



© UNICEF/Rice-Chudeau

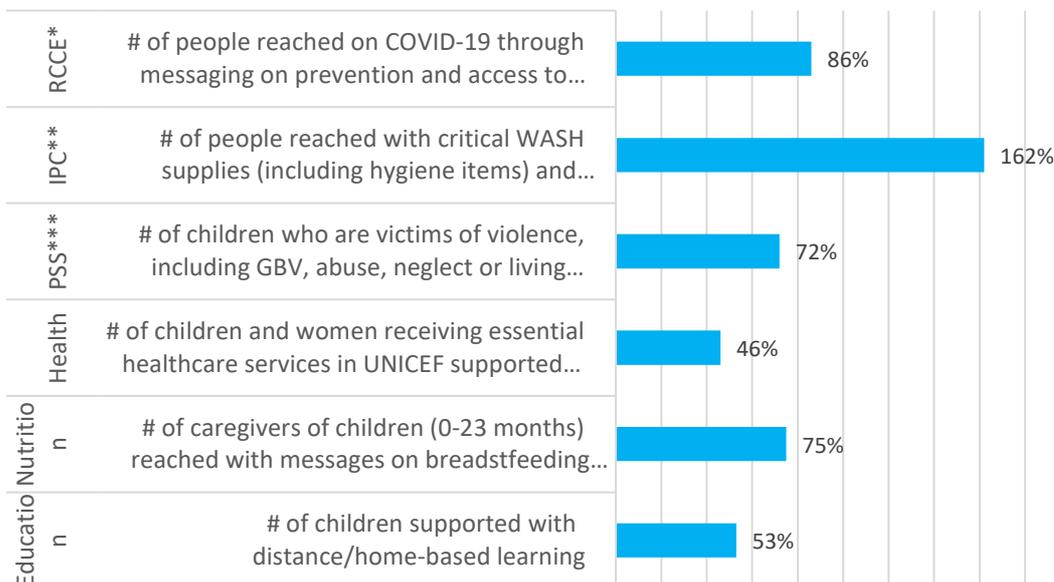
unicef 
for every child

COVID-19
Situation Report #16
23 September 2020 -
21 October 2020

Highlights

- **More than 8 million children have access to distance learning** thanks to partnerships with 322 radio stations and 23 TV channels
- **1.2 million community masks distributed**
- **25 million people** reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19 through mass media channels (300 radio stations and 50 TV channels)
- **64,283 calls** managed by the COVID-19 Hotline
- **71,532 people** (including 21,415 children) affected by COVID-19 and **6,005 frontline workers** provided with **psychosocial support** since the beginning of the epidemic

UNICEF's COVID-19 Response



0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100% 120% 140% 160% 180%

COVID-19 overview

(as of 19 October 2020)

 **11,078** confirmed cases

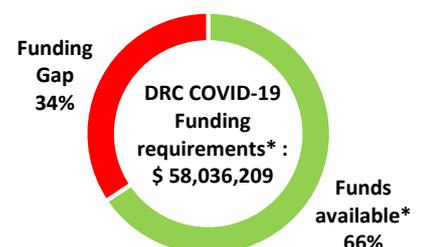
 **303** deaths

 **10,337** people recovered

2.7 % Fatality Rate

Kinshasa recorded 74% (8,290) of all confirmed cases. Other affected provinces including # of cases are: **North Kivu** (1,069) **Haut Katanga** (344) **Kongo Central** (524) **South Kivu** (318) **Ituri** (178) **Lualaba** (120) **Haut Uele** (90) **Tshopo** (56) **North Ubangi** (37) **Kwilu** (6) **Equateur** (20) **South Ubangi** (7) **Tanganyika** (6) **Kwango** (1) **Haut Lomami** (1) **Kasai** (1) **Kasai Central** (1) **Maniema** (2) **Kasai Oriental** (4) **Tshuapa** (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)

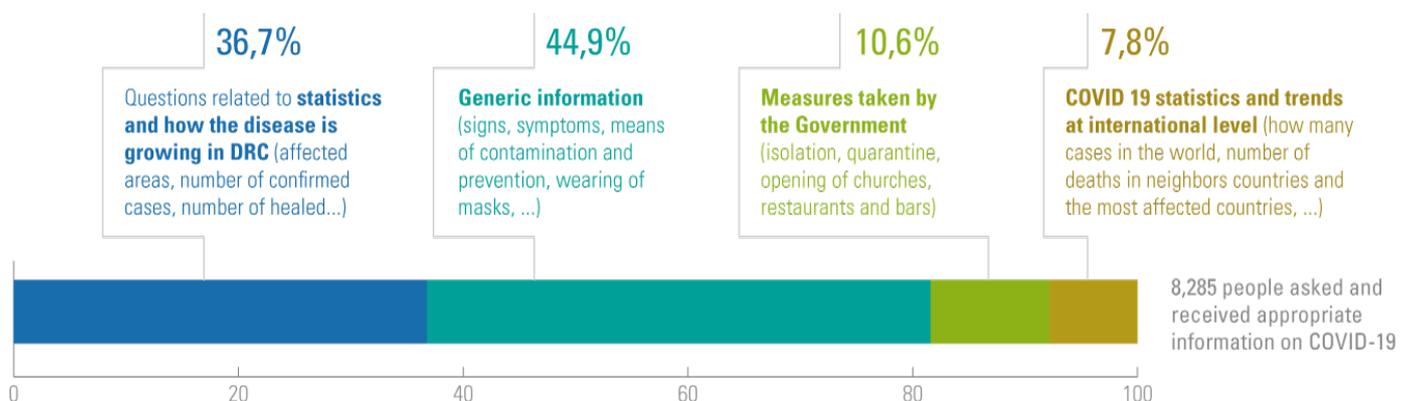
1) COVID-19 Hotline

During the reporting period, the COVID-19 hotline successfully managed 64,283 calls. 375 calls were potential medical alerts (suspected cases, medical assistance and incident), 214 were requests for medical assistance, and 63,774 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). Compared to the previous SitRep, the Hotline has experienced an increase of 18% in the number of calls successfully managed. During the reporting period, the Hotline was successfully managing an average of 2,678 calls per day.



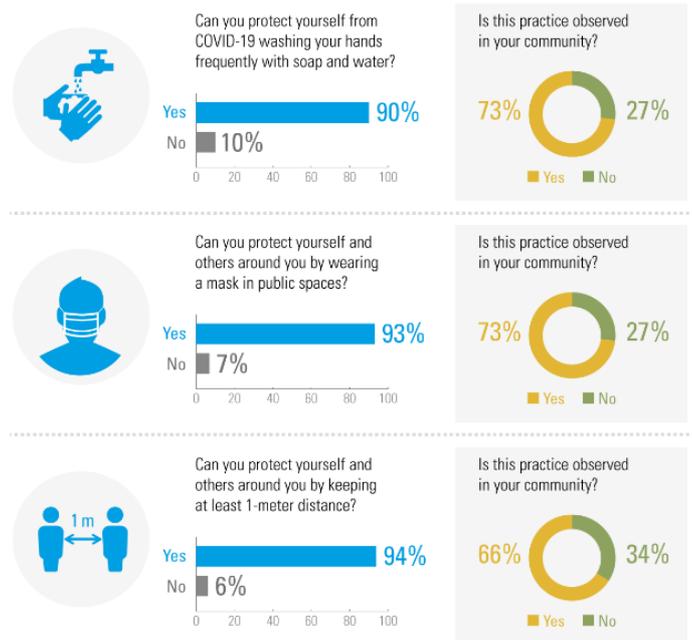
2) U-Report platform

- Through its SMS center:** 8,285 people received an answer to their questions. 36,7% 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), 44,9% of questions were about generic information (signs, symptoms, means of contamination and prevention, wearing of masks, etc), 10,6% were about measures taken by the Government (isolation, quarantine, opening of churches, restaurants and bars) and 7,8 % 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 its automated bot:** 4,001 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 the COVID-19 quiz:** A quiz was released in mid-September to evaluate the status of people's knowledge of and best practices related to COVID-19 prevention. 5,173 people responded and the results show that there is a gap between awareness and practice of COVID-19 prevention measures: more than 90% of respondents know that wearing a mask, practicing social distancing and washing their hands can prevent COVID-19; however less than 75% of respondents confirmed that these practices are observed in their community. A more detailed overview of the results is shown in the graph on the right:



3) Mass media Communication

95 media professionals were trained on prevention measures and warning signs of COVID-19. About 300 radio stations and 50 TV channels continue to broadcast messages on COVID-19 with UNICEF's support in the provinces affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. 25 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, 4,3941 community relays and influencers were trained on COVID-19 prevention measures by UNICEF. 57,076 actors have been involved in raising awareness of COVID-19, reaching 7,362,093 people.

In Kasai Oriental, 3,688 community engagement team members and community relays promoted COVID-19 prevention measures among 950,306 people.

In Sankuru, COVID-19 prevention measures, vaccination, exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding, and handwashing messages were disseminated by 39 churches, 34 radios, community engagement team members and some local political and administrative authorities, reaching an estimated 2,028,725 people in 16 Health Zones of the province.

In Tshopo and Bas Uele, 23 community radios broadcast 44 programs and 4,830 spots on COVID-19. 3,128 community relays reached 112,422 people in 5 Health Zones in Tshopo province through home visits and educational talks on the adoption essential family practices in the context of COVID-19.

In Ituri, thanks to interpersonal communication activities and community dialogues, 186,24332 people were reached with COVID-19 prevention messages in 30 Health Zones.

In North Kivu, UNICEF, in partnership with the North Kivu Media Network (REMEDI) and DIVICOM, supported the production and broadcast of 720 programs and 5,400 radio spots that targeted more than one million listeners of 60 partner radios.

In South Kivu, 18 community-based communicators and 78 members of the community engagement teams conducted awareness activities on COVID-19 in churches, schools, hairdressing and beauty salons, and sewing workshops reaching 228,152 people. 135 volunteers from the Congo Red Cross, 26 community relays and 52 members of the community engagement teams conducted door-to-door visits on COVID-19 prevention measures, reaching 27,522 people.



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

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services to 427,518 people and personal protective equipment to 2,176 healthcare workers within health facilities and communities in Kinshasa and other affected provinces. UNICEF supported the training of 2,602 healthcare workers and community health workers on infection prevention and control and provided 78 new health facilities with essential WASH services.

UNICEF launched the "Turnkey Clean Hands Schools" initiative with 2,188 Healthy Schools that were supported with infection prevention and control materials to facilitate the start of the new school year for 888,747 students (421,920 girls and 466,827 boys). These schools received WASH kits, leaflets with key messages on infection prevention and control of COVID-19, posters with the key messages on COVID-19, and a monthly visit by a health and environment education advisor from the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education. This adviser is responsible for advising and monitoring the implementation of infection prevention and control measures in each of these 2,188 schools.

To celebrate Global Handwashing Day under the theme "clean hands for all", UNICEF organised a TV and radio panel on Radio Okapi and the Congolese National Television (RTNC). The panel discussed the importance of handwashing with soap to prevent COVID-19, analysed the challenges of appropriating handwashing practices at community and individual level and the role of the private sector in encouraging this practice. The panel saw the participation of artisans who manufacture soap and handwashing devices, household users of handwashing products, the National Action Committee for Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, the Ministry of Public Health, and UNICEF's chief of WASH in DRC.

Highlights from the provinces

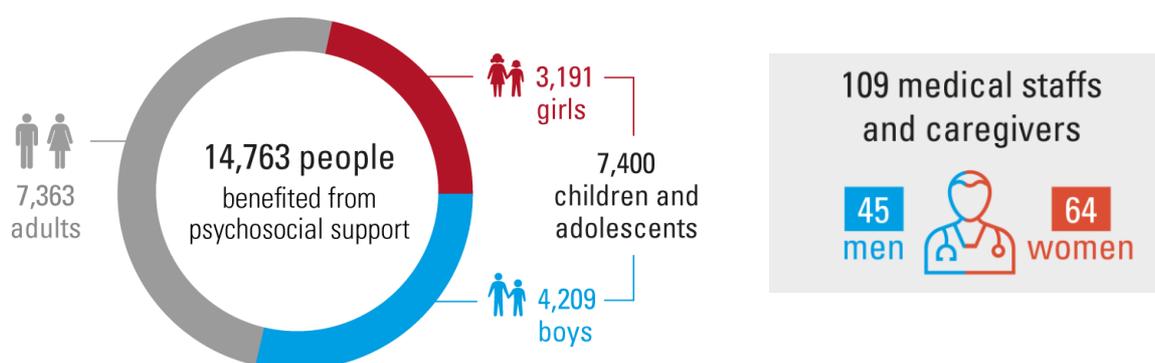
- Provision of flash thermometers for the operation of the triage during the start of the new school year to: 44 schools in Kwango province, 51 schools in Kwilu province, 47 schools in Mai-Ndombe province, 116 schools in Kinshasa province, 130 schools in Kongo Central province; provision of COVID-19 protection materials (mask, soap, hand washing station, flash thermometers for triage) to 33 schools in Tanganyika;
- Delivery of 2,000-litre water conservation tank to Makala prison in the Selembao district, Kinshasa province;
- Training of 70 community relays on infection prevention and control at the community level in the Selembao Health Zone in Kinshasa province;
- In Kongo Central, UNICEF, through its partner ADRA provided water for handwashing and raised awareness of handwashing among 49,459 people in public sites and health facilities in the Matadi and Nzanza Health Zones; set up 2 incinerators in the Kimbanguiste health centre and the Etoile health centre, and installed ten 3,000-litre polytanks connected to the REGIDESO water distribution network in 6 accommodation sites and 4 health training centres; provided 100 community relays and 30 service providers with personal protective equipment in the Mbanza Ngungu Health Zone;
- In South Kivu, the provincial division of primary, secondary and technical education launched infection prevention and control activities in 258 schools. UNICEF, through its partner Norwegian Church Aid has trained 90 providers in 15 health centers in the Health Zone of Miti Murhesa and Kabare on infection prevention and control;
- UNICEF have provided 10 functional public hand washing stations to the town hall of Kananga and an additional one to the town hall of Tshikapa.

- UNICEF, through its partners Red Cross and Arme du Salut has raised awareness of infection prevention and control among 8,050 pupils, headmasters and teachers from 23 schools in the territory of Moba and the town of Kalemie, Tanganyika province;
- The Provincial Health Division of Tanganyika and UNICEF's partner Medicine of Africa provided personal protective equipment to 75 health workers in 9 health facilities in Kalemie and Nyemba and provided training on infection prevention and control;
- In Ituri, At least 2,592 people have been reached with critical supplies including hygiene items within 3 Health Areas in Nizi Health Zone; UNICEF provided 21 healthcare workers within health facilities with personal protective equipment; UNICEF also provided 2 Health facilities with essential WASH services (construction of permanent latrines and showers, hand washing facilities, soap, flash thermometers).



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

During the reporting period, 14,763 people infected with or affected by COVID-19 including 7,400 children (3,191 girls) received individualised emotional and psychosocial support as part of the COVID-19 response, reaching a total of 71,532 people, including 21,415 children (9,855 girls) since the beginning of the COVID-19 response in DRC. 109 (including 64 women) frontline medical staffs and caregivers received psychosocial and emotional support to cope with the negative impact they may face during their professional activities, bringing the total number of medical personnel and caregivers supported since the beginning of the response to 6,005 (2,964 women).



Social workers continue to monitor and document alerts related to violence affecting children, including sexual and gender-based violence and to refer children to appropriate services/assistance. During the reporting period, 2,799 children (825 girls) victims of violence (negligence, mistreatment, domestic violence, police violence especially for street children, as well as sexual and gender-based violence) received individualised support bringing the total to 7,607 children (4,344 girls) since the start of the COVID-19 response.

Regarding sexual and gender-based violence and thanks to the UNICEF support, the efficiency of the referral system has been improved through the signature of “social contracts” between the Social Affairs and health centres/ hospitals to guarantee free medical services and psychosocial support. Safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse were made available to 133 persons bringing the total to 35,931 people since the start of the COVID-19 response.

With regards to the situation of children deprived of their liberty, 28 children (including 2 girls) were released from prisons and police holding cells.

Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa, 27 cases of sexual violence (including 18 children) were reported and received medical care as well as psychosocial support. In Kongo Central, 7 children (including 1 girl) in street situations received transitional care and assistance.

In Ituri, para-social workers identified 126 children (including 64 girls) in need of protection. All of them received psychosocial support, 12 (including 6 girls) were referred to medical structures, 7 (including 3 girls) were referred to transitional foster families, 27 boys, of which 17 were in street situations, were enrolled in vocational training centres

and 73 children (including 38 girls) in primary school. 12 boys were released from the Bunia Central Prison and reunited with their families.

In North Kivu, judicial authorities particularly in Beni, Rutshuru and Butembo accelerated the release of children accused of minor offences, due to the close follow-up and individualised support provided by social workers in close collaboration with UNICEF.



Health and Nutrition

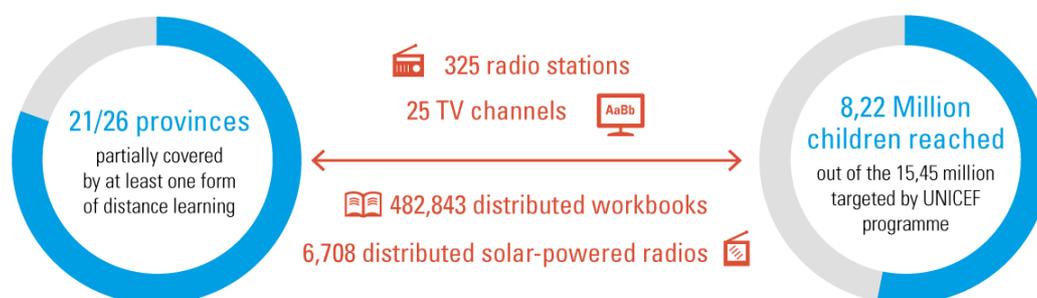
UNICEF supported PRONANUT to carry out the training of a pool of national trainers on nutritional care of COVID-19 patients. The role of the trainers will be to ensure the continuous training of care providers in COVID-19 case management facilities to ensure the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malnutrition cases.

To improve the coverage, effectiveness and efficiency of malnutrition treatment in the context of COVID-19, UNICEF, WFP and the Nutrition Cluster have supported PRONANUT to develop a protocol on a simplified approach to the treatment of acute malnutrition, which foresees the implementation of the following adaptations : (1) community-based treatment of acute malnutrition; (2) use of a single therapeutic nutritional product for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM); (3) screening of malnutrition by mothers using an upper arm circumference armband.



Education

21 out of 26 provinces are partially covered by at least one form of distance education through 325 radio stations and 25 television channels, reaching 8,221.308 million children and adolescents. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 482,843 workbooks have been distributed in 12 provinces, and 6,708 solar-powered radios have been distributed to children of vulnerable households in 19 provinces to allow them to follow distance learning classes.



Social Science Analysis

The Social Sciences Analytics Cell (CASS) is making progress with multidisciplinary research into the broader community health impacts of the COVID-19 response in the DRC, monitoring changes in access and use of health services over time. During this reporting period, the CASS hosted a workshop which brought together over 50 local, national, and international COVID-19 response stakeholders to discuss key analyses relating to the response and explore opportunities for collaboration. Key results from integrated analyses conducted in August/September (Kinshasa):

- Healthcare workers perceive the risk of nosocomial COVID-19 infection considerably reduced;
- Perceived reduction in attendance at health structures since July, due to lack of financial means, rather than a fear of nosocomial infection;
- Still a fear of quarantine reducing access to healthcare services, particularly by women;
- Demand for sexual and reproductive health services increased, but also an observed increase in pregnancy (including adolescents);
- Very limited awareness amongst men of the risk factors for COVID-19 (diabetes, hypertension), despite a high number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in men with co-morbidities;

- Women more hesitant to bring children to health structures than men, preferring to provide medication at home, rather than risk COVID-19 infection, or having their child quarantined.

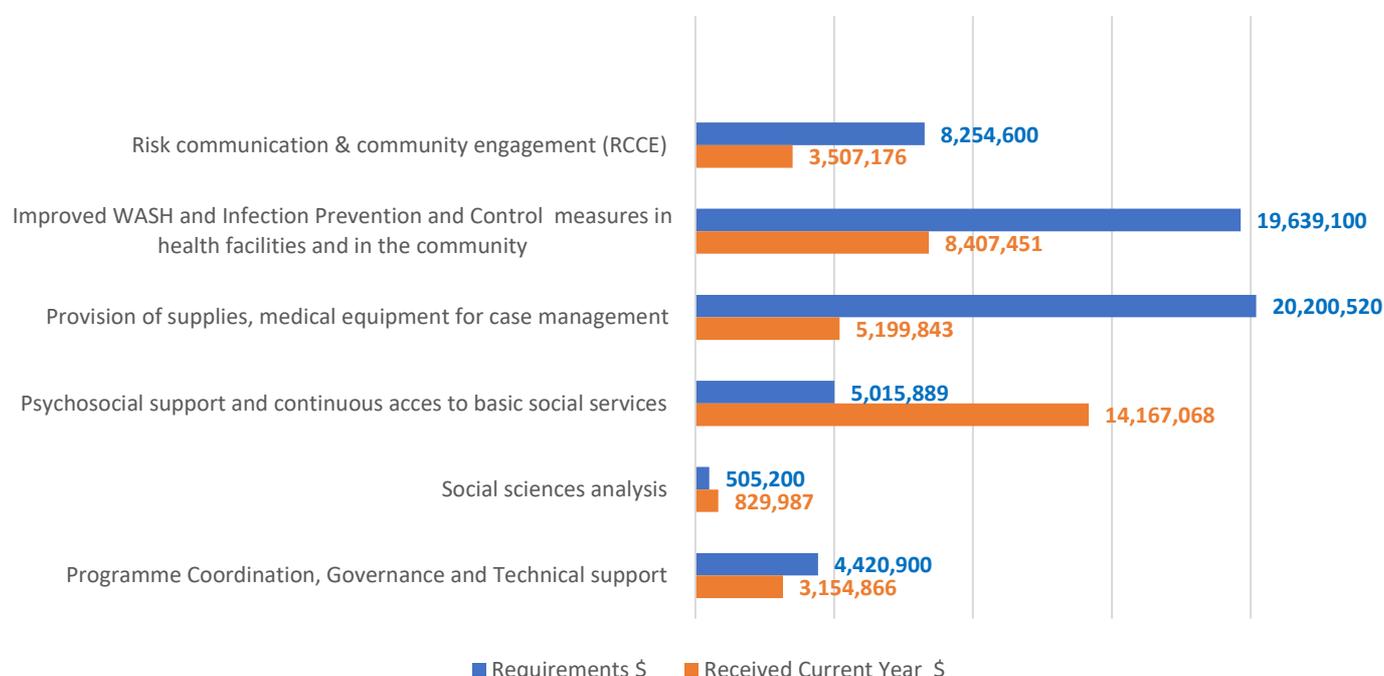
The study, including methodology, presentations and results for both Kinshasa and Goma are available online [here](#). The full list of CASS studies and resources is available [here](#).



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 17 September 2020, UNICEF has received \$30.3 million (52 % 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), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)- Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). 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.

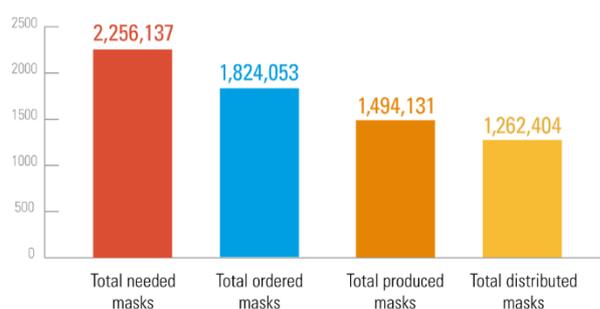
Below is an overview of the funding received and the funding needs by area of intervention:



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 target is to produce and distribute 2,256,137 masks.

1,494,131 masks have already been produced and 1,262,404 masks have been distributed to the most disadvantaged communities in the provinces most affected by COVID-19.





Supply and Logistics

Following the fire that destroyed its warehouse in Kinshasa in August, UNICEF replenished a significant part of the stock lost. These include: 20 ventilators, 38 oxygen concentrators, 2,000 resuscitators, 8 electric nebulizers, 10 electrocardiogram recorders, 240 suction pumps, 1,600 tablets of antibiotics, 33,343 hand sanitizers, and more than 800,000 masks.

Over last month, UNICEF has distributed 400,000 cloth masks, 1,885 bars of soap and 2,000 water buckets to the Health Departments in the different provinces and health centers across the country.

UNICEF has ordered (and expects delivery by December) 800 buckets, 34,647 cloth masks and 12,480 thermometers.



External Media

1) Social media and online

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the communication team posted more than 890 messages on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) – reaching more than 173 million people on Facebook alone. On World Handwashing Day, several posts highlighted the [importance of handwashing](#) and a [video with Jeny Bsg](#) generated a lot of engagement. New multimedia material was uploaded on [WeShare](#).

2) Press releases and human interest stories on UNICEF DRC website

- [Arrivée de 5.000 cartons d'aliments thérapeutiques prêts à l'emploi en remplacement des intrants nutritionnels détruits par le récent incendie de l'entrepôt de l'UNICEF](#)
- [Le Gouvernement du Japon et l'UNICEF appuient la prévention de la COVID-19 dans 2.188 écoles en RDC](#)
- [Rentrée scolaire 2020-2021. L'UNICEF en faveur d'un retour des enfants à l'école dans un environnement sûr et protecteur](#)

3) National/international media coverage mentioning UNICEF

- **Radio Okapi** : [RDC : campagne de dépistage massif pour la prise en charge des patients présentant des comorbidités liées au Coronavirus](#) :
- **Radio Okapi** : [Coronavirus à l'Équateur : l'UNICEF dote des écoles de matériel pour une reprise sécurisée des cours](#)
- **Actualite.cd**: [RDC/Covid-19 : une campagne de dépistage massif du diabète et de l'hypertension prévue à Kinshasa pour réduire le risque de décès](#)
- **Politico.cd**: [Vaccination : l'UNICEF lutte contre la désinformation et les rumeurs à travers les relais communautaires](#)
- **Actualite.cd**: [COVID-19 : UNICEF et OMS révèlent que le nombre de décès d'enfants de moins de 5 ans risque d'augmenter au monde](#)
- **Actualite.cd**: [COVID-19 en RDC : l'UNICEF apporte sa contribution pour une rentrée scolaire sans risque](#)
- **Radio Okapi**: [Butembo : l'UNICEF remet du matériel médical et des motos aux zones de santé](#)

UNICEF Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global Appeal:

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

For more information contact:

Edouard Beigbeder
Representative
UNICEF DRC
Email: ebeigbeder@unicef.org

Katya Marino
Deputy Representative
UNICEF DRC
Email: kmarino@unicef.org

Yasmine Ondo
Partnerships Manager
UNICEF DRC
Email: yondo@unicef.org

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	34,487,368	▲ 15%
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	737,911	▲ 1%
Number of influencers engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	10,000,000	5,171,666	▲ 131%
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	2,142,790	3,465,394	▲ 14%
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPE	9,643	5,348	▲ 68%
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in IPC	9,643	12,214	▲ 27%
Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services	357	490	▲ 19%
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	7,607	▲ 58%
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	169,000	71,532	▲ 26%
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	152,643	38,931	▲ 9%
Health			
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities	2,776,339	1,560,404	0%
Nutrition			
Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19	412,365	307,658	0%
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	8,221,308	▲ 16%
Number of distributed educational homework booklets to ensure continuity of children and adolescent's learning	2,500,000	482,843	▲ 8%