COVID-19 continued to create significant emergency needs across West and Central Africa Region (WCAR). Following the pandemic’s first wave from March until September 2020, the region experienced a second wave from November 2020 until March 2021. Between 1 January and 31 March, 243,225 cases were reported across WCAR, with 3,159 related deaths (CFR 1.3%).

In February 2021, WCAR countries received the first shipments of COVID-19 vaccines under the global COVAX Facility, which aims to deliver 2 billion doses of vaccines to countries in need before the end of 2021. Between 1 January and 31 March, WCAR countries received 6,759,650 vaccines through the COVAX Facility.

Further complicating an already complex public health situation, the region recorded new Ebola Virus Disease outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Guinea. In both countries, UNICEF is supporting national authorities to contain the outbreak, including by co-leading the Risk Communication and Community Engagement and the Infection Prevention Control pillars of the response, and contributing to health and logistics response.

In addition to emergency responses in DRC and Guinea, UNICEF is working with neighboring countries (including Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, and Liberia that sit within the regional HAC appeal) to strengthen Ebola response readiness. All neighboring countries have reactivated early warning and response mechanisms and pre-positioned stocks, and some areas have been targeted for preventive vaccination campaigns.

In Bata, Equatorial Guinea, a series of explosions that were triggered accidentally inside a military base on 7 March 2021 killed dozens of people and injured hundreds. According to the national response plan, at least 16,000 people required assistance due to injuries and the destruction of homes and other infrastructure.
UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office: Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2021
Reporting countries: Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Togo

Appeal 2021 Funding Status

Carry-over from 2020: $26.3M (34%)
Received in 2021: $5.8M (7%)

Table: Funding by sector
- Education: $11.3M required ($17.7M funded)
- Emergency response and preparedness: $12.1M required ($15.2M funded)
- Water, sanitation and hygiene: $1.6M required ($12.7M funded)
- Social Protection and cash transfers: $1.1M required ($6.8M funded)
- Health: $3.6M required ($6.3M funded)
- Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA: $0.9M required ($5.1M funded)
- Nutrition: $0.5M required ($4.5M funded)
- C4D, community engagement and AAP: $1.0M required ($2.3M funded)

Table: Funding by reporting country
- Benin: $3.6M required ($17.1M funded)
- Togo: $1.5M required ($15.0M funded)
- Liberia: $8.9M required ($12.7M funded)
- Côte d’Ivoire: $1.1M required ($5.3M funded)
- Guinea Bissau: $3.3M required ($5.2M funded)
- Equatorial Guinea: $0.9M required ($4.7M funded)
- Gambia: $0.7M required ($4.1M funded)

*Funding available includes funds received in 2021, carry-over from the previous year and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

Benin: response and funding status
- Total funding status: $17.1M required
- Carry-over from 2020: $3.6M (15%)
- Received in 2021: $13.5M (79%)
- Results:
  - 109,885 children under 5 years vaccinated against measles
  - 16,897 children and caregivers accessing MHPSS*
  - 3,779 schools implementing safe school protocols
  - 17,326 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water
  - 21,863 households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors
  - 50,897 people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)

Côte d’Ivoire: response and funding status
- Total funding status: $5.3M required
- Carry-over from 2020: $1.1M (13%)
- Received in 2021: $4.2M (80%)
- Results:
  - $17.7M required
  - 11% children under 5 years vaccinated against measles
  - 9% children 6-59 months receiving Vitamin A supplementation
  - 9% people reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes
  - 9% households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors
  - 7% people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)
Equatorial Guinea: response and funding status

- **Funding status**
  - Carry-over from 2020: $0.9M (11%)
  - Received in 2021: $3.8M (7%)
  - Funding gap: $4.7M required

- **Results**
  - 620,969 people reached through messaging on access to services
  - $0.9M carry-over from 2020 (11%)
  - $3.8M received in 2021 (7%)
  - $3.8M funding gap (81%)
  - $4.7M required

Gambia: response and funding status

- **Funding status**
  - Carry-over from 2020: $0.7M (7%)
  - Received in 2021: $3.4M (10%)
  - Funding gap: $4.1M required

- **Results**
  - 24,420 children under 5 years vaccinated against measles
  - 309 children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment
  - 1,512 people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse
  - 3,300 schools implementing safe school protocols
  - 5,476 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water
  - 909 households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors
  - 2,424 people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)

Guinea Bissau: response and funding status

- **Funding status**
  - Carry-over from 2020: $3.3M

- **Results**
  - 300,000 people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services
  - 751 people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)

Nb: Interventions to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are being carried out, however some sector-specific data is not yet available.
Liberia: response and funding status

January-March 2021

Funding status

- **Carry-over from 2020**
  - $8.9M
- **Received in 2021**
  - $4.9M
- **Funding gap**
  - $4.9M (39%)
- **Funding status**
  - $12.7M required

Results

- **624,277** children and women accessing primary healthcare
- **5,245** children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment
- **3,223** women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **50** schools implementing safe school protocols
- **11,250** children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities
- **-** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors

Togo: response and funding status

January-March 2021

Funding status

- **Carry-over from 2020**
  - $1.5M (6%)
- **Received in 2021**
  - $13.5M (4%)
- **Funding gap**
  - $13.5M (90%)
- **Funding status**
  - $15.0M required

Results

- **67,012** children under 5 years vaccinated against measles
- **1,853** children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment
- **590** schools implementing safe school protocols
- **-** people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services
- **-** people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)

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