Highlights

- On 23 July, amid fierce national debate, the Government announced another school break in response to a rapid rise in COVID-19 infections. The Department of Basic Education subsequently issued a revised re-opening plan, with schools set to resume on 03 August for grade 12 learners, 11 August for Grade 7 and with all pupils back to school by 24 August.

- UNICEF continues to support the back to school initiative, printing and distributing child friendly standard operation procedures, including posters with COVID-19 and how to stay safe at school messaging. Videos for learners, parents, teachers and support staff have also been produced, while preparations for reopening schools includes improving access to WASH facilities.

- With COVID-19 cases rapidly rising, UNICEF is further strengthening its risk communication and community engagement work, including positioning additional staff at the provincial level. Strengthening handwashing and COVID-19 prevention messaging is critical as increased movement plays its role in the spread of the virus.

- UNICEF also worked with the Department of Water and Sanitation to put in place an additional 9 handwashing with soap stations in KwaZulu-Natal province, eight stations in the North West province and 13 stations in Northern Cape province. Five stations are planned to be installed in Diepsloot, Gauteng, bringing the total built to 72 stations across South Africa.

Situation Overview

- COVID-19 rates increased significantly during July with daily averages reaching 13,000 new infections. South Africa now has the fifth highest COVID-19 infection rates globally at 511,485 confirmed cases and 8,366 deaths. The number of recoveries currently stands at 347,227.

- Gauteng province accounts for 35.7% of all cases, followed by Western Cape and Eastern Cape. Western Cape province previously made up half of all COVID-19 infections but is now showing signs of reaching a plateau, with rates now at 20% of all cases across the country.

- The number of infected health workers is 24,104, with 181 fatalities recorded. This accounts for 5% of all confirmed cases in South Africa.
The results of some 12,000 COVID-19 patients indicate that HIV and TB have a modest effect on COVID-19 mortality, with 12% of deaths attributable to HIV and 2% to TB.

The IMF approved US$4.3 billion in emergency financial assistance to help South Africa address the impact of COVID-19.

The coverage of child nutrition services, specifically for children with acute malnutrition, have dropped by almost half in the past two months. One in seven respondents of the National Income Dynamic Survey (NIDS) reported that a child had gone hungry in the last 7 days, with 8% reporting frequent child hunger of 3-days in one week.

Coordination

UNICEF in partnership with Youth Capital coordinated a U-Report poll to help understand the impact of COVID-19 for post-school students with a specific focus on access to online learning. The results of the poll will be used to advocate for increased access to information and data with Mobile Network Operators.

UNICEF South Africa disseminated an online poll through the Internet of Good Things to better understand the knowledge, attitudes and practices around mask usage during COVID-19 pandemic.

To support UNICEF’s work in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene a U-Report poll was disseminated to gain a better understanding into the knowledge attitudes and practices around handwashing and COVID-19 prevention.

Summary of Preparedness and Response Actions

Education

1. Children attending early childhood development (ECD) programmes started to return on 06 July. UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the Department of Social Development and the Department of Basic Education, including standard operating procedures and related measures on the re-opening of these programmes.

2. While the education sector prepares for schools to re-open again, support to remote learning through broadcast and online platforms continued. UNICEF reached 6.2 million children with remote learning support and is embarking on the second phase of radio and television broadcasts before schools fully open.

3. UNICEF is working with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) on the coordination and ‘curriculum trimming exercise’ for the education catch-up programme.

4. Early childhood development (ECD) and basic education resources, Tshwagarano Ka Bana (‘Let’s play, learn and grow together’) and the Active Learning@Home series continue to be disseminated widely to parents and children through multiple platforms, from social media, to education platforms, websites and hard copies. The ‘Do It More Foundation’ shared the educational resources during food distributions of more than three million meals to vulnerable communities.

5. UNICEF continues to work with the education sector on finalizing the ‘Care and Support in Teaching and Learning’ (CSTL) pillar, which includes psychosocial support.

6. UNICEF supported the Department of Basic Education on a national and provincial webinar for 95 children from Eastern Cape province that focused on preventing violence and child protection related issues.

Child and Social Protection

1. ChildLine South Africa received 11,827 calls during July, with 24% of callers reporting violence and mental health related issues. Childline workers provided psychosocial support and referred 9% of callers to relevant service providers, including the Department of Social Development, Department of Basic Education and NGOs.

2. Following an outbreak of xenophobic violence in Thokosa, Gauteng province, UNICEF and partners in the protection working group activated the early warning system to closely monitor the situation and provide support to children affected.
3. UNICEF continues to support the South African Red Cross Society to address the needs of migrants in shelters and communities. A total of 230 children and 400 adults were provided with COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE), food parcels and hygiene packs.

4. UNICEF is supporting the Jelly Beanz Foundation to develop a child friendly resource booklet, which will provide information on child protection and mental health related issues to ensure an accelerated response to cases of violence against children.

5. A series of webinars were held in partnership with the Department of Basic Education on topics of racism, violence against children and gender-based violence, as well as back-to-school and virtual learning issues. This included a webinar on learner-led interventions to prevent violence and gender-based violence in schools, reaching over 100 learners in the Eastern Cape Province.

Health and Nutrition

1. The COVID-19 related lockdown and fear of the virus continue to disrupt access to healthcare services, with a decline in the numbers of mothers, pregnant women and those with chronic conditions seeking healthcare. Routine reporting through the District Health Information (DHIS) system showed decreased service utilization and coverage rates across all maternal and child health indicators during April and May.

2. There have been steep drops in vaccination coverage, the coverage rate of the second dose of measles vaccine dropped from 85% in May last year to 77% this year, sparking fears of an outbreak of deadly childhood infectious diseases including measles.

3. UNICEF is supporting the monitoring of the National Department of Health’s HIV prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) programme. This work is critical to assess the impact of COVID-19 on programmes and to inform the response to address gaps. Data analysis from Western Cape province is ongoing to help inform the response in other provinces.

4. Peer mentors are providing in-facility and virtual support to 8,358 antenatal and postnatal adolescent girls and young women to encourage adherence to clinic appointments, infant immunizations, HIV testing and infant feeding and breastfeeding support. Clients are also provided with information about COVID-19 and screened for signs of mental health and gender-based violence related issues, with referrals for specialized support where relevant.

5. UNICEF is supporting the National Department of Health on a ‘Community Radio Communication Campaign’ to encourage mothers and caregivers to bring their children to clinics for services, while reassuring them that infection prevention and control measures are in place. Public service announcements on the importance of accessing the full range of preventative child and mother health services continues in local languages.

6. The National Income Dynamic Survey (NIDS) found that 1 in 10 HIV positive pregnant and new mothers ran out of antiretroviral therapies (ARTs) in May and June, while 1 in 6 reported at least a 2-month gap in visiting a healthcare facility.

7. UNICEF is working with high-risk provinces and districts to prepare them for a potential surge of acute malnutrition cases. This includes generating forecasts for nutrition supplies and pre-positioning within the districts.

8. UNICEF is supporting the National Department of Health on early prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition by scaling-up active child malnutrition case finding and improved coverage in screening children at the community level.

WASH

1. UNICEF’s partner, World Vision South Africa, is engaging with communities to identify locations for the installation of handwashing with soap stations in high risk areas such as transport hubs, public spaces, informal markets and schools.

2. A Tippy Tap Challenge has been launched by UNICEF to mobilise and encourage people to build their own household level handwashing facility. This is an effective and affordable way to increase access to handwashing. A “How to build a Tippy Tap” video and instruction guideline has been disseminated on social media and other channels.

2. UNICEF continues to chair and lead the UN's ‘Back to Work Messaging Team’, producing content for UN staff.

3. UNICEF launched the ‘Tippy Tap challenge’ through a Press Release and related multimedia and social media content. The launch was featured on Channel Africa and the challenge is engaging a range of partners.


5. The production of animated videos and posters for educators, learners and parents continue to be produced support the safe back to school process.

### C4D / Risk Communication and Community Engagement

1. UNICEF inputted into the draft national COVID-19 social and behaviour change communication strategy (SBCC) and coordinated inputs from regional inter-agency partners. The draft strategy was presented to the COVID-19 Incidence Management Team on July 27 and will be finalised in early August.

2. UNICEF South Africa worked with the UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office to provide community feedback reports and recommendations to the Center for Communication (CCI) team developing a rumour monitoring system for the National Department of Health (NDoH). This will enable shared learning on tracking and formulating concrete actions to respond to myths and community concerns.

3. UNICEF is helping to inform the national response to social media trends on COVID-19 by circulating UNICEF regional social media monitoring reports and dashboards to the national technical working groups.

4. UNICEF joined the global Community Rapid Assessment research project and initiated discussions with the national technical working group on how these will complement existing and planned research projects and help inform implementation of the COVID-19 SBCC strategy.

5. UNICEF launched the Tippy Tap Challenge to mobilise, motivate and reward youth to build Tippy Taps in homes and areas, particularly informal settlements, where there is no access to running water. Through a partnership with the award winning Zlto platform, UNICEF is offering youth who sign up for the challenge the opportunity to earn digital rewards which can be exchanged for food and airtime vouchers. Through partnerships with World Vision and the Children’s Radio Foundation, community, faith leaders and youth reporters in highly vulnerable communities will be engaged in promoting the Tippy Tap challenge.

6. Working with the Children’s Radio Foundation, UNICEF supported 2 WhatsApp focus group discussions, with youth reporters and listeners, to deepen understanding of handwashing knowledge, attitude and practice, and test WhatsApp as an innovative methodology for distance qualitative research.

### Funding Overview and Partnerships

1. Momentum Metropolitan Holdings donated hand sanitizers to the value of US$ 15,000, supporting more than 1,500 families.

2. Unilever are providing additional in-kind contributions for the COVID-19 WASH Response, including bleach (250,000 units); handwash (60,000 units); and sanitisers (60,000 units).

3. The [Pledge-67](#) fundraising campaign was launched on Nelson Mandela Day and resulted in 41 new pledge donors over a ten-day period.

### Challenges

- COVID-19 infection rates continued to rise rapidly across the country, with a significant impact on children and communities across all aspects of life, from access to school and healthcare, to food and related nutrition issues.
• National health and nutrition strategies need to be better operationalized at the provincial and district level, UNICEF is supporting this through strengthening its risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) work.

• Health facilities and services continue to be constrained due to healthcare workers becoming infected and facilities closing, while in areas where services continue fear of the virus means few people are willing to seek medical care. Concerns about workplace safety, the availability and quality of personal protective equipment have been raised. All nine provinces are now ensuring that the Occupational Health and Safety Committees, including Unions and staff, are established and functional in every province, district and health facility.

• Only 1 in 3 people are reported to be adhering to COVID-19 prevention methods, such as social distancing and wearing face masks, according to the government’s National Income Dynamic Survey. Strengthening social and behavior change communication work continues to be a priority.

• Lack of access to technology, including data costs, limits many children, especially those in rural areas from connecting online and participating in remote learning.

Who to contact for further information:
Muriel Mafico
Deputy Representative
mmafico@unicef.org

Toby Fricker
Chief of Communication and Partnerships
tfricker@unicef.org
## Annex A

### Summary of Programme Results, UNICEF South Africa, July 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Target to 31 Dec 2020</th>
<th>Results as of 30 June 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children – and parents - supported with distance/home-based learning [ECD, Primary, Secondary Ed]</td>
<td>7,200,000</td>
<td>3,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Policy and Child Protection</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>17,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of UNICEF personnel &amp; partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation &amp; referrals for survivors, including for PSEA</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF technical support to COVID-19 top-up of government social protection cash transfer system</td>
<td>5,700,000 (households)</td>
<td>5,700,000 (households)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health, Nutrition and WASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children &amp; women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV &amp; GBV care in UNICEF supported facilities (National and monthly)</td>
<td>Monthly: 171,858 (80,252 children and 91,606 women)</td>
<td>June 2020: 172,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms (through UNICEF supported Adolescent Girls and Young Women peer mentors project)</td>
<td>Monthly: 5,774</td>
<td>8,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risk Communication</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>7,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>32,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>36,764</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex B

**Funding Status, UNICEF South Africa, July 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Received (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap from HAC (HAC-Received)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>HAC</td>
<td>Regular Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and WASH</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy and Child Protection</td>
<td>1,550,000</td>
<td>775,000</td>
<td>775,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5,090,000</td>
<td>2,545,000</td>
<td>2,545,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection and analysis of disease and secondary impact on women and children</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>