Find out about National UNICEF Day at [unicef.ca/oct31](http://unicef.ca/oct31).



For more information or to let us know if you're moving, please contact us at 1 800 567 4483.

Charitable Registration Number: 122 680 572 RR0001



# UNICEFworks

SUMMER 2011

Your supporter action report

## A message from David Morley

Newly appointed President and CEO of UNICEF Canada

Geovani was ten years old, with red hair, an infectious laugh and a winning smile.

Thirty years ago, I was a summer volunteer at a project for street children in Costa Rica. Before I met him, Geovani had been caring for his younger brother and sister on the streets – doing whatever it took to keep the family alive.

He taught me how to pick pockets. We would be doing extra homework, and suddenly my wallet would be in his hand. He tried to get my skill level up to his; my fingers weren't as nimble. But then, I'd never had to do it to stay alive.

One day, after another pick-pocketing lesson, I asked him, "Geo, what was it like to sleep on the streets?"

This time he didn't laugh. "We never slept on the streets. Every night I'd find newspapers and spread them over a bench to be our sheets. That bench was our bed. Nobody can ever say I couldn't give my brother and sister a bed when they needed one."

Knowing Geovani changed my life. I stayed in Costa Rica for almost two



David Morley, President and CEO of UNICEF Canada visits with children at a UNICEF sponsored school in Zimbabwe. Previous to joining UNICEF Canada, Mr. Morley was the President and CEO of Save the Children Canada.

years. What had begun as summer volunteer work turned into a lifelong career. It has been my good fortune to be a part of organizations that strive to build a better world.

For over thirty years I have seen UNICEF at work in every continent, in

every place in the world where children are at risk. No other agency has such an impact on children's lives. I am humbled and excited by the challenge of leading UNICEF Canada. Through your support of UNICEF's global efforts, we can and we will make a difference for every child.

### INSIDE

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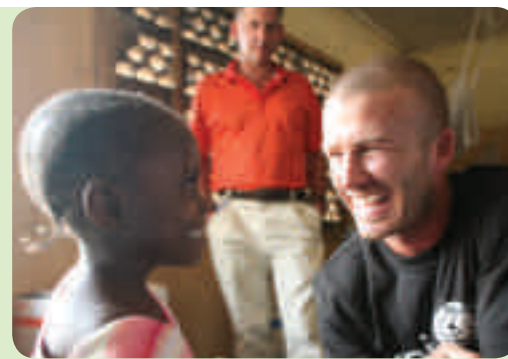
## Ambassador for change

If you've ever spent time in a feeding centre for malnourished children, the experience will never leave you. The feeble eyes and tiny arms of seven-month-old babies, weighing scarcely more than healthy newborns, will be imprinted in your mind forever.

Thankfully, there are proven ways to tackle malnutrition and with the support of donors like you, UNICEF is able to focus on these life-saving solutions. While there is more work to be done, we continue to see positive results.

Global icons, like UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors David Beckham, Shakira and Liam Neeson, also play an important role in helping to draw critical attention to malnutrition and other issues affecting vulnerable children worldwide.

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham is committed to drawing the world's attention to malnutrition after witnessing the challenges first-hand during a visit to Sierra Leone. At a therapeutic feeding centre for severely malnourished children, Beckham met five-year-old Senyo, whose muscles



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were so weakened by malnutrition she had difficulty walking.

"We can't turn a blind eye to the tens of thousands of young children who die every day in the developing world mostly from causes that are preventable," says the ambassador.

By providing life-saving nutritional supplies like fortified milk, high-protein biscuits and ready-to-use therapeutic spread such as Plumpy'Nut® to Senyo, she will have the chance to grow and thrive. These simple yet innovative solutions save lives, as Beckham witnessed.

To learn how you can help put an end to malnutrition, visit [shopunicef.ca](http://shopunicef.ca) or call 1 888 777 0380 to purchase an Inspired Gift today!



## ADVOCACY

# Closing the gaps for Canadian children

In the May 2 federal election, Canada's seven million children couldn't vote on issues that affect their daily lives. But our children need champions in the federal government, and Canadians across the country agree that it's time: 73 percent of voters feel it's important that children's issues be addressed by Canada's federal parties.

Critical issues affecting our children and their implications for our nation's future are rarely and barely debated in Parliament or during elections. Decisions that our Members of Parliament make on laws and policies dealing with family income, custody and divorce, jobs and other matters affect all aspects of child and family life, yet there is no mandated parliamentary voice for children in the federal government. We need someone

whose primary responsibility is to think about children — a Minister for Children, a National Children's Commissioner who will ensure that the impacts on children are considered in legislation, policy and services, provincial agreements and spending reviews.

During the election, we asked the leaders of the main federal parties if they would support an independent advocate for children and five other commitments that will help close the gaps for Canadian children. With the help of supporters like you, we asked the same of candidates across the country. Together, close to 1,000 UNICEF Canada supporters asked their candidates to champion children. We will continue to engage with their representatives to promote the best interests of children in parliament.

With your continued support we will advocate for the rights of children. To learn more about the issues and how you can help, visit

[unicef.ca/closethegaps](http://unicef.ca/closethegaps).

### Canadian children need a National Children's Commissioner:

- One in five Canadian children has a mental illness, but one in five of these children lacks access to treatment
- Close to 27,000 First Nations children and 67,000 other Canadian children live in state care
- One in ten Canadian children lives in poverty



## FROM THE FIELD

# Smiles in Norteno

## Our Community Engagement Specialists visit Panama

As soon as we arrived in Norteno, an isolated village in the mountains of Panama, we were greeted by the bright smiling faces of local children directing us to their outdoor meeting space. Filled with excitement, they were eager to tell us about their community.

Located in Comarca Ngobe Buglé, an indigenous territory, Norteno is participating in a joint project with UNICEF and the World Health Organization to build much-needed aqueducts.

By engaging the entire community in various facets of the project, UNICEF

is ensuring the sustainability of the aqueducts for many years to come and the village's most precious commodity — safe water — is available to all.

Local youth participate in the Youth Water and Sanitation Committee that aims to train young children about the importance of handwashing and proper sanitation. The dedicated young leader of the group expressed his pride in being a member of the committee. It is something that he can do to help his community — teaching the children of the village the importance of hygiene and clean drinking water. Meanwhile, other members of the village are trained



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Young girls from the village of Norteno attend the "Youth Water and Sanitation Committee" meeting, excited to learn more about the local UNICEF supported water programming.

to maintain and repair the aqueduct, not only providing the village with secure sources of water but with ownership of the project too.

The children's smiling faces and pride in their community are an indication that Norteno is thriving, and with your generous support it will continue to thrive well into the future.

## EMERGENCY UPDATE

# Conflict in Côte d'Ivoire

## Thousands of displaced Ivorians return home to face new challenges

An estimated 165,000 inhabitants fled Côte d'Ivoire to escape the violence in the aftermath of last November's disputed presidential election. Many lost contact with family members; others had family or friends die in the conflict.

The entire population of Koaro, a village located a couple of kilometres from the Liberian border, fled during the crisis. Half have now returned, with more streaming back every day. Most houses are still standing, but everyone remains shocked by the experience.

As so often happens during crises like these, children bear an enormous burden. Many schools were closed during the violence, depriving more than 800,000 children of continuing their

education. Schools are now re-opening, but only 400,000 children have returned so far.

Achille, 12, is one of those 800,000 children. He has just arrived back to his village from a Liberian refugee camp where, to ensure a meal every day, he and the other children gathered crops to sell to other displaced people.

When Achille fled his village, he left everything behind. "I left all my school books and pens in my house. We didn't have the time to pack anything," he says.

Today, those belongings are gone. Achille is in need of food, clothes, books and a bicycle so he can return to school and his life can return to normal.

As of mid-April and with the help of supporters like you, UNICEF had airlifted



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Children like Achille wait at a displacement camp in Ligaleu, Côte D'Ivoire to receive UNICEF hygiene kits that contain much needed soap, collapsible containers for water and other essentials.

over 100 tons of medical, nutritional, educational, and water and sanitation supplies to children and families in Côte d'Ivoire. With these provisions, UNICEF is helping to restore a sense of normalcy for children like Achille so they can stay healthy and get back to school.

To find out more about the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire visit [unicef.ca](http://unicef.ca).