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for every child

Central African Republic

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Situation Report n°6

HIGHLIGHTS

In the Central African Republic (CAR) COVID-19 confirmed cases continue to increase. As of 30 June, 3,788 cases and 47 deaths have been confirmed out of 24,362 people tested. Local transmission cases have sharply increased and represent 86% of total cases.

In this reporting period results achieved by UNICEF and partners include:

- City water distribution restored in Berberati and Bossangoa covering more than **52,000** people;
- **206** handwashing facilities set up in Bangui, Kemo and Ouham Pende prefectures and along the main road to Cameroon for an estimated **52,300** users per day;
- **44,505** additional children following lessons on the radio;
- **4,043** patients, including **2,025** children under 5 received free essential care;
- **2,016** caregivers sensitized on infant and young child feeding practices;
- **22** children survivors of gender-based violence (GVB) have been identified and assisted;
- **3,085** children and **1,203** community members received psychological support.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As of 30 June, 3,788 COVID-19 cases and 47 deaths have been confirmed out of 24,362 people tested. Local transmission cases have sharply increased and represent 86% of total cases.

198 cases have been reported among United Nations personnel, among them 177 are active, 20 cured and one resulted in death.

According to a projection made by the Ministry of Health and Population 10,000 COVID-19 cases will be registered by the end of July and 16,000 by the end of August (OCHA,2020) Given the weakness of the country's health system, COVID-19 has further aggravated the medical infrastructure situation. The pandemic continues to spread in the country, mostly in the western part, and health structures are struggling to provide the necessary services to the most vulnerable populations.

Situation in Numbers



3,788 COVID-19 confirmed cases*

47 COVID-19 deaths*

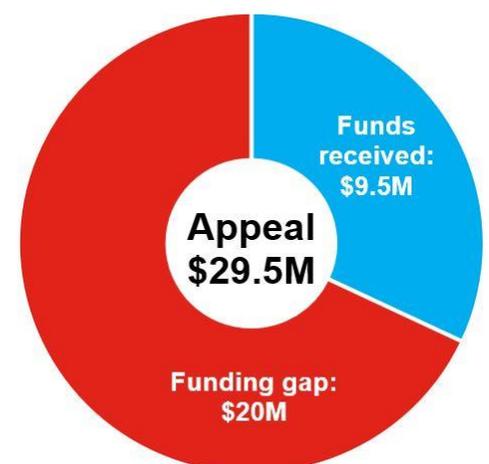
**WHO/MoHP, 30 June 2020*



1.37 million

estimate number of children affected by school closures

UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 Appeal
US\$ 29.5 million



In addition, a sharp economic slowdown is expected. Economic growth is expected to drop by a margin between 3.6 to 5.6 per cent points below its pre-COVID-19 levels. There has been a significant increase in food prices compared to their level since before the partial closure of the border with Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)). Despite improvements in the testing system at the border, important delays in the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods from Cameroun have been reported (OCHA, 2020)

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF, alongside WHO and other actors, has been supporting the CAR's government since the outset of the crisis. Since early March, UNICEF technical staff, have participated in the different technical commissions working on the implementation of the national response plan. UNICEF management continues to be actively involved in the design of the overall strategy, participating in high-level mechanisms chaired by the President (Crisis Committee), the Prime Minister (Technical Committee), and the Health Minister (Strategy and Method Committee).

UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 response plan focuses on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and infection prevention and control (IPC), in particular water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) aspects, but also on ensuring continuous access to healthcare, nutrition services, education, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services, while aiming to mitigate COVID-19's socio-economic impact on the most vulnerable households through cash transfers. It is fully aligned with both the CAR Government's plan and UNICEF's global COVID-19 response plan.

UNICEF continues to lead the WASH, Nutrition, Education Clusters and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster thus ensuring that the needs of children and their mothers are fully considered in the broader CAR humanitarian community's COVID-19 strategy and response.

UNICEF's emergency and humanitarian response to the ongoing CAR crisis fully continues despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding Overview & Partnerships

Despite generous support received from donors to support the COVID-19 response plan, critical funding gaps remain. Funding shortfalls are over 70% in WASH and over 90% in Education while an estimate 1.37 million children are affected by school closures. In addition to the already difficult living conditions resulting from the protracted crisis in CAR, children are experiencing reduced access to essential services. They are also exposed to increasing risks of violence and abuse.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF surveyed 33,000 U-Reporters to better understand how they are seeing/living the impact that school closure is having on their families. The U-Reporters were asked how the closure of schools is perceived, the problems it creates, whether children continue to learn via the lessons broadcast on the radio, the difficulties encountered, as well as some proposals for providing education during this period of school closure. The results will be known in early July and will be used by UNICEF and partners to refine its education response.

To improve the dissemination of correct information and messages through the 1212 Emergency Call Centre led by the MoHP, UNICEF and other members of the RCCE group trained 16 operators on call management.

A short comedy, three new radio spots, eight interactive round table on the importance of wearing a mask were produced by UNICEF partner Radio Ndeke Luka and broadcast across the country.

Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)

During this reporting period, a total of 58,800 people were reached with critical WASH supplies and services.

After several months of water shortage, the national water company Société de Distribution de l'Eau en Centrafrique (SODECA), was able to relaunch water production in Berberati (Mambéré-Kadéï) and Bossangoa (Ouham) thanks to two generators provided by UNICEF. 692 families gained direct access to water at home and 48,500 people had access to water through the public fountains.

In the capital Bangui, especially in the areas where water shortages have been the most acute, UNICEF and its NGO partner ACTED ensured the drilling and equipping of three boreholes with motorized pump, bladder and tap stands serving 6,000 people. In Cantonner (Nana Mambere), UNICEF set up one new borehole with hand pump serving 500 people. All sites are equipped with handwashing stations.

To promote handwashing as a prevention measure, UNICEF and the Direction Generale de Ressources Hydrauliques (DGRH) installed 46 additional handwashing facilities in governmental offices and at water points in Bangui and its suburbs. 14 centers accommodating children survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) were included among the targeted places.

In Dékoa and Mala sub-prefectures (Kemo), UNICEF installed 10 handwashing facilities in health centers. UNICEF and the Agence Nationale de l'Eau de et l'Assainissement (ANEA) installed 70 additional handwashing facilities in the health centers along the main road to Cameroon and 43 in Ouham Pende prefecture.

In total, these 169 handwashing facilities serve an estimated 33,800 users per day. Every handwashing station is provided with two packs of 40 soaps, enough to cover the needs for three months. Users are responsible for management and maintenance of the facilities.

UNICEF and its partners set up 37 additional public handwashing stations serving 18,500 people in critical public places in Bangui and along the axis linking Bouar (Nana-Mambéré) to Cameroon. Targeted places include markets, roundabouts and bus stations. Community health workers have been mobilized to led awareness raising campaigns and manage the handwashing stations.

In partnership with ANEA, UNICEF, carried out COVID-19 sensitizations in Kaga Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi) reaching 1,279 people (729 women and 307 children). In Sibut (Kémo) other 1,304 people, including 468 women and 565 children, have been sensitized.

Continued access to essential Healthcare

During the reporting period, UNICEF and its partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF), in collaboration with the Health Districts of Berberati, Gamboula (Mambéré-Kadéï.) and Bouar trained 60 health workers on case detection and referral, 46 health workers on case management and other 23 staffs on the collection, packaging and transport of COVID-related cases.

Furthermore, UNICEF in partnership with the World Bank provided five central hospitals, two regional hospitals (in Bossangoa and in Bambari- Ouaka), two district hospitals (in Bouar and Paoua- Ouham-Pendé) and the COVID-19 screening center (at the Beloko border crossing with Cameroon), with medical kits for the care of 120,000 people and with kits for deliveries serving 550 women per month for three months.

During the last two weeks of June, UNICEF and partners provided free essential care and prenatal consultations to 4,043 people including 2,025 children under five and 2,018 pregnant women across the country. The most frequent diseases treated among children under five are malaria (40%), acute respiratory infections (24%) and diarrhea (23%). Out of the 2,018 pregnant women who received at least one prenatal consultation, 95% accepted to be tested for HIV, 2% tested positive and were put on antiretroviral treatment.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF and partners sensitized over 44,180 mothers and caregivers on infant and young child feeding practices, including 2,016 during this reporting period

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

UNICEF has been working with the Ministry of Education and its decentralized entities to prepare a plan for the partial reopening of schools, giving priority to grades whose students must sit for examinations at the end of this schoolyear. The partial reopening of schools will concern six prefectures of CAR involving 108,000 students divided as follows: 65,000 from the Bangui Education Districts (Inspection d'Académie - IA) and 43,000 from the Southern IA.

Within this framework, UNICEF, in partnership with the IA in Bambari. conducted a survey to find out the number of students sitting for the national exams.

In Bocaranga (Ouham-Pendé) UNICEF and its partner Cordaid provided four schools with handwashing stations in view of the future resumption of classes involving 20 teachers and 2,640 children.

In the meantime, UNICEF supports continuing learning through radio education programmes and at least 44,505 children followed the lessons broadcast by UNICEF partner radios.

4,288 people, including 1,278 girls and 624 women, were reached door-to-door with UNICEF-supported psychosocial activities and awareness raising activities on COVID-19 child protection concerns. Among them, 684 children (including 95 girls) living or working on the street in Bangui and 184 children at risk (80 girls) such as orphans, child-headed households, children with disabilities or living with old caregivers were reached through case management and monitored by social workers from the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Family and Child Protection and the NGO Triangle.

UNICEF continued to provide support to children affected by COVID-19 left without a care provider, due to the hospitalization or death in Bangui and other prefectures to ensure the access to family tracing and reunification support as well as alternative care arrangements. As part of these efforts out of 22 children identified and documented, 21 have been reunited and one placed in a foster family. Furthermore, 22 cases of GBV were identified and supported.

On 16 June, the celebration of the International Day of the African Child was an opportunity to raise awareness about children's access to friendly justice systems, especially in the context of COVID-19. A key achievement was the signature and promulgation of the Child Protection Code by the CAR President. This code provides substantial protection for children from violence, abuse and exploitation, including in humanitarian situations. UNICEF and partners' support and advocacy were key to the development, finalization, adoption and promulgation of the code.

Supply and Logistic

As part of UNICEF's support to MoHP in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, 5,000 COVID-19 test kits were delivered to the Pasteur Institute in Bangui on 23 June.

UNICEF CAR: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/CAR.html

UNICEF CAR Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR

UNICEF CAR Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNICEFCAR>

UNICEF CAR Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <http://www.unicef.org/appeals/car.htm>

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Annex A: Summary of Response Result Results

	UNICEF and IPs		
	2020 Target (March – Dec20)	Total Results	Change since last report ▲ ▼
RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	2,000,000	2,000,000	0
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms.	9,000	5,847	0
INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	655,000	290,650	79,150 ¹
Number of healthcare facilities reached with (one or more) WASH services and IPC equipment	100	2	0
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	1,654	0	0
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	1,654	124	124
CONTINUITY OF HEALTHCARE*			
Number of children & women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV & GBV* care in UNICEF supported facilities	71,000	47,513	4,043
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms	138,000	44,180	3,952
ACCESS TO CONTINUOUS EDUCATION, CHILD PROTECTION & GBV SERVICES			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	850,000	88,710	44,505
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	300	49	22
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	2,500	12,409	4,288
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for PSEA	120	181	0
SOCIAL PROTECTION			
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	5,000	0	0

* These activities are funded under the pre-existing CAR Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), and not included in UNICEF CAR's COVID-19

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds received/ reallocated/ Confirmed	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)	600,000	560,000	40,000	7%
Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)	16,500,000	4,792,000	11,708,000	71%
Health & Nutrition	3,100,000	1,537,000	1,563,000	50%
Child Protection	1,500,000	970,000	530,000	35%
Education	5,300,000	500,000	4,800,000	91%
Humanitarian Cash Transfer	2,500,000	450,000	2,050,000	82%
Multisector	-	643,000	-	-
Total	29,500,000	9,452,000	20,691,000	68%

¹ Includes 20,350 people reached though interventions reported in the previous sitrep but not counted in the data table.