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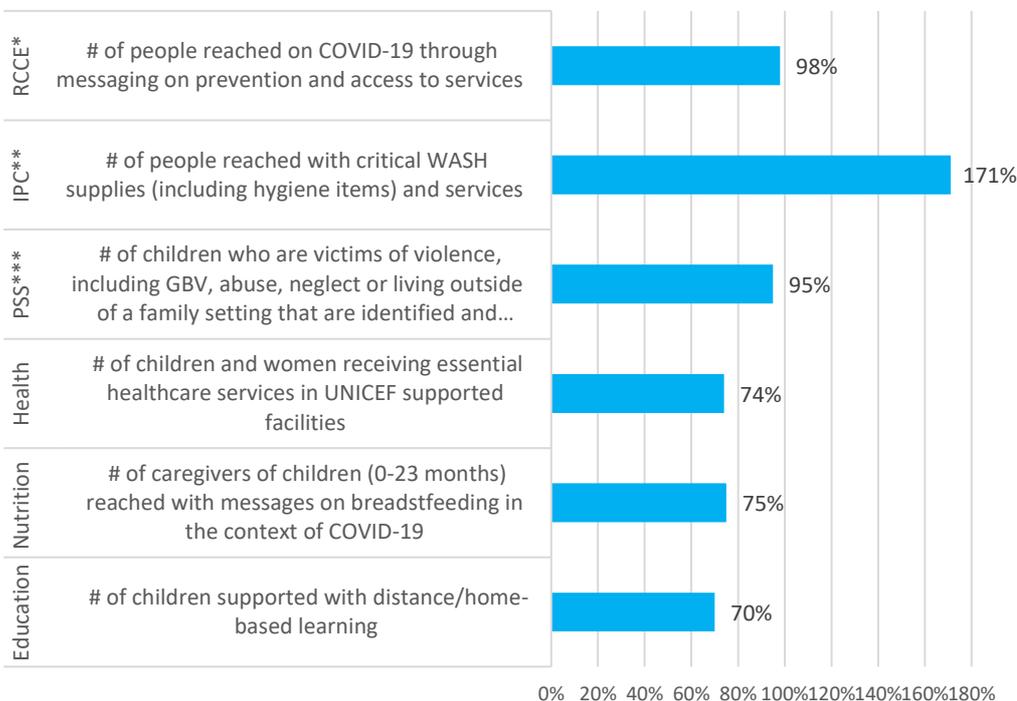
unicef   
for every child

COVID-19  
Situation Report #17  
22 October 2020 -  
25 November 2020

## Highlights

- **More than 8.5 million children have access to distance learning** thanks to partnerships with 325 radio stations and 25 TV channels
- **More than 1.3 million community masks distributed**
- **12 million people** reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19 through mass media channels (123 radio stations and 30 TV channels)
- **71,447 calls** managed by the COVID-19 Hotline
- **73,705 people** (including 21,415 children) affected by COVID-19 and **6,176 frontline workers** provided with **psychosocial support** since the beginning of the epidemic

## UNICEF's COVID-19 Response



## COVID-19 overview

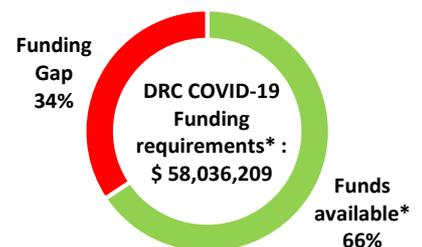
(as of 25 November 2020)



## 2.7 % Fatality Rate

Kinshasa recorded 75% (9,343) of all confirmed cases. Other affected provinces including # of cases are: **North Kivu** (1,173) **Haut Katanga** (377) **Kongo Central** (548) **South Kivu** (352) **Ituri** (183) **Lualaba** (131) **Haut Uele** (92) **Bas-Uélé** (5) **Tshopo** (68) **North Ubangi** (38) **Kwilu** (6) **Equateur** (22) **South Ubangi** (7) **Tanganyika** (6) **Kwango** (1) **Haut Lomami** (1) **Kasai** (1) **Kasai Central** (1) **Maniema** (4) **Kasai Oriental** (4) **Tshuapa** (2)

## DRC COVID-19 Response Funding Status



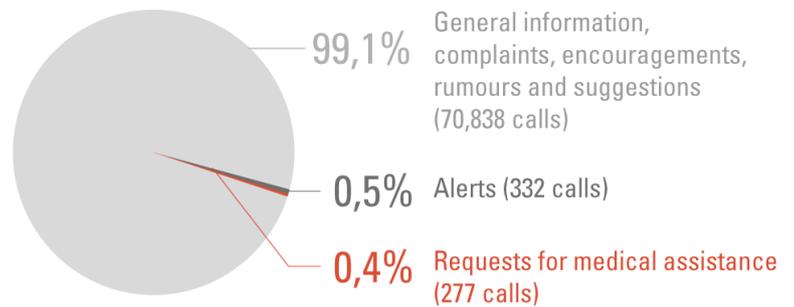
\*Funds available include 9 million USD UNICEF regular resources allocated by the office for first response needs.



## Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

### 1) COVID-19 Hotline

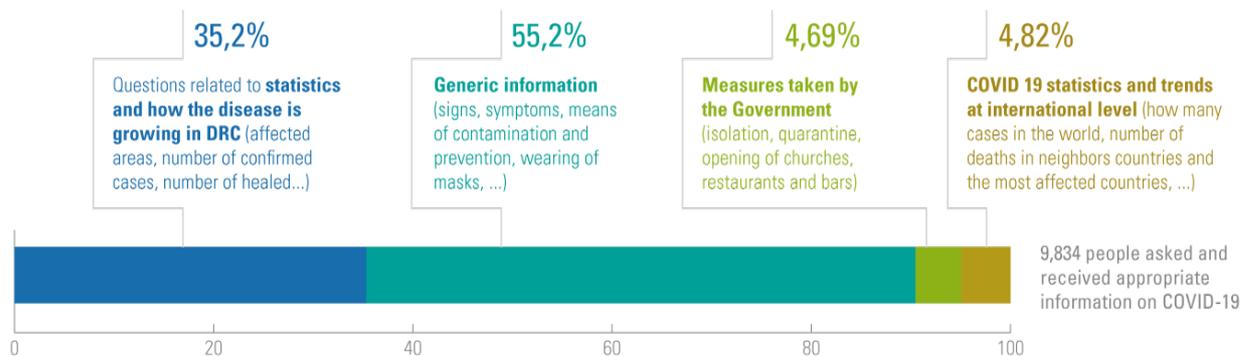
During the reporting period, the COVID-19 hotline successfully managed 71,447. 332 calls were potential medical alerts (suspected cases, medical assistance and incident), 183 were requests for medical assistance, and 70,838 were about general information, complaints, encouragements, rumors and suggestions. 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 11% in the number of calls successfully managed. During the reporting period, the Hotline was successfully managing an average of 2,977 calls per day.



Average of 2,977 calls successfully managed per day ▲ +11%

### 2) U-Report platform

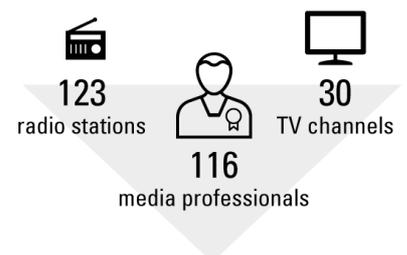
- Through its SMS center:** 9,834 people received an answer to their questions. 35.2% of the questions were related to statistics and how the disease is growing in DRC (affected areas, number of confirmed cases, number of recoveries, etc), 55.2% of questions were about generic information (signs, symptoms, means of contamination and prevention, wearing of masks, etc), 4.69% were about measures taken by the Government (isolation, quarantine, opening of churches, restaurants and bars) and 4.82% 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:** 3,275 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.

### 3) Mass media Communication

116 media professionals were trained on prevention measures and warning signs of COVID-19. About 123 radio stations and 30 TV channels continue to broadcast messages on COVID-19 with UNICEF's support in the provinces affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. 12 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

A total of 6,542 community relays and influencers were trained on COVID-19 prevention measures by UNICEF and Communication Task Force members (with

**12 million people reached**  
with key messages on COVID-19

UNICEF support). 41,416 actors have conducted awareness raising activities across the DRC, reaching 4,568,047 people.

55,000 COVID-19 leaflets in Tshiluba language and 6,000 community masks were distributed to all schools in 6 educational sub-divisions in Kasai-Oriental Province.

UNICEF, in partnership with the North Kivu Media Network (REMED) and DIVICOM, supported the production and broadcast of 90 programs and 945 radio spots broadcasts on COVID-19 that targeted more than one million listeners of 45 partner radios in North Kivu.

In November 2020, 5,000 volunteers joined an awareness campaign involving the screening and care of people living with hypertension and/or diabetes in the 35 health zones of the city of Kinshasa. The campaign aimed to raise awareness on the heightened risk of people suffering from diabetes or hypertension to develop severe forms of COVID-19. To date, the campaign has helped 1,527 people learn about their hypertensive or diabetic status and has encouraged healthy eating and regular physical activity.

Around 6,700 displaced people received COVID-19 prevention messages during the distribution of humanitarian assistance in the health zones of Kalemie, Nyunzu and Manono in Tanganyika Province.



### 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 208,835 people and personal protective equipment to 293 health care workers within health facilities and communities in Kinshasa and other affected provinces. UNICEF supported the training of 1,206 healthcare workers and community health workers on infection prevention and control and provided 53 new health facilities with essential WASH services.

UNICEF supported the celebration of World Toilet Day on 19 November under the theme "One Household, One Latrine", as sanitation is a key element for health and good health enables communities to cope with the health impacts of COVID-19. A road map on ending the open defecation in 9 priority provinces of the DRC (Kongo Central, Kasai Central, Lualaba, Haut Lomami, Kasai, Lomami, Equateur, Mai-Ngombe and Sankuru) was launched. The roadmap will enable more than 12 million Congolese from the poorest quintile in the country to use a basic latrine built with local materials, equipped with a hand washing device with soap and reduce fecal contamination in their communities. UNICEF is supporting the pilot phase implementation of the road map in 133 villages in the Kasai province. However, an investment by the government and its technical and financial partners of approximately 70 USD million will make it possible to eradicate open defecation and significantly reduce fecal contamination in the DRC.

### Highlights from the provinces

UNICEF's partner Médecins Afrique distributed personal protective equipment to 294 health workers in 42 health facilities in the city of Kinshasa. As part of strengthening infection prevention and control actions in health facilities during a second COVID-19 wave, UNICEF has launched the construction of boreholes with solar pumping and a water tower in 4 health facilities in the Nsele health zone of Kinshasa Province and in 12 health facilities in Kongo Central Province. These will provide water to the health facilities as well as to the surrounding population.

In Ituri Province, at least 1,004 people have been reached with critical supplies including hygiene items within 3 Health Areas of the Mahagi and Rethy Health Zones. UNICEF provided hygiene kits (20-litre capacity bucket, thermometers, soap) to 47 primary schools in the province. 32 healthcare workers within 4 health facilities and communities were provided with personal protective equipment. 32 healthcare facility staff and community health workers have been trained in infection prevention and control. 3 health facilities were provided with essential WASH services (construction of permanent latrines and showers, hand washing facilities, soap, thermometers, placenta pit, etc.).

In Tanganyika Province, UNICEF supported the distribution of COVID-19 posters in 62 schools, as well as the donation of 113 thermometers in 113 primary schools in Nyunzo and Moba. With the support of UNICEF, the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education trained 18,600 students, teachers and members of parents' committees in 62 schools on the 3 key measures for preventing COVID-19 in schools.

In Haut Katanga Province, UNICEF continues to provide water in public handwashing facilities where 19,000 people have washed their hands and have received information on COVID-19 prevention measures. UNICEF has provided personal protection equipment to 34 health facilities in Lubumbashi and Kasumbalesa.

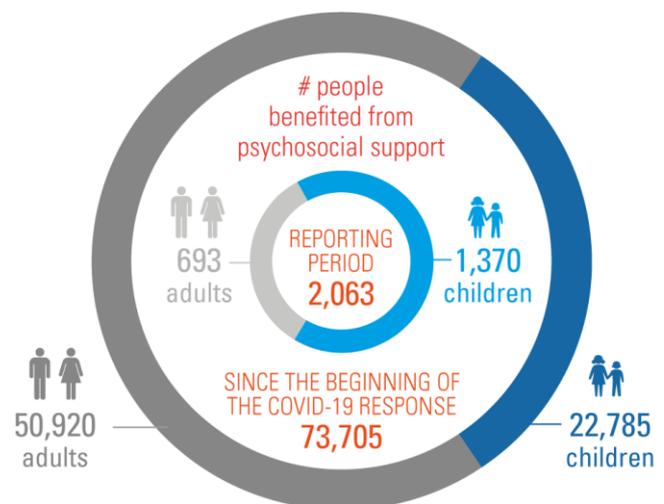
In North Kivu Province, UNICEF has provided the complete WASH package (personal protective equipment, incinerators and rubbish bin, 1,000-liter capacity tank for water storage and hand washing facilities) to 24 health facilities most affected by COVID-19. UNICEF supported the training of 120 health care providers and 205 community agents attached to health facilities (CODEA members, community leaders and community relays) on the prevention and control of COVID-19 in health facilities. Thanks to UNICEF funding, partner organization AMI LABO produced and distributed 2,730 litres of hydro-alcoholic solution to 13 Health Zones and 14 health facilities/areas.

In Thsopo Province, UNICEF has ensured the delivery of 144 thermometers and 2,820 COVID-19 leaflets to 141 certified "sanitized schools".



## Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

During the reporting period, 2,063 people infected with or affected by COVID-19 including 1,370 children received individualised emotional and psychosocial support as part of the COVID-19 response, reaching a total of 73,705 people, including 22,785 children since the beginning of the COVID-19 response in DRC. 171 (including 97 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 6,176 (3,061 women).



2,341 children victims of violence received individualised support



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, 2,341 children (1,243 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 22,785 children (10,621 girls) since the start of the COVID-19 response.

Across the country, safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse were made available to 1,616 persons during the reporting period.

### Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa, 77 cases (71 children, 6 women) were reported in Kinshasa, and they all received psychosocial support. Among them, 29 were referred to appropriate health structures for medical care and 9 received legal assistance. In addition, 16 cases of vulnerable households (with a total of 49 children including 25 girls) were assisted with a combination of psychosocial support and food assistance.

In Kwilu, 12 cases (including 9 girls) of sexual violence were reported and assisted. 426 children (including 235 girls) gained access to safe, accessible and child-friendly reporting mechanisms in schools and in their communities.

In North Kivu, the monthly average of children in detention facilities was reduced by half, from 106 children to 52 children, following advocacy activities of the Justice for Children Working Group supported by UNICEF. In addition, 18 vulnerable households affected by COVID-19 received cash assistance following a harmonised case management approach between UNICEF, War Child UK and the Social Affairs Division.



## Health and Nutrition

UNICEF continues to work with institutional and not-for-profit partners to ensure the continuity of services for children and women, namely immunization, neonatal, child and maternal care services in the context of COVID-19. Some of the results achieved in this area include:

- 97,734 pregnant women out of 139,799 targeted (70% coverage) were assisted by trained providers during delivery;
- 559,883 children under 5 out of 825,688 children targeted (67% coverage) are being cared for malaria, acute respiratory infection and against all form of diarrhea;
- 907,374 children under one year of age out of a target of 1,810,852 (50% coverage) have received their third dose of Pentavalent 3 vaccines during vaccination sessions organised at the level of Health Zones.

UNICEF supported the capacity building of 20 government partners, international and national NGOs on the simplified protocol for the treatment of acute malnutrition of COVID-19 patients. Two Health Zones – Nyakunde in Ituri Province and Binza Meteo in Kinshasa Province – will ensure the implementation of the pilot phase of this simplified protocol.

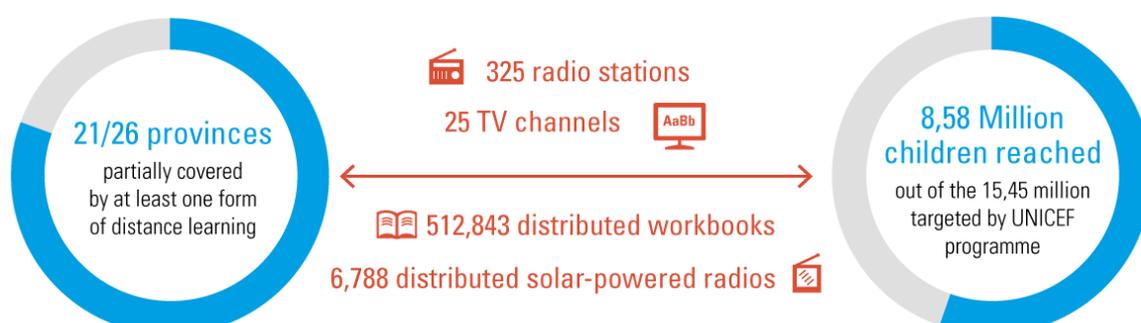
During the reporting period, 40 government partners and 60 providers were trained, with the support of UNICEF, to strengthen nutritional care of COVID-19 patients and improve case management of severe acute malnutrition. In this context, 12 hospitals have integrated nutritional management of COVID-19 patients in the Province of Kinshasa.

UNICEF provided 12 health structures in the province of Kinshasa with anthropometric materials (growth chart, middle upper arm circumference tape, scales for adults and children) and a kitchen kit to reinforce the nutritional assessment of COVID-19 patients and relaunch the dietary kitchens in hospitals. According to current evidence, COVID-19 patients with co-morbidities are most at risk of undernutrition.



## 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 8,577.085 million children and adolescents. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 512,843 workbooks have been distributed in 12 provinces, and 6,788 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

During the last reporting period, the CASS continued exploring the broader health impacts of the COVID-19 response in the DRC, monitoring and highlighting changes in access and use of health services over time.

Key qualitative results were:

- Reduction in adherence to COVID-19 infection prevention methods, by community and healthcare workers in health facilities;
- Reported increase in adolescent pregnancy, number of girls seeking emergency contraception, and presenting at health facilities with complications post-abortion (perception of an increase in the number of girls seeking clandestine abortions);
- Antenatal care (ANC) not considered an urgent service: some women who have previously given birth consider themselves sufficiently informed, and capable to follow their pregnancy alone;
- Perceived increase in number of children living on the streets since the previous month;
- Parents struggle to provide food of sufficient quality or quantity for their children due to reduced income, higher food prices and added financial pressure of having children out of school;
- Rumours concerning the COVID-19 vaccine dissuade some parents from bringing their children for routine vaccination (belief that COVID-19 vaccine will be tested on children in the DRC).

This initial qualitative analyses from October will be integrated with multidisciplinary data to provide a robust evidence base with which to influence response actors, and reinforce programmes relevant to the findings presented. The study, including methodology, presentations and results for both Kinshasa and Goma are available online [here](#).

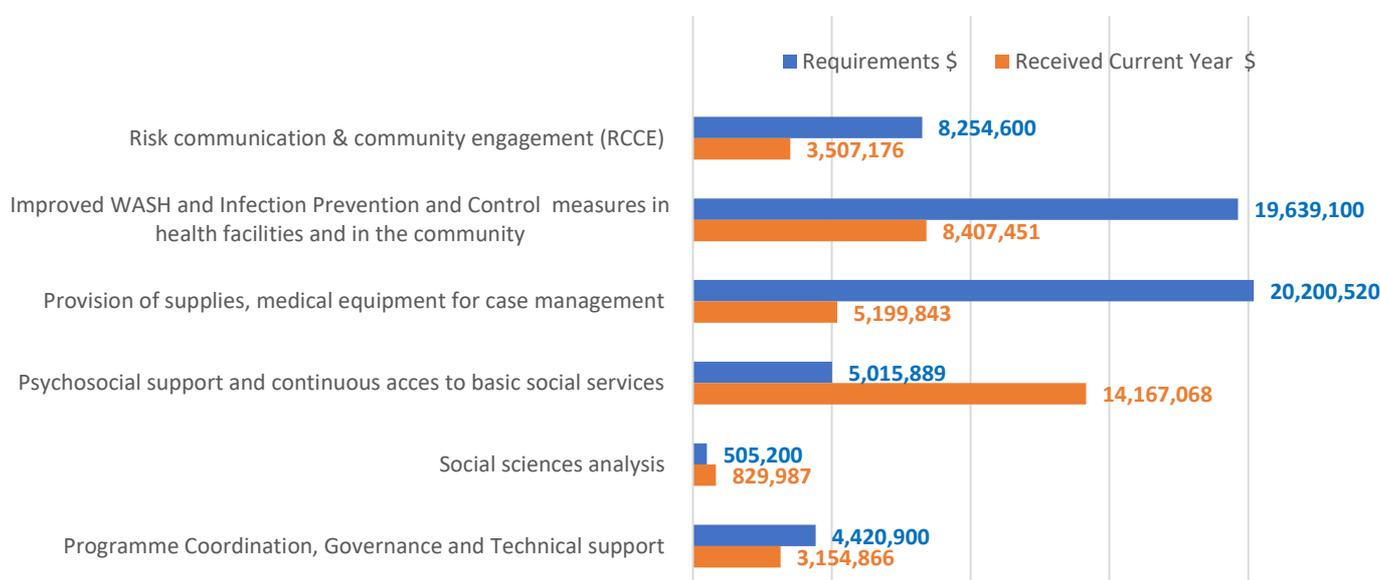
The full list of CASS studies and resources is available [here](#).



## 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:

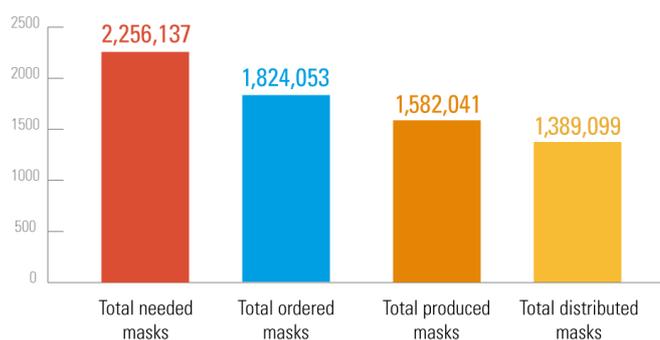




## UNICEF's "Masks Made in DRC" initiative

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.

1,582,041 masks have already been produced and 1,389,099 masks have been distributed to the most disadvantaged communities in the provinces most affected by COVID-19.



## Supply and Logistics

UNICEF's COVID-19 supplies in its Kinshasa warehouse comprises of 4 ventilators, 1,585 hand operated resuscitators, 87 suction pumps, 6 oxygen concentrators, 261 midwifery kits, 7,800 coveralls (protective equipment), 1,100 masks, 2,050 face shield and 990 gloves.

3,000 thermometers were acquired by the National COVID-19 response committee though UNICEF supply mechanism were delivered. In December, UNICEF is expected to receive additional masks, goggles, gowns and infection prevention and control supplies.



## External Media

### 1) Social media and online

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the communication team posted 975 messages on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), reaching more than 193 million people on Facebook alone. The [COVID-19 landing page](#) has been visited more than 47,000 times since it went online.

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

- [Back to School 2020-2021](#)
- [Le Gouvernement du Japon et l'UNICEF appuient la prévention de la COVID-19 dans 2.188 écoles en RDC](#)

### 3) National/international media coverage mentioning UNICEF

- UN News : [Covid-19 : les campagnes de vaccination reprennent en RDC](#)
- Radio Okapi: [Lutte contre la COVID-19 à Kananga : l'UNICEF remet un lot d'intrants aux écoles](#)

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 ▲ ▼
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)</b>			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	40,000,000	39,055,415	▲ 13%
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	747,745	▲ 1%
Number of influencers engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	10,000,000	5,645,674	▲ 9%
<b>Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)</b>			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	2,142,790	3,674,229	▲ 6%
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPE	9,643	5,641	▲ 5%
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in IPC	9,643	13,420	▲ 10%
Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services	357	543	▲ 10%
<b>Child Protection and Psychosocial Support</b>			
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	9,948	▲ 30%
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	169,000	73,705	▲ 3%
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	152,643	43,567	▲ 12%
<b>Health</b>			
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities	2,776,339	2,046,270	▲ 31%
<b>Nutrition</b>			
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	22,311	▲ 10%
<b>Education</b>			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	15,450,000	8,577,085	▲ 4%
Number of distributed educational homework booklets to ensure continuity of children and adolescent's learning	2,500,000	512,843	▲ 6%