Situation Overview and Needs

Guinea has moved into phase 3 of the COVID-19 pandemic. The curfew in place still continues and is complied to by the population.

The Prime Minister of Guinea issued an decree for the creation of an inter-ministerial committee to combat the COVID-19 epidemic. The committee is responsible for monitoring the government's strategy in response to COVID-19. The Prime Minister officially presented on Monday, April 6, 2020 the 30 measures of the economic response plan of the country to the COVID-19 crisis.

The United Nations Resident Coordinater shared a note verbale with Government and other partners to inform them on the activation of its Business Continuity Plan (BCP). This note clarified that funds, programmes and agencies continued to operate; with limited physical presence of staff in the offices, and the adoption of teleworking.

Conakry remains the epicentre of the pandemic in Guinea. Concern is growing inside the country where 1 positive case (Labé) have been detected and rapidly transported to Conakry because of lack of adequate testing/care in the countryside. Tracing and follow-up of contact cases is ongoing in Labé. In all the governorates and prefectures of the country, coordination platforms for the response to the COVID-19 crisis have been set up. UNICEF is represented in the regional platforms by the heads of its zone offices. The country programme has drawn up regional communication and social mobilization plans pending endorsement by the National Health Security Agency (ANSS).

Highlights

- From 12 March to 6 April 2020, Guinea recorded a total of 121 positive cases of COVID-19, including 5 who recovered and 0 deaths. The contact tracing and follow-up rate for country is 88%.

- Conakry continues to be the epicentre of the pandemic in Guinea. 1 positive case was detected in the interior of the country (Labé) and immediately sent to Conakry.

- The Prime Minister of Guinea officially presented on Monday, April 6, 2020 the Government’s economic response plan to the COVID-19 crisis.
Coordination and Partnerships

- As part of the current response in Guinea, ANSS is taking the lead in coordinating the response to the COVID-19 crisis. An inter-ministerial committee has also been set up to interact with the national health security agency.

- The office has set up a UNICEF Guinea COVID-19 Task Force, which meets regularly, to complement the work of its emergency Task Force. Information on preventive measures concerning COVID-19 is regularly shared with all staff.

- UNICEF is represented in 4 functional national coordination platforms under the leadership of the ANSS (strategic coordination, communication and community engagement, care and logistics).

- UNICEF is represented in the four regional coordination platforms by its heads of zonal offices.

- As part of the joint response plan of the United Nations system, UNICEF leads the pillar on Communication and Community Engagement.

- UNICEF has contributed to the development of the first sitrep of the UN COVID-19 Task Force in Guinea.

Summary Analysis of Preparedness and Response Actions

- UNICEF Guinea’s office premises were disinfected by the Red Cross on Monday 6 April 2020.
- Emergency response is implemented in the city of Conakry (currently the epicenter of the epidemic). Regional response plans and the deployment plan for the supervision of interventions are being finalized.
- Teleworking for all UNICEF staff has been activated since March 22, 2020 for an initial period of 2 weeks and is continuing until further notice.
- Hand-washing device installed at the entrance of all UNICEF offices in Conakry and the 3 zone offices within the country (Labé, Kankan and N’Zérékoré)
- Distribution of individual protection kits (antiseptic gel, personal protective masks, thermo flashs) for all staff, their dependants, maintenance and security personnel at central Conakry and the 3 zone offices within the country (Labé, Kankan and N’Zérékoré)
- UNICEF Guinea’s integrated multisectoral response plan has been finalized and shared with WCARO. This plan is aligned with the national response plan and the UN joint inter-agency response plan.
- Participation in weekly epidemiological surveillance meetings at the ANSS every Thursday from 9H00 to 10H30mn.
- Participation in the daily meetings of the technical committees of the national health safety agency.
- Updated EPP page of country program (with COVID-19 risk integration).

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

The communication component currently faces the challenge of contributing significantly to the rapid adoption of positive behaviours by the general population in response to the COVID 19 crisis. This must be translated into effective community engagement and individual and collective responsibility for all community members in addressing the dynamics of the pandemic. This commitment must be based on knowledge and application of barrier measures. These achievements will contribute to strengthening the foundations for community resilience with the effective involvement of all stakeholders and under the leadership of community opinion leaders.

UNICEF, as the leader of the communication and social mobilization pillar, works in close collaboration with all the actors in the field, within the ANSS communication commission. This strategic and operational collaboration platform aims to accelerate the agenda of community responsibility, which is conducive to breaking the chain of propagation of COVID-19.

The synergy of radio stations, which covers the entire national territory through the synchronization of the programmes of 36 radio stations, helps to provide local communities with regular and reliable information on the barrier measures to be adopted and the measures taken by the Guinean State in the response.

Reaching out to communities with messages on social distancing and on avoidance of gatherings of twenty people or more are ongoing strategies to promote positive attitudes to better prevent the spread of COVID-19.
These activities have started in Conakry and in the main prefectures in the countryside where there are contacts under active follow-up and where regional coordination platforms are activated.

Large posters are being set up in 54 urban areas, with the aim of increasing collective awareness of the preventive means to be adopted by the entire population.

Digital communication through social networks (Facebook, Twitter) also plays its role in information and awareness raising, especially in the main urban area that currently constitutes the epicenter of the pandemic in Guinea (Conakry).

The production and broadcasting of awareness-raising message spots on local TV stations and channels contribute to informing local communities about the adoption of health measures that are barriers to COVID-19.

Supply and Logistics

- Ordering of personal protective equipment for medical staff and patients with the supply division.
- Finalization of the protocol for ordering ambulances for the response is in progress.
- Local order of posters on awareness raising on preventive measures against COVID-19 to be set up in strategic locations in Conakry and in prefectures in the countryside.

Human Resources

The country programme currently has a total of 112 staff, 89 nationals and 23 internationals, and 11 consultants.

Funding Overview

- The office has sent an update for the funding need for its response to the COVID-19 crisis to PFP who is working on an Emergency/COVID-19 fundraising packs for National Committees.
- UNICEF Guinea’s Response plan has also been sent to the national committees which are currently supporting the country programme.
- As for the recommendation of UNICEF Tokyo, Public Partnerships Division, the office reached out with the officer in charge of cooperation of Japan Embassy in Guinea to enquires about any funding possibility for the response to the COVID-19 crisis.

External Media

- UNICEF Guinee’s social media (Facebook and Twitter) are regularly updated with messages to raise awareness about good practices in the campaign against the coronavirus.
- The office’s National Ambassador, Sekouba Bambino, was called upon to raise awareness about the barriers to protecting oneself from Coronavirus through a video. He addressed the Guinean population in Malinke, a widely spoken national language in Guinea. He is currently in France, confined to his house.
- The Office has also highlighted, in its monthly newsletter, the activities carried out in partnership with the Government of Guinea to fight the COVID-19 scourge. This newsletter is sent to the media, government partners, and donors.

Next SitRep: 14 April 2020


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