

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of 23 July 2020, there have been over 16,708 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 14,539 recoveries and 385 deaths (fatality rate: 2.3%). Cases have been reported in all ten regions of the country though the majority remain in Central and Littoral regions. The crisis is accelerating. Since June, the number of cases has more than doubled from 6,752.

UNICEF continues to assist the Government response as the sector co-lead for the Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar, particularly addressing the growing stigma faced by infected persons.

Since March 10, an estimated 18,305,655 persons have been sensitized on COVID-19, 5,302,890 persons engaged for sensitisation activities.

During the reporting period, 224 community volunteers sensitized some 78,900 people on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

Situation in Numbers

 **16,708** COVID-19 confirmed cases

385 deaths

 **5,800,000** Children affected by COVID-19 school closures

 **\$US 24m** required out of which **\$6.8m** received

UNICEF's COVID-19 response¹

Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) and C4D

As end of school year examination sessions continued special focus was still placed on sensitising parents and teachers for the protection of pupils and students.

In the Far North region, 30 'Young Challengers', responsible for decentralized services and specialized outreach within the Ministry of Youth and Physical Education, sensitised 3,600 children and vulnerable young people in the communes of Maroua 1, Maroua 2, Maroua 3, on the prevention of COVID-19 and the stigmatization of those infected and affected. Also, in Far North Region, 224 community networks members continued sensitization in the 8 most populated municipalities (Kaéle, Kousseri, Maroua 1, 2 and 3, Mokolo, Mora and Yagoua) while peer educators continued sensitization of children and young people.

In the North Region, the process of engaging networks of women's organisations and other female community leaders in the prevention of COVID-19 continued including the promotion of positive parenting, IYCF in 21 municipalities.

RCCE rapid assessment data collection to monitor behaviour changes in communities is now completed in all 10 regions. The data collected will help fine-tune communication strategies on the field and also serve as baseline for RCCE next steps.

Since 10 March, over 18,300,000 persons have been sensitized on the COVID-19, 5,300,000 persons engaged for RCCE activities and 546,000 persons have shared their concerns and feedback on the response including through the use of various call centres. Through the call centres people enquire about: masks, handwashing points in community and disinfection of households; potential risks for students and pupils as schools have reopened; are provided more detailed information on the disease (signs, symptoms and complications); treatment available and their costs; self-confinement; the number of cases in their locality and information on the management of corpses.

Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

Through the continuing partnership between UNICEF Cameroon and NGO Community Initiative for Sustainable Development (COMINSUD), the 200 trained community volunteers reached over 108,000 people in North-West Region on COVID-19 prevention, symptoms and infection control in Mezam division (Bamenda I, II and III, Santa, Bali, Bafut and Tubah municipalities).

¹ The update is presented per UNICEF response within the national response framework, per pillar.

Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management

UNICEF supported the Cameroon Baptist Church Health Board (CBCHB) in training 39 persons on infection prevention and control (IPC) and COVID-19 in Ndu Health District (Donga-Mantung Division, North-West Region) on 2 July. This included 14 Chiefs of Centres, 9 communication Focal Persons, 5 Community Health Worker, 5 Nurses, and 6 Social Mobilizers.

UNICEF's continued support to the North-West Region health bureau to conduct the third round of routine immunization through Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization (PIRI) activity in 4 Health Districts (Bamenda, Fundong, Kumbo East and Ndup) from 24 - 26 June 2020 in which special measures were taken to limit COVID-19 risk. A total of 2,375 infants under 11 months old received a catch-up vaccine against preventable diseases, 1,187 children received Measles Rubella2, 1,523 children received Vitamin A supplementation, 477 children received Pentavalent3, 683 pregnant women received missed routine vaccine (Td2+) and 106 pregnant women received catchup for Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT).

Support access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services

In Yaoundé 4 Council, a two-day training (21st-22 July) on Birth Registration for Civil Registration Officers and

Health workers in the COVID-19 context was carried out by BUNEC with support from UNICEF. In North-West and South-West regions, 66 officials of decentralized services of MINPROFF, along with representatives of women's associations and family support groups were trained on positive parenting for the prevention of violence and abuse against children (VAC) in the COVID-19 context. The participants benefited from the distribution of hygienic kits containing buckets with lids, soaps and hydroalcoholic gels. Since June, child protection actors in both regions have reached 6,405 persons with sensitization messages on joint COVID-19 VAC prevention and response. They equally provided community-based psychosocial support to 89 children and adults and 504 persons benefited from Case Management services linked to Covid-19. Similarly, in the East Region, this joint sensitisation approach reached 3,800 children and 105 adults with community-based psychosocial support.

In the West region, UNICEF partner CIPCRE undertook the distribution of protection masks to 30 childcare centres for 828 vulnerable children.

Since the activation of a green line e-mail in mid-June addressed to teachers to help them manage their stress and manage students and colleagues in distress, 22 teachers contacted UNICEF for further PSS advice. UNICEF continued advocating for access to non-formal education content by COVID-19 crisis affected students.

Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

Since January, UNICEF has prepared and implemented a comprehensive C4D approach to stem community transmissions and mitigate both the virus and containment burden alongside the promotion of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), case management, disease surveillance, appropriate feeding, the provision of supplies and logistics, as well as the provision of mental health, psychological and psychosocial support and e-learning tools to support affected children and families. UNICEF co-leads the RCCE national platforms (Government, UN agencies and other key actors), and contribute to the coordination of RCCE plans implementation at central and decentralized levels. UNICEF also supports the national WASH response through coordination, preparedness, prevention and rapid response. In all areas, COVID-19 interventions are being adapted to ongoing UNICEF programs. Since escalation of the crisis in mid-March UNICEF has revised where necessary, its 2020 work plans to reflect needed strategic shifts in both direct and indirect response to the pandemic including do no harm approaches. This has posed a special challenge to critical child survival and protection interventions within both humanitarian and development program domains. In support of this, new partnerships have been developed while existing have been modified. Since the response began, in addition to existing partnership with government and national, regional and sub-regional levels, some 30 new partnership agreements have been signed with Civil Society Organizations.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF has adjusted its 2020 humanitarian funding requirements, reflected in the updated inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), launched on 7 May. The revised HRP includes COVID-19 response requirements in addition to those for conflict-affected and forced-displaced children. Specific UNICEF COVID-19 activities are also included in UNICEF's global COVID-19 HAC appeal, launched on 11 May.

As of 23 July, UNICEF has received a total of US\$ 6,825,885 for COVID-19 response comprising US\$ 2,300,000 from the Government of Japan, US\$ 1,500,000 from the Government of Germany, US\$ 681,900 from DFID-UK, US\$ 500,000 from ECW, US\$ 462,900 from OFDA, US\$ 685,185 from US BPRM, US\$ 74,000 from GPE, US\$ 400,000 from Standard Chartered Bank, US\$ 103,400 from UNICEF France and \$US 118,500 in reprogrammed CERF. Discussions are presently taking place with donors to redeploy funding and find complementary approaches to UNICEF existing humanitarian and development programmes. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for their continuous support.

External Media

UNICEF Press Release: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/covid-19-children-heightened-risk-abuse-neglectexploitation-and-violence-amidst> UNICEF action with CRC <https://www.cameroon-tribune.cm/article.html/32303/fr.html/douala-red-cross-volunteers-serve-people-save>

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Summary of Programme Results

Pillar	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2020 target	Total results*
Risk Communication and Community Engagement		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	21,000,000	18,305,655
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	3,000,000	5,302,890
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	6,000,000	5,919,264
Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services.	500,000	454,503
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	1,000	2,620
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	5,000	2,060
Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management		
Number of children & women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV & GBV* care in UNICEF supported facilities	127,875	30,894
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms	400,000	
Support access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services		
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning.	2,000,000	188,940
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	30,851	7,835
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	200	88
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	10,000	9,496
Social Protection		
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	1,000	

*As of 23 July

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Funding requirements	Funds available	Funding gap \$	Gap %
C4D / RCCE	4,200,000	625,000	3,325,000	79%
WASH & IPC	4,000,000	1,026,732	2,973,268	74%
Nutrition	1,000,000	181,822	818,178	81%
Health	3,500,000	813,020	2,686,980	77%
Child Protection	3,807,500	530,000	3,277,500	86%
Education	4,000,000	949,000	3,051,000	76%
HIV/AIDS	1,000,000	355,000	870,000	65%
Social Inclusion	500,000	320,000	180,000	36%
Monitoring & Evaluation	150,000	0	150,000	100%
Partnership, Advocacy & Communication	250,000	130,000	120,000	48%
Operations support	1,600,000	788,000	624,000	39%
Total	24,007,500	6,825,885	17 181 615	72%

*As of 22 July, allocation per sector is currently ongoing