



Reporting Period: 1 - 30 November 2021

Ghana

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 24

unicef 
for every child

Highlights

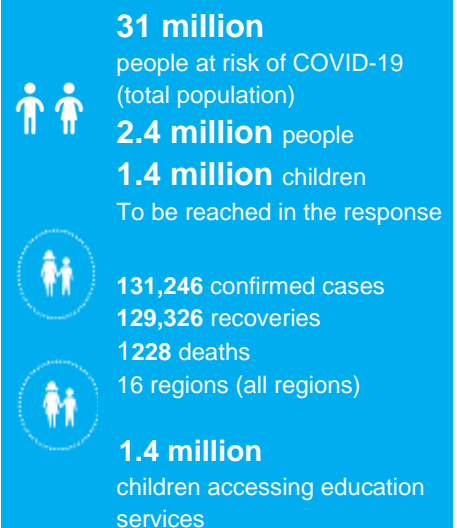
On Sunday 30th November, the Director General of Ghana Health Service delivered a press conference outlining measures to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Greater Accra remains the hotspot for coronavirus outbreak, accounting for nearly half of total active cases in Ghana. Adherence to protocols remains low. As of 30 November, Ghana had received 12,324,710 doses, of which 7,122,020 doses have been administered. The Government of Ghana will receive more doses in December. It was announced that children aged from 15 years can now be vaccinated.

A Yellow Fever outbreak has led to 29 deaths, including 24 children, 166 suspected cases and 48 confirmed cases, including 17 children.

December has been declared Vaccination month, with intensified efforts to administer doses and protect the population.

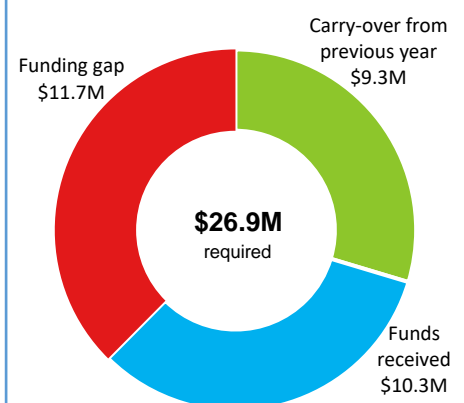
In cooperation with the UN Country Team, UNICEF continued to work with the Government across the sectors to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, Yellow Fever outbreak, tidal waves, and other critical humanitarian risks, reaching the most vulnerable children and families.

Situation in Numbers

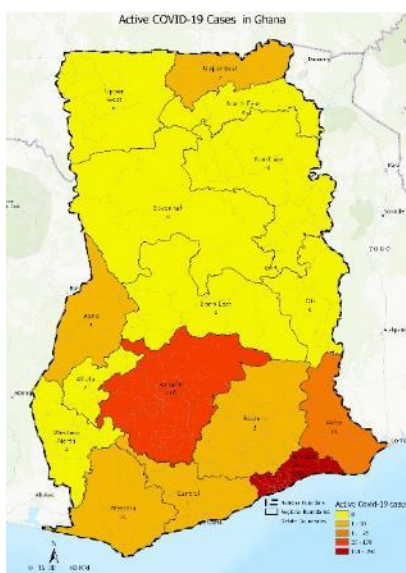


UNICEF Appeal 2021 US\$ 26.9 million

Funding status*



Note: the funding gap does not take into consideration overachievement at the sector level.



Active COVID-19 cases as at 30th November 2021, Ghana. Source: WHO



Top: The Ministry of Health receives doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines, donated by the Governments of Denmark and Norway, 3 November 2021. ©UNICEF/ADATSI
Bottom: A Delegation from the Ministry of Health, US Embassy and UNICEF receive over 1.7 million doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines, 22 November 2021. ©UNICEF/KOKOROKO

Programme Response

Health

Under the COVAX Facility (GAVI, WHO, CEPI), UNICEF has been procuring, transporting, and supporting the safe storage of over 9.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in Ghana, in close cooperation with the Ministry of health, Ghana Health Service and Development Partners.

On the 3rd of November, the Governments of Denmark and Norway donated 195,200 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines. A second consignment of over 1.7 million doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines, donated by the US Government, arrived in Ghana on the 22nd of November.

Ghana conducted the national effective vaccine management (EVM) assessment in November 2021, in line with the global recommendations to strengthen its immunization supply chain. Thirty-two (32) national assessors and 10 national supervisors were trained and used the EVM 2.0 tool to complete data collection in the 16 regions, with funding and technical support from UNICEF and other partners. Findings from the assessment will be used to develop a continuous improvement plan. A reactive vaccination campaign for a Yellow Fever outbreak has commenced after the virus was confirmed on 28th of October in the Savanna region and has spread to five more regions.

As at 20th November, 166 suspected cases, 48 confirmed cases (including 17 children) and 29 deaths (including 24 children) have been reported. UNICEF is coordinating with the WHO and Ghana Health Service on the International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision for Yellow Fever control, targeting 361,165 people from six districts across three regions of Ghana.

To ensure quality of care and survival of all new-borns, UNICEF, with funding support from China Aid and the UNICEF Italian National Committee established six (6) newborn care units across three northern regions: North East (4), Savanna (1) and Northern (1). All six units are now fully operational.

To mark World Prematurity Day, staff members of the UNICEF Field Office in Tamale, led by the health team, visited the Tamale Teaching Hospital to interact with parents of pre-term babies and health staff. During the visit, staff handed over baby hats and sanitizers to the parents.



A new-born care unit established with funding from China AID at the Walewale Hospital in the Northeast region. ©UNICEF/UN145211/MILLS



UNICEF staff at the Tamale Teaching Hospital handing over baby hats and sanitizers to mark World Prematurity Day, November 2021. ©UNICEF/UN132909/BUTA

Nutrition

Through UNICEF support, with funding from China Aid, the Government has reached 266,389 children, of which 152,810 were adolescent girls and 23,524 women, in six regions, with health and nutrition interventions. These are aimed at improving the quality of care of children and the prevention and treatment of malnutrition. UNICEF continued to support the delivery of Iron Folic Acid tablets to girls aged 10 to 19 years through schools and clinics, resulting in about 2.5 million girls benefiting from the programme.



A girl receiving her weekly dose of Iron Folate tablet to prevent anaemia. ©UNICEF/UN711900/MILLS



A health worker guides a mother on providing therapeutic food to her child in the Northeast region. ©UNICEF/UN519920/MILLS

Forty-two health workers were trained on management of acute malnutrition in Ashanti region, as part of the response to COVID-19. With funding from Canada, several nutrition commodities for preventing and treating malnutrition were provided to the Government of Ghana in the Ashanti region. These include 1,140 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) and Therapeutic Milk, as well as 500 packs of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape.

As part of the Start Right - Feed Right Campaign, UNICEF supported the GHS in undertaking foundational work for setting up a lactation management support system. This includes mapping of health workers with baby friendly health initiative training, an Infant and Young Child feeding combined course, lactation management and CODE training, as well as preparing training materials for training in 2022.

Child Protection

In November 2021, the Chief Justice of Ghana, Traditional Leaders and partners inaugurated two out of ten child-friendly courts, commissioned by UNICEF with support from the Government of Denmark, in several regions. Survivors of gender-based violence will feel safer to testify in court, so that perpetrators can be brought to justice.

UNICEF continued to partner with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), as well as civil society.

In November, adolescent girls' mentoring and parenting sessions continued to occur in six regions.

The NGO Abuse Relief Corps (ARC) helps provide support services and access to justice to survivors of sexual violence and their families. Since October 2020, ARC supported over 224 survivors (214 Female, 10 Male).

In 2021, UNICEF continued to help strengthen systems in 100 Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) under the Integrated Social Services Initiative. The programme, which cuts across various sectors, has reached over 30,000 children who benefitted from case management services through social welfare. In addition, over 2,644 social service providers received training from the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development (DSWCD).

In November, UNICEF supported the Human Trafficking Secretariat of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) in organizing two stakeholders' consultative workshops to review the previous and new National Plans of Action (2017 – 2021) and (2022 – 2026) respectively.

In the area of Social Protection, the MoGCSP delivered an additional tranche of emergency COVID-19 cash transfer payments was delivered to 10,231 people. UNICEF supported communications and monitoring using RapidPro and Viamo.



A Delegation of the Judicial Service, the Danish Embassy, UNICEF traditional leaders and partners opening a new child-friendly court in Akropong in the Ashanti region. ©UNICEF/UN328902/ADATSI

Education

In November, UNICEF led the Emergency Taskforce Rapid Response Assessment (RRA) in areas affected by tidal waves. Over 3,898 displaced persons (898 boys; 1,045 girls; 790 men; 1,165 women) within 523 households across 3 districts, needed health, livelihood, education, water, sanitation and emotional support.

As part of the RRA, UNICEF delivered school-in-a box kits (each box has education materials across various disciplines for 40 students) to some affected schools in Keta, providing supplementary materials for instructional use in classrooms as schooling resumes, benefiting 240 basic school learners (110 boys; 130 girls).



UNICEF Chief of Education, Tara O'Connell, engages with community members in Keta and hands over learning materials. ©UNICEF

In November, UNICEF also engaged about 50 education stakeholders (22 male; 28 female) from Government and CSOs to assess the progress of the education programme against 2021 targets. The consultations helped adjust priorities based on lessons, evidence, and emerging issues to inform programme planning for 2022 and beyond. To meet the changing education landscape due to the COVID-19, climate change and other issues, priorities and key actions were agreed on and informed the development of the UNICEF/MoE/GES 2022 workplan and education programme strategy note.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Twenty-four schools and 13 healthcare facilities now have access to improved water thanks to the rehabilitation of 15 piped water systems in Volta, Northern, Central, Upper West and Upper East Regions.

Over 300 subscriptions for household water connections have been recorded in eight communities as part of the Denmark supported COVID-19 initiative in the Greater Kumasi and Accra Metropolitan Areas. Actual household connections to water supply lines will begin in December. Initial costs of household water connections are the key barrier preventing low-income residents from accessing water supply within their homes. UNICEF continues to engage the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) on financing models to increase uptake of water connections in low-income households.



Work ongoing to connect thousands of children and their families to safe water in their homes. ©UNICEF/UN442288/ADATSI

In November, 76 schoolteachers from six districts gained new knowledge and skills on Facility Management Plans and Hygiene Education to improve the sustainability of WASH services in UNICEF supported schools.

Sensitization on COVID-19 hygiene protocols including handwashing with soap is ongoing, with support from Water User Associations (WUAs) and Environmental Health Officers - reports indicate that over 22,000 persons have been reached.

Communication and Social & Behavioural Change

UNICEF continued to lead and support partners in misinformation management on vaccines in Ghana with weekly tracking, analysis and response to rumours. The social media campaign on COVID-19 vaccination was launched, with 6.6 million users reached, and 150,000 users sharing or reacting on the messages. A new frame was used to show support to vaccination.

As the Ghana Health Service is intensifying vaccination efforts, UNICEF has launched a demand generation campaign on Facebook and Instagram with various messages aimed at increasing vaccination rates. The campaign has so far reached almost 2 million people. This will continue until the end of December. UNICEF also supported the Yellow Fever Outbreak response with key messages, community engagement materials development, engaging religious leaders.

UNICEF facilitated the training and co-creation workshop of about 60 social and behavioural change professionals in Ghana on Behaviour Insights for effective message development relating to reproductive health, education, child protection and vaccination. In addition, about 23 Religious Leaders drawn from all regions in Ghana also participated in a focus group discussion and content creation session to enhance confidence in polio and other vaccines.

UNICEF and its partners continue to support community engagements on COVID-19 prevention, child protection and SGBV messaging through the Government and NGO partners. Over 109,000 people were reached since January 2021.

In November, about 13,291 callers accessed the Agoos platform for COVID-19-related and adolescent information. A total of 349 young people accessed the Agoos SHE+ call center around reproductive rights issues. A virtual webinar took place on “How do we apply the Behavioural Drivers Model in public health programming” targeting key stakeholders with new trends and approaches in Communication for Development.

On the 19th of November, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, UNICEF and partners marked World Children’s Day with the theme “Action for Children, by Children”. The day was celebrated with the Third session of the Children’s Parliament, which covered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and other issues affecting children in Ghana. UNICEF also unveiled a new mural illustrating children’s rights outside the UN compound in Accra. The mural is a representation of ideas and aspirations shared by children across the country.



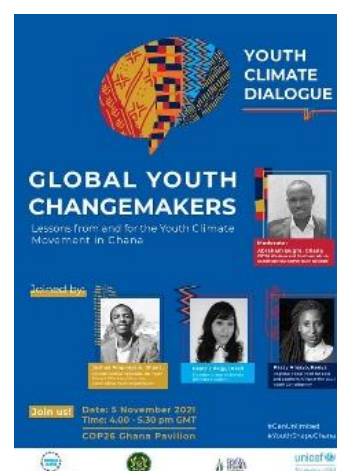
Left: Children expressed talents in dance, drama and songs to mark World Children’s Day, November 2021.
©UNICEF/UN827001/KOKOROKO

Right: A new mural celebrating child rights at the UN compound in Accra, November 2021.
©UNICEF/UN620011/ANNANKRA

Gender Equality, Adolescents, Youth Engagement & Empowerment

In November 2021, UNICEF hosted an event at the Ghana Pavilion at COP26 in Denmark titled ‘Global Youth Changemakers – Lessons from and for the youth climate movement in Ghana’. This event was well-attended by youth and climate change specialists at the Pavilion, and virtually.

The #YouthShapeGhana program was also launched to co-create dialogues among Ghanaian young people on critical topics. Two of the four challenges were run in November, with a focus on climate change and mental health. Over 2,400 young people registered for the two challenges and approximately 24,000 engagement activities took place on the platform (post likes, comments, messages, shares) highlighting strong engagement amongst the users.



As member of the UN Country Team, UNICEF actively participated in the '16 Days of Activism' campaign to end all forms of gender-based violence. Activities included an official launch led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, a walk through the streets of Accra to raise awareness and the launch of the “No Manel” campaign to ensure active representation of women in all panels and dialogues.

Through social media, UNICEF shared various messages, including on the root causes of violence and proposed solutions. With partners, access to justice was emphasized. The messages reached over 200,000 across channels. On 30 November, UNICEF also launched the report ‘Protecting and Empowering Adolescent Girls in Ghana, with updated data and key recommendations.



Activities during the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to end all forms of gender-based violence: Official launch led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; Walk through the streets of Accra to raise awareness; and “No Manel” campaign. November 2021 @UNICEF/UN

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy



UNICEF’s humanitarian strategy in Ghana involves protecting children and their families from exposure to COVID-19, Yellow Fever, natural disasters and other risks, minimizing mortality and supporting continuity of services while ensuring preparedness for humanitarian crisis. The response has aligned with Government and UNCT priorities, including global and national frameworks, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups, especially in high-risk areas.

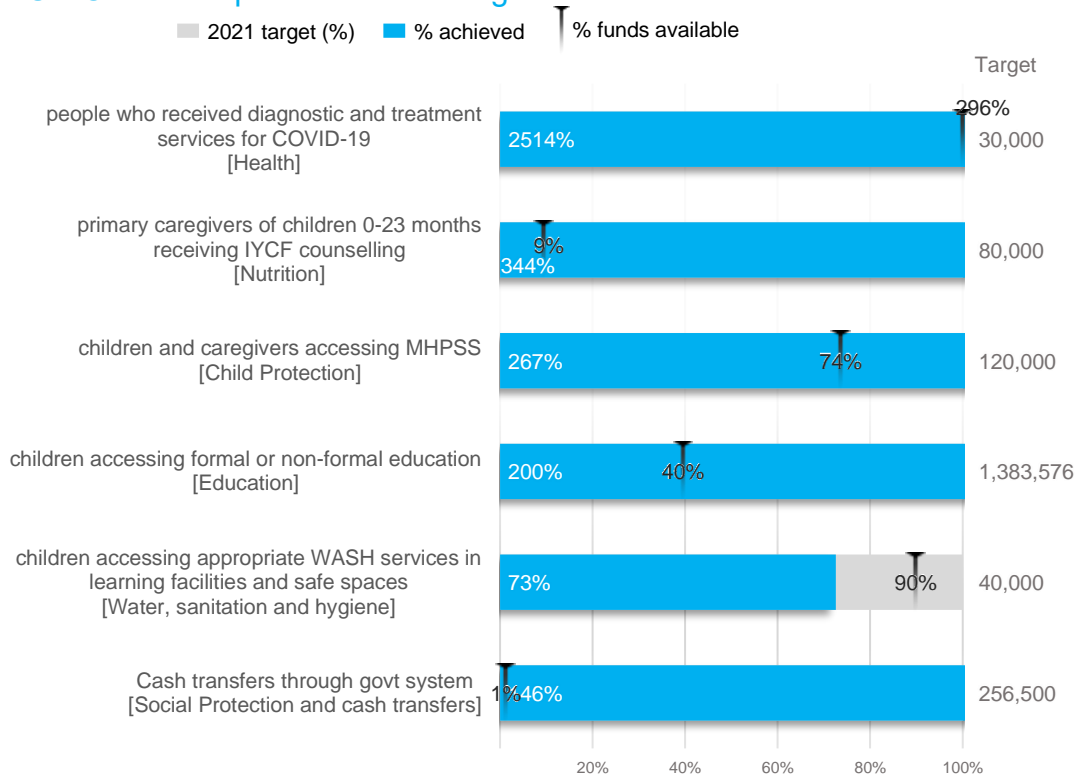
In close cooperation with the UNCT in Ghana, UNICEF continues to lead the Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergencies, composed of UN Agencies, NGOs and Development Partners. UNICEF also plays a key coordinating or technical role under several mechanisms related to COVID-19, health, nutrition, education, WASH / climate transformation, and social protection.

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal in Ghana presents a funding gap of US\$ 11,7 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 campaign 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, United Kingdom, USAID, GAVI, Mastercard Foundation and Binance Charity.

UNICEF calls for more stakeholders to support vaccination and address vaccine hesitancy, to strengthen systems across all sectors, to scale up innovations and respond to the most urgent needs of the most vulnerable children, young people, and families in Ghana.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Human Interest Stories and External Media

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/ghana-to-receive-13m-covid-19-vaccines-from-us/2373504>
<https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/covid-19-us-donates-1-2million-moderna-vaccines-to-ghana.html>
<https://www.myjoyonline.com/covid-19-ghana-receives-1-2million-doses-of-moderna-vaccine/>
<https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2021/09/05/ghana-receives-1-2-million-doses-of-moderna-vaccines-from-us/>
<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/ghana-receives-15m-doses-of-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-from-germany/2375540>
<https://www.myjoyonline.com/covid-19-norway-donates-98400-doses-of-astrazeneca-vaccines-to-ghana/>
<https://www.msn.com/en-xl/africa/ghana/ghana-takes-delivery-of-98400-doses-of-astrazeneca-covid-vaccines-from-norway/ar-AAOyLRu>
<http://apanews.net/en/news/press-zooms-in-on-15m-doses-of-astrazeneca-vaccines-donated-by-germany-others/>
<https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/1st-batch-of-germany-s-vaccines-arrive.html>

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Annex A - Summary of Programme Results in Ghana

		UNICEF and IPs Response		
Sector	Total Needs	2021 target	Total results*	Change
Nutrition				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	16,424	16,424	9,467	48%
Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	350,000	350,000	310,238	13%
Adolescent girls receiving iron and folic acid or multiple micronutrient supplements	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,486,508	1%
Health				
Children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF -supported facilities	500,000	500,000	4,403,302	13%
People who received diagnostic and treatment services for COVID-19	30,000	30,000	836,114	11%
WASH				
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	30,000	30,000	6,500	0%
Children accessing appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	40,000	40,000	32,632	13%
People reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services	50,000	50,000	7200	0%
People reached with key hygiene messages, services and/or supplies, including handwashing with soap	340,000	340,000	199,467	13%
Child Protection				
Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	120,000	120,000	31,593 (Girls) 26,906 (Boys) 30,785 (Women) 20,094 (Men) 109,378 (Total)	5%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	120,000	120,000	3,656 (Girls) 2,782 (Boys) 6,883 (Women) 13,321 (Total)	24%

People with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse	3,500	3,500	1,653	492%
Unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	3,500	3,500	699 (Boys) 675 (Girls) 1,374 (Total)	19%
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%
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	385,231	3%
Communication for Development / Communication / AAP				
People participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change	1,000,000	1,000,000	678,358	3%
People reached through messaging on key health behaviours, available social services and response to COVID-19	6,000,000	6,000,000	9,122,994	1%
People who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	200,000	200,000	195,457	1%

* Change since last report.

Annex B - Funding Status

Section	Requirements	Humanitarian funds received	Carry-over funds from previous year	Total Funds available	Funding gap	% \$ Gap
Health	1,900,000.00	4,552,850.65	1,072,714.36	5,625,565.01	-	0%
Nutrition	2,372,597.00	225,135.99	-	225,135.99	2,147,461.01	91%
Child Protection	1,175,000.00	427,825.57	437,853.94	865,679.51	309,320.49	26%
Education	5,780,805.00		2,288,141.31	2,288,141.31	3,492,663.69	60%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	8,140,000.00	3,687,893.77	3,628,531.16	7,316,424.93	823,575.07	10%
Social Protection and cash transfers	5,030,000.00		63,668.49	63,668.49	4,966,331.51	99%
Communication for Development	2,550,000.00	1,356,656.37	1,772,884.09	3,129,540.46	-	0%
Grand Total	26,948,402	10,250,362	9,263,793	19,514,156	11,739,352	44%