



Reporting Period: 1 - 31 December 2021

Ghana

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 25

unicef 
for every child

Highlights

The Government of Ghana made a significant shift in its COVID-19 vaccination campaign, declaring December 'Vaccination Month'. Increased efforts included making more vaccine facilities more readily available and tighter measures at Kotoka International Airport. As of 31st December, the total number of doses administered were 8,379,7768.

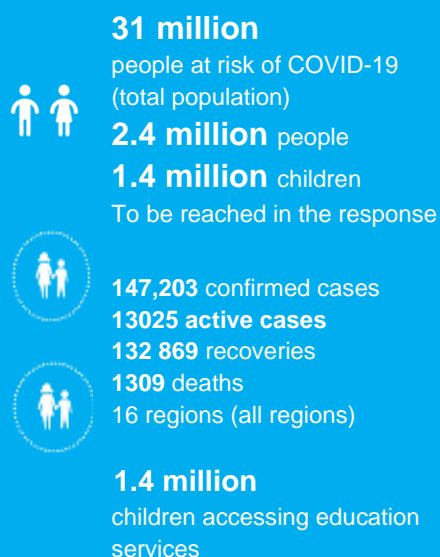
On 14th December, H.E. President Nana Akufo-Addo announced that all international travellers should be fully vaccinated. The President also announced that the European Investment Bank approved EUR 82.5 million Euros for a facility to strengthen healthcare delivery, including through the establishment of a National Vaccine Institute.

In December 2021, COVAX partners continued to send COVID-19 vaccine doses to Ghana. Donations were made by Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, United Kingdom and United States, making a combined total of 4,684,380 doses.

UNICEF and WHO continued to support the Government in containing the yellow fever outbreak.

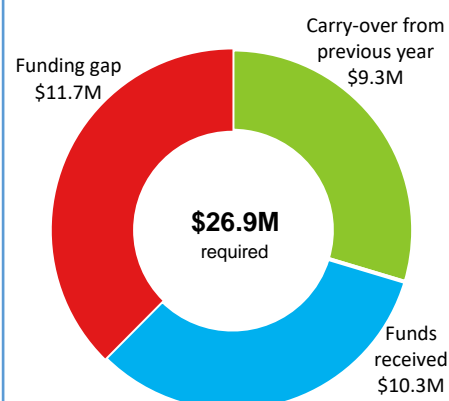
In cooperation with the UN Country Team in Ghana and partners, UNICEF continues to work with the Government across sectors to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other critical humanitarian risks, reaching the most vulnerable children and adolescents.

Situation in Numbers

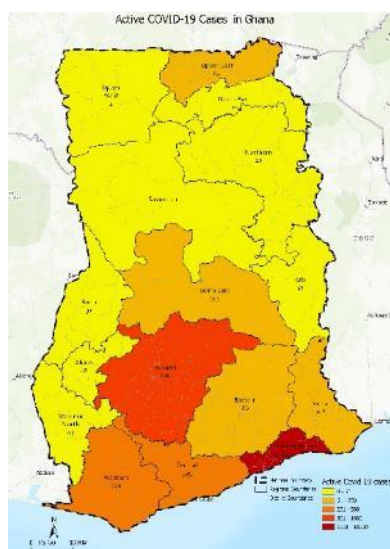


UNICEF Appeal 2021 US\$ 26.9 million

Funding status*



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



Active COVID-19 cases as at 31st December 2021, Ghana. Source: WHO



Top: The Ministry of Health receive 1,037,700 COVID-19 vaccine doses from Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg on 14th Dec. ©UNICEF/ADATSI/2021

Bottom: The Ministry of Health, US Embassy and UNICEF receive over 1.7 million doses of Pfizer COVID19 vaccines on 24 Dec ©U.S. Embassy Ghana

Analysis of Programme Response

Health & Nutrition

UNICEF supported the Ghana Health Service (GHS) and its partners to conduct a reactive yellow fever vaccination campaign from 17th to 21st December 2021, following a yellow fever outbreak in Savanna region. Nineteen selected districts in seven regions were involved in the campaign, which targeted 644,798 persons between 9 months to 60 years.



Yellow Fever vaccine (c) Joseph Mills / UNICEF/2020

Through the support of the Government of Canada, 2400 Samsung tablets were procured this month for community health nurses in the Ashanti Region, who were trained on the tablets' use. This is part of a new integrated community health information E-Tracker system to speed up and improve decision making in maternal, new-born and child health programmes in the Region as part of COVID-19 Response.

COVID-19 vaccination intensified throughout the country. As of 3rd January 2022, a total 8,872,253 doses had been administered (33% at least 1 dose; 14% full doses). December 2021 was declared COVID-19 vaccination month. This saw a significant increase in the number of doses administered by 3,316,043 doses between 1st Dec 2021 and 1st January 2022. In December, Ghana received vaccines from the US, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Estonia and Luxembourg.

As part of the response to COVID-19, UNICEF supported the GHS to build the capacity of 42 Health Workers on management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the Ashanti Region. The trained health workers will in turn conduct downstream training in all districts across the region. Additionally, using funding from the Government of Japan, UNICEF supported the GoG in scaling up the use of the Mother Child Health Record Book (MCHRB) in 80 districts. Training of trainers (TOT) were held for 48 Health Workers, who are now undertaking trainings in their respective districts. To assess the quality of services provided using the MCHB, UNICEF facilitated and provided technical support to GHS to undertake exit interviews in eight regions. Data analysis is being undertaken and results will be available during Q1 in 2022.



21-month-old Emphram Agbeley with his mum Patience Parku displaying Mother and Child Health Record Book (c) BUTA/UNICEF/2021

With support from China, a total of 1,490 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted for treatment. In addition, over 6,082 women and 31,906 adolescent girls benefited from Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets. To ensure the sustainability of management of severe malnutrition, UNICEF supported the Government to cost the requirements for 2022, and advocated for Nutrition Match Fund. Moreover, UNICEF and the Ghana Health Service (GHS) initiated the process to ensure that the management of SAM is a reimbursable service in the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) service package.

Child Protection & Social Protection

Early December, the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU), with support from UNICEF and Global Affairs Canada, inaugurated two women and children's interviewing rooms in Ashaiman and Madina. These will enable survivors of violence, especially girls and women, to share their experiences and report cases in a safe environment.

Three additional child-friendly courts were inaugurated by the Chief Justice of Ghana with support from UNICEF and the Government of Denmark in North Western, Ahafo and Bono Regions.



Commissioning of women and children's interviewing rooms (c)UNICEF/Adatsi/2021

UNICEF supported the Ghana Nurses and Midwifery Council (GNWC), the national body for training and certification of nurses and midwives, to institutionalize the Child Protection Guidelines for Health Workers into pre-training training curricula of all eight Nurses and Midwifery programmes. As a result, three credits of Child Protection modules are used to build health workers' capacity to identify and handle child abuse cases.

An additional 40 users from 22 new institutions including government shelters, hospitals, correctional centers, DOVVSU units, Residential Homes for Children and other NGOs went live on SWIMS to strengthen referrals between social service providers under the Integrated Social Services initiative.

UNICEF commenced the setup of an interactive voice response survey to monitor the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer in four languages. Survey instrument tools in the form of draft questions and scripts were streamlined. Content translation, recording and first round of survey launch is expected in January 2022.

In 2021, a total of 242,074 people (Girls: 81,651, Boys: 80,125, Women: 54,869, Men: 25,412) benefited from community-based psychosocial support services through face-to-face interaction, home visits and community announcement systems. In December, the GACA campaign reached approximately 17 million people with child protection and COVID-19 prevention messages via radio, TV and social media platforms.



Community engagement in Bolga Municipal © UNICEF/2021

Education

UNICEF continued to work with partners to improve stakeholders' capacity for the roll-out of the Digital Literacy package. To raise awareness and support for child online protection at the school level, UNICEF worked with the GES to create a national cadre of 130 (69 male, 61 female) trainers, including on ICT, Guidance and Counseling and Special Education Officers, from 8 regional and 20 district education offices.

Action plans were developed for downstream engagement in the education sector. Training of 1,666 headteachers and teachers within 833 JHS across 20 districts was conducted, to benefit 87,574 JHS students (46,055 boys; 41,519 girls) directly. In addition, 34 Districts in nine regions initiated a programme to empower adolescent girls and improve their access to youth friendly and gender sensitive reproductive health services, especially during emergencies. Over 34 District Directors of Education (Males: 19; Females: 15) were oriented in preparation for the roll-out in the districts.

UNICEF also marked the International Day of Disabilities and visited the Tetteh Ocloo School for the Deaf to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on children living with disabilities. UNICEF participated in a radio discussion regarding such impact and proposed interventions.



Adolescent student at Tetteh Ocloo School for the Deaf discussing impact of COVID-19 on children with disabilities as UNICEF marked International Day of the Disabilities. ©UNICEF/Kokoroko/2021

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

UNICEF contributed to enhance the response to tidal waves in the south of the Volta Region. Support for enhanced hygiene reached at least 2,000 displaced people, including 500 children. This support helped ensure that displaced people would not crowd relocation settlements and risk a secondary burden of COVID-19.

UNICEF continued to support recovery and strengthening of infection prevention and control as part of service delivery. Over 25 primary health care facilities - Community Health Planning and Service (CHPS compounds) and Health Centres - in the Ashanti Region have had technical assessments completed to improve WASH facilities in line with national technical standards.

Steps were taken to develop contracts and establish sanitation and hygiene facilities in public places in the Greater Kumasi and Accra areas.

Communication

UNICEF continued to support vaccine confidence efforts and the response to the COVID-19, yellow fever and polio vaccination campaigns. UNICEF supported the National Misinformation Management Taskforce including in monitoring and addressing rumours and disinformation in relation to COVID-19. A joint digital vaccination campaign was held between the Ministry of Information and GHS. UNICEF developed a chatbot (Information Center) enabling enquirers to find their nearby vaccination points, to share their vaccination status and to receive updates from GHS.

The key messages and materials on yellow fever have been finalized and disseminated. UNICEF facilitated training events for around 50 key governments and CSOs partners on behaviour drivers models and human centered design. About 70 religious and traditional leaders participated in WASH and lead poisoning prevention engagements.



Community focal group discussion at Tiawia in the
Atiwa East District (c) UNICEF/2021

Over 5,230 people in communities were engaged through theatre performances and discussions on Reproductive Health, WASH and lead poisoning prevention. The total number of people reached through radio, posters, and print; social media reached more than 135,000.

The Agoos platform assisted 8,579 callers with information on COVID-19 prevention, maternal and child health, child protection, and adolescents' issues. The ShePlus call center supported 185 young people with information on reproductive health.

As part of efforts to strengthen the advocacy capacity of young change makers, 34 children (7-15 years old) were trained on how to utilize personal branding for social change and leadership.

As part of UNICEF's 75th anniversary celebrations, UNICEF celebrated strategic partnerships to advance child rights in Ghana, marking it with a high-profile event, which included a film screen and speeches delivered by the Chief of Staff for the Republic of Ghana, Honourable Akosua Frema Oei Opare, as well as Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr Ken Ofori-Atta.



Right: Hon. Chief of Staff delivers keynote speech at UNICEF75 anniversary

Left: UNICEF Staff @ ©UNICEF@75 event - UNICEF/KOKOROKO/2021

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy in Ghana involves protecting children and their families from public health crisis (such as exposure to the COVID-19 and yellow fever), natural disasters and other emergencies. In relation to COVID-19, interventions include minimizing mortality and supporting the 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 amongst the most vulnerable groups, especially in high-risk areas.

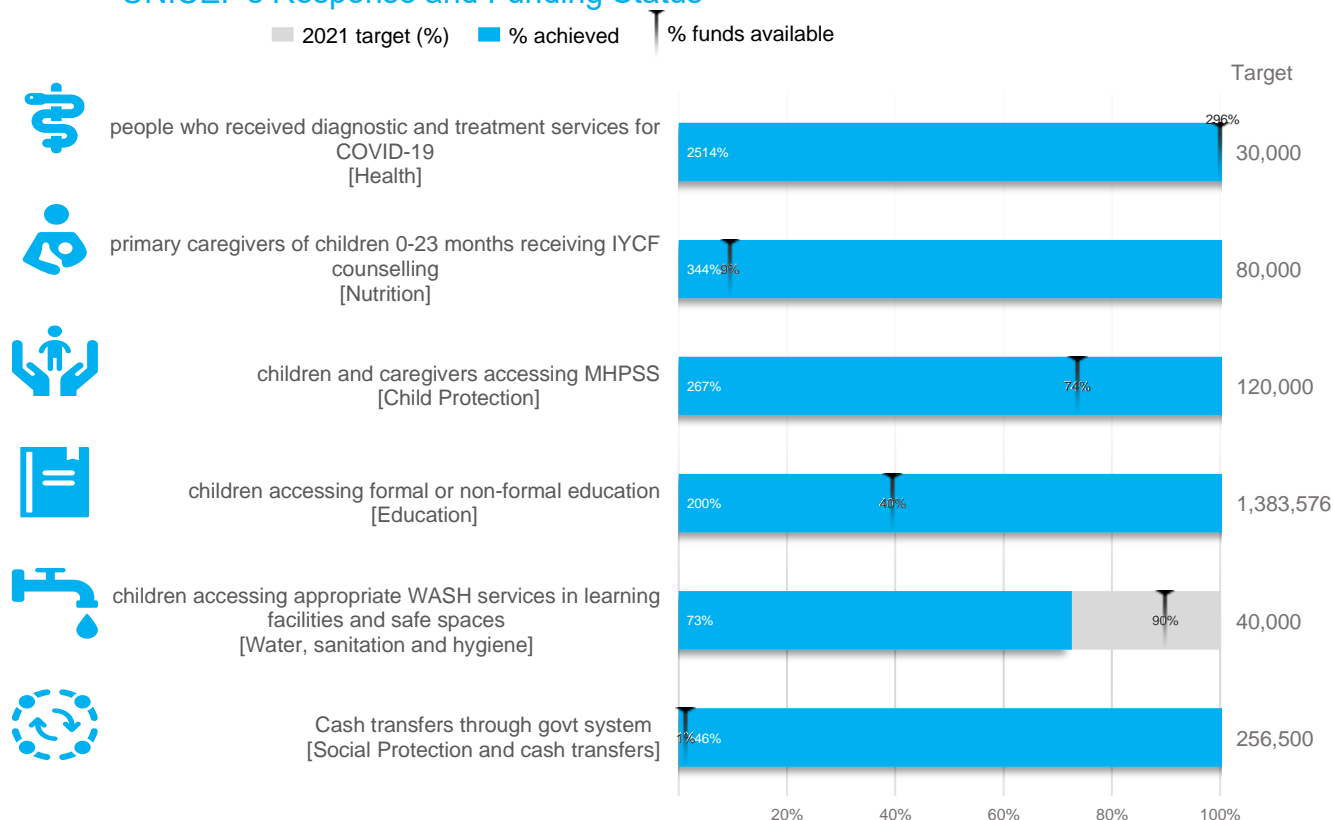


UNICEF chairs the Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergencies, composed of UN Agencies, INGOs, NGOs and Development Partners, as well as the Programme Criticality WG. The agency also coordinates through other existing emergency preparedness and response mechanisms. The team is providing additional support to severely stretched capacities at national and sub-national levels in water and sanitation, nutrition, health, education, child protection and social protection sectors.

The UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal in Ghana presents a funding gap of US\$ 10,6 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 supported the national response thanks to the strategic support of development partners and private donors, including Canada, China Denmark, International Development and Cooperation Agency, Denmark, Japan, United Kingdom, USAID, GAVI, Mastercard Foundation and Binance Charity. UNICEF calls for more stakeholders to provide support, especially in Scaling up remote learning solutions, hygiene infrastructure and maintaining child and social protection commitments. This will help fill the gaps and ensure a comprehensive and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies, for vulnerable children, young people, and families in Ghana.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Total Needs	UNICEF and IPs Response		
		2021 target	Total results*	Change
Nutrition				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	16,424	16,424	10437	10%
Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	350,000	350,000	349,160	13%
Adolescent girls receiving iron and folic acid or multiple micronutrient supplements	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,512,518	1%
Health				
Children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF -supported facilities	500,000	500,000	3,928,502 (Women) 1,006,300 (Children) 4,934,802 (Total)	12%
People who received diagnostic and treatment services for COVID-19	30,000	30,000	918,850	10%
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	18,671	11%
People reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services	50,000	50,000	9,200	28%
People reached with key hygiene messages, services and/or supplies, including handwashing with soap	340,000	340,000	201,467	1%
Child Protection				
Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	120,000	120,000	81,651 (Girls) 80,125 (Boys) 54,869 (Women) 25,412 (Men) 242,057 (Total)	121%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	120,000	120,000	3671 (Girls) 2783 (Boys) 6594 (Women) 13048 (Total)	0.21%
People with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse	3,500	3,500	2,129	29%
Unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	3,500	3,500	706 (Girls) 684 (Boys) 1390 (Total)	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%
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	822,317	21%
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	0%
People who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	200,000	200,000	195,457	0%

* Change since last report.

Note: Cluster/Sector Response not established in Ghana.

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	4,598,876.58	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	1,385,156.37	1,772,884.09	3,129,540.46	-	0%
Grand Total	26,948,402	10,324,888	9,263,793	19,514,156	11,739,352	44%

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