



Situation in Numbers
(as of 31st May 2021)



94,011 confirmed cases
92,057 recoveries
785 deaths
1,169 active cases



Over 9.2 million children benefiting from schools re-opening



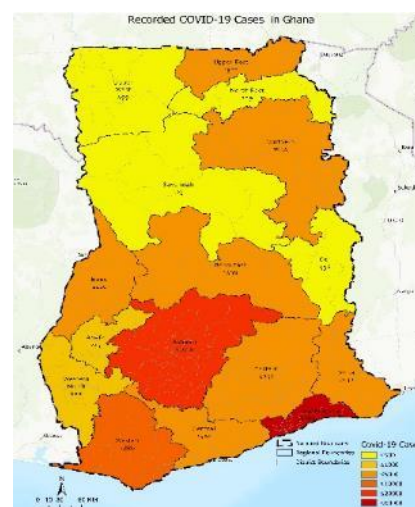
US\$ 26.9 million funding required

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

In May, Ghana recorded 1,360 additional COVID-19 cases and three more deaths. Since the start of the pandemic, the total number stood a little over 94,000 cases with the total death toll at 785. The Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions continued to record the highest number of cases.

As of 31st May, Ghana retains its position as the country in the West and Central Africa Region with the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases, after Nigeria.

On 7th May, Ghana received additional 350,000 Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccines from the Democratic Republic of Congo, through the COVAX facility. This brought the total number of vaccines from the facility to 950,000. As of 26th May, over 95 per cent of those vaccines had been administered to beneficiaries.



Map of Ghana identifying the concentration of confirmed cases of COVID-19

H.E. the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Akufo Addo, in his 25th COVID-19 televised update, announced a plan to deploy the second round of vaccines. Priority groups included frontline workers, people with medical conditions and the elderly. Ghana Health Service (GHS) delivered these vaccines to 43 worst affected districts in the three regions.

Global solidarity and further support are needed to secure additional doses for Ghana, which has demonstrated an excellent absorption capacity and ability to use doses in a timely and effective manner.

UNICEF's COVID-19 response in Ghana

In close cooperation with the UN Country Team, UNICEF in Ghana continues to support the Government's overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other critical humanitarian risks, across the sectors below.

Health

On May 7th, Ghana received additional 350,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine through the COVAX facility. These were reassigned from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

From 19th to 26th May 2021, the Ghana Health Service deployed these doses to 43 hotspot districts in Greater Accra, Ashanti and Central Regions. The country had successfully used 349,632 of the new doses by 26th May, representing a 96.8 per cent coverage. These new vaccines were used as a second dose for those who had received the first one early March. Efforts are underway to secure additional doses despite the global shortage of vaccines.



Ghana Health service, WHO and UNICEF inspect the second consignment of COVID-19 vaccines at the Kotoka International Airport, May 2021.
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Nutrition



UNICEF Health and Nutrition Officer, Porbilla Ofosu-Apea, inspects messages on breastfeeding and good nutrition at a health center in Tamale, Northern Region, May 2021.
©UNICEF/UN188200/BUTA

UNICEF continued to support the Government to promote optimal infant and young child feeding practices through the *Start Right Feed Right* campaign targeting newborns to two-year-old infants. By improving breastfeeding and the quality of infant diet, the campaign aims to reduce stunting (low height-for-age) in children under five years of age.

As part of the 40th Anniversary of the adoption of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, the Government, UNICEF and WHO reiterated the importance to implement the Ghana's Breastfeeding Promotion Regulations 2000 (LI1667) to improve children's growth. A press release resulted in

increased media engagement around the need to promote breastfeeding in Ghana. In addition, the UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office partnered with *Le Monde Afrique* media outlet to publish [an article](#) on good feeding practices.

Various nutritious food and health actions were consolidated into an integrated services for school-age children to tackle the triple burden of malnutrition. The programme has reached 800 schools across the country.

Boosted by the annual Health Promotion Week, nutrition activities were scaled up across all 16 Regions and 260 districts to sustain Child Health and Nutrition Services in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. These include breastfeeding counselling support, Vitamin A supplementation and education on COVID-19 prevention protocols.

On 25 May, UNICEF monitored activities at the Gambaga health centre in the North East region. The health centre supports mothers to treat young children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, with supplements provided by UNICEF, with funding from China AID. The facility also implement the Girls Iron Folate Tablets Supplementation (GIFTS) programme, which seeks to reduce anemia among adolescent girls.



UNICEF Representative, Anne-Claire Dufay, hands nutrition supplements to a mother with her child at the Gambaga Health Center in the North East region, 25 May 2021. ©UNICEF/UN145280/BUTA



UNICEF Health and Nutrition Officer (Tamale Field Office), Porbilla Ofosu-Apea, gives therapeutic food supplement to little Deborah who is being treated at the Gambaga Health Center in the North East region. ©UNICEF/UN639992/BUTA

Water Sanitation and Hygiene

In May 2021, UNICEF and the Ambassador of the Netherlands handed over a fully rehabilitated waste stabilization pond to the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly, in the Northern region. This facility will treat liquid waste generated from the Tamale urban areas. Its effective use will serve an estimated 150,000 people.



Aerial view of the waste stabilization pond in Tamale after its rehabilitation, with support from the Netherlands and UNICEF, Tamale, Ghana, May 2021. ©UNICEF/UN421799/BUTA



Netherlands Ambassador to Ghana, Officials from the Government of Ghana, and UNICEF Staff from Tamale Field Office and Accra launching the rehabilitated waste stabilization pond in Tamale, Ghana, 26 May 2021. ©UNICEF/UN339880/BUTA

As part of the urban sanitation programme, UNICEF and the Embassy of the Netherlands also inaugurated new water sanitation and hygiene facilities at the Tamale Central Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMCH) Clinic. This facility located in Changli serves over 150 outpatients per day, with over 70 medical and non-medical staff. They will now have access to safe water and toilets.



New water and sanitation facilities at the Tamale Central Reproductive Maternal and Child Health Clinic, 26 May 2021. ©UNICEF/UN0342/BUTA

On 24 May, with support from the World Bank Pandemic Emergency Fund (PEF), UNICEF handed over WASH infrastructure, handwashing stations and Personal Protective Equipment to the Ansuarideen Junior High School, in northern region.

UNICEF continued to promote sanitation and hygiene under its Rural and Urban Programmes. So far, an estimated 2,500 people have been reached with improved sanitation and hygiene facilities through the implementation of the Community Led Total Sanitation and Sanitation Marketing approaches in targeted metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies (MMDAs).

Over the reporting period, UNICEF implemented WASH programming in low-income urban areas in Greater Accra and Kumasi. A total of 70 staff members from MMDAs, including Environmental Health, Education and Health Officers were engaged on a broad conceptual framework for enhancing WASH communication, operations, and maintenance of facilities.

The innovative Basic Sanitation Fund is also improving the quality of life for families and communities as more households are being supported with safe toilets. In the Changli community, beneficiaries of the social fund include unemeployed people with disabilities. During a monitoring visit, they explained how the safe household toilets have been improving their lives.



Netherlands Ambassador to Ghana, Ronald Strikker, and UNICEF Representative interacting with a beneficiary of the social fund for sanitation in Changli, Tamale, 26 May 2021 ©UNICEF/UN639992/BUTA

Education

A radio learning programme is now broadcasting through local radio stations in 47 districts in six regions across the country. It is designed to bridge the equity gap for young learners who missed out on education due to the COVID-19 school closures. This collaboration with local radio stations will widen the programme's reach to include children in rural areas, supplementing an earlier nationwide broadcast for 6,278, 484 listeners.

The recorded scripts are in all four core subjects (Mathematics; English; Integrated Science; and Social studies). Meanwhile, the broadcast schedule for older learners from the upper primary four (P4) to Junior High School (JHS) has been confirmed for June. To reach more children who are not learning, a digitized script for the universal design for learning principles is being developed into videos for teachers. This will complement an earlier district level training on how to tailor learning to students' individual needs, which reached 1,500 teachers of Primary 2 to Primary 6 in 235 schools in six regions.



A boy reads from the mobile library project in Sefwi Wiawso in the Western North region. ©UNICEF/UN426611/ADATSI

More children are being reached through the second phase or an expansion of the 'Community Library' project to promote reading in the Eastern and Central Regions. Key opinion leaders, District Assembly Executive Officers, District Directors of Education were mobilized in a drive to get as many children to register as library members so they could enjoy reading library books at home. In addition, librarians and teachers have been trained on library management to complement and sustain home-based learning for a further 3,500 children in two regions. The project aims to reach and sustain a total of eight regions covering some 8,500 children.

In improving the psychosocial resilience of learners in special schools and inculcating critical skills needed to support a safe school environment, UNICEF has supported the Ghana Education Services Special Education Division to build the capacity of 55 facilitators (female: 10; male: 45). This cohort was drawn from 52 special schools, upskilling their knowledge to train others using the approved Sports for Safe Schools Manual.

The manual helps teachers effectively engage learners with special educational needs, including the visually impaired, hearing impaired and children with intellectual disabilities.

The facilitators then equipped 776 special education teachers (female:283; male: 493) who are now regularly using their new knowledge in their classes, reaching a total of 7,653 special education learners (female: 3,310; males: 4,343).

The month also recorded progress in improving active learner or student participation to increase enrollment, retention, learning, and school completion. As part of the Safe School Initiative, the Ghana Education Services, with UNICEF support, consulted all stakeholders to draft a Student Code of Conduct. This Code aims at encouraging positive behaviour among learners. Some 180 key stakeholders (female: 110; male: 70) - including teachers, headteachers, students, caregivers - have been extensively engaged across the Northern, Central, and Southern Belts of Ghana. Their valuable contributions have extensively improved the finalization and approval of the Code, benefitting 5,864,055 pre-tertiary learners (female: 2,882,101; male: 2,981,954) in 41,730 schools (kindergartens: 14,956; primary: 15,391; junior high: 11,383) across the 16 regions of Ghana.

A skill mapping study was completed to review the different skills that development programmes for learning, empowerment, and employability have implemented to support children and adolescents within schools and out of school settings in Ghana.

Child Protection

In May, 10,618 people (girls: 2,277; boys: 1,910; women: 3,923; men: 2,508) were reached in eight regions out of 16 with COVID-19 prevention, child protection and sexual- and gender-based violence related messaging through the Government, UNICEF and other partners. This brings to a total of 15,000 people reached through community-based protection interventions since January 2021. Community facilitators used flashcards covering adolescent

pregnancy, parental responsibilities, gender inequality, and sexual and gender-based violence. This and other tools helped to engage small groups in churches and other community venues.

In the Central Region, the Church of Pentecost continued to engage children using these methods through its network in the surrounding communities. During the reporting period, 6,117 people (females: 4,780; males: 1,337) learnt how to better protect children by understanding child rights, using positive parenting ways to raise children, and preventing the spread of COVID-19.



Girls working on a class assignment together at school, 2021, Ghana. UNICEF/UN451670/KOKOROKO



Community engagement using posters from the Child protection toolkit, 2021 ©GACA



Community engagement led by partners from the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development using the toolkit in Wa, Upper West Region, 2021. ©GACA

A total of 4,694 girls, boys and women (female: 3,786; male: 907) took part in programmes to mitigate, prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence at the decentralized level, and the Child-Friendly Gender-Based Violence Court in Accra. Since January, a total of 7,175 people (girls: 2,001; boys: 1,402; women: 3,772) benefited from sexual and gender-based violence-related mitigation measures and services from social workers in close to 50 districts. The Ghanaians Against Child Abuse Campaign continued to popularize telephone helplines, specializing in child protection and gender-based violence prevention and response. Indirectly, the campaign reached a total of 83,312 people through social media messaging.

UNICEF kept supporting the expansion of case management services for children without parental care. In May, 168 children (girls: 82; boys: 86) without parental or family care were provided with alternate care arrangements across 49 metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies, while 47 children (female: 28; male: 19) were reunified with their birth families. Since the start of the year, a total of 1,072 children (girls: 518; boys: 554) without parental care were reunited or their cases followed up or placed in foster care.

Government partners such as the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development and non-governmental partners engaged 10,618 people (girls: 2,277; boys: 1,910; women: 3,923, men: 2,508) in eight regions across the country. Of this, a total of 5,978 people (girls: 922; boys: 668, women: 2,643 and men: 1,745) were engaged exclusively in the awareness and prevention of COVID-19. Stakeholders reported that the Child Protection toolkit has been effectively used at the community level, and over 15,000 people have been reached from January to date.

Risk Communication & Community Engagement



Posters developed to support the second round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

The National Communication Sub-Committee and UNICEF continued developing a communication strategy and messages to maintain and increase vaccine confidence for the second dose deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine.

In addition, UNICEF coordinated with the Misinformation Management Task Force and supported bi-weekly meetings and analysis of COVID-19-related rumours. UNICEF also provided advice and training to manage the overall response.

UNICEF also assisted the Health Promotion Division in finalizing its upcoming five-year strategy, managing its social media channels and involvement of digital influencers. The Ghana Health Service collaborated with UNICEF to finalize its communication strategy and crisis communication plans on polio (nOPV2) preparedness.

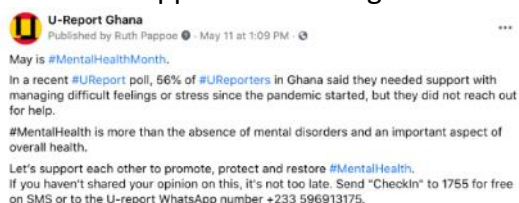
The Family Health Division and UNICEF launched a joint training programme to strengthen the communication skills of regional health and education staff on adolescents' reproductive health. In partnership with the University for Business and Integrated Development Studies, UNICEF launched its first-of-its-kind university course on social and behaviour change communication in Ghana. The course will increase the skills of communication practitioners to influence positive behaviour change.



The University for Business and Integrated Development Studies and UNICEF launched the first certified course on social and behaviour change communication, 29 May 2021. ©UNICEF

In May, as part of the Talking Book programme, which uses small hand-held audio equipment containing pre-recorded behaviour messages, the Jirapa Health Directorate, Amplio Ghana and UNICEF awarded nurses with outstanding performance in health education across Community-based Health Planning and Services facilities.

Across social media platforms, UNICEF and World Health Organisation joined the Government to mark Hand Hygiene Day to promote handwashing that is one of the simplest yet most effective method of preventing the spread of diseases, including COVID-19. Included in the messages was an acknowledgement of partners who have supported ensuring the availability of handwashing facilities in schools and public places.



In May, messages across social media on the arrival of 350,000 additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines and the second phase of vaccinations reached over 1.7 million people. Overall, messages related to COVID-19 reach over 1.8 million people across platforms.



U-Report continued to promote the "Check-In" poll on mental health through the Month of May marked as "mental health month". Over 50,000 young people were engaged and 65 per cent of respondents admitted having to provide more mental health support to friends and family since the pandemic began. Social media audiences were engaged with results from the poll and reminded of available helplines.

Social Protection

UNICEF continued to provide technical and financial support to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in the ongoing roll-out and monitoring of the COVID-19 relief transfers, which are reaching additional vulnerable individuals impacted by the pandemic. These temporary transfers have been delivered in two tranches for each recipient. An additional 27,000 individuals received their first payment in May, while households that were reached earlier in the year received second payments. This brings the total number of recipients reached to date to 53,000.

UNICEF provided supplementary financial aid to help with the disbursement of the transfers, and continued to be involved in the technical and monitoring support of these payments by asking recipients feedback and capturing lessons to improve Ghana's use of cash transfers in response to shocks or emergencies.

UNICEF has been supporting the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to use Short Messaging Services to communicate with recipients (e.g. informing them when payments are coming), and conducting mini monitoring surveys. In collaboration with the Ministry, UNICEF is also supporting civil society organizations to conduct independent monitoring and further explore issues arising in the surveys. Data collection has been conducted in May, with a report expected in June.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal in Ghana presents a funding gap of US\$ 17 million. As of 31 May, US\$ 9.9 million has been raised. This is thanks to the support of partners such as the World Bank (Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility), Denmark, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Global Affairs Canada, USAID, KOICA, China International Development and Cooperation Agency, the Mastercard Foundation, Standard Chartered Bank and others.

In late May 2021, UNICEF received a new contribution from the Government of Japan to build cold chain systems. As a result, UNICEF was able to strengthen its support to cover the COVID-19 vaccination plan deployment. UNICEF continues to coordinate closely with the UN Country Team in Ghana.



Boy playing with a tire during a local festival in Accra, Ghana.
©UNICEF/UN255772/DEJONGH

Expressing its sincere gratitude to all its supporters, UNICEF calls for additional funds to fill the continuing gaps in ensuring a comprehensive and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic, for vulnerable children, young people and families in Ghana.

External Links:

<https://www.unicef.org/ghana/press-releases/350000-doses-covid-19-vaccines-have-arrived-ghana>

<https://www.myjoyonline.com/ghana-takes-delivery-of-350000-doses-of-covid-19-vaccines/>

<https://www.gna.org.gh/1.20820727>

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Annex A - Summary of Programme Results - Ghana

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2021 target	Total results*
Nutrition		
Children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	16424	877
Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	350,000	108,752
Adolescent girls receiving iron and folic acid or multiple micronutrient supplements	1,000,000	1,356,350
Health		
Children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF - supported facilities	500,000	1,329,201 (women) 297,403 (Children) 1,626,604 (Total)
People who received diagnostic and treatment services for COVID-19	30,000	29,431
WASH		
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	30,000	Unavailable
Children accessing appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	40,000	Unavailable
People reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services	50,000	Unavailable
People reached with key hygiene messages, services and/or supplies, including handwashing with soap	340,000	131,153
Child Protection		
Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	120,000	3519 (Girls) 2928 (Boys) 5055 (Women) 3503 (Men) 15,005 (Total)
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	120,000	2001 (Girls) 1402 (Boys) 3772 (Women) 7175 (Total)
People with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse	3,500	25
Unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	3,500	518 (girls) 554 (boys) 1072 (total)
Education		
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	1,383,576	677952 [girls] 705624 [boys] 1,383,576 [Total]
Schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)	10,545	10,545
Social Protection		
Households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding	256,500	375,000 households under LEAP + 60,000 people under emergency mobile transfers

Communication for Development / Communication / AAP		
People participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change	1,000,000	201,404
People reached through messaging on key health behaviours, available social services and response to COVID-19	6,000,000	9,000,000
People who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	200,000	4,128

Annex B - Funding Gaps – Ghana

Sector	HAC fund requirements	Available HAC funds 2021	Funding Gaps
Health	\$1,900,000	\$1,542,740	(\$357,260)
Nutrition	\$2,372,597	\$387,120	(\$1,985,477)
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	\$1,175,000	\$479,799	(\$695,201)
Education	\$5,780,805	\$2,340,588	(\$3,440,217)
WASH	\$8,140,000	\$3,729,501	(\$4,410,499)
Social Protection and Cash transfers	\$5,030,000	\$19,184	(\$5,010,816)
C4D, Community engagement and AAP	\$2,550,000	\$710,820	(\$1,839,180)
Total	\$26,948,402	\$9,209,751	(\$17,738,651)