



Reporting Period: 16 June to 31 July 2020

# Rwanda COVID-19 Situation Report No. 4



## Highlights

- On 30 June, the Government passed new resolutions which lifted lockdown measures in Rubavu District.
- On 2 July, the Government began drive-through COVID-19 testing, aiming to test 5,000 people per day throughout Kigali.
- On 15 July, the Government passed new resolutions allowing religious services to resume, pending each place of worship receives approval from local authorities.
- Six villages in Kigali were placed under lockdown following a spike in cases in those areas.
- 6,000,000 people were reached with messages on COVID-19 prevention and access to services. Around 1,985,000 students were reached with remote learning opportunities through TV, radio and e-learning.
- Over 1,900 households were supported with cash-based transfers through Expanded Public Works programme.

## Situation in Numbers

2,042 CONFIRMED CASES

1,119 RECOVERED

918 ACTIVE CASES

5 DEATHS

Source: Rwanda Ministry of Health  
[Daily update on 31 July 2020](#)

## UNICEF's Response and Funding Status

### Pillar 1

No. of people reached on COVID-19 prevention messages	100%	0%
No. of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	3%	97%
<b>Funding status</b>	27%	73%

### Pillar 2

No. of health workers provided with PPE	0%	100%
No. of health workers trained on IPC	13%	
<b>Funding status</b>	5%	95%

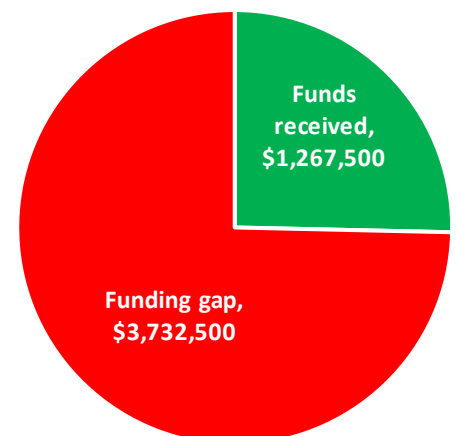
### Pillar 3

No. of healthcare providers trained in COVID-19	0%	100%
No. of primary caregivers received IYCF counselling	15%	85%
<b>Funding status</b>	47%	53%

### Pillar 4

No. of children supported with home-based learning.	67%	33%
No. of schools implementing safe school protocols	0%	100%
No. of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements.	100%	0%
<b>Funding status</b>	25%	75%

## UNICEF Appeal 2020 US\$ 5 million



## Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2020, UNICEF Rwanda has appealed for US\$ 5 million to support the Government of Rwanda's National COVID-19 Response Plan. The current funding gap is US\$ 3,732,500 (75 per cent). Without additional funding, UNICEF will not be able to address the most urgent needs of children and families in Rwanda who are affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

## Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Rwanda's first case of COVID-19 was confirmed on 14 March 2020. As of 15 July, there were 1,435 confirmed cases of whom 752 have recovered. Four deaths have been reported. According to the Ministry of Health, three of the individuals who succumbed to the disease were Rwandan nationals living abroad and returned when they were already in critical condition, while the fourth death was an elderly man with an underlying health condition. All confirmed cases of COVID-19 are being monitored and contacts have been traced.

On 30 June, the Government of Rwanda passed new resolutions which lifted lockdown measures in Rubavu District, with Rusizi District the only district remaining under lockdown. Following an increase in cases in certain areas of Kigali, six villages were identified as hotspots and placed under lockdown. Movements are still restricted between 9:00 pm and 5:00 am. Schools and places of worship remain closed. Borders also remain closed except for transport of commercial goods, although the Government has announced plans to re-open its airports on 1 August.

On 2 July, the Government began drive-through COVID-19 testing, expecting to test around 5,000 people per day throughout the city and at all points of entry into the city. Testing candidates are randomly selected and asked to consent to testing. The test takes five minutes and car occupants are not required to vacate their vehicles. Test results are communicated via SMS or phone call.

On 15 July, the Government passed new resolutions allowing religious services to resume, pending each place of worship receives approval from local authorities. Movement within Rusizi District is also now permitted, but travel to and from is restricted.

UNICEF is supporting the Government of Rwanda to mitigate the secondary effects of COVID-19 on children and families, including in remote learning opportunities for children and training frontline workers in infection prevention and control. With schools set to re-open in September, UNICEF is supporting the Government to prepare schools for students' return.

## Coordination and Partnerships

The COVID-19 response is led by the Rwandan Ministry of Health and Rwanda Biomedical Center. An eight-pillar National COVID-19 Response Plan was developed in March 2020 as follows: i) Leadership and coordination; ii) Epidemiological surveillance; iii) Points of entry; iv) Laboratory; v) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC); vi) Case management; vii) Risk communication and community engagement; and viii) Logistics.

UNICEF, along with other UN agencies and development partners, is working closely with the Ministry of Health and other government entities to implement this plan which has been costed at US\$ 74 million.

Development partners have established COVID-19 technical coordination mechanisms with groups in health, social protection, food security and economics. UNICEF was actively involved in the first three of these groups, co-leading the group on social protection along with DFID. Under the development partner health group, which meets once a week, three sub-working groups have been established in risk communication, case management/IPC, and reproductive and sexual health.

UNICEF leads the sub-group on risk communication and co-leads the case management/IPC group along with WHO. These mechanisms keep development partners informed on COVID-19 response, collect and share feedback for the Government, and coordinate the development partner response to COVID-19.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

During this reporting period, UNICEF has reached 6,000,000 people with COVID-19 messages on prevention and access to services.

UNICEF supported capacity building of 45 health providers from selected health centres on inclusive services for persons with disabilities, focusing on public health outbreaks. About 128 persons with disabilities were trained as trainers in COVID-19/ RCCE to support capacity development of self-help groups and grassroots level organizations of persons with disabilities.

UNICEF continued engaging children at home through children's radio and TV programmes. UNICEF supported development of [12 new children's songs](#) for the *Itetero* radio show, with topics including handwashing with soap and good nutrition. UNICEF continued engaging 32 radio stations in local markets and car parks, especially in Rusizi District where most new COVID-19 cases have been identified.

Following the launch of UNICEF's Child Online Protection Campaign with the Ministry of ICT and Innovation, over 100,000 people were reached with social media messages.

UNICEF led a digital workshop for 25 development partners, national and international NGOs on accountability to affected populations and minimum quality standards for community engagement. With RBC and RHCC, UNICEF also trained 15 staff from its core implementing partner organisation which will implement COVID-19 activities in Mahama Refugee Camp. This training focused on risk communication, rumour tracking, and safety measures for community engagement in the COVID-19 context.

### Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection prevention and control (IPC)

UNICEF has provided one dedicated staff to support the Ministry of Health to develop and roll out WASH/IPC training, as well as two UNICEF staff to support the COVID-19 Command Centre who will increase capacity, planning, coordination, and documentation on IPC within the COVID-19 response. These support staff are also advising on IPC supply management and maintenance of decontamination equipment. UNICEF continues to support the Ministry to prepare a nationwide WASH/IPC training for health care workers. To further support the Command Centre, UNICEF developed and delivered COVID-19 IPC training to 260 Kigali International Airport staff in anticipation of its 1 August reopening, 80 supervisors and staff at major factories, and initiated training for 24 hotel staff at one hotel, soon to be expanded to other hotels.

To prepare for school reopening in September, UNICEF began advising the Ministry of Education on IPC in schools. UNICEF advocated for durable handwashing solutions for school reopening and provided an affordable group handwashing facility design and technical support. The Ministry is finalizing its design for handwashing facilities which will result in all primary and secondary schools in Rwanda having a group hand washing facility. This will minimize tariffs for water flow as children's time spent at handwashing facilities. These group facilities are also low cost and easy to construct, operate and maintain. The handwashing facilities will also enable adequate handwashing for the nationwide school feeding programme.

### Supporting the provision of continued access to essential health care services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health through Rwanda Biomedical Centre and the National Early Childhood Development Programme (NECDP) to develop key messages on infant and young child feeding for children under five. One thousand posters with these messages in the COVID-19 context were distributed to 48 district hospitals, 500 affiliated health centres, and all refugee camps. Government institutions also disseminated some of these messages through social media.

UNICEF advocated with Parliamentarians to engage in radio talk shows as champions for good nutrition practices. During these talk shows, Parliamentarians discussed exclusive breastfeeding and age-appropriate complementary feeding. Six talk shows have aired so far with more planned. During these programmes,

Parliamentarians also advocated with other government institutions to strengthen food security for families with children under five, especially those most vulnerable during COVID-19.

For children with disabilities, UNICEF worked with RBC to integrate nutrition messages for their parents and caregivers into existing training platforms and communication materials. These messages aim to improve childcare skills and feeding practices for children with disabilities, especially during COVID-19.

As COVID-19 is ongoing, UNICEF supported the Government to continue essential nutrition services for families. In a week-long “maternal and child health week” campaign, UNICEF supported RBC to distribute vitamin A and deworming tablets and screen for malnutrition in all 30 districts. The results of this campaign are still being analysed. UNICEF also procured 9,200 boxes of ready-to-use therapeutic milk to treat severe acute malnutrition. UNICEF continued supporting district hospitals and health centres to improve supervision and monitoring of regular nutrition activities, such as growth monitoring and malnutrition screenings for referral and treatment.

### Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence services

UNICEF continues its role as Coordinating Agent of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) grant, supporting the Government of Rwanda in responding to school closures and preparations for school reopening.

UNICEF provided US\$ 42,000 to the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) to support payment of cash transfers for 1,903 households benefitting from the Expanded Public Works scheme, located across four districts in Rwanda.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to develop a multifaceted school reopening plan, which has six broad categories:

- i) Continuity of learning;
- ii) School reopening;
- iii) Teachers and school leaders;
- iv) Health and wellbeing;
- v) Resilience;
- vi) Assessment.

This school reopening plan also maps development partner support and geographical and financial gaps for comprehensive planning.

UNICEF continues to support development of radio and television lessons, as well as production and airing, in partnership with Rwanda Education Board, Rwanda Broadcasting Agency, and a local NGO, Inspire, Educate, and Empower (IEE). Approximately 1,985,000 students from pre-primary through secondary were reached by remote learning opportunities in this reporting period.

For children with disabilities, UNICEF continues to partner with Humanity and Inclusion to ensure remote learning opportunities are available for all students. This includes sign language interpretation of any video content developed and aired on television; printing and distribution of braille learning materials; and outreach to families with children with disabilities for individualised support.

To provide essential child protection information to families, UNICEF supported the National Commission for Children (NCC) to initiate a toll-free hotline. During this reporting period, 42 child protection cases were reported through this hotline. UNICEF also provided financial support to NCC to continue services that can respond to child protection violations, such as providing psychosocial, financial and material assistance to foster carers and families taking in children from institutions. To help continue child protection services, UNICEF provided additional airtime for all 29,674 community-based “Friends of the Family” child protection volunteers.

UNICEF and NCC initiated retroactive discussions to determine and address the needs of 369 children who with disabilities who were sent home from institutional care without proper assessment. So far, 17 assessments have been completed and 65 are ongoing.

With partial relaxation of lockdown measures, many parents have returned to work. However, due to school closures, many children now remain home without adult supervision. While the professional and volunteer social workforce now have increased capability to move and visit families, this remains severely constrained in Rusizi District where lockdown is still enforced.

In Kigali, a coordinated effort to remove children from living and begging on the streets has resulted in large numbers of children identified and placed in transit centres, placing a significant burden on the limited professional workforce to undertake rapid assessments and place children back into families. During this reporting period, UNICEF has supported NCC to place 398 children into family care who were separated from their own families, 358 of whom were living on the streets.

To highlight attention to the risks of child online abuse due to increased screen time during school closures, UNICEF developed and launched a national campaign on child online protection with the Ministry of ICT and Innovation. So far, social media messages for this campaign have reached about 100,000 people.

### Human Interest Stories and External Media

During this reporting period, UNICEF published a [video on remote learning](#) opportunities for children affected by COVID-19 school closures. Two of the radio talk shows with Parliamentarians on [breastfeeding](#) and [complementary feeding](#) are available on the UNICEF YouTube channel.

UNICEF Rwanda Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/>

### Next SitRep: 31 August 2020

Who to contact for further information: Julianna Lindsey  
Representative  
Rwanda Country Office  
Tel: +250 788 302 716  
[jlindsey@unicef.org](mailto:jlindsey@unicef.org)

Nathalie Hamoudi  
Deputy Representative  
Rwanda Country Office  
+250 788 300 717  
[nhamoudi@unicef.org](mailto:nhamoudi@unicef.org)

Rajat Madhok  
Chief of Communication, Advocacy  
and Partnerships  
Rwanda Country Office  
+250 788 301 419  
[rmadhok@unicef.org](mailto:rmadhok@unicef.org)

## Annex A: Summary of Programme Results

Indicators		UNICEF and Partners Reported Results		
		Target 2020	Total Results 15 June	Change since last report ▲ ▼
<b>1. Risk Communication and Community Engagement RCCE)</b>				
1	Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services.	6,000,000	6,000,000	▲ 2,000,000
2	Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	500,000	15,000	▲ 5,000
<b>2. Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection prevention and control (IPC)</b>				
1	Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).	10,000	0	0
2	Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	1,000	132	▲ 132
<b>3. Supporting the provision of continued access to essential health care services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management</b>				
1	Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women.	10,000	0	0
2	Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms.	75,000	11,000	▲ 3,000
<b>4. Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services</b>				
1	Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning.	3,000,000	2,008,095	▲ 25,000
2	Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	3,000	0	0
3	Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements.	450	958	▲ 398

## Annex B: Funding Status

Pillar	Total Requirements	Funds available 2020		Funding gap	
		Funds Received 2020	Carry-Over from 2019	\$	%
1. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)	475,000	130,000	-	345,000	73%
2. Provision of critical medical, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies & improving infection prevention and control	2,425,000	130,000	-	2,295,000	95%
3. Supporting the provision of continued access to essential health care services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management	1,000,000	475,000	-	525,000	53%
4. Access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services	542,500	370,000	-	172,500	32%
5. Data collection and social science research on the secondary impacts on children and women	50,000	30,000	-	20,000	40%
6. Coordination and Operational costs	507,500	132,500	-	375,000	74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>1,267,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,732,500</b>	<b>75%</b>