Highlights

- Several countries in West and Central Africa have entered a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic with case numbers rising to their highest levels since the start of the outbreak. Continued disruptions to essential services remain a challenge.

- Supporting the continuation of nutrition services in the context of COVID-19 remains difficult, as COVID-19 has created barriers to community-based activities carried out by Community Health Workers including early SAM screening and prevention activities for Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF).

- Schools have re-opened with many countries offering catch up classes to student over the summer. UNICEF continues to scale-up WASH in schools to promote good health and hygiene.

- Following the declaration of an Ebola outbreak in Guinea, UNICEF stepped up preparedness activities in six neighbouring countries (Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Senegal), where approximately 40 million people under 18 years of age were at risk. On 19 June 2021 Guinea was officially declared Ebola-Free.

- The security context has further deteriorated in the first six months of 2021. Non-state armed groups have expanded their area of operations especially in the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel.

UNICEF’s Response and Funding Status

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<tr>
<td>% target</td>
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- children under 5 years vaccinated against measles: 29% target, 82% reached, 53% Sector funds available, 354,484 reached
- children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment: 42% target, 62% reached, 50% Sector funds available, 15,707 reached
- children and caregivers accessing MHPSS: 15% target, 62% reached, 70% Sector funds available, 61,968 reached
- children accessing formal or non-formal education: 9% target, 62% reached, 86% Sector funds available, 578,244 reached
- people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services: 15% target, 62% reached, 82% Sector funds available, 1,010,643 reached
- households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors: 86% target, 53% reached, 72% Sector funds available, 61,481 reached
- people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change): 50% target, 53% reached, 93% Sector funds available, 1,673,670 reached

Funding status (in US$)

- $70.5M required
- $7.3M received in 2021
- $41.5M funding gap
- $15.1M carry-forward: other resources
- $11.2M carry-forward: humanitarian

*Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since the beginning of 2021, the region has continued to experience major public health emergencies. The COVID-19 pandemic, affecting all 24 countries of West and Central Africa Region (WCAR), has shown an upward trend since January 2021, marking the second wave of the pandemic in the region. As of 30 June 2021, a cumulative total of 688,775 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 9,933 related deaths (case fatality rate: CFR: 1.44 per cent) have been reported. SARS-CoV2 variants of concern are circulating across the region, with the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7) being predominant in WCAR as of 30 June 2021.

During the reporting period, Guinea’s Nzerekore region experienced a resurgence of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) from February to June 2021 with a cumulative total of 23 cases (16 confirmed cases and 7 probable cases) and 12 deaths (CFR: 52.1 per cent). A growing number of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases and measles, as well as cholera outbreaks, were also reported in several countries.

The security context in West and Central Africa has further deteriorated in the first six months of 2021, impacting civilians and humanitarian activities. Non-state armed groups have expanded their area of operations, with several direct attacks against the UN, INGO and local partners especially in the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel. Insecurity is also on the rise Cote d’Ivoire, where hostilities have increased compared to the same period last year.

All 24 UNICEF Country Offices in the region have received technical support from UNICEF’s Regional Office to update their risk analysis and preparedness plans. A total of 29 emergency preparedness workshops were carried out between January to June 2021. Following the declaration of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, UNICEF stepped up preparedness activities in six neighbouring countries (Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Senegal), where approximately 40 million people under the age of 18 were assessed to be at risk. Preparedness measures for the response in neighbouring countries included the vaccination of close to 3,000 frontline workers, 11,000 individuals living in high risk areas, as well as the scale up of health, risk communication, Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and WASH and psychosocial care activities in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities. These activities, funded in part by the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) are reaching 2,047,804 women, 1,748,024 men, and 4,355,778 children. In the coastal countries of Togo, Ghana, Benin, Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea, a further deterioration of the security context have also triggered dedicated investment into preparedness efforts. Since February, 21 workshops on emergency preparedness have been organized with Ghana, Togo, and Benin country and Cote d’Ivoire field offices. Drawing on these trainings, UNICEF is now adapting programmes to better integrate identified risks and establishing early warning systems based on sub-regional conflict dynamics. UNICEF continues to lead coordination mechanisms for emergency at both country and regional level. In the regional hub of Dakar, this includes leadership of the child protection, education, nutrition, resilience, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and WASH working groups.

Funding Overview & Partnerships

The West and Central Africa HAC appeal is 41 per cent funded as of 30 June 2021. Critical funding gaps remain to meet the urgent needs of children across the region. In the first half of the year, top donors included Japan, UNOCHA, and USAID. China committed 4 million USD to Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Senegal (1 million USD each) for health and nutrition services. Global Affairs Canada kindly supported Burkina Faso, DRC and Mali with 4.7 million USD in support of education programming. For health programming, GAVI is currently the largest donor to WCAR with over 2 million USD, followed by generous support from the US Fund for UNICEF, US CDC, Canada and France. From private sector partners, the UNICEF-Gates Foundation partnership is developing a Joint Investment Mechanism (JIM) for DRC and Burkina Faso to enable investments in shared goals including maternal and child health and adolescent health and well-being. For 2021, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation invested approximately 3.2 million USD across WCAR. In addition, the Mastercard Foundation provided support to Ghana and Senegal to prevent and respond to COVID-19.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In Benin, COVID-19 infection rates have declined since April 2021. However, it should be noted that testing has also decreased due to new government measures limiting testing to people with symptoms and medical prescription. The number of positive cases was 8,170 as of 24 June, with 104 deaths. As of 28 June, 29,682 people received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 8,770 received their second dose. To improve vaccine coverage, the number of vaccination sites have been increased from 78 to 115 in all departments and vaccinations are available for all adults since May. The country is preparing to receive new vaccine allocations (Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson) in July in order to diversify vaccine availability and boost vaccine confidence.

In addition to the COVID-19 situation, Benin has also seen increased humanitarian needs following the influx of refugees fleeing hostilities in neighbouring Burkina Faso in the Atacora department. The Alibori department is also at risk of receiving additional refugees from neighbouring countries due to conflict in Niger and Nigeria.

Summary of Programme Response

Health

In 2021, UNICEF has continued to support the Ministry of Health in its COVID-19 response through the donation of testing devices (including a “MagNA Pure 96 DNA” device for 1,500 people), 200,0000 FK94 masks and medicines (including 4,000 boxes of 50 bulbs of Dexamethasone). From January to June 2021, 906,157 people including 131,062 children under 5 years received essential health services including immunization, prenatal, postnatal and HIV care. UNICEF partnered with WHO and the Ministry of Health to organize two rounds of polio outbreak response. 1,592,842 children aged 0 to 11 months were vaccinated against polio in the first round and 1,937,609 in the second round. Challenges remain, particularly to ensure the continuity of essential services for women and children while mainstreaming COVID-19 response in health services.

Nutrition

UNICEF is supporting the continuation of nutrition services in the context of COVID-19. Data from January 2021 highlights that at least 8,532 new cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted and treated in outpatient and inpatient therapeutic programmes (4,181 girls and 4,351 boys), with a cured rate of 87.5 per cent, death rate of 1.0 per cent and defaulter rate of 11.4 per cent. In Benin, the burden of wasting among children under the age of 5 is constantly increasing with children affected by SAM. This situation is exacerbated by COVID-19 and food security issues. COVID-19 preventive measures have resulted in a reduction in community-based activities carried out by Community Health Workers (including early SAM screening and preventive activities on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). The situation is particularly challenging in Northern Benin in refugee-hosting areas.

Child Protection

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Affairs to set up 380 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in 85 community centers. A total of 1,006 social workers and community volunteers, including 518 women and 488 men, were trained on CFS management as well as the identification and reporting of gender-based violence (GBV), violence against children (VAC) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). A total of 1,456 people were trained on how to report cases of SEA. To date, 20,530 children (including 9,704 girls) and 3,479 adults (including 2,135 women) have received psychosocial support. A total of 1,800 children at risk or affected by violence, including 622 girl survivors of sexual violence, received child protection services. Meanwhile, 37,654 people, including 10,949 girls, 12,306 boys, 7,630 women and 6,769 men, were sensitized on COVID-19 preventive measures and referral mechanisms for children at risk of violence. Funding for response to GBV and child protection in the COVID-19 context is very limited, which can have a negative impact on service delivery.

Education

To ensure continuous access to quality education for all children, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Ministry of Education provided 17,599 handwashing devices to schools. This has helped improved the hygiene in schools and prevent the spread of COVID-19. UNICEF and Plan International joined efforts to train 48 education actors in emergency planning and response in two municipalities in the Atacora department, in response to increased security risks identified there. This intervention aims to strengthen the resilience of adolescents and youth and improve their life skills.
WASH
A total of 120,872 people, including 62,503 women and girls, received access to WASH services. UNICEF supported the Agency for Sanitary Infrastructures, Equipment and Maintenance in the assessment of 375 handwashing devices in the Epidemic Treatment Centres and markets of Cotonou area and 827 handwashing devices in more than 400 schools. Results showed a failure rate of over 71% per cent. UNICEF is supporting the rehabilitation of these handwashing devices. At the community level, local partners promoted handwashing practices and monitored the effective use of “tippy tap” handwashing devices. Though these partnerships, households set up at total of 14,660 “tippy taps”. The main challenge is maintaining the required behaviour change and ensuring the sustainability of handwashing devices in communities despite the limited budget available.

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population
C4D interventions focused on promoting COVID-19 preventive measures and vaccine uptake. Through partnership with 250 Scouts, 119,576 people were sensitized on COVID-19 and vaccination. During the two rounds of the polio vaccination campaigns, preventive measures were reinforced among front-line health workers and parents. Our 4,547 relays and 7,615 community leaders were able to reach 921,595 through discussions and home visits. Social service centers reached 43,283 children and adults with prevention messages. For COVID-19 vaccination, UNICEF supported the government in the development and implementation of a communication plan, based on surveys conducted by the Ministry of Health among the public and health workers. Messages on vaccine safety and availability were aired on 53 radio stations.

Social Protection
UNICEF Benin together with the Ministry of Social Affairs, CARE International and with support from the Netherlands provided cash transfers to 21,671 vulnerable families whose daughters are registered in school. Cash transfers aimed to prevent school dropouts among adolescent girls at risk of child marriage. The program benefited 26,000 schoolgirls aged 9 to 15 years old in eight municipalities, namely Kandi, Tchaourou, Allada, Aguegués, Cotonou, Porto- Novo, So-Ava, Sémé-Podji.

Human Interest Stories and External Media
COVID-19 response
- Benin receives its first COVID-19 vaccines through COVAX: https://www.unicef.org/benin/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/le-b%C3%A9nin-recevant-premi%C3%A8res-doses-de-vaccins-contre-la-covid-19
- COVID-19 vaccination: the Minister of Health and UN officials receive their second dose: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5XM4f5Qds
- UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Angélique Kidjo thanks Beninese nurses for her contribution to COVID-19 vaccination campaign: https://mobile.facebook.com/watch/?v=510143817072392&_rdr
- Miss Hope: her fight to protect children against polio: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axVolYexw-
- Hack COVID-19: young people develop innovative solutions: https://www.unicef.org/benin/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/le-b%C3%A9nin-recevant-premi%C3%A8res-doses-de-vaccins-contre-la-covid-19
- A community united against COVID-19: https://www.unicef.org/benin/recits/une-communaut%C3%A9-contre-la-covid-19
- The Minister of Sports and UNICEF launch U-Report: a social platform to amplify youth voices: https://www.unicef.org/benin/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/le-minist%C3%A8re-des-sports-et-unicef-lancent-u-report-b%C3%A9nin-contre-la-covid-19

Humanitarian response
- UNICEF supports displaced families from Burkina Faso in northwest Benin: https://www.unicef.org/benin/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/unicef-soutient-les-familles-de-c%C3%A9dr%C3%A9plac%C3%A9es-du-burkina-au-nord-ouest-du-b%C3%A9nin
- Youth at the heart of a social cohesion and peace building project in Atacora: https://www.unicef.org/benin/recits/les-jeunes-au-c%C5%93ur-dun-projet-de-promotion-de-la-paix-et-de-coh%C3%A9sion-sociale-dans-latacora
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since March 2020, Côte d’Ivoire has recorded 48,564 COVID-19 cases, 9 per cent of which affected children aged 0 to 18. The pandemic revealed the fragility of basic health care systems and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. Due to rumours and fake news, health centre attendance rates dropped and immunization and birth attendance rates decreased. Children were deprived of their right to education as schools were closed. An increase in violence against children was also reported. During the first semester of 2021, both the number of confirmed cases and deaths has more than doubled, increasing by nearly 120% and 130% respectively. The Government of Côte d’Ivoire committed to introduce COVID-19 vaccines to strengthen the response to the pandemic and signed up for the COVAX initiative. As part of this initiative, the country received 504,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Additional AstraZeneca doses were also borrowed from neighbouring countries. The Governments of China, France and India donated additional doses of the Pfizer and Sinopharm vaccines. A total of 1,296,570 doses were received so far with a utilization rate of 85.5%. The country is expecting to receive 5,823,800 additional vaccine doses by the end of 2021. The goal is to vaccinate close to 10,000,000 people. In addition to humanitarian needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Côte d’Ivoire also stepped up its emergency preparedness and response readiness measures following the declaration of an Ebola outbreak in neighbouring Guinea.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, UNICEF has support authorities to provide COVID-19 vaccines to 822,980 people over the age of 18 (first dose, with 92,659 of these having also received a second dose). A total of 1,296,570 vaccine doses had been received with 832,111 doses Astra Zeneca used (100.6 per cent), 57,157 doses Pfizer vaccines used (56.8 per cent) and 26,371 doses of Sinopharm used (26.4 per cent). The government is also continuing to fight against malaria in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially through the distribution of 18,501,519 long-lasting insecticidal nets. As part of its Ebola preparedness efforts, UNICEF strengthened health workers’ case management capacity in seven priority districts. In the city of Man (near the border with Guinea), UNICEF carried out simulation exercises for the management of suspected cases, which were accompanied by the installation or rehabilitation of transit centres (for the reception of confirmed cases before their transfer to treatment centres). Personal protective equipment (PPE) was also provided to health care centres in targeted health districts.

Nutrition

UNICEF continued to promote better coordination with the government at various levels through the creation of a working group on nutrition in emergencies under the Nutrition Technical and Financial Partners Group. UNICEF supported a workshop to review Vitamin A Supplementation interventions. A first round of Child Health Days (CHDs) and a week of scale-up activities was organized in June 2021. Preliminary results from the CHDs and routine interventions indicate that 6,452,700 children aged 6-59 months received vitamin A (92 per cent coverage), and 5,532,619 children aged 12-59 months (87 per cent coverage). From January to June 2021, 15,044 children were admitted for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition nationwide out of an annual caseload of 36,163 (41.6 per cent). In addition, 301,756 people received counselling on infant and young child feeding (IYCF). The information management system has been non-functional since February 2021, which has prevented UNICEF from having access to complete data for the period.

Child Protection

In 2021, UNICEF supported Ivorian social services with their efforts to care for vulnerable children. For example, social workers provided psychosocial support to children and conducted awareness campaigns on violence against children. During the first quarter of 2021, 500 vulnerable families received financial assistance in the form of cash transfers. Through direct cash transfers to social services, an additional 2,479 children received care and child protection services. In 2021, thanks to the Programme for the Protection of Vulnerable Children and Adolescents and support from UNICEF, 40 street children were reintegrated with their families and received education and psychosocial support.

Education

Between January and June 2021, as part of its continued support to health and safety protocols in schools, UNICEF distributed 1,080,000 masks to primary and secondary school children, 18,000 bottles of liquid soap, 18,000 bottles of gel, and 836 handwashing devices in the Abidjan region. During the summer holidays, teachers will be trained on COVID-19 crisis management, with a focus on health aspects and psychosocial support.
WASH
UNICEF reached 73,657 people during the half of 2021 with handwashing behaviour change activities. It organized awareness-raising sessions at the community level and intensified hygiene promotion in primary schools before the end of the 2020-2021 academic year. Over 70,200 children are now accessing appropriate hygiene services thanks to the construction of contactless handwashing stations in schools. These services facilitated the implementation of health and safety protocols during school re-openings in the COVID-19 context. UNICEF’s Ebola preparedness measures in the context of COVID-19 included the pre-positioning of water, sanitation, and hygiene kits for up to 1,000 households in localities along the border with Guinea. UNICEF supported the connection of the treatment centre to the water supply network and reinforced its internal distribution network. The centre can now be used for the management of Ebola cases in the western regions of Côte d’Ivoire. UNICEF is advocating for the treatment centre to also be used for significant COVID-19 cases. The WASH sector requires additional funding support for the instillation of water supply services.

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population
UNICEF increased the Risk Communication and Community Engagement capacity of government and social partners, with a focus on:

- The identification, tracking, and handling of fake news related to COVID-19 and vaccination (500,000 interactions recorded)
- The creation of a national TV programme to promote COVID vaccination with the support of health experts (Audience: 900,000 people)
- The development of visual materials, key messages, image boxes, a community monitoring mechanism for the Ebola virus disease and a standardized training module
- A communication campaign which reached over seven million people through more than 150 active mobilisers for COVID-19 vaccination and Ebola disease prevention
- The development of a new U-Report information centre on COVID-19 in addition to four pre-existing and regularly updated information centres which provided information to 500,000 people on COVID-19 and related health and protection topics

Adolescents and Youth
- UNICEF conducted a survey on people’s perception and acceptance levels of the COVID-19 vaccine. Two radio programmes and one live chat were organized to present the survey results and discuss with young people COVID-19-related myths, beliefs, and misconceptions. In total, young people submitted 5,900 myths, beliefs and questions through U-Report. Myths were debunked, incorrect beliefs were clarified, and questions were answered. This information also helped to inform and refine the development and dissemination of COVID-19 messages through the media.
- From January to June 2021, U-Reporters carried out 137 U-Actions on COVID-19. These consisted of awareness-raising actions on COVID-19 preventive measures and sanitation, and the installation of handwashing points in their communities to curb the spread of COVID-19.
- A thousand young people were trained on issues related to the environment, health, and the prevention of COVID-19. Under their leadership, thousands of other young people were sensitized on their leadership role in creating solutions to problems that affect their communities, including problems that relate to the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, 25 youth-led solutions were created to help curb the spread of COVID-19. These included the production and display of COVID-19 prevention posters, the production and promotion of liquid soap and hydroalcoholic gels, the production and distribution of masks, as well as handwashing stations in and out of schools.

Human Interest Stories and External Media
A series of TV spots were broadcast on the three national TV channels, focusing information on vaccines (including the debunking of myths and rumours) and speaking to families affected by COVID-19.

Corona pandemic response in Côte d’Ivoire: https://weshare.unicef.org/Detail/2AM408XMMUU
Equatorial Guinea

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs
As of July 17, Equatorial Guinea recorded 8,848 confirmed cases of COVID-19. The COVID-19 situation has improved since the beginning of the year, with a decrease in the average number of daily cases from 7 per day to 4 per day, leading to a lifting of most COVID-19 related restrictions. The national COVID-19 vaccine programme was launched on 12 February 2021. To date, only 20% of the target population has been vaccinated with two doses.

In addition to the humanitarian needs caused by COVID-19, Equatorial Guinea also faced an emergency situation caused by a series of exploisions in the town of Bata, leaving 107 people dead and more than 600 injured. The blast caused significant infrastructural damage, including the partial or full destruction of 24 schools, affecting more than 7,000 students.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health
UNICEF continued to advocate for essential services during the pandemic, supporting the success vaccination of 4,899 children aged 9-11 months against measles. UNICEF also provided support on the introduction of a second dose of the measles vaccine. A total of 29,901 children below the age of one have received at least one dose of the recommended vaccines. To support infection prevention control, UNICEF has trained 55 health workers and 1,135 teachers.

In response to the Bata explosions, UNICEF has provided medical supplies for more than 700 injured persons.

Nutrition
In close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and its regional health bureaus, UNICEF supported Vitamin A supplementation for 5,184 infants between 6 – 11 months old and 2,612 children under five. Following the Bata exploisions, UNICEF provided authorities with 768 therapeutic milk bottles (F75) for the treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

Child Protection
UNICEF in collaboration with partners has been working to identify children who were psychologically affected by the Bata exploisions. A child-friendly/reading space has been set up aiming to reach 200 children and adolescents (children from registered and vulnerable families). UNICEF also continued to provide support to strengthen government systems and coordination with NGOs and religious groups to monitor unaccompanied and/or separated children.

Education
After months of closures, schools re-opened in the two largest districts (Malabo and Bata). To catch up with the loss of learning hours, the school year has been extended over the summer holidays. With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Education is relaunching the La Escuela En Mi Casa programme through TV and radio to reinforce learning with a focus on primary education. Important messages on COVID-19 prevention and handwashing with soap shared by UNICEF’s National Goodwill Ambassador, Nelida Karr are being incorporated. Following the Bata exploisions, UNICEF donated 35 tents to the Ministry of Education to support the continuity of education. The tents are being used as meeting points for parents and teachers to pick up homework.

WASH
Through a successful partnership with governments and the private sector (Equatorial Guinea, the Netherlands/DSS, KWR, the Veolia Foundation, GE Proyectos and UNICEF), an assessment on the quality of water was carried out in the aftermath of the Bata exploisions. Samples were taken from various water sources including 32 wells, 5 rivers, 4 taps, 1 puddle. A soil sample was also taken for analysis. The rapid tests revealed signs of copper or nitrates and high PH level. The preliminary findings also showed that 86 per cent of the wells were contaminated with E.Coli, which poses a high risk of disease if the water is not treated before consumption. A final water quality report is expected in September 2021.

Social Protection
To respond to the Bata exploisions, UNICEF launched a humanitarian cash transfer programme for affected and vulnerable families, in collaboration with the Government and partners. UNICEF played a key role in implementing...
digitized processes jointly with the Ministry of Social Affairs and NGOs to collect data as part of the identification of families. To date, 130 families have benefitted from the cash transfers to cover the basic necessities. As per monitoring reports, the cash transfers have had an immediate impact on the families. They have been able to buy food and items to prevent COVID-19 transmission such as face masks and hand gel.

**Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population**

In collaboration with the Ministry of Information, UNICEF continued to support communication and awareness-raising on COVID-19 prevention through national TV programmes (RTVGE and RTV Asonga), the digital platform GUINEASALUD and social media. It is estimated that at least 50,000 persons were reached in the last two months. More than 25,000 families in both urban and rural areas of Malabo and Bata have been sensitized on COVID-19 preventions by communication and social mobilizers managed by the key ministries (Health, Information and Internal Affairs).

**Human Interest Stories and External Media**

Those affected by the 7M explosions in Bata receive support from a cash transfer programme developed by UNICEF in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality and civil society organizations [https://www.unicef.org/equatorialguinea/comunicados-prensa/afectados-de-7m-bata-reciben-apoyo-de-un-programa-de-transferencia-de-efectivo](https://www.unicef.org/equatorialguinea/comunicados-prensa/afectados-de-7m-bata-reciben-apoyo-de-un-programa-de-transferencia-de-efectivo)

UNICEF together with the Government of Equatorial Guinea support with cash transfers families affected by the 7M explosions [https://www.unicef.org/equatorialguinea/historias/unicef-junto-al-gobierno-apoyan-familias-damnificadas-del-7m-con-transferencias-de](https://www.unicef.org/equatorialguinea/historias/unicef-junto-al-gobierno-apoyan-familias-damnificadas-del-7m-con-transferencias-de)
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In the Gambia, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases as of 30 June 2021 stands at 6,116, with 182 associated deaths. All seven regions of the country have confirmed cases. The two regions with the highest numbers of cases are Western Coast Region 1 (WCR1) and West Coast Region 2 (WCR2) which account for 90 per cent of all confirmed cases. The pandemic peaked between July and September 2020, with a gradual decline observed from the end of October 2020 onwards. In June 2021, the number of COVID-19 again cases saw a steady increase and the country is currently experiencing a third wave of the pandemic.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by contributing to both outbreak control and mitigation of the socio-economic impacts including the risks to the continuity of essential services. UNICEF is currently responding in the health, nutrition, education, social protection, WASH, and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) sectors.

Support provided includes:

- Provision of 633 handwashing stations as well as face masks, soap, bleach, detergent and gloves in 400 schools to support the reopening of schools and preventive measures against COVID-19 transmission
- Support to the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) to implement an online learning platform on radio and television for children when schools were closed.
- Rehabilitation of three Health centers in Upper River Region and six health facilities and one border post on the Farefenni border, with water supply systems powered by solar pumping systems
- Support to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (MoGCSW) to implement cash transfers (three monthly transfers of 1000 Gambian dalasi/USD 20) for 1000 vulnerable families with children under five, deliver food items, and identify vulnerable households requiring support.
- Psychosocial support to 165 children in the process of reunification with their family, including children on the move.

Health

UNICEF continues to co-lead coordination on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE). UNICEF has supported the government to receive 36,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (Astrazeneca AZD1222) through the COVAX facility and total of 966,700 syringes to be used in the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. In addition, 10,000 doses of Sinopharm COVID -19 have also been donated from Senegal plus 15,000 doses of AstraZeneca from the MTN Foundation through African CDC. In June, 200,000 face masks were received from the Korean government. As of mid-year 31,254 people have received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, including 12,303 people who have also received the second dose. The Sinopharm vaccine will start to be administered in country from 5 July 5. UNICEF is coordinating with authorities to ensure an additional delivery of vaccines, as interruptions of the vaccination campaign due to vaccine supply have resulted in the challenge of high numbers of individuals without the second dose. Other challenges include battling rumours about vaccine safety/efficacy.

Nutrition

UNICEF continues to support the government of The Gambia in the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and has provided 2000 cartons of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), 500 boxes of F75 therapeutic milk, 4200 packs of deworming treatment, and 1293 tins of Vitamin A. As of April 2021, 750 SAM children (320 boys and 230 girls) had received treatment and were discharged. UNICEF in collaboration with partners, continues to monitor treatment and supplies in health facilities and communities.

Social Protection and Cash Transfer

UNICEF supported the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) to provide cash transfers to the families of 909 malnourished children in the North Bank Region of the country (two transfers - December 2020 and April 2021).

Child Protection

The case management system has registered an increased number of children in need of care and services. From January to June, 294 children (85 girls and 209 boys) were recorded as facing some form of violence. This included 142 children (130 boys and 12 girls) “on the move” either inside The Gambia or from another country. A total of 20 cases of sexual violence (19 girls and 1 boy) were reported.

Education

Schools resumed in January 2021 after a holiday break, with extra classes held to catch-up on time lost due to COVID-19-related school closures in 2020. Currently, the 2020/2021 academic year has ended for all schools, but some school
have started summer classes which will end in late August. With the emergence of new variants of COVID-19, there is an urgent need to adequately prepare for the 2021/2022 academic year, including through the provision of supplies and engagement of parents and teachers.

**WASH**

UNICEF signed a Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the Gambia Red Cross Society for the implementation of public health and nutrition in emergency activities. As part of the PCA, UNICEF has procured critical WASH and contingency supplies including 500 collapsible water containers, 4 collapsible water tanks, 25,850 water purification tablets, 200 sets of soap powder, 50 bottles of bleach, 10 batches of Calcium Hypochlorite, and 75 Family WASH & dignity kit. These items are currently prepositioned across all the regional Red Cross stores to strengthen national capacity for preparedness, operations readiness, and response to public health an emergency.

**Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population**

A synchronized media broadcast on COVID-19 themes and related programmes started in February 2021 on all TV channels and 23 commercial and community radio stations nationwide. Training was also conducted for more than 150 religious’ leader across the country by the Islamic Council and Christian Council trainers. In response to several enquiries about vaccination sites through UNICEF social media channels, UNICEF developed maps with locations of vaccination sites.

**Human Interest Stories and External Media**

The Standard Chartered Bank in Gambia supported UNICEF’s social media campaign to encourage uptake of the vaccine.

- Press releases ([link1](#), [link2](#)) and series of videos ([YouTube link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM6ErPqRGI0)) on the arrival of COVAX syringes and vaccines produced and distributed.
- Official reception and handing over of COVAX vaccines organized at the airport with more than a dozen media houses - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM6ErPqRGI0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM6ErPqRGI0)
- A joint press conference by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WHO organized to brief the media on the COVID-19 vaccine roll out - [https://fb.watch/49Myw2LLg/](https://fb.watch/49Myw2LLg/)
- U-Report poll on readiness and willingness to take the COVID-19 vaccine by the population - [https://gambia.ureport.in/opinion/4920/](https://gambia.ureport.in/opinion/4920/)

UNICEF also utilized ad credits provided by Facebook as part of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign to promote messages on Facebook and Instagram to encourage people to get vaccinated. Through the ad credits, UNICEF was able to reach more than 275,000 Facebook users.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Between January and April 2021, Guinea Bissau experienced its second wave of COVID-19. At mid-year, the country entered its third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of this year, a total of 4498 COVID-19 cases with 76 associated deaths have been recorded. Strikes in the public health sector, which only ended recently, might have masked the size of the epidemic due to the impact that they had on access to COVID testing and treatment services. Guinea Bissau’s COVID-19 epidemic in mostly concentrated in the capital, Bissau, where with 83.5 per cent of the confirmed cases were detected. Given that known COVID-19 prevention measures are infrequently adhered to, and that crowding and multigenerational households are the norm in most neighbourhoods, there are risks of a rapid spread of the more contagious COVID Delta variant, which is now confirmed to be circulating in neighbouring countries. The COVID situation has placed a significant burden on the delivery of social services in Guinea Bissau. In addition to humanitarian needs caused by COVID-19, Guinea Bissau has also noted an increased threat of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), following the declaration of an Ebola outbreak in neighbouring Guinea in February 2021.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

The COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the demand and use of health services in the country due to reductions in services, and limited technical and financial resources for the COVID response. This situation was aggravated by the lack of access to financial resources by the Ministry of Health. Strikes in the health sector that started in December 2020 continued throughout the first half of 2021, despite the country entering a second and third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The situation of women and children is precarious, and UNICEF continued to undertake internal and external advocacy and technical support to the MOH to minimize the impact of the financial gaps. UNICEF has continued to fund and support the planning and implementation of periodic intensification of routine immunization in the areas with low coverage, including from 5 to 9 February 2021, which allowed 3,134 unvaccinated children to catch up on routine immunization. UNICEF also sought alternative ways to provide direct support to health regions so that child survival activities can continue through community health workers.

UNICEF has also focussed on supporting the health sector in the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination campaign, which currently only covers three of the five most critical regions. Through the COVAX Facility, 72000 doses of vaccines have been received, with a further 415,200 doses expected soon. UNICEF also supported procurement of 787,200 syringes and the elaboration of a communication plan for the prevention of COVID-19 and social mobilization for ongoing COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.

Nutrition

The effects of the pandemic and health worker strikes continue to impact the delivery of nutrition services. During the first half of the year, UNICEF in collaboration with the MoH/ Nutrition Direction Service, conducted a total of 12 refresher and training sessions, benefiting 172 health workers (nurses and doctors) to improve the implementation of medical protocols and strengthen technical and institutional capacities for the provision of care for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Since the start of the year, only 168 new admissions of children under five with acute malnutrition were registered, corresponding to 37 per cent of the cases reported in 2020 in the same period, which suggests that some children in need may not be accessing care. Data collection and data entry at the treatment centres for both cases and supplies are also major bottlenecks for planning improvement of coverage and programme management. The ongoing restructuring of community health programmes and the lack of payment of incentives also negatively impacted key interventions such as early detection of SAM, referral and others intervention such as vitamin A supplementation.

Child Protection

During the first six month of 2021, UNICEF continued to include COVID-19 prevention messages and information on the community dialogues to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practices. A total of 68,216 people were reached in five (out of nine) regions, including 38,456 women and girls. The UNICEF/UNFPA joint programme to eliminate FGM concluded the assessment on the lessons learned during the Covid-19 pandemic to address FGM. With schools closed due to teachers’ strikes, UNICEF and partners continued to work with school directors and teachers to improve their capacity to prevent gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual abuse, in school settings.

Education

To provide better learning for children, UNICEF along with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Communication is producing a total of 206 radio lessons on numeracy and literacy, as well as for preschool education.
UNICEF also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education and Guinea-Bissau Television on the production of 30 lessons from preschool to secondary level. In February, UNICEF supported and monitored the assessment of all urban schools to ensure the reopening of classes. The delivery of hygiene materials to the 1492 schools identified under the Global Partnership for Education project was almost completed at mid-year.

**WASH**

In line with the COVID-19 prevention activities in communities, WASH partners supported by UNICEF have carried out training and sensitization sessions to support the distribution of critical supplies in schools countrywide. Trainings on proper techniques for handwashing and use of masks benefited 376,304 students (199,642 boys and 176,662 girls) from both primary and secondary schools. In response to the resurgence of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) cases in neighbouring Guinea, UNICEF launched prevention activities in 131 communities in two border regions. UNICEF is also supporting the training of border control officials on infection prevention control (IPC) and delivering supplies like masks, gloves, and soaps, and installing portable handwashing devices. Preparedness has also included strengthening the screening, promotion of handwashing and referral of suspected cases coming in through monitored checkpoints along the border with the Republic of Guinea.

**Social Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation**

In the beginning of July, UNICEF made the first unconditional cash transfer to 1,400 vulnerable families, using funds from the Global Partnership for Education. The beneficiaries of this transaction targeted the areas of Bissorã, Farim, Manssaba, Xitole, Bambadinca, Galomaro Cosse, Contuboel, Ganadu, Gabu, Pitch and Boe. It is estimated that this transfer will cover the needs of more than 9,500 people in all of the selected areas.

**Communication for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population**

In 2021, UNICEF continued to ensure technical assistance to the High-Commissioner for COVID-19, the entity mandated by the President of the Republic to lead the national response. COVID-19 preventive communication messages continued to be aired through UNICEF traditional media partners (national television, national newspaper, and 30 national and community-based radios countrywide). Messages are available in the most commonly used local languages. Through media outlets, 1.8 million people have been reached countrywide. During the reporting period, UNICEF social media platforms have reached 40,66,242 people. On May 25, UNICEF resumed its support to the interpersonal sensitization activities to increase demand generation for COVID-19 vaccination among the population. A total of 327,000 people have been sensitized on the vaccination campaign through the use of Red Cross mobilizers accompanied the vaccination teams and messages broadcast through motorcycles with sound systems in targeted locations.

**Human Interest Stories and External Media**

Removing fear from the vaccine conversation: [https://www.unicef.org/guineabissau/stories/removing-fear-vaccine-conversation](https://www.unicef.org/guineabissau/stories/removing-fear-vaccine-conversation)


UNICEF donation of essential medical drugs & supplies for #COVID19 response [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMOvEPEhE6c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMOvEPEhE6c)

Videos produced by the young reporters’ network, supported by UNICEF:
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs - Liberia

Liberia entered its third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-May 2021, with a 100 per cent increase in the weekly case numbers compared to the previous waves. The month of June reported the highest ever recorded case numbers since the onset of the pandemic, with Liberia having the highest cases in the West African region. At the end of June, a total of 4,737 people (1,681 women and 3,056 men) were confirmed positive for COVID-19, with 243 children under 15 accounting for 5.2 per cent of the total confirmed cases. A total of 2,411 people have recovered, and 133 deaths were recorded with a case fatality rate of 2.8%. While all counties have reported confirmed cases, 80 per cent of COVID-19 cases are in Montserrado. Health workers and frontline responders represent 4.5 per cent of the confirmed positive cases, and six associated deaths. Liberia received a total of 96,000 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine through the COVAX Facility in March 2020. As of 2 July, 91,078 doses have been administered in the country, of which 40,428 are for high risk groups (11,215 with underlying health conditions, 8,994 adults over 60 years, and 20,219 health care workers). During the pandemic period, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) risks increased as more vulnerable populations slid into poverty. During the initial stages of COVID-19, schools closed, and more than 20% of the 1.4 million children that were out of school during the closure did not return to school after resumption in December 2020. In addition to the threats posed by COVID-19, Liberia also stepped up preparedness to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), following the outbreak declared in neighbouring Guinea in February 2021.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health
UNICEF supported the Government to ensure the continuation and accessibility of essential health services during the reporting period and has contributed to reaching 950,865 people through basic health services. The health programme has supported the Government with 1,152 face masks, 10,000 face shields, 25,000 gowns and coveralls, and 40,000 gloves in health facilities in five counties (Montserrado, Bong, Bomi, Lofa, Nimba). UNICEF has also supported the capacity building of 21 health care providers in the provision of oxygen therapy and 1,658 health care facility staff in infection prevention and control (IPC). Eight oxygen concentrators with accessories to fill the gap in oxygen need for the COVID-19 response were distributed. Over 400 Community Health Assistants served as vaccinators and social mobilisers in the nationwide polio campaign, which took place between 28-31 May 2021, ensuring that over 900,000 children under five received polio vaccines. A total of 10,215 health workers were trained on COVID-19 prevention measures. UNICEF also supported obstetric outreach services in Grand Gedeh County, where 242 pregnant women were reached, including 119 (40%) identified with clinically significant problems.

Nutrition
In partnership with the Ministry of Health and partners, UNICEF supported the treatment of 13,021 children aged 0–59 months with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), which is 48 per cent of the number of children estimated to be in need of SAM treatment in 2021. A total of 18,500 cartons of therapeutic supplies have been procured and 9,849 children 6-59 months with SAM treated. In addition, 95,330 pregnant and lactating women were reached with maternal, infant, and young child feeding and caring counselling. UNICEF also supported the MOH to provide micronutrient supplementation to 72,968 children aged 6–23 months. A total of 97,721 children aged 6-59 months received vitamin A supplementation, and 67,897 children aged 12-59 months were dewormed through routine services. Iron/folic acid for preventing anaemia during pregnancy and neuro-tubal defects among neonates intrauterine was provided to 54,363 pregnant women.

Child Protection
In partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, UNICEF provided support for the capacity building of 40 Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS) providers in Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties. As a result, 194 children in home-based care households were reached with mental health and psychosocial support services. UNICEF also supported the Government to ensure the continuation and accessibility of essential child protection services during the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF provided alternative care support to 113 children (49 girls and 64 boys) separated, trafficked, abandoned, or with special needs in the Liberia Children's village and Juluta Interim Care Center. Forty-five out of the 113 children have been reunified with their parents, while 68 children will be reunified with their parents after a proper assessment. A total of 260 peer educators and 750 buddy club members have been trained to prevent COVID-19 and provided logistical support. As a result of the support, 7,481 persons were reached with COVID-19 preventive messages.
**Education**
UNICEF supported the distribution of health kits in public and private schools in the 15 counties in Liberia, and 2,400 teachers received training on the provision of psychosocial support, adjusting classroom management, and lesson delivery in compliance with the COVID-19 preventive measures. Training of 2,400 teachers on psychosocial support is also planned in collaboration with Health Child Protection.

**WASH**
WASH/Infection Prevention Control (IPC) training was conducted for 290 staff from 29 health care facilities (HCF) in Montserrado and Margibi counties using the WASH Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT). WASH and IPC supplies, including basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health care waste staff, have been distributed to these HCFs. Funding has been received from the Japanese Government for WASH/IPC improvement in 19 additional HCFs in Margibi and Montserrado counties to include IPC training for 190 HCF staff, WASH/IPC supplies distribution, and construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities. IPC and WASH technical assessments have been completed for WASH/IPC intervention in four HCFs in Grand Kru County. A total of 69,784 persons in Grand Cape Mount, Montserrado, and Margibi Counties were provided with critical WASH services through the construction of water kiosks, hand-dug wells, latrines, as well as sanitary and cleaning supplies for operation and maintenance. 69,432 persons in three counties (Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Grand Kru) were reached with hand-washing behaviour-change programmes, including COVID-19 messaging, and out of the targeted population, 11,763 persons from 1,234 vulnerable homes were provided with basic family hygiene kits. Vulnerable homes were single parents, old persons, widows, teenage parents, and physically challenged persons.

**Communications for Development (C4D)**
UNICEF continues to support the National COVID-19 responses by ensuring that the affected population have access to life saving information to enhance their knowledge and skills and foster the adaptation of positive behaviours such as handwashing, social distancing, wearing of masks, and getting vaccinated. UNICEF has reached a cumulative total of 1.7 million people with COVID-19 messaging on prevention and access to services. UNICEF provided technical and financial support to both the national and sub-national COVID response coordination bodies by printing and disseminating approximately 150,000 information posters, fact sheets and airing COVID-19 preventive messages on 32 local community radio stations and seven national FM stations. In communities along the border with Guinea, UNICEF is leveraging Liberia's national community health workforce to safely respond to the threat of the current Ebola virus disease outbreak in neighbouring Guinea by engaging with local stakeholders to create awareness, promote preventive measures and raise the risk perception of the communities about the possibility of an Ebola outbreak if positive behaviours are not adopted.

**Human Interest Stories and External Media**

In Liberia, all roads lead to Polio eradication

*Precious George has a goal on the second day of the national Polio vaccination campaign in Liberia: vaccinate the children of Careysburg’s hard-to-reach areas. Through the efforts of strong-willed people like Precious, the Ministry of Health intends to vaccinate close to one million children.*

*Precious George is the Community Health focal point of Montserrado County for the nationwide Polio campaign in Liberia. With her support, children living in hard-to-reach communities of Careysburg’s district received the two drops of the Polio vaccine.*
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to create emergency needs in Togo during the first half of 2021. UNICEF supported the government for to roll-out its vaccination plan and assisted the country to vaccinate 270,298 people with the first dose, including 33,090 health personnel (21,001 men and 12,089 women). Misinformation remains high, especially rumours on social media. UNICEF continues to support community mobilization to strengthen advocacy messages and limit the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the well-being of children through local child protection committees and interventions in 590 schools in the most affected regions of the country.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

The vaccination campaign against COVID-19 was launched in Lomé on 10 March 10, 2021. Health care providers and community health workers are mobilizing communities at all levels to support the roll-out. UNICEF continues to support authorities on the continuity of essential services, including routine immunization. From January to May 2021, UNICEF supported the vaccination of 108,575 children under two years against measles (79 per cent of the target). In the same period, 114,745 children were vaccinated against polio (83 per cent of the target). In Savanes and Kara Regions, from January to June 2021, 119,686 children and women accessed primary healthcare un UNICEF-supported facilities (34 per cent of target). At the same period, 5,920 healthcare workers and Community Health Workers were trained in Infection Prevention Control (IPC).

Nutrition

UNICEF has provided substantial support for the management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the context of COVID-19. Apart from the regular supply of therapeutic food, the family approach to the measurement of Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) is being implemented in pilot districts with technical and financial support from UNICEF. A total of 3,620 children under 5 suffering from SAM were admitted and treated. Regarding support and promotion of Infant and Young Child Feeding, 257,978 mothers and caregivers of children aged 0-23 months (220,552 women and 37,426 men) were sensitized on good practices such as breastfeeding, complementary feeding and promoting healthy growth in infants and young children. A total of 131,940 children aged 6-59 months out of 1,347,061 expected (11.4 per cent of target), received vitamin A supplementation through routine vaccination.

Child Protection

UNICEF supported a rapid assessment of the COVID-19 situation of homeless populations, in particular children, women and people with disabilities, in the towns of Kara and Sokodé in coordination of the Ministry of Social Action and with the involvement of the Ministry of Public Security. A second wave of training on child protection and psychosocial support for people affected by COVID-19, including patients and frontline health professionals, was organized across the country. A total of seven training sessions brought together 177 social actors and professionals from the health system (63 women and 114 men). UNICEF continued to support community mobilization and engagement to ensure a protective environment for children and adolescents, including in the context of COVID-19 in the Kara and Central regions. In the 24 villages where the approach is implemented, 8,509 people (4,603 men and 3,906 women) including 2,823 children (1,362 boys and 1,461 girls) were reached by messages developed by the community leaders who participated in the dialogue activities. Among them were 170 people with disabilities. The issues addressed covered violence against children, including teenage pregnancy, child marriage, child trafficking, school dropout and harmful traditional practices in the context of COVID-19. Community dialogues were organized by 348 community and religious leaders (including 62 women) from the two regions, an awareness session was carried out on the prevention and response to violence during the COVID-19 pandemic and on practices to support and protect vulnerable children at risk or victims of violence. Activities to strengthen peer education and community surveillance of COVID-19 and child protection issues continued. A total of 150 adolescents (87 girls) in Kara and Center regions were trained in life skills, including protection against violence in the context of COVID-19. The plans are being implemented in the prefectures of Assoli, Binah, Dankpen, Bassar, Blitta and Tchamba. A total of 1,625 people including 709 adults (366 men and 343 women) and 916 adolescents (including 315 boys and 601 girls) were reached by the messages disseminated by
adolescents. UNICEF is continuing to support the actions put in place to provide access to referral and protection mechanisms against violence, as well as access to health and social protection programs. In addition, 439 children including 304 boys and 135 girls were reached by a mobile clinic as part of the implementation of the Lomé emergency work plan to respond appropriately to the concerns of the groups targeted by the diagnosis and rapid analysis of the impact of the crisis linked to COVID 19 on homeless populations in the city of Lomé.

Education

The office maintained its support to the education sector for the implementation of the health protocol in 590 schools in the Savanes, Plateaux and Central regions with its partners, in particular the regional directorates of education as well as the NGOs Aide et Action International and Plan International Togo. Apart from awareness-raising activities relating to compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures, UNICEF’s NGO partners have drawn particular attention to the risks of contamination during end-of-year exams and asked the educational community to take the necessary measures for the protection of children during these periods. Schools were monitored to ensure the impact of an earlier distribution of 2,949 bottles of 500 ml of hydroalcoholic gel, 7,734 reusable bibs, 4,145 bottles of liquid soap (500 ml) and 308 megaphones distributed. A total of 377,399 students including 200,296 boys and 177,103 girls were reached through these activities.

WASH

UNICEF continues to support authorities, including the Ministry of Health, with Infection Prevention Control (IPC) materials in health facilities. These materials, acquired with the support from the Government of Japan, benefited 346 health facilities and 200 schools, reaching 415,000 people including 211,752 women and 50,315 children (24,801 girls and 25,514 boys). During the period, 455,000 people received supplies and essential WASH services including chlorine, hands washing devices and others for compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures and prevention of hydrofaecal diseases in areas at risk of flooding and cholera epidemics. The interventions on the field continue through radio broadcasts on hand washing, the practice of preventive measures in families, schools, bus stations and markets. A total of 1,751,385 people (including 893,206 women) have benefited from these interventions.

Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population

UNICEF supported the COVID-19 communication committee of 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. UNICEF supported the COVID-19 Communication Committee in the development and updating of messages into 17 local languages intended for health personnel, students of health training schools, health care providers, people over 50 and people under 50 with co-morbidities. On 30 June 2021, the number of people engaged in the promotion of vaccination against COVID-19 stood at 5,005, which is considered low. UNICEF will work to increase this number by providing technical and financial support to five regions to organize community dialogues in around 4,000 communities. These dialogues will take place during the third quarter of 2021. Misinformation continues to circulate on social networks and in communities on the COVID-19 vaccination. Between May 1 and June 30, various interventions were carried out through the training of actors and the organization of community dialogues. A total of 75 community dialogues were carried out in 23 districts of the 5 health regions and Grand Lomé with the participation and commitment of 2,920 people, including at least 1,647 women. In addition, in three prefectures of the Kara region, 18 community dialogues were carried out on Child Protection in the context of COVID-19 and saw the participation of 4,287 people including 1,535 women. In the same framework, 174 community leaders including at least 42 women from 18 villages were trained on community engagement for the prevention and care of child victims of abuse, exploitation and violence.

Human Interest Stories and External Media


Next SitRep: Day Month Year


Who to contact for further information:

Marie-Pierre Poirier
Regional Director
West and Central Africa Regional
Tel: +221 77 450 4237
Email: mpoirier@unicef.org

Nicki Bennett
Regional Chief of Emergencies
West and Central Africa Regional
Tel: +221 77 333 66 95
Email: nibennett@unicef.org

Sandra Bisin
Regional Chief Communication
West and Central Africa Regional
Tel: +221 77 819 2300
Email: sbisin@unicef.org
# Annex A
## Summary of Programme Results

**Reporting countries (7):** Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, and Togo

### HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># children under 5 years vaccinated against measles</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2M</td>
<td>354,484</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Measles vaccination:** 5 countries reported

### NUTRITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37,062</td>
<td>15,707</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAM admission:** 6 countries reported

### CHILD PROTECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>210,599</td>
<td>61,968</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MHPSS by gender and age:** 4 countries reported

### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.6M</td>
<td>1.0M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WASH services by gender:** 3 countries reported

### EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># children accessing formal or nonformal education, including early learning</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.57M</td>
<td>578,244</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education access by gender:** 3 countries reported

### C4D, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># people reached with messages on access to services</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.7M</td>
<td>11.8M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Engagement action:** 6 countries reported

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17
### Annex B

#### Funding Status by Sector*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total $ Required</th>
<th>Humanitarian resources received in 2021</th>
<th>Other resources used in 2021</th>
<th>Humanitarian resources available from 2020 (carry-forward)</th>
<th>Other resources available from 2020 (carry-forward)</th>
<th>US$ Gap</th>
<th>% Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>6,265,146</td>
<td>3,060,688</td>
<td>159,215</td>
<td>1,148,737</td>
<td>792,193</td>
<td>3,244,264</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>4,462,153</td>
<td>401,580</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>104,974</td>
<td>16,658</td>
<td>4,027,142</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA</td>
<td>5,115,196</td>
<td>355,460</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>259,260</td>
<td>163,840</td>
<td>4,336,373</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>17,667,820</td>
<td>376,378</td>
<td>19,563</td>
<td>150,146</td>
<td>10,328,361</td>
<td>8,789,866</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>12,690,805</td>
<td>1,226,850</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>555,910</td>
<td>91,130</td>
<td>10,814,816</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection and cash transfers</td>
<td>6,792,204</td>
<td>534,915</td>
<td>35,781</td>
<td>215,789</td>
<td>700,780</td>
<td>5,713,121</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4D, community engagement and AAP</td>
<td>2,331,634</td>
<td>425,798</td>
<td>6,138</td>
<td>636,930</td>
<td>172,690</td>
<td>1,176,352</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency response and preparedness</td>
<td>15,203,372</td>
<td>887,272</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8,111,553</td>
<td>2,851,317</td>
<td>3,353,230</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>70,528,329</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,268,920</strong></td>
<td><strong>222,797</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,183,297</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,116,969</strong></td>
<td><strong>41,455,429</strong></td>
<td><strong>59%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* As defined in the 2021 Humanitarian Appeal for a period of 12 months. Requirements includes COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 small scale emergency needs.

#### Funding Status by Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total $ Required</th>
<th>Humanitarian resources received in 2021</th>
<th>Other resources used in 2021</th>
<th>Humanitarian resources available from 2020 (carry-forward)</th>
<th>Other resources available from 2020 (carry-forward)</th>
<th>US$ Gap</th>
<th>% Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>15,432,818</td>
<td>948,772</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>323,693</td>
<td>2,332,853</td>
<td>11,827,500</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d’Ivoire</td>
<td>4,776,998</td>
<td>515,854</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>656,370</td>
<td>46,296</td>
<td>3,627,072</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>1,475,400</td>
<td>595,000</td>
<td>74,973</td>
<td>534,385</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>932,586</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>3,681,684</td>
<td>340,200</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>243,574</td>
<td>52,464</td>
<td>3,132,146</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea Bissau</td>
<td>4,717,702</td>
<td>399,970</td>
<td>50,310</td>
<td>141,118</td>
<td>3,170,571</td>
<td>1,625,117</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>11,468,250</td>
<td>3,581,852</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>347,776</td>
<td>6,517,355</td>
<td>4,252,627</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>13,772,106</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>96,014</td>
<td>824,828</td>
<td>146,113</td>
<td>12,705,151</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCARO</td>
<td>15,203,372</td>
<td>887,272</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8,111,553</td>
<td>2,851,317</td>
<td>3,353,230</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>70,528,329</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,268,920</strong></td>
<td><strong>222,797</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,183,297</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,116,969</strong></td>
<td><strong>41,455,429</strong></td>
<td><strong>59%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>