

## Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of April 30, 2021, 12,967 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in the country. The number of cured cases stands at 11,140, a proportion of 86%, while the number of deaths has reached 123, a case fatality rate of 0.95%. There are 35 pregnant women, 639 health professionals (including 142 doctors and 195 nurses) among the cases confirmed since the start of the pandemic. In addition, 175 confirmed cases in children under 5 (90 girls and 85 boys) were also notified. The number of active cases is 1,704, followed by the services of the Ministry of Health. The median age of confirmed cases is 36, and people in the 25-34 and 35-44 age groups remains the most affected by the virus. Lomé Commune and Maritime regions include the majority of cases at national level. A total of 310,570 tests were carried out, i.e. 26 tests per 1,000 inhabitants.

### Situation in Numbers



**12 967** COVID-19 confirmed cases

**123** deaths



**175** children under 5 tested positive

## UNICEF's COVID-19 response

### Health

On March 8, 2021, Togo received 156,000 doses of AstraZeneca SII vaccines thanks to the COVAX mechanism. The government of Togo also received 120,000 doses of vaccines from the African Union on March 21 and 31, 2021, for a total of 276,000 doses.

According to the national COVID-19 deployment and vaccination plan, phase 1 of the vaccination concerns 20% of the total population or 1,595,392 people, including 40,520 health personnel (public and private), school students of medical and paramedical training and Community Health Workers (CHW).



Vaccination against COVID-19 was launched in Lomé on March 10, 2021 by the Prime Minister of Togo, Ms. Victoire Tomégah-Dogbé (photo above), who received on this occasion her first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

As of April 13, 2021, a total of 148,551 people had been vaccinated (55,363 women and 93,188 men):

- 33,090 (21,001 men and 12,089 women) health workers across the country out of 35,105 registered, ie 94.2% coverage.

- 67,567 (25,181 women and 42,386 men) people aged 50 and over
- 47,894 (17,849 women and 30,045 men) vulnerable people (co-morbidities, prisoners, etc.).

In addition, the government is leading the implementation of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) and the mobilization of funds to obtain more vaccines as soon as possible. As of April 13, 2021, 87,380 doses remained in stock at central and regional levels and more than 3,300,000 doses of vaccine are expected to be delivered to the country between April and June 2021.

Finally, United Nations personnel in Togo have been integrated into the NDVP. Thus, on March 12 and 13, 2021, 230 out of 318 employees received their first dose.

As part of the offer of immunization services to children, the coverage of DTP Hep Hib3 and RR1 vaccines reached respectively 86% and 81% at the end of February 2021, against 90% and 88% at the same period last year, i.e. before the announcement of the first COVID-19 case in the country on March 6, 2020.

The strengthening of social mobilization through community dialogues and advanced vaccination strategies are planned throughout the rest of the year to remedy the situation.

### WASH

The WASH component maintained interventions in the field in partnership with 13 NGOs and 25 community radios, while emphasizing hand washing practices and communication on barrier measures in families, at schools, bus stations and markets. Overall, 1,751,385

people (including children) benefited from these interventions with 893,206 women among them.

The official delivery of COVID-19 supplies to the Ministry of Health on March 16, 2021, in the presence of the Minister, the Resident Representative of UNICEF and the Resident Coordinator of the UN in Togo (photo below), allowed the continuation and strengthening of Prevention and Infection control in health facilities. These supplies, acquired with the support from the Government of Japan, benefited 346 health facilities and 200 schools for 415,000 people, including 211,752 women and 50,315 children (24,801 girls, 25,514 boys).



## **Nutrition**

UNICEF has provided support to the Ministry of Health for the implementation of the "Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)" approach towards mothers and caregivers in the districts of Bassar and Kpendjal. As a result, the capacities of 111 community health workers in the two districts were strengthened to train a total of 6,239 mothers on MUAC measurement and screening for bilateral edema in their children aged 6-59 months. A total of 25 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were thus screened by their mothers. The implementation of this approach will help to ensure the continuity of the management of severe acute malnutrition in the context of COVID-19 but also to improve the early detection of malnourished children.

## **Risk Communication and Community Engagement/C4D**

Since January 4, 2021, UNICEF has supported the COVID-19 communication committee at the Ministry of Health in the development and implementation of a communication strategy integrated into the COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan. This strategy is essentially focused on actions and activities of accountability and empowerment of local authorities and community engagement.

The C4D team supports the COVID-19 Communication Committee in the development and updating of messages translated into 17 local languages intended

for the various targets such as health personnel, students of health training schools, health care providers, people over 50 and people under 50 with comorbid conditions. Regarding advocacy and social mobilization, UNICEF participated in and supported the organization of the advocacy meeting with the prefects and mayors of the Grand Lomé region on March 13, 2021. 40 participants including 2 prefects, 13 mayors of municipalities, 13 municipal health directors, representatives of the Ministry of Health and partners (WHO, UNICEF) participated in this meeting. On March 17, 2021, 45 media professionals from radio, print and online press from the 7 municipalities of the Gulf and the 4 municipalities of Agoè-Nyivé participated in the global briefing meeting on COVID-19 vaccination.

From March 19, 2021, UNICEF coordinated 22 meetings on COVID-19 awareness in the Gulf and the 4 communes of Agoè-Nyivé with 747 community leaders (414 men and 333 women) including cantonal leaders, district leaders, councilors, association leaders, women market leaders and religious leaders.

Finally, on April 13, UNICEF in collaboration with WHO, supported dialogue with religious leaders in the Gulf 2 health district as part of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. A total of 24 participants including 15 pastors, 3 muslim leaders, 4 pastors and 2 animist leaders were present.

The protection of children in the context of COVID-19 was reinforced in the Central and Kara regions by a communication and community engagement strategy for the Protection of the Child against COVID-19 in the prefectures of Blitta, Mò, Tchamba, Assoli, Binah and Dankpen. In addition to specific programs produced on 10 community radios in the Central (4 radios) and Kara (6 radios) regions, it is planned to build the capacity of 348 community leaders from 36 villages and 12 cantons on community engagement for prevention and care for children victims of abuse, exploitation and violence.

Today, we still face challenges such as persistent rumors about the COVID-19 vaccination and non-compliance with barrier measures by communities. Support is provided for the organization of meetings of local authorities in 39 prefectures and the conduct of community dialogues in 4,000 villages out of a total of 7,125 villages during the month of May.

## **Education**

The office maintained support to the education sector for the implementation of the health protocol in 590 schools in the regions of Savanes, Plateaux and Central with its implementing partners, in particular the regional directorates of education as well as the NGOs Aide et Action International and Plan International Togo. For the period from January to March 2021, awareness has been increased in all schools and communities targeted

on compliance with barrier measures by teachers, students and parents of students. In addition, 590 hand washing devices, 2,949 bottles of 500 ml of hydroalcoholic gel, 7,734 reusable bibs, 4,145 bottles of liquid soap (500 ml) and 308 megaphones were received by all 590 schools to promote hand washing and the systematic wearing of masks in schools and communities. These interventions targeted approximately 134,744 children, including 65,326 girls.

### ***Child Protection***

The rapid diagnosis of the situation of homeless populations, in particular children, women and people with disabilities, in the towns of Kara and Sokodé was carried out under the coordination of the Ministry of Social Action with the involvement of the Ministry of Public Security. The latter secured the data collection process, in particular to support the movement of teams of investigators at night during the curfew, often on the outskirts of cities. The data are processed by a group associating the Ministry of Social Action, the NGO Hälsa International Togo and the Forum of Organizations for the Defense of the Rights of the Child in Togo (FODDET) with UNICEF's support.

About 1,118 people were counted in the streets of the two towns: 619 men (187 in Sokodé; 432 in Kara) and 243 women, including young adolescents (76 in Sokodé and 167 in Kara) and 256 children (48 children in Sokodé and 208 in Kara).

Some families of these target groups find themselves in an extremely precarious situation. They do not have access to the most basic rights such as the right to housing and a safe environment at night, the right to access health services and the right to be protected from all forms of violence. During data collection, essential information on COVID-19 prevention, health services and protection against violence, and hygiene equipment were shared by the diagnostic teams with their interlocutors.

The second wave of training on child protection and psycho-social support for people affected by COVID-19, including patients and frontline health professionals, was organized across the country. A total of 7 training sessions brought together 177 social actors and professionals from the health system (63 women and 114 men).

During 2 days, the following main themes were discussed: the basics of psychosocial support in emergency situations, the key principles for setting up multidisciplinary child protection interventions for psychosocial support in an emergency context and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and the United Nations Zero Tolerance Policy. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for participants to avoid any behavior contrary to the PSEA and the denunciation of any act of sexual exploitation and abuse.

### ***Social Protection***

As part of its response to COVID-19, the Togolese government has set up a new cash transfer program, called Give Direct-Novissi. The latter will initially benefit 57,000 people living in the 100 most vulnerable cantons of rural Togo. This innovative program combines satellite data and mobile data to target the most vulnerable people.

In addition, the report for Togo of the results of the Rapid Review of the Global Responses in the Field of Social Protection to the COVID-19 pandemic has just been finalized. He concludes that the experiences and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic provide Togo with an invaluable opportunity to advance the national social protection program and strengthen the unique social registry which must include a shock response mechanism. . The report believes that UNICEF could play a key role in strengthening coordinated exchanges on government priorities and perspectives for short, medium and long term social protection activities.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

The UNICEF office in Togo has received support from financial partners for 32% of the COVID-19 Response Plan. These funds were made available by the Government of Japan, USAID, the Global Partnership for Education and the company VLISCO.

UNICEF thanks all of its partners for their mobilization and encourages all actors in the humanitarian and development sectors to participate in the COVID-19 Response Plan put in place by the Government of Togo.

## External Media

Publication on Social Media:

1. Facebook:

[UNICEF Togo Officiel](#)

2. Twitter

[UNICEF Togo Twitter Account](#)

3. Instagram

[UNICEF Togo Instagram Account](#)

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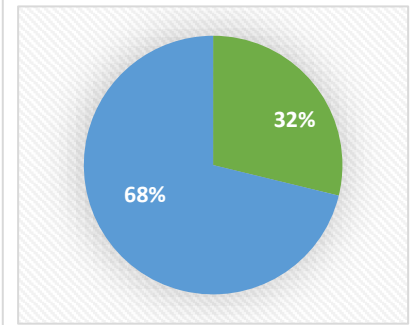
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UNICEF Togo COVID-19 Response Plan

Funding needs:

\$ 10,961,136



## Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2021 target	Total results
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</b>		
Number of people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)	980,500	Not available yet
<b>WASH and IPC</b>		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	1,000,000	Not available yet
Number of institutions supported with a minimum WASH and IPC package and demonstrating IPC improvements	60	Not available yet
Number of vulnerable households enabled to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission through a better access to water and/or soap, and hygiene promotion	50,000	Not available yet
<b>Health</b>		
Number of health workers trained on integrated community case management	8,360	Not available yet
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	8,360	5,920
<b>Nutrition</b>		
Number of children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment	6,771	1,853
Number of health and/or nutrition workers trained on nutrition in the context of COVID-19	2,750	Not available yet
<b>Education</b>		
Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	377,399	Not available yet
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	1,000	590
<b>Child Protection</b>		
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	4,000	Not available yet
Number of women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	2,000	Not available yet
Number of unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative	4,000	Not available yet

## Funding Status

Sector <sup>1</sup>	Funding requirements	Funds available	Funding gap \$	Funded as up to %
C4D / RCCE	347,200	445,557	-98,357	128%
WASH & IPC	1,770,000	1,397,693	372,307	79%
Nutrition	65,000	167,357	-102,357	257%
Health and HIV/AIDS	100,000	285,977	-185,977	286%
Child Protection	165,000	327,532	-162,532	199%
Education	5,702,000	149,532	5,552,468	3%
Operations	2,000,000	483,285	1,516,715	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,149,200</b>	<b>3,256,933</b>	<b>6,892,267</b>	<b>32%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Social Protection interventions are not included in UNICEF's original COVID-19 Response Plan.