Situation Overview - Highlights

Ghana recorded over 120,000 COVID-19 cases and passed 1,000 official death mark in August 2021, as the Delta strain has been ushering the country into a third wave.

A total of 177,600 Johnson and Johnson vaccines from the African Union’s African Vaccine Acquisition Trust arrived on 8 August, and 249,000 AstraZeneca vials donated by the UK Government on 17 August.

Despite progress after extensive advocacy by African Governments, the UN and other partners, less than 3 per cent of the population of sub-Saharan Africa is able to access vaccines and only 2 per cent of Ghanaians are fully vaccinated.

In August, parts of the Upper West region were affected by floods, resulting in roads cut off and schools closed, with limited access to basic services.

In close cooperation with the UN Country Team, UNICEF continues to work with the Government’s overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other critical humanitarian risks across the sectors below, reaching the most vulnerable children and adolescents.

Map of Ghana with concentration of active COVID-19 cases as of 31 August - Source: Ghana Health Service

Aerial view of a bridge destroyed by floods in the Upper West region, Ghana, August 2021 @NADMO

UNICEF Staff on the tarmac of the Kotoka International Airport upon arrival of COVID-19 vaccines, August 2021 @UNICEF/UN177444/KOKOROKO

Funding status
Carry-over from previous year, $9.3M
$26.9M required
Funds received 19.6M

UNICEF Appeal 2021
US$ 26.9 million
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health & Nutrition

A total of 177,600 Johnson and Johnson vaccines from the African Union’s African Vaccine Acquisition Trust arrived on 8 August, and 249,000 AstraZeneca vials donated by the UK Government came on 17 August.

Two hundred community health nurses were trained in the use of newly procured tablets through a strategic partnership with Denmark. This is part of the Ghana Health Service (GHS) integrated community health information E-Tracker system to speed up and improve decision making in maternal, newborn and child health programmes in eight selected urban communities in Accra and Kumasi.

Through China Aid, UNICEF procured and distributed assorted newborn care equipment worth over US$300,000 to five hospitals in North East and Savannah Regions to support the establishment of newborn care units, aimed at improving the survival of newborns. The capacity of 947 health workers was further enhanced to provide adolescent and youth-friendly services in Northern, Upper East, Savannah, and North East Regions.

The Third Conference on ‘Sustaining Reproductive Maternal, Newborn Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition Service Delivery and Resilient Health Systems in Health Emergencies and Beyond’ was held with technical and financial support of UNICEF during the reporting period. The conference brought together Government stakeholders, development partners, academia, and civil society partners to review progress made in 2021. It was an opportunity to refresh strategic approaches to safeguard and sustain gains. Key recommendations include strengthening community stakeholder involvement in the national effort to increase breastfeeding rates; and developing and implementing a wellness programme to improve the health status of the population. Ghana’s nutrition scorecard was also validated. Health workers will be trained on its use as a quarterly progress tracker of key nutrition indicators and as an accountability tool to improve performance.

Child Protection

UNICEF and partners supported 16,990 people with psychosocial support on how to better manage COVID-19-related stress in their families and how to be referred to other services as needed. An online audience of over 32,000 individuals was engaged via the Ghanaians Against Child Abuse (GAC) campaign. A total of 67 boys and girls survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were supported with holistic case management services. The Child-Friendly Gender-Based Violence Court has prosecuted 48 cases of sexual and gender violence against children to date from the model court alone. With the onset of the third wave, COVID-19 cases are being handled at intervals to allow the court to observe relevant protocols to encourage survivors’ participation in the judicial process.

The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and UNICEF have been disseminating and implementing a suite of policies, standards, studies and guidance, ranging from managing cases of children with disabilities, in children’s homes, of children in conflict with the law. These are designed to strengthen the social service workforce and ensure that children are living in protective families.

On 30th of August, the MoGCSP, UNICEF, partners and children marked National Children’s Day, with a focus on the role of community-based structures in protecting children.
**Education**

Agreements have been reached in Ghana's distance learning programme with relevant sub-national stakeholders. The aim is to engage teachers as resource persons to deliver lessons on core subjects via state-run Ghana Broadcasting Corporation and its 32 affiliates as well as 47 local radios in 47 districts. They are expected to reach 6.3 million kindergarten, primary and junior high school students, for them to continue learning during this global pandemic.

Using audio-visual materials from UNICEF, a total of 915 students from first year kindergarten to third year (Basic 3) level, from two regions, took part in early-grade reading activities under the community reading project.

UNICEF is supporting the Ghana Education Service (GES) to review progress on the back-to-school campaign in 47 districts and to train professional bodies to scale up progress. A total of 16 national resource persons from 20 focus districts have been trained on the tenets of psychosocial support under the Safe School Programme. Twelve national master trainers on Education in emergencies are ready to roll out the programme to more teachers across the country.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

To encourage the private sector to improve the production and supply chain for affordable and accessible hand-hygiene products, the National Board for Small Scale Industries, in partnership with the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, and UNICEF, held the ‘Akoben Handwashing Fair during World Water Week’.

A total of 290 Government participants from two regions, the Greater Accra and Ashanti regions, were trained on community sanitation for seven Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies. Participants were selected from a range of line Ministries including the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, the GHS and GES.

An estimated 50 regional and district staff gained new knowledge related to WASH in schools in the Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions. Staff included non-education staff from relevant subnational departments, particularly in the Environmental Health and Works.

In preparation for water supply interventions in low income urban communities, the Ghana Water Company Limited has completed training and formation of Water User Associations. These associations will provide a community-side voice for participation in post-project sustainability, including tariff collection and water loss control.

Pipes were procured for a water network extension in seven low-income urban communities. The technical assessment to improve WASH infrastructure in 10 schools, 10 health care facilities and 20 public places has also commenced in the same area, enabling 50,000 people to access safe clean water.

In response to floods in the Upper West region, UNICEF deployed pre-positioned WASH supplies to be distributed to affected families. UNICEF also chaired meetings of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergencies, to cooperate with partners on the response.
Communication for Development

The multi stakeholder Misinformation Management Task Force continued to run the National Communication Campaign on COVID-19 Vaccine by developing communication content to support the deployment of the new shipments of vaccines. Qualitative research on vaccine hesitancy among religious leaders was finalized and presented to the National Sub Communication Committee, as part of GAVI support. The Minister of Information, Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, and UNICEF discussed cooperation to enhance the capacity of journalists to fight misinformation and increase vaccine confidence.

A new partnership agreement was signed with the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation to increase awareness on maternal and child health, adolescent engagement, and lead poisoning. Educative programmes, which include the series "What does YOLO mean to me?", will be broadcast on seven television channels, 16 radio stations and an online portal as part of the Ghana against Child Abuse project, jointly with Breakthrough ACTION Ghana and USAID.

The Agoo platform continues to provide information to adolescents and young people in Ghana on COVID-19 prevention, maternal health, child abuse, social issues, and gender-based violence. As many as 116,794 calls were received from 11,451 callers in August, which is consistent with the trends from previous months. Frontline staff and youth champions met in Kumasi on 11-12 August to co-create new messages on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health, Child protection and nutrition, supported by Denmark.

UNICEF held a training of trainers in Tamale and Kumasi for nurses’ education programmes. The training seeks to enhance teaching and practices of social and behaviour change in Health, especially for Immunization. UNICEF also conducted a Social and Behaviour Change Communication training for health promoters in the Eastern region. In addition, 130 Health Promotion Officers and other health workers in Bono East, Bono and Ahafo Regions gained new knowledge on vaccine confidence, misinformation and rumour management and tracking.

About 80 WASH sector stakeholders learnt about COVID-19 social mobilization, risk communication and messaging in Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions. UNICEF continues to work jointly with CSOs partners on community engagement around adolescent reproductive health, as part of support from Global Affairs Canada. Over 50,000 duty bearers were reached with messages on adolescents’ concerns via print media such as Daily Graphic, Gender Column: Ghana News Agency, Ghanaian Times, and radio such as Dreams FM.

In addition, 120 young people from the Northern, Ashanti, Volta/Oti and Greater Accra regions participated in various capacity building programmes. Over 210 young people (123 females and 87 males) took part in a gender empowerment “She+” intervention. A total of 276 key community stakeholders, comprised of chiefs and elders, representatives of faith-based organizations as well as representatives of community health workers and teachers, were engaged in discussions. In a recent U-Report poll, young people were asked for their opinions on how the Government budget can be used to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. Most respondents (62%) said the pandemic has affected youth employment. Over 14% said the Government should invest more into making the education system more resilient as the COVID-19 pandemic had a massive toll on the sector. Over 5% reported that the Health sector needed more attention to prepare for further waves of the pandemic.
Humanitarian Strategy, Partnerships and Funding Overview

UNICEF’s humanitarian strategy in Ghana involves protecting children and their families from exposure to COVID-19, minimizing mortality and supporting continuity of services while ensuring preparedness for potential humanitarian crisis. The response has aligned with key global and national frameworks and has identified gaps and targets the most vulnerable groups, especially in high-risk areas and is key to addressing the needs of 2.4 million people living in extreme poverty who are most affected by the pandemic.

UNICEF is coordinating through existing emergency preparedness and response mechanism, and chairs or co-chairs several sector working groups in health, nutrition, WASH and education.

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal in Ghana presents a funding gap of US$ 11.2 million. UNICEF continues to coordinate closely with the Government and the UN Country Team to deploy the COVID-19 response in priority areas. These include health, vaccination rollout, risk communication and community engagement, mitigation of the socioeconomic impact of the crisis and ensuring continuity and access to critical services – nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, child and social protection.

UNICEF has been able to support the national response thanks to the strategic support of development partners and private donors, including Canada, China International Development and Cooperation Agency, Denmark, UK, USAID, and the Mastercard Foundation. UNICEF calls for more stakeholders to provide additional support to support vaccination, address vaccine hesitancy, improve detection, testing, and tracing as well as the availability of quality intensive care and treatment. Efforts to scale up remote learning solutions, hygiene infrastructure and to maintain child and social protection commitments will help fill the gaps in ensuring a comprehensive and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic, for vulnerable children, young people, and families in Ghana.

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**UNICEF’s Response and Funding Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Target (US$)</th>
<th>2021 Target (%)</th>
<th>% Achieved</th>
<th>% Funds Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary healthcare [Health]</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>510%</td>
<td>177%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IYCF counselling [Nutrition]</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>177%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHPSS services [Child Protection]</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education access [Education]</td>
<td>1,383,576</td>
<td>200%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand-washing [Water, sanitation and hygiene]</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash transfers through govt system [Social Protection and cash transfers]</td>
<td>256,500</td>
<td>516%</td>
<td>516%</td>
<td>516%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Funding available includes funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.*
Human Interest Stories and External Media


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U-Reporters in the Ashanti region participate in youth activities organized by UNICEF. @UNICEF/UN577100/OPOKU
## Annex A
### Summary of Programme Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF and IPs Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Needs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nutrition</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment</td>
<td>16,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling</td>
<td>350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent girls receiving iron and folic acid or multiple micronutrient supplements</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF -supported facilities</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who received diagnostic and treatment services for COVID-19</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children accessing appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with key hygiene messages, services and/or supplies, including handwashing with soap</td>
<td>340,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
People with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse | 3,500 | 3,500 | 272 | 0%
---|---|---|---|---
Unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services | 3,500 | 3,500 | 564 (girls) 586 (boys) 1150 (total) | 1% 1% 1%

### Education

Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning | 1,383,576 | 1,383,576 | 677,952 [girls] 705,624 [boys] 1,383,576 (total) | 0% 0% 0%
---|---|---|---|---
Schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control) | 10,545 | 10,545 | 10,545 | 0%

### Social Protection

Households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding | 256,500 | 256,500 | 375,000 | 0%

### Communication for Development / Communication / AAP

People participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 487,063 | 3%
---|---|---|---|---
People reached through messaging on key health behaviours, available social services and response to COVID-19 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 9,000,000 | 0%
---|---|---|---|---
People who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms | 200,000 | 200,000 | 5082 | 13%

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### Annex B

#### Funding Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Humanitarian funds received in 2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$</strong></td>
<td><strong>%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,900,000</td>
<td>6,451,494</td>
<td>1,072,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>2,372,597</td>
<td>612,311</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>1,175,000</td>
<td>474,345</td>
<td>437,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5,780,805</td>
<td>2,333,684</td>
<td>2,288,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>8,140,000</td>
<td>5,440,150</td>
<td>3,628,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>5,030,000</td>
<td>100,852</td>
<td>63,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4D, community engagement and AAP</td>
<td>2,550,000</td>
<td>4,150,218</td>
<td>1,770,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,948,402</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,563,054</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,261,431</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>