



June 12, 2020

Highlights

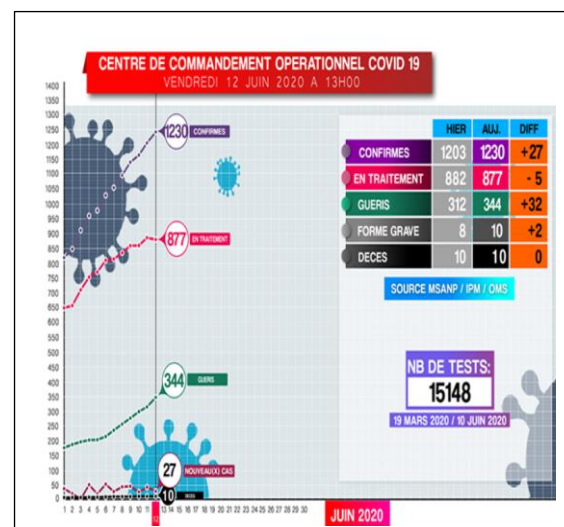
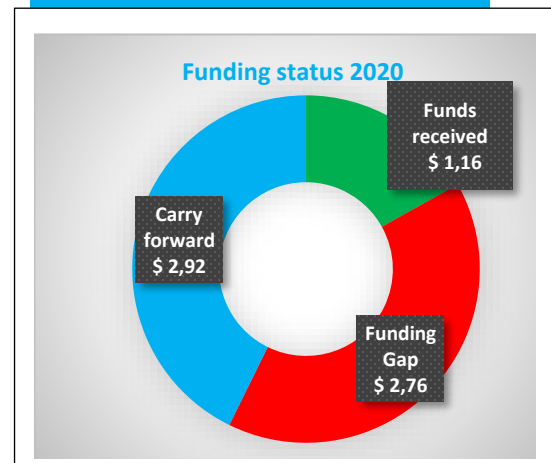
- As of 12 June 2020, there were 1230¹ reported cases with 10 deaths and 344 people having recovered. From May 17 to June 12, the growth curve in the number people testing positive rose exponentially from 304 to 1230. Cases have been reported in 14 regions.
- The UN Crisis Committee recognizes that there is an urgent need for an interagency strategy for Tamatave, the epicenter of the epidemics. UNICEF is in the process of preparing for implementation.
- The state of health emergency was first declared on March 20 by the government and remains in effect until June 15, with partial confinement measures in place.
- UNICEF is playing a key role in supporting the government and other partners in the integrated response, which includes surveillance, case management, and campaigns for children, supported by community engagement, social mobilization, risk communication and logistical support. In addition, UNICEF ensures coordination for the communication, WASH, education, shock responsive social protection, and nutrition components of the global response.
- 9,250 GeneXpert COVID-19 tests have been provided by UNICEF, expanding testing from one to 12 regions and tripling the country's testing capacity.
- UNICEF also pursues advocacy, support and service delivery to ensure that the children of Madagascar, the poorest country in East Africa, are not further impacted by common diseases, such as malaria, or by the disruption of essential services. Madagascar is one of the few countries in the region that reopened schools for some grades, with UNICEF support for alternative education.
- Use of regular resources, reallocation of existing programmes (Korea, Gavi, ECHO) and mobilization of new donors (Denmark, National committees) have supported UNICEF's response.

Madagascar
Country Office
 Covid-19 response
 unicef  for every child

June 12, 2020

Situation in Numbers

- 1230 cases across 14 regions
- 10 deaths
- 344 recovered



^[1] www.cco-covid19.gov.mg statistics on 12 June 2020

UNICEF Madagascar has estimated its initial needs at USD 7 million for four months to support the government in its response to the pandemic.

This response focuses on health (procurement of essential supplies, including protective equipment and essential drugs, and support to the primary health care system); risk communication and community engagement; access to water, basic sanitation and hygiene; and secondary impacts across sectors such as education (remote learning and preparations for a future school reopening); nutrition (prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition); social policy and social protection (unconditional cash transfers); and child protection (case management, psychosocial support and interim care/family tracing and reunifications).

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

COVID-19 first officially appeared in Madagascar on March 19, 2020. The president of Madagascar declared a state of emergency on March 20, 2020.

Madagascar has put in place measures against COVID-19, but the country lacks the capacity to respond to a widespread outbreak without additional international support.

Leadership and Coordination

Within the government, three distinct levels exist for the management of the pandemic in Madagascar: the political level under the lead of the presidency in collaboration with the prime minister and the ministries; the strategic level under the lead of the prime minister with the ministries in charge of essential sectors; and the operational level with the COVID-19 Operational Command Center (CCOC) ensuring the implementation of actions and coordination.

The CCOC is chaired by the Minister of the Interior and Decentralization who is in permanent contact with the General Coordinator.

Preparedness and Response Actions

Health

Before the pandemic

- UNICEF assessed hospital services at the nine main international ports of entry;
- Support for the training of rapid response teams in five entry points;
- Contribution and technical support to the development of the first draft of the response plan.

During the pandemic

- Provision of 9,250 GeneXpert COVID-19 tests, which has tripled national diagnostic capacity;
- Training of 40 anaesthesiologists and resuscitators in four hospitals selected for the management of COVID-19 cases in the Analamanga region;
- 92 professionals have been trained in hospital hygiene in the regions of Antsinanana and Analamanga;
- Technical support for the training of health workers on infection prevention and control and case management;
- Technical support to coordinate meetings at the national and regional levels;
- Contribution to the development and finalization of the response plan against the COVID-19 epidemic;
- Support for the development of the immunization continuity plan and basic health care services;
- Support for strengthening of community-based surveillance on COVID-19 and other diseases with epidemic potential;
- Technical support to the regional team for the preparation of daily reports and monitoring of the communication plan;

- Contribution and technical support to the commission for treatment and epidemiological surveillance. Participation in disease surveillance and response to other epidemics (malaria, dengue, etc.);
- Support for the continuity of primary healthcare services (maternal and child health services) at the national and regional level through active participation in technical committees, development of the continuity plan, tools, and guidance;
- Provided 240 boxes of Ceftriaxone, 213 boxes of Cefalexin, 45 boxes of corticosteroids, 450 boxes of bronchodilators, 60 bottles containing an infusion of glucose and sodium lactate, 120 boxes of ascorbic acid, 40 thermometers, 2900 FFP2 masks, 480 FFP1 masks, four medical tents (24m²), a rub hall of 240m², and 1000 COVID-19 protective visors to the minister of health.

Looking forward

- Continue the training of anaesthesiologists and resuscitators in the 30 hospitals selected for the management of cases, prioritizing the regions that already have cases;
- Continue cascading training for hygienists, prioritizing regions that already have cases;
- Strengthen the technical platform of pediatric resuscitation services at university clinics;
- Training of pediatricians and nursing staff working in emergency services in the 12 specialized pediatric hospitals, prioritizing the affected regions;
- Continue to provide technical and financial support for the training of health workers on infection prevention and control and case management at all levels prioritizing the affected regions.

WASH

- UNICEF is leading and co-leading with the ministry in charge of water, the WASH cluster response and coordination with 55 members, including national and international NGOs as well as the private sector.
- WASH cluster finalized a second version of the COVID-19 WASH response plan, which requires a total budget of USD 24 million to reach 4.2 million people in need. To date, 3.5 million have been made available and 4 million are in negotiation with donors engaged to support the WASH cluster.
- To date more than 5.5 million people out of the 19 million targeted by the WASH cluster have been engaged through Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) actions. UNICEF's contribution is almost 275,000 people
- To date more than 840,000 people out of 4.2 million people targeted were reached with critical wash supplies (including hygiene items) and services. UNICEF's contribution to this indicator is almost 160,000 people
- Infection prevention and control (IPC) training modules developed and shared with WASH partners. 206 clinical and non-clinical staff have been trained on IPC and provided with personal protective equipment in Toamasina and Antananarivo through our partnership with Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and MEDAIR. The program is being implemented in six hospitals conducting COVID-19 treatment, and 50 health centers and will be scaled up to 200 health centers.
- In coordination with health sector, discussions are underway to target private health centers for capacity building on IPC in Toamasina and Antananarivo.
- In Tamatave, UNICEF is strengthening its response and adding three new centers with WASH services with MEDAIR. A disinfection campaign has been launched with local authorities, providing 50 sprayers, 100kg chlorine and the training of 50 hygienists.
- With Anosy and Atsimo Andrefana now reporting COVID-19 cases, UNICEF engaged WASH partners through the sub-WASH cluster for immediate actions for disinfection and a handwashing communication campaign.

Education

- More than 52,500 (cumulative amount) classrooms in 25,000 schools have been disinfected (counting 17 out of the 22 regions for which information is available).

- An average of 99 per cent of schools have reopened in UNICEF priority regions and communities have received information on COVID-19 (posters, protocol, guidelines). Not all schools have received enough masks, soap and materials, but this situation continues to improve (in collaboration with WASH section).
- In UNICEF priority regions (Boeny, Atsimo Atsinanana, Vatovavy, Anosy, Analanjirofo, Atsimo Andrefana and Androy) the proportion of schools that have received sufficient masks and other hygiene products ranges from 25 to 55 per cent.
- In UNICEF priority regions the average rate of pupils that have returned to school to grades that have reopened is: final year of high school 88 per cent, grade nine 87 per cent, grade five 84 per cent. However, regular attendance is weak and remains at risk due to lack of clear guidance on examinations.
- There is lack of systematic information nation-wide on the plan to reopen the other class levels.
- UNICEF has contributed to the national effort by providing technical and financial support to adapt radio and TV broadcasts to the current context, preparing self-directed learning workbooks for lower secondary, producing and distributing posters with information on the prevention of COVID-19, establishing the necessary agreements with regional governments to set-up temporary storage facilities for the goods that need to eventually reach schools, and helping prepare schools for opening (through, for example, the disinfection of classrooms). Of the seven UNICEF priority regions, four continue to broadcast radio and TV programmes for distance learning. In five of these regions the quality of the warehouses continues to be an issue. In all seven regions the distribution process continues to pose difficulties. Despite these challenges, as of 10 June, 73,028 children have received self-learning booklets and UNICEF has supported their production and distribution.
- In the current programme's priority regions, UNICEF expects to provide direct or indirect support to 1.4 million primary level children and 600,000 at the secondary level. This includes the support UNICEF offers to the Ministry of Education to reinforce the catch-up class programme for lower secondary and primary children (CRAN programme) to reduce the drop-out rate for the next school year. A workshop was organized by the Inclusive Education Platform Committee to analyze the situation of students with disabilities in the context of suspended classes. It was decided to strengthen the awareness and messaging to foster reintegration of students with disabilities in the next catch-up class campaign and to advocate for the continued sign-language translation of televised educational programming.
- The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has approved US\$ 15 million requested by the Ministry of Education for the COVID-19 response. UNICEF supported the ministry in the development of the request and proposal.
- UNICEF is closely following-up on the examination process for levels 7, 3 and Terminal. One of the UNICEF priority regions has started the process and the others are developing plans. There is still not full clarity on how the process will develop nation-wide and dates of test administration have not yet been announced.

Communication for Development (C4D)

- Media and mass communication, sensitization sessions, community engagement activities, and information watch initiatives were held at both the national and local levels. From April to June 8, 2020, 9,769,773 people in 50 districts were reached with COVID-19 messaging on prevention and access to services through media communication, dissemination of IEC materials and awareness activities.
- An update of the positioning of technical and financial partners was carried out to support the implementation of districts micro-plans on COVID-19 communication. To date, UNICEF is supporting eight out of 13 affected and prioritized regions.
- Continued technical support to the green line 910: between May 27th to June 8th, 61,222 calls on COVID-19 were received. This brings the total to 383,356 calls since January 2020.
- Support for the re-launch of SMS broadcasting in 78 priority districts until September 2020 in collaboration with the NGO PSI IMPACT and the National Communication Committee.
- In close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the national Communication Committee, UNICEF is helping to update the COVID-19 messages bank.

- Working on the production of a COVID-19 communication information bulletin: The communications committee will validate it at the end of this week.
- Continued support to the information watch and rumor management team: Daily reports on information related to COVID-19 are shared to inform the communication interventions.
- Continued support to the communication coordination team in the Ministry of Health: UNICEF helped to upgrade their data connection in order to facilitate their coordination work, mainly with the communication focal points in the regions.
- Briefing session held with the agency engaged to conduct the COVID-19 KAP Survey. The questionnaire has been developed.
- Communication tools for specific groups have been developed and validated:
- **EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION:** A guide for media professionals drafted in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication.
- **HEALTH:** Continued support to the implementation of the C4D component of the continuity plan on immunization in the context of COVID-19.
- **WASH:** Follow up of the COVID-19 awareness campaign in the two worst affected areas (Tana and Tamatave), in collaboration with a local NGO and the WASH section; and support to the development of the WASH communication operational plan in progress with the WASH cluster.
- **EDUCATION:** UNICEF supports the preparation of communication activities related to catch-up classes: audio spots towards parents, out-of-school children, teachers and community members (including community level networks) are being developed. A song in local dialect was produced by young local artist in the Boeny region to support back to school activities. It is being broadcast by local radio stations.
- **CHILD PROTECTION:** Collaboration with child protection section in the development of messages and IEC materials to support the efforts to protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence in this context of COVID-19.
- **NUTRITION:** Continued dissemination of COVID-19 nutrition related messages through media programming and IEC materials.
- **SOCIAL PROTECTION:** Support provided to the coordination of the Communication Working Group related to the Cash Transfer programme in the COVID context

Child Protection

- A technical note on the role of para-social workers in relation to COVID-19 has been finalized and shared electronically with all 22 regions of Madagascar. To date, 294 para-social workers have received this support and benefited from coaching. In addition, the contents are being translated into an audio training to be shared via radio to para-social workers in 13 regions.
- Psychosocial support for families affected by COVID 19 by social workers trained in the Atsinanana, Analanjirofo, Androy and Anosy regions is in progress. To date, 319 people including 126 children have benefited from this support.
- Messages and communication materials on child protection in the context of COVID-19 developed and disseminated.
- Support via NGO partner Youth First to strengthen awareness of the risks of online violence against children during COVID-19 and the confinement via social media (<https://www.facebook.com/Safebookmg/>).
- COVID-19 tests facilitated for children in quarantine in prison in Tamatave.

Nutrition

- UNICEF is supporting the nutrition service of the Ministry of Health to launch a national communication campaign aiming at increasing vitamin A supplementation coverage among children. Vitamin A supplementation is a low-cost and highly effective child survival intervention. Some 8.3 million capsules of Retinol along with communication materials will be sent to all districts by the end of June.
- To support the National Nutrition Office and to strengthen COVID-19 preventive measures essential to maintaining community-based nutrition counselling, UNICEF procured 2,372 no-contact handwashing devices and bars of soap as well as 18,979 masks for community workers and 2,372 nutrition community sites in 17 regions of Madagascar. The supplies will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Social Policy and Social Protection

- In coordination with the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Empowerment of Women (MPPSPF) and the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC), UNICEF is co-leading the Cash Working Group and supporting the design, implementation and monitoring of the horizontal expansion of cash grants into urban and suburban areas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The response strategy in the emergency phase sets the parameters of a new unconditional cash transfer programme to aid families and their children. After completing the pre-registration process about 200,000 households – 8,500 directly supported by UNICEF – from 769 fokontany (sub districts) of the eight districts of Antananarivo, Toamasina and Fianarantsoa will benefit from the programme, called TOSIKA FAMENO (Filling the Gap).
- Under the programme, which was launched by the President of Madagascar on Tuesday, 20 April, each identified household receives 100,000 ariary (US\$ 26) by mobile money or direct payment, for two months initially. The first wave of payments was initiated on 25 April reaching 170,000 households to date.
- An expansion of the strategy to include the response in the medium term is currently being drafted by the Cash Working Group. In parallel, UNICEF continues to support the government to leverage resources to prioritize social protection and enable the expansion of social safety nets. Existing social protection programmes (FIAVOTA and Monetary Transfer for Human Development – Let Us Learn) within the framework of the national social protection strategy (SNPS) continue to be financed to ensure the continuity of ongoing activities. Support during the COVID-19 pandemic is always provided with the long-term goal to continue building government systems and their ability to adapt and respond to shocks as and when they arise.

Communications

Press:

- UNICEF was featured [in two major newspapers with interviews with the Representative](#) on children’s rights during COVID-19.
- CO nominated two young celebrities as UNICEF supporters on children’s rights. They have been engaged as allies since the arrival of COVID-19 in Madagascar and will broadcast messages to their online followers.
- UNICEF continues to collaborate with two TV channels, including the national broadcaster, to share messages on COVID-19 through videos of our young champion, Lova Renee, and her one-minute videos which highlight key messages.
- As part of ongoing advocacy activities, UNICEF is working with partners, including WFP, the national office for nutrition, and the national scouting association, to launch a cooking contest for children aged 13-18 years old to encourage the promotion of healthy food during COVID-19. Children are being encouraged to share recipes during their lock down at home. The contest will launch during week of June 13th
- A guide for media professional has been drafted in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and the national communication commission set up for the COVID-19 response. A joint training for media professionals on how to report effectively about COVID-19 is planned.

Digital assets:

- The section is producing a video series on adolescent’s diaries during COVID-19 in collaboration with HQ and Rooftop Productions
- The section continues to produce “One Minute with Lova” videos. The topics highlighted in the reporting period were: [nutrition](#) and [measure to protect ourselves](#). The videos are available for use in English, French and Malagasy.
- Produced three animated videos on: social protection, WASH and health support to the government.

- [Video of a learning diary of a child during Covid19](#)

Social Media

TWITTER:

- [One minute with Lova Renée about nutrition during covid19](#)
- [Reminder of the UN key message for the celebration of Parents' Day in this time of covid19](#)
- [Q&A session with a UNICEF childhood development advisor about parenting during covid19](#)
- [Three young Malagasy entrepreneurs are getting involved in the fight against covid19](#)
- [Q&A about adapted nutrition for babies in this time of covid19](#)
- [The importance of innovation in Africa in the fight against covid19.](#)
- [Two young new UNICEF champions to promote child rights in Madagascar](#)
- [Portrait of a mother caring for her severely malnourished child in the midst of covid19](#)
- [Reminder of barrier measures to prevent the spread of covid19](#)
- [Major Tantely Nirina, mother and medical officer at the forefront in the fight against #covid19](#)
- [Reminder of wearing face masks properly to protect oneself from covid19](#)
- [Announcement of the world largest lesson's live to tackle the topic about children in the face of covid19](#)
- [Michel Saint-Lot UNICEF Representative in Madagascar in an interview to L'Express de Madagascar talked about the situation of children in Madagascar in the face of covid19](#)
- [Announcement of next Zonta talk on how the Let Us Learn project expands opportunities for girls' education in Madagascar, and UNICEF's response to school closures as a result of COVID-19](#)
- [Announcement of a joint ILO-UNICEF paper on the impact of #COVID19 on child labour](#)
- [Tripartite declaration within the framework of the celebration of the Day against Child Labour in the midst of covid19](#)

FACEBOOK:

- [One minute with Lova Renée about nutrition during covid19](#)
- [Global parenting day: message to parents on how to protect children from coronavirus](#)
- [Q&A session with a UNICEF childhood development advisor about parenting during covid19](#)
- [Three young Malagasy entrepreneurs are getting involved in the fight against covid19](#)
- [Quiz about adapted nutrition for babies in this time of covid19](#)
- [Two young new UNICEF champions to promote child rights in Madagascar](#)
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Contact for further information

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Annex A

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTSⁱ

| Indicator | | UNICEF | | Sector/Cluster | |
|---|---|---------------|---|----------------|---------------|
| | | UNICEF Target | Total Results | Cluster Target | Total Results |
| Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) | | | | | |
| Wash : Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through rcce actions (Hand Washing) | | 2,000,000 | 274,565 | | |
| C4D : | Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services. | 8,636,309 | 9,768,000 | | |
| | Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanism. | 250,000 | 296,809 | | |
| Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies | | | | | |
| WASH: Number of people reached with critical wash supplies (including hygiene items) and services | | 100,000 | 217,150 | | |
| HEALTH | Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with personal protective equipment (ppe). | 50,000 | 2,100 | | |
| | Number of healthcare facility staff and community health worker trained in infection prevention and control (ipc). | 10,806 | 1,500 | | |
| | Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases. | 10,806 | 1,500 | | |
| Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management | | | | | |
| Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities. | | 2,173,034 | 247,982 | | |
| Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 | | 3,500,000 | 1,511,939 | | |
| Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (sam). | | 16,000 | 15,026 | | |
| Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services | | | | | |
| Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning. | | 600,000 | Radio and tv programming have been made available to 600,000 pupils. Materials distributed for 73,028 pupils. | | |
| Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control). | | 0 | 2,000 schools have been disinfected. | | |
| Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements | | 300 | 64 (26 girls, 38 boys) | | |
| Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support. | | 700 | 296 (103 pupils, 58 girls and 45 boys) | | |

| | | | | |
|--|---------|-------|---------|---------|
| Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on gbv risk mitigation & referrals for survivors. | 1,000 | 312 | | |
| Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse. | 500,000 | | | |
| Support access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services | | | | |
| Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs. | 7,500 | 8,500 | 189,400 | 192,055 |

FUNDING

| Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal 11 Juin 2020) | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| Appeal Sector | Requirements | Funds available | | | Funding gap | |
| | | Funds Received Current Year | Carry-Over (re-programmationo) | Total | \$ | % |
| Nutrition | 700,000 | - | - | - | 700,000 | 100% |
| Health | 1,300,000 | 614,477 | 407,928 | 1,022,405 | 277,595 | 21% |
| WASH | 1,000,000 | 350,000 | 625,642 | 975,642 | 24,358 | 2% |
| Education | 1,200,000 | - | 1,051,562 | 1,051,562 | - | 0% |
| Child Protection | 300,000 | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | 280,000 | 93% |
| Communication for Development | 1,500,000 | 173,859 | 234,333 | 408,192 | 1,091,808 | 73% |
| Cash-based transfert | 1,000,000 | - | 608,079 | 608,079 | 391,921 | 39% |
| Cross sectoral / Cluster coordination | - | - | - | - | - | 0% |
| Total | 7,000,000 | 1,158,337 | 2,927,544 | 4,085,880 | 2,765,681 | 40% |