UNICEF DRC | COVID-19 Situation Report

COVID-19 Situation Report #12
9 - 22 July 2020

COVID-19 overview
(as of 22 July 2020)

- **8,625** confirmed cases
- **197** deaths
- **4,790** people recovered

2.29% Fatality Rate

Kinshasa recorded 85% (7,321) of all confirmed cases. Other affected provinces including # of cases are:
- North Kivu (251)
- South Kivu (278)
- Ituri (31)
- Kongo Central (359)
- Haut Katanga (260)
- Kwilu (6)
- Kwango (1)
- Haut Lomami (1)
- Tshopo (14)
- Haut Uele (19)
- South Ubangi (4)
- Equateur (4)
- Kasai (1)

Highlights

- **6.8 million children have access to distance learning** thanks to partnerships with 306 radio stations and 25 TV channels
- **More than 760,000 community masks** distributed
- **29 million people** reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19 through mass media channels
- **40,304 calls** managed by the COVID-19 Hotline (9-22 July)
- **27,415 people** (including 5,953 children) affected by COVID-19 and **3,257 frontline workers** provided with **psychosocial support** since the beginning of the epidemic

UNICEF’s COVID-19 Response

### DRC COVID-19 Response Funding Status

*Funds available include 9 million USD UNICEF regular resources allocated by the office for first response needs.

* Risk Communication and Community Engagement
** Infection Prevention and Control
*** Child Protection and Psychosocial Support
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

1) COVID-19 Hotline: During the reporting period, the COVID-19 hotline successfully managed 40,304 calls, which is equivalent to an average of 3,359 calls per day. The majority of the calls are from individuals requesting general information on COVID-19 (98%).

2) U-Report platform
- Through its automated bot: 786 people asked and received appropriate information on COVID-19 statistics, symptoms, spread mechanism, how to protect themselves and how to protect others, and myths.
- Through its SMS center: 3,037 questions were received and answered. Over half of questions were about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and how to protect oneself from the disease. 38% of the questions were about the progression of the epidemic in DRC and in the rest of the world, and the measures taken by the government.

- Through the COVID-19 quiz: Compared to the results of the previous quiz, there was no significant change in awareness about COVID-19. For instance, 10% of people believed that COVID-19 is always lethal, against the same percentage in the previous quiz, 37% believed that antibiotics are effective in preventing or treating COVID-19 against 39% in the previous SitRep, and 9% think that a vaccine against COVID-19 exists, compared to 10% in the previous SitRep.
• **Through sending key messages:** 760,622 people received at least one key message such as “understand the risk and allow yourself time and space to express your feelings about what happened. Be patient with your emotional state, as it is normal to experience mood fluctuations” or “take steps to get the facts, stay up to date on what is happening, while limiting your media exposure. Avoid watching or listening to news reports 24/7 since this tends to increase anxiety and worry”.

3) **Mass media communication:** 340 radio stations and 65 TV channels have broadcast messages on COVID-19 in the 15 affected provinces. More than 29 million people were reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19 through mass media channels. 12 media professionals were trained on prevention measures and warning signs of COVID-19.

In the 15 affected provinces, 4,494 Community Relays and influencers, 16 health workers were trained on COVID-19 prevention measures by UNICEF and its partners. Those trained have in turn raised awareness of people about COVID-19 in 18 provinces of DRC, reaching 603,061 people and reporting 278 suspicious cases.

**Highlights from the provinces**

In Equateur, where there are currently more than 60 cases of Ebola, the risk communication and community involvement teams have reached 69,885 people with awareness raising activities on both Ebola and COVID-19. These include: 3,018 social leaders (from religious groups, local associations, local authorities...), 8,760 households. 40,832 Ebola and COVID-19 leaflets were distributed in 7 Health Zones. 80 music booths broadcast microprograms and spots on Ebola and COVID-19 prevention.

In Haut Katanga, 3 press briefings with the Minister of Health, 2 press briefing with the COVID-19 response team, 8 press briefings with the mayors of the 7 municipalities in Lubumbashi were carried out. The elements resulting from these press briefings were relayed to the general public through 23 local radio stations and 9 TV stations that have signed partnership contracts with UNICEF. 109,500 leaflets were distributed to households, markets and the bus stations. 9,500 posters were posted in public places, offices and bus stops.

In Nork Kivu, in partnership with the North Kivu Media Network (REMED), UNICEF supported the broadcast of 172 microprograms and 601 radio spots that targeted more than 1 million listeners of 60 partner radios. In partnership with the Provincial Health Division of North Kivu, 60 awareness-raising banners to combat the social stigma associated with COVID-19 were placed in the main public squares of the city of Goma.

In Tanganyika, 1,500 displaced people from Moliro and disaster victims were sensitized on COVID-19 prevention measures.

In Tshopo and Bas Uele, the Provincial Health Divisions, the Provincial Youth Divisions and the members of the Communication Task Force, in partnership with UNICEF, have reached 74,582 people with awareness-raising activities to prevent COVID-19 and other diseases, through youth associations, the DRC Red Cross, women’s associations, civil society organizations and religious groups. UNICEF, in collaboration with the “Réseau de Médias Associatifs Communautaires de la Province Orientale” (REMACPO), relayed distance learning and broadcast spots and radio microprograms on the COVID-19 prevention through 23 member radio stations.

In Ituri, 120 block leaders of the Kigonze Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) site were trained on communication techniques and management of rumors related to COVID-19.
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)/Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

UNICEF has provided critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services to 235,672 people in the 15 affected provinces, provided 224 healthcare workers within health facilities and Community Relays with personal protective equipment, and trained 3,341 healthcare workers within health facilities and community health workers on infection prevention and control in the context of COVID-19. In addition, 28 new health facilities were provided with essential WASH services.

Highlights from the provinces

UNICEF continued to monitor the number of people using the handwashing stations strategically placed in public places (entry points, markets, taxi ranks, etc) across the country: 183,727 people in Kinshasa, 27,615 people in Lubumbashi and Kasumbalesa, Haut Katanga, 8,892 people in Bunia, Thsopo, 25,964 people in Kongo Central.

Other key WASH activities included:

- 370,443 litres of water were supplied to hand washing points in the Health Zones of Beni, Katwa, Butembo, Mutwanga and Oicha in North Kivu with partner organizations Ceprossan and Programme de Promotion des Soins de Santé Primaires (PPSSP);
- 1,260 people were trained on COVID-19 prevention including 105 nurses, 105 community leaders, and 1,050 members of the Community Engagement Committees in Kasai;
- Infection prevention and control equipment (PPE suits, handwashing devices, clorine sprayers, termoflashes, liquid soap, masks) was donated to the Jiba General Hospital in Djugu Territory, Ituri, an area difficult to access and currently affected by armed conflict and internal displacement;
- 1,373 bars of soap, 1,509 buckets with taps, 3,053 plastic stools and 2,632 safe disposal bins to the Provincial Division of Education of North Kivu as part of supporting end of year school exams.

Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

During the reporting period, an increased number of adults and particularly children benefited from psychosocial support provided by UNICEF and the Psychosocial Commission:

- 2,677 people including 1,530 adults (766 women) and 1,107 children (566 girls) received a psychosocial support as part of the COVID-19 response. Of these, 1,730 people (687 men, 576 women, 243 boys and 224 girls) in Kinshasa alone (the hotspot epidemic);
- 505 frontline medical staffs and caregivers also received psychosocial support to cope with the negative impact they may face during their professional activities.
Since the beginning of the response, 27,415 people (21,462 adults and 5,953 children) and 3,257 (1,578 women) frontline medical staff have received a psychosocial support.

During the reporting period, 226 children (including 17 girls) were released from detention centres nationwide.

**Highlights from the provinces**

In Kinshasa, out of 71 households identified by social workers, 49 households with 142 children (including 65 girls) received a combination of food assistance, hygiene and infant kits, medical care and legal assistance. The emergency reception centres based in N’djili and Bandalungwa received 69 children (including 12 girls) while an appropriate care solution is arranged.

In Haut Katanga, 3 reception centres were set up by the Department of Social Affairs with the support of UNICEF to welcome vulnerable children affected by COVID-19. To date, 74 children (including 5 girls) are being supported in these centres. In South Kivu, 5 reception centres were equipped with hygiene kits for the prevention and fight against the spread of COVID-19.

With regards to children released from detention centres:

- In Kongo Central, 24 children (including 5 girls) were released and reunited with their families;
- In Kwilu, 31 children (including 1 girl) who had been detained for non-compliance with COVID-19 containment measures were released;
- In Ituri, 7 boys were released from the special ward of the Central Prison of Bunia and reunited with their families while a mother detained with her children was released from the women’s ward of the same prison following the presidential pardon.
- In North Kivu, 8 children were released from the Goma detention centre and 5 were reunified with their families. Social workers also successfully negotiated the release of 4 street children who had been detained following a market fight. They have all been placed in a transition centre, time for family tracing.

Social workers continue to support victims of sexual violence, monitor and document alerts. In Kwango, 19 children (including 7 girls) were made aware of the mechanisms for reporting sexual abuse and exploitation. In Maindombe, 69 cases of sexual violence (including 65 children and 4 adults) were identified and received individualised support. In South Kivu, 44 COVID-19 frontline workers (including 20 women) were trained on gender-based violence, including protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and effective referrals and collaborations.

**Health and Nutrition**

UNICEF is collaborating with the Technical Rapid Response Team (RRT) and is organizing a series of online training sessions on the simplified approach to the treatment of acute malnutrition with staff from the National Programme on Nutrition (PRONANUT) and international and national NGOs currently implementing nutrition activities in DRC.

UNICEF is continuing to support the promotion of infant and young child feeding in the context of COVID-19 in health services through the revitalized pre-school consultation platform and in the community through the community-based nutrition strategy.
Highlights from the provinces

In South Kivu, 3,376 severely acutely malnourished children under five were treated in the therapeutic feeding units for acute malnutrition and 13,341 caregivers of children aged 6 to 23 months received infant and young child feeding counselling, with the support of UNICEF and its partners.

Education

20 out of 26 provinces are partially covered by at least one form of distance education through 306 radio stations and 25 television channels, reaching 6,846,226 million children and adolescents. So far, 212,534 workbooks were distributed in 11 provinces, and 5,974 solar-powered radios were distributed to children of vulnerable households in 15 provinces to allow them to follow distance learning classes.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF has continued to purchase much-needed COVID-19 material locally to overcome the global supply-chain disruptions brought about by travel restrictions. On average, 51% of total local procurement have been received as opposed to 24% of total offshore deliveries. The use of existing long-term agreements to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and other COVID-19 materials (especially WASH materials) were helpful in achieving this efficient supply performance. Despite the fact that many materials were new to UNICEF, the DRC office was still able to buy 30% of the local procurement through existing long-term agreements.

Funding Overview

UNICEF estimates that US$ 58 million is required for an immediate response within its areas of responsibility. UNICEF has advanced US$ 9 million from its own resources to meet critical needs until additional funding is secured. As of 20 July 2020, UNICEF has received $24,3 million (40% of total needs) thanks to GAVI, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), The Republic of Malta, The Solidarity Response Fund, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, The Government of Canada, The Government of the United Kingdom, The Government of Germany and The World Bank Group. Advanced discussions are ongoing with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding that can be allocated quickly to where funds are needed most. The UNICEF Representative in DRC has also appealed for in-kind donations.
UNICEF’s “Masks Made in DRC” initiative

Through the “Masks made in DRC” initiative, UNICEF has commissioned some NGOs and women’s associations to manufacture locally one million reusable non-medical protective masks for children and adults. The enthusiasm for the production of these masks has prompted UNICEF to increase production to 2 million masks. 950,455 masks have already been produced and 760,766 masks have been distributed to the most disadvantaged communities in the provinces most affected by COVID-19. 423,000 masks will be distributed to primary and secondary teachers for them to use when the school term will begin next month.

External Media

1) SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE

Since the beginning of the outbreak, UNICEF DRC posted more than 550 messages on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn – reaching more than 123 million people. During the reporting period, a new story was published on the COVID-19 landing page and new multimedia material was uploaded on WeShare.

2) SELECTION OF COVID-19 RELATED PRESS COVERAGE MENTIONING UNICEF

- RDC : Fondation Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi et Unicef envisagent une collaboration sur le projet Excellentia
- RDC : le Plan d’action de la reprise progressive d’activités scolaires chiffré à 9,8 millions USD (ministère EPST)
- Avec l’appui de l’UNICEF, la Fondation Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi s’engage à aider les familles démunies à la prochaine rentrée scolaire
- Continuer à étudier malgré la fermeture des écoles: L’UNICEF a mis en place des mesures d’apprentissage à travers le pays dont plus de 4 millions d’élèves ont bénéficié

UNICEF Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global Appeal:

https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19/donate

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### Annex A: Summary of Response Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF and IPs Response</th>
<th>Change since last report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Total result (cumulative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)</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>40,000,000</td>
<td>27,797,059</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 mechanism.</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>565,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of influencers engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>166,492</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>2,142,790</td>
<td>1,851,640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPE</td>
<td>9,643</td>
<td>1,338</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in IPC</td>
<td>9,643</td>
<td>7,793</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection and Psychosocial Support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children who are victims of violence, including GBV, abuse, neglect or living outside of a family setting that are identified and receiving care in areas affected by COVID-19</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>1,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>169,000</td>
<td>30,672</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>152,643</td>
<td>27,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities</td>
<td>3,390,646</td>
<td>1,234,364</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19</td>
<td>412,365</td>
<td>161,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)</td>
<td>54,061</td>
<td>20,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning</td>
<td>15,450,000</td>
<td>6,846,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of distributed educational homework booklets to ensure continuity of children and adolescent’s learning</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>240,949</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The large increase is due to an increased number of booklets printed and distributed in certain provinces of the country