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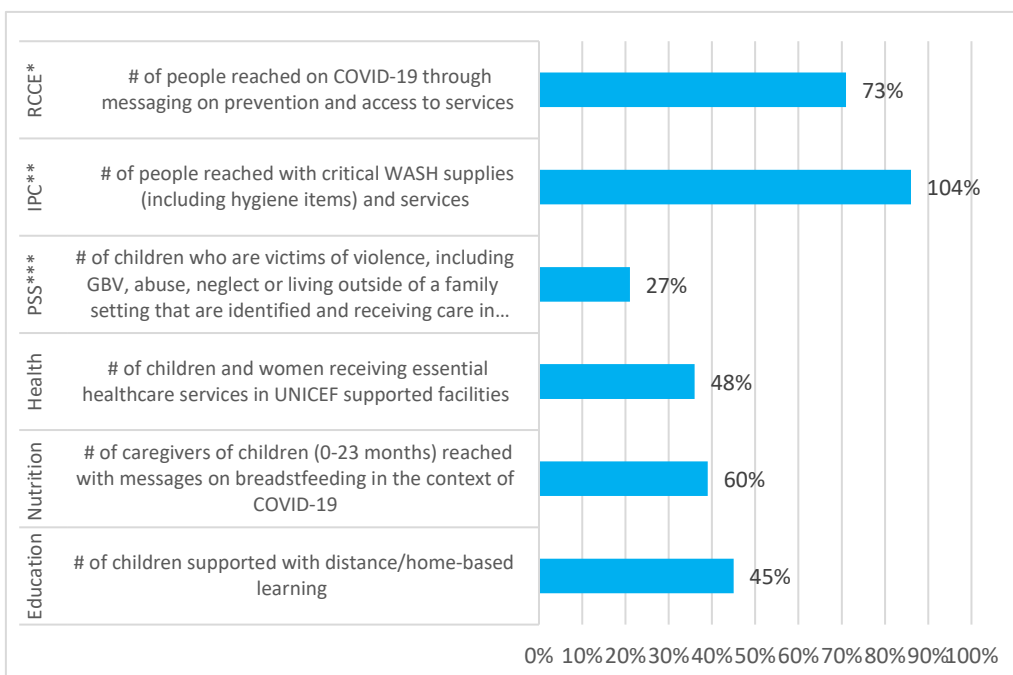
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for every child

COVID-19 Situation Report #14 13-26 August 2020

Highlights

- **6,993,466 million children have access to distance learning** thanks to partnerships with 320 radio stations and 25 TV channels
- More than **1,015,603 community masks distributed**
- **30 million people** reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19 through mass media channels thanks to 360 radio stations and 60 TV channels
- **41,474 calls** managed by the COVID-19 Hotline
- **34,933 people** (including 9,212 children) affected by COVID-19 and **4,221 frontline workers** provided with **psychosocial support** since the beginning of the epidemic

UNICEF's COVID-19 Response



COVID-19 overview

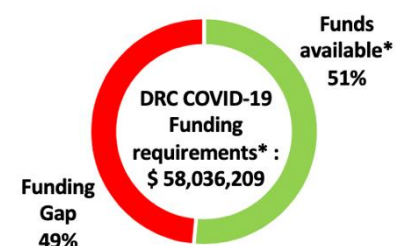
(as of 26 August 2020)



2.56% Fatality Rate

Kinshasa recorded 7,924 of all confirmed cases. Other affected provinces including # of cases are: North Kivu (642) Haut Katanga (314) Kongo Central (429) South Kivu (298) Ituri (104) Lualaba (94) Haut Uele (47) Tshopo (28) North Ubangi (10) Kwilu (6) Equateur (6) South Ubangi (5) Kwango (1) Haut Lomami (1) Kasai (1) Kasai Central (1)

DRC COVID-19 Response Funding Status



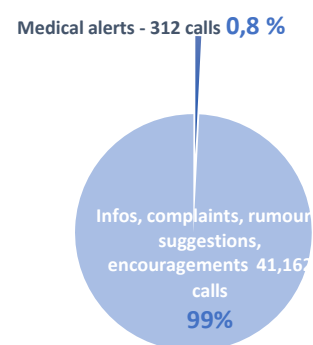
*Funds available include 9 million USD UNICEF regular resources allocated by the office for first response needs.



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

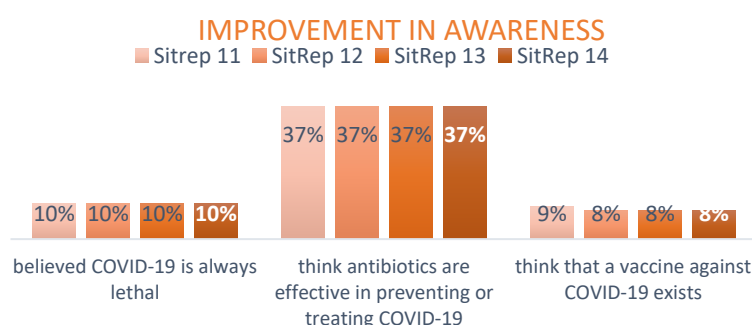
1) COVID-19 Hotline

During the reporting period, the COVID-19 hotline successfully managed 41,474 calls. 312 calls were potential medical alerts (suspected cases, medical assistance and incident) and 41,162 calls were about general information, complaints, encouragements, rumors and suggestions. The Hotline provides appropriate information, feeds the alerts mechanism and creates the link to the services (medical assistance). During the reporting period, the Hotline was successfully managing an average of 2,962 calls per day.



2) U-Report platform

- **Through its automated bot:** 1,580 people asked and received appropriate information on COVID-19 statistics, symptoms, spread mechanism, how to protect yourself and how to protect others, and myths on COVID-19.
- **Through its SMS Center:** 3,574 people received an answer to their questions. Over 36,46 % of the questions were related to statistics and how the disease is growing in DRC (affected areas, number of confirmed cases, number of recoveries, etc), 49,2 % of questions were about generic information (signs, symptoms, means of contamination and prevention, wearing of masks, etc), 8,04 % were about measures taken by the Government (isolation, quarantine, opening of churches, restaurants and bars) and 6,3 % were about COVID-19 statistics and trends at international level (how many cases in the world, number of deaths in neighbouring' countries and the most affected countries, etc).
- **Through sending Key messages:** nutrition survey aimed to understand nutritional practices during the period of COVID-19 and improve awareness and knowledge on COVID-19 and nutrition in targeted people. It has been taken by 476,257 people. Here are two key questions shared: *Do you think that your children aged from 6 to 59 months are eating healthily during this Coronavirus epidemic period? And for what reason do you think that?* The survey is [online here](#).
- **Through the COVID-19 quiz:** 10 % of people believed that COVID-19 is always lethal, 37 % believed that antibiotics are effective in preventing or treating COVID-19 and 8 % think that a vaccine against COVID-19 exists. These are the same percentages as in the quiz of the previous SitRep.



3) Mass media Communication

20 media professionals were trained on prevention measures and warning signs of COVID-19. About 360 radio stations and 60 TV channels continue to broadcast messages on COVID-19 with UNICEF's support in the provinces affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. 30 million people were reached by mass media with key messages on how to prevent the spread of the disease and other individual and collective protection measures.

Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa and in the affected provinces, 266 community relays and influencers were trained on COVID-19 prevention measures and warning signs. 13,807 actors have been involved in raising awareness of people about COVID-19 in 18 provinces of DRC. They reached 1,896,996 people, tracked contact cases and reported 52 suspicious case alerts.

In Tanganyika, 24 block chiefs were sensitized on barrier gestures in 3 camps for displaced persons. 25 church leaders declared their commitment to enforce barrier gestures during religious services.

78 programs and 9,660 spots were broadcast in Tshopo and Bas-Uélé provinces by 23 community radios. 5,664 community relays reached 198,771 people in the 11 health zones of Bas-Uélé.

In North Kivu, 5,670 community relays, 810 members of the community platform and 44 religious leaders from 4 religious denominations were sensitized to strengthen community monitoring. 172 programs and 602 radio spots targeting more than one million listeners via 60 partner radios were broadcast.



Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)/Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

During the reporting period, UNICEF has provided critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services to 244,146 people, provided 216 healthcare workers within health facilities and community relays with personal protective equipment, and trained 288 healthcare workers within health facilities and community health workers on infection prevention and control in the context of COVID-19. In addition, 52 new health facilities were provided with essential WASH services in the 14 affected provinces and provinces at risk in total.

Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa, UNICEF provided 31 health care facilities with essential infection prevention and control supplies. UNICEF is also supporting the construction of a drilling mechanic well for drinking water at Kabinda hospital and has distributed a 5,000-litre water tank for drinking water storage.

50 boxes of 9 bars of soap were provided to 50 elementary school in Bukavu in South Kivu. In Bunia, Ituri, 14,000 people/day can wash their hands at the market thanks to 10 additional automatic taps at the hand washing station. 10 handwashing stations, 10 boxes of 9 bars of soap, and 45 additional 135-liter tanks and soap were distributed to 45 additional public handwashing stations provided for the city.

1,907 people washed their hands and were sensitized on barrier measures at the public handwashing station provided by UNICEF in Haut-Katanga. In Lualaba, 30,060 people received essential WASH services, including hygiene items. UNICEF supported 10 health care facilities, equipped 120 health staff with personal protective equipment, and 240 community health workers were trained in infection prevention and control.

77 public handwashing stations were provided and distributed among Kananga town hall in Central Kasai, Tshikapa town hall in Kasai, and the Kenge, Boko, and Popokaba health zones in Kwango.

In Kasai Oriental, 8 health care facilities obtained certification of health status and infection prevention and control standard for COVID-19.

44 health facility staff in 12 hospitals in Kisangani were trained on infection prevention and control and rehabilitation/construction of WASH services.

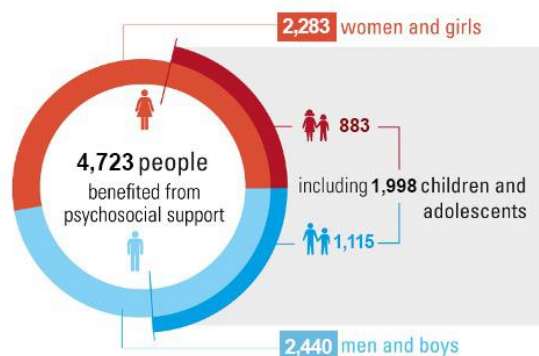
21,751 people washed their hands at 19 public handwashing stations and were sensitized on barrier gestures in Tshopo province. In Kalémi, Tanganyika, 100 community leaders, 18 health workers were trained, and 8,327 displaced persons were sensitized on the use of barrier gestures.



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

During the reporting period, 4,723 people infected with or affected by COVID-19 including 1,998 children (883 girls) and 2,725 adults (1,400 women) received individualised emotional and psychosocial support as part of the COVID-19 response. This brings the total number of people having been assisted by the Psychosocial Commission's psychologists, which are supported by UNICEF, to 34,933, including 9,212 children and 25,721 adults.

669 frontline medical workers and caregivers (386 women) received psychological support to help them cope with and reduce the stress induced by their work, bringing the total number of medical personnel and caregivers supported to 4,221 (2,097 women).



Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa, (para-)social workers identified 68 vulnerable households with 182 children (including 91 girls) during the same period. Of these, 33 households with 97 children (including 45 girls) have already received a combination of emotional and psychosocial support, food assistance as well hygiene and medical kits. Furthermore, 2 children received medical treatment with the help of a certificate of indigency, which reduces/waives the fees of accessing basic services. UNICEF's emergency reception centres in N'djili and Bandalungwa provided 34 children (11 girls) and 48 children (12 girls), respectively, with temporary care as social workers trace their families or look for durable solutions for them. Social workers successfully reunited 3 children with their families. The centres also welcomed an average of 19 additional children in street situations every day, who are provided with food, medical care and psychosocial support.

UNICEF worked with both community leaders that live in the street and with the Provincial Division of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs' Child Protection Directorate to set up social contracts with healthcare providers and professional training centres. These contracts will allow vulnerable children, identified and referred by social services, to receive medical care as well as vocational trainings. As a result, contracts were signed with 4 sewing and tailoring training centres in Limete, Selembao, Mount Ngafula and Ngaliema, and a specialist surgeon agreed to perform up to three major surgical operations on vulnerable children until December 2020, at a reduced cost.

In Ituri, para-social workers deployed to displace persons' sites continue to carry out COVID-19 sensitisation activities ensuring that the children that live in them know about COVID-19 as well as how they can protect themselves from the virus. In South-Kivu, 39 staff and volunteers working in the COVID-19 response (including 20 women) were trained on the identification and referral of survivors of GBV as well as on the protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

In North-Kivu, 22 individual sensitisation sessions were organised, and psychosocial support was provided to 13 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 22 contact cases and 3 suspected cases in Karisimbi and, in Nyiragongo, 3 individual sensitisation sessions were conducted for 35 people (including 26 women and 4 children).

In the Greater Kasai Region, UNICEF provided 22 transitional reception structures with 35 hand washing kits and 2,000 masks for both the children at the centres as well as their social workers and carers. In Lomami, 36 social workers (including 8 women) were trained on how to provide effective psychosocial support to children affected by COVID-19.

During the reporting period, a total of 213 children (including 15 girls) were released from detention and reunified with their families as a result of the close collaboration between judicial authorities and social workers, who provided

follow-up and individualised support. In the towns of Mwene Ditu and Lodja in Lomami, 14 judicial, administrative and social actors (including 2 women) were briefed on the rights of detained children and their specific roles within the juvenile justice process.

UNICEF has continued to ensure survivors of sexual violence's access to medical care and psychosocial support and to monitor and document alerts related to sexual violence. A total of 714 children (including 483 girls) victims of violence, including GBV, received individualised support, bringing the total to 2,892 children (including 2,192 girls) since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, 2,281 people were informed on how to access safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse during the reporting period.



Health and Nutrition

For the celebration of World Breastfeeding Week (WBW), UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and the National Nutrition Programme - PRONANUT, in the organization of the Campaign *"Stronger with breast milk only"* in the context of COVID-19. To communicate on exclusive breastfeeding, information was disseminated through radio broadcasts, press releases, U-Report messaging and social networks. More than 30 media professionals were trained to disseminate this information.

10,000 diagnostic tests - GeneXpert were handed over to the COVID-19 response coordinator.

To ensure continuity of services, UNICEF has supported its regular immunization, neonatal, child and maternal care programmes:

- 95,157 out of 139,799 targeted pregnant women were assisted at delivery = 68 %
- 552,712 out of 825,688 children under 5 years of age were properly treated for malaria, acute respiratory infection and all forms of diarrhea = 67 %
- 695,038 out of 1,810,852 children under one year of age received their 3rd dose of Pentavalent 3 vaccines in the health zones = 38 %

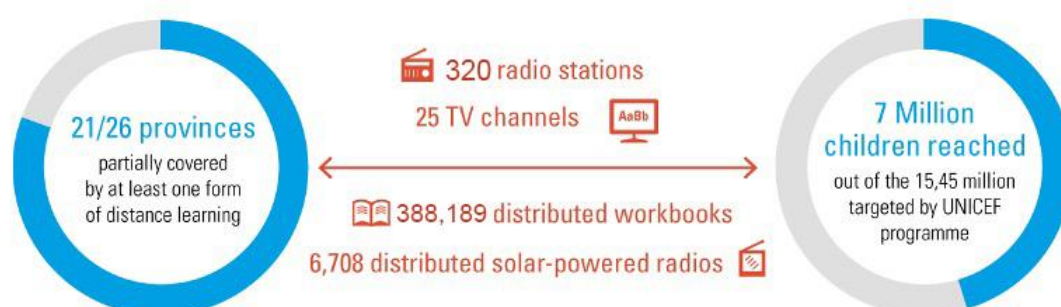
Highlights from the provinces

The province of North-Kivu and the 5 provinces of Kasai launched the campaign *"Stronger with breast milk only"* under the leadership of the Provincial Ministers of Health. North-Kivu province, with the highest number of chronic malnutrition cases (more than 800,000 children) and many cases of COVID-19 was particularly targeted.



Education

21 out of 26 provinces are partially covered by at least one form of distance education through 320 radio stations and 25 television channels, reaching 6,993,466 million children and adolescents. 388,189 workbooks were distributed in 11 provinces, and 6,708 solar-powered radios were distributed to children of vulnerable households in 17 provinces to allow them to follow distance learning classes.



For start of the new school year on 10 August, UNICEF provided:

- 337,021 protective masks for students and teachers.
- 3,256 hand washing devices.
- 249 Thermo flash.
- 222 solar radio sets to children from vulnerable families to follow distance learning.
- Decontamination of 50 schools and examination centres in Mbandaka, which is currently being affected by the Ebola epidemic.



Social Science Analysis

The Social Sciences Analytics Cell (CASS) continue work together with partners from the Ministry of Health, Bluesquare, Antwerp Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) and Kinshasa School of Public Health (KSPH) on a longitudinal study which looks at secondary impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak and response interventions on community health including access, availability and use of health services. The study including methodology, presentations and results for both Kinshasa and Goma are available [online here](#). Results are published each 6 weeks.

Over august 6-7 the CASS led an Integrated Multidisciplinary Outbreak Analytics (IMOA) workshop through the *Commission de Gestion des Informations* which included academic, NGO and donor/international governments (*French embassy and UK Department for International Development - DFID.*) The aim of this workshop, which will repeat every 6 weeks is to look at different data sources (epi, DHIS2, social sciences, markets) on the secondary impacts of COVID-19 and understand the trends as well as identify opportunity for action. Key actions from the workshop include the decision to reinforce an IMOA secondary impacts brief produced monthly in country (led by CASS). The content from the workshop can be found [online here](#).

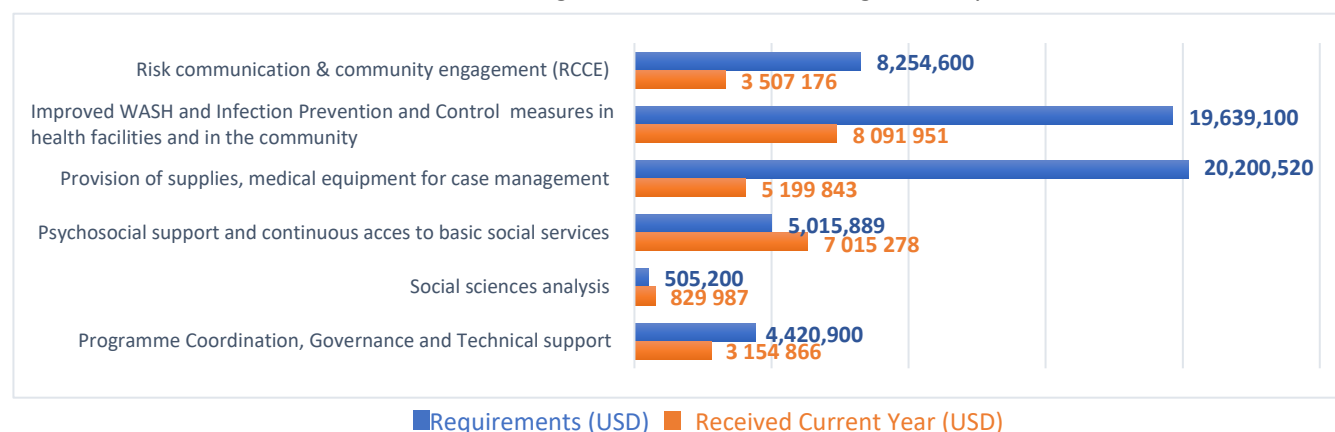
The CASS teams based in Kinshasa have completed the development of the Phase II secondary impacts of COVID-19 study ([online here](#)). Key study results highlight that, there continues to be an increased burden on women and decreased access and use of family planning and non-essential health services. This continues to be monitored and triangulated with DHIS2 data however actors such as Marie Stops International are already working to scale up mobile clinics to address access to family planning services.

For a full list of CASS studies and resources, please see [here](#).



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 26 August 2020, UNICEF has received \$29,8 million (51 % of total needs) thanks to GAVI, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), The Republic of Malta, The Solidarity Response Fund, Unilever UK & Ireland, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, The Government of Japan, The Government of Canada, The Government of the United Kingdom, The Government of Germany, The World Bank Group and 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. Below is an overview of the funding received and the funding needs by area of intervention:

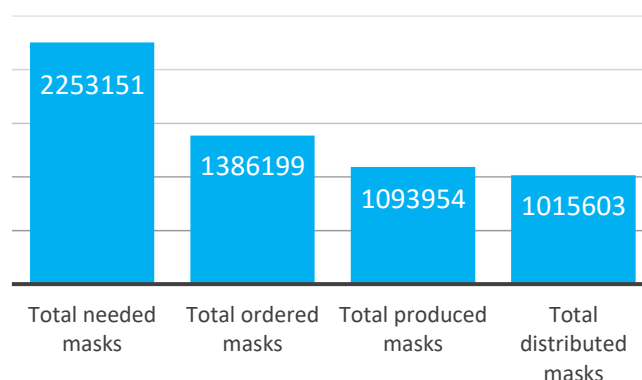




UNICEF's "Masks Made in DRC" initiative

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 around 2 million masks.

1,093,954 masks have already been produced and 1,015,603 masks have been distributed to the most disadvantaged communities in the provinces most affected by COVID-19.



Supply and Logistics

On 7 August 2020, a fire broke out at UNICEF's warehouse in Kinshasa destroying a large stock of materials and equipment for vulnerable children and communities in the DRC. UNICEF is fully committed to replace the lost equipment as soon as possible in order to continue the activities for children.

To cope with this situation and to be able to store new equipment and materials, a 1700 m2 warehouse in Kinkolé, Kinshasa, was made available to UNICEF by the Ministry of Public Health and the Programme Elargie de Vaccination (PEV).



External Media

1) SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the communication team posted more than 700 messages on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) – reaching more than 148 million people on Facebook alone. During the reporting period, the reopening of schools was largely covered through [photos](#) and [videos](#). As part of the launch of the "[Stronger with breast milk only](#)" campaign, several posts highlighted the [importance of breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19](#). New multimedia material was uploaded on [WeShare](#).

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

[Coronavirus à l'Équateur : l'UNICEF dote des écoles de matériel pour une reprise sécurisée des cours](#)

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

| Sector | UNICEF and IPs Response | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Target | Total result (cumulative) | Change since last report ▲▼ |
| Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) | | | |
| Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services | 40,000,000 | 29,241,606 | ▲2% |
| Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanism. | 1,000,000 | 705,626 | ▲11% |
| Number of influencers engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions | 10,000,000 | 2,215,334 | ▲628%** |
| Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) | | | |
| Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services | 2,142,790 | 2,240,287 | ▲20% |
| Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPE | 9,643 | 1,554 | ▲16% |
| Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in IPC | 9,643 | 8,785 | ▲13% |
| Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services | 357 | 315 | ▲21% |
| Child Protection and Psychosocial Support | | | |
| 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 | 10,500 | 2,892 | ▲33% |
| Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support | 169,000 | 39,154 | ▲16% |
| Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse | 152,643 | 31,731 | ▲8% |
| Health | | | |
| Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities | 2,776,339 * | 1,342,907 | ▲9% |
| Nutrition | | | |
| Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 | 412,365 | 247,307 | ▲53% |
| Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) | 54,061 | 20,317 | 0% |
| Education | | | |
| Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning | 15,450,000 | 6,993,466 | ▲0,3% |
| Number of distributed educational homework booklets to ensure continuity of children and adolescent's learning | 2,500,000 | 388,189 | ▲6% |

* Target was adjusted since last SitRep

** Compared to previous SitRep, this category now reports actors engaged + affected people in community dialogue. To avoid double counting, this target category is now removed from the first indicator "Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services".