CHAD COVID-19 Situation Report – #04
[Cumulative update including the period 11 June to 22 July 2020]

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of 22 July 2020, out of the total of 889 confirmed COVID-19 cases registered in Chad (the majority being male aged 25-59 years), five are children. Of these five children, two cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in children under five, and three cases are girls aged 5-14 years.

Since the last reporting period, the COVID-19 epidemic witnessed a temporary levelling-off in newly registered cases, which remain concentrated in the 15 provinces (representing two thirds of the country) previously reported: N’Djamena, Batha, Chari Baguirmi, Ennedi Est, Guéra, Kanem, Lac, Logone Occidental, Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Mayo Kebbi-Est, Moyen-Chari, Ouaddai, Sila, and Wadi-Fira. Nine cases are hospitalized and under treatment, 805 patients have recovered, and 75 deaths are attributable to COVID-19. As of 22 July 2020, a total of 318 out of 320 (99.4 per cent) contacts have been traced and are followed1.

The opening of the N’Djamena international airport announced for the 1st of August and the easing of travel restrictions in-country constitutes a risk. The Government has revised its protocol, which now includes the presentation of a negative COVID-19 test for passengers departing and arriving at the airport2, a seven-day quarantine followed by a COVID-19 RT-PCR laboratory test. It is not sure yet how feasible this will be for travellers arriving by road.

The United Nations agencies continue positioning their assistance in the critical areas of communication, disease surveillance and testing, distribution of health consumables/essential drugs and equipment and capacity building of health personnel and frontline workers for case management and surveillance, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, child protection and continuity of learning. This assistance is in support of the National Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to the Epidemic of Coronavirus COVID-19 (Plan National de contingence pour la préparation et la riposte à l’épidémie de la maladie coronavirus COVID-19) prepared by the Ministry of Health (MoH), with support from the UN and Development Partners.

Key challenges remain, including: procurement on the global market of some health supplies such as laboratory (GeneXpert) reagents remains constrained; limited decentralised surveillance, tracing capacity and case management, isolation of contacts and laboratory testing capacity in the provinces (only four provincial laboratories have been set up so far in Abeche, Sarh, Moundou and Mongo); and need to reinforce land border control.

UNICEF’s COVID-19 response

Health, Nutrition & HIV

In line with the National Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to the Epidemic of Coronavirus COVID-19, UNICEF continues to support the MoH and partners to assess the COVID-19 situation, including as an active member of the epidemiologic surveillance and case management committee. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported the establishment of laboratory testing in four provinces (Logone Occidental, Moyen-Chari, Ouaddai and Guéra) using the GeneXpert system previously set up for HIV testing in newborns of HIV positive mothers.

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1 WHO/MoH Chad, COVID-19 Situation Report No. 120, 21 July 2020.
2 This does not apply for now to travellers at land border crossings.
UNICEF also supported the Government with provision of 35 oxygen kits, 80 hospital beds to strengthen case management capacity in Guéra, Ouaddai, Logone Occidental and Kanem provinces, 10 rental vehicles for the surveillance teams, 30 internet connection kits, 10 laptops and 10 rental vehicles to facilitate data collection and analysis, as well as virtual meetings.

To ensure the continuity of nutrition services, at least one set of MUAC tapes (comprising 50 MUAC tapes each) is being distributed to nutrition units nationwide to enable the screening of malnourished children, with 759 nutrition units in 22 provinces across the country reached thus far. To date, 115,752 SAM cases in children under five have been admitted and treated. In addition, to improve access to quality nutrition care services, to date 483 health workers have been trained on SAM management in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the following provinces: 48 health workers in N'Djamena, 45 in Chari Baguirmi, 110 in Batha, 60 in Salamat, 21 in Borkou, 150 Sila, and 49 in Ennedi Est. In addition, to date 52 community health workers in Ouaddai province benefited from a briefing session on the management of acute malnutrition and IYCF sensitization and 1,533 primary caregivers have received IYCF counselling. Moreover, to date, 4,160 caregivers have been sensitized on COVID-19 prevention measures.

During June and July, UNICEF trained and engaged a number of actors at the community level and in health centres in COVID-19 sensitization. In N’Djamena, 90 HIV counsellors, comprising 40 psychosocial counsellors working in health centres and 50 female community leaders coming from the central and eastern provinces (Ouaddai, Lac, Batha, Kanem, Guéra, Mayo Kebbi Est), have been trained on COVID-19 and PLHIV. In the Logone Occidental and Oriental provinces, 110 people were trained, comprising 50 psychosocial counsellors and 60 female community leaders. In addition, 145 people (comprising 43 community animators, 23 peer educators, 20 female leaders, 13 health staff and 46 community religious and administrative leaders) have been trained in the Health District of Larmanaye in Logone Oriental province. In the province of Moyen Chari, 154 health personnel working in hospitals and health centres of the 5 Health Districts have been trained on COVID-19 and discussions held on the continuity of maternal, newborn and child health and prevention of mother-to-child transmission services.

Furthermore, to ensure service continuity and access to Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) supplies for people living with HIV (PLHIV), the decree signed by the MoH instructing health staff to provide a 3-month supply of ART to PLHIV and AIDS in order to reduce their displacements is under application. Psychosocial support personnel are also authorized to provide ART to PLHIV who are unable to access health facilities. To this end, UNICEF provided logistical and financial support to the MoH in order to supply provincial and Health District pharmacies with the necessary provisions of ART and other commodities.
**WASH**

During this reporting period, UNICEF in collaboration with the MoH continued training on IPC/WASH for an additional 420 health workers and community health workers in five provinces that recorded COVID-19 cases (N'Djamena, Lac, Kanem, Wadi Fira, and Ennedi Ouest). A total of 942 health workers and community health workers have been trained to date. A plan was established with the MoH to cover all other provinces with confirmed COVID-19 cases.

To date, a total of 68,203 people have been reached with critical WASH supplies, of whom 25,031 people (refugees and IDPs) in the Lac and Ouaddai provinces. This includes 16,748 people in Lac province who have benefited from 52 handwashing facilities installed in treatments centres as part of prevention and response against COVID-19. UNICEF has also continued to provide technical assistance to the IPC WASH sub-group, whose lead is ensured by the MoH. On a weekly basis, the sub-group defines the priority actions to be implemented.

**RCCE/C4D**

To date, a total of 6,446,112 people have been reached with COVID-19 messaging on prevention and access to services, including 155,181 people who have shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications through social media platforms and U-report. To ensure effective information, awareness-raising and community engagement around the COVID-19 outbreak in Chad, UNICEF strategy currently includes:

- A comic strip book for children has been produced in French, English and Arabic, and will be printed. The comic book “Lafya, the Girl and the Evil Coronavirus” informs and sensitizes children about the current COVID-19 pandemic, especially regarding ways to protect themselves and others, including hygiene and social distancing measures.

  Additionally, the development of a mobile application is also in the final stages of production.

- Visuals (flyers, posters) on prevention/protection against COVID-19 were developed in French and Arabic. 150,000 copies were printed to be distributed country wide. Translation into four local languages has been done, and the language-specific posters have been finalized for use in the provinces.

- 10,000 posters have been displayed all over N’Djamena, in collaboration with the Scouts and Guides. 12 square meter posters are currently being printed to be displayed on 24 billboards all over the capital.

- A child-friendly version of the posters has been produced, and 133,000 copies have been printed and are under distribution.

- Together with local artists, seven one-minute clips about hand washing, physical distancing, and the negative impact of rumours have been recorded in different languages and broadcast on national and local radios and TV stations. An agreement has been signed with 23 local radio stations to start broadcasting spots in local languages on COVID-19 protection. 25-minute informative programmes are being produced with specialists from the Government, UN and local partners to inform the population on COVID-19 and to answer questions from listeners. To date, 4,194 spots and microprogrammes have been aired.

- A child-friendly radio soap opera was developed in collaboration with a local theatre group and is currently broadcast on radio stations country-wide.

- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 121 COVID-19 specific social media posts have been published on the UNICEF Chad Facebook, Twitter and other platforms. The messages range from tips, visuals, videos and content specially created for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The reach of the social media platforms has increased by more than 10 per cent since the start of the outbreak, bringing the number of social media followers to almost 110,000. The number of Facebook followers has risen from 74,177 to 86,700, Twitter from 9,963 to 10,698 and LinkedIn from 1,269 to 3,990.

- U-Report (an SMS-based interactive information platform for youth, free of charge) is currently entirely devoted to COVID-19 and is a platform for lively exchanges and questions. To date, 98,611 consultations have been conducted using U-Report, through its dedicated Info-center “CORONA” using the U-Report national number ‘1301’. An additional 15,959 social media users have also raised questions and sought clarification on available COVID-19 support services.

- A video clip promoting the use of U-Report in the fight against COVID-19 is currently being broadcast on national TV and social media.
• UNICEF, through its Zonal Offices and in collaboration with the Provincial Health Delegations, is supporting the finalization of provincial communication plans developed by local authorities. In total, some 13,000 community relays, traditional and religious leaders and health workers will be trained in COVID-19 preventive measures and warning systems in N'Djamena and in all provinces nationwide.

• In a joint effort of all UN agencies, 100 journalists and 216 community relays in N'Djamena were trained on COVID-19 communication.

• Specific messages on nutrition (continuity of exclusive breastfeeding even in the case of COVID-19 infection) and child protection have been developed and will be integrated in the overall COVID-19 messaging. 5,000 posters were printed for distribution in health centres nationwide.

UNICEF is also preparing to procure 5,349 additional handwashing kits, 210 water points, and 50 sanitation facilities for about 398,000 children in the provinces of Lac, Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Kanem and Wadi Fira. The handwashing kits will be made available to students as of October 2020.

**Child Protection**

UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Women and Child Protection in the protection of vulnerable children living and working in the streets, as well as separated and unaccompanied children placed in temporary centers, and has focused on ensuring that the most vulnerable have access to key information on COVID-19 preventive measures.

With regards to communication activities and partnership with the local radio stations, UNICEF produced 3 microprograms on parental responsibility during the COVID-19 period. These are being broadcasted in three languages on the antennas of five partner radio stations and have made it possible to reach 80 per cent (i.e. 872,000 people) of the total audience of FM Liberté radio of 1,090,000 people (audience estimated according to a 2017 survey).

To date, UNICEF, Government counterparts and partners in various provinces across Chad have sensitized a total of 49,773 vulnerable children and adults on child protection key messages and COVID-19 preventive measures. Of these, during this reporting period, a total of 10,306 persons including 3,675 persons in Guéra; 5,143 in Ouaddai; 1,149 (635 men, 365 women, 149 children) in Borkou; 339 (16 men, 53 women, 254 boys and 16 girls) in N'Djamena were reached with information messages on child protection and COVID-19 preventive measures.

**Education**

To ensure continuity of education services during school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF has supported the MoE in the transition to distance learning, with TV and radio sessions aired in languages and mathematics. To date, an estimated 114,258 children nationwide have been accessing distance learning. UNICEF is partnering with a national NGO to work on distance learning programmes, and the two organizations have submitted a proposal for final approval by the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Secretariat.

In addition, UNICEF has provided 110,000 posters on COVID-19 prevention measures for primary and secondary schools to the MoE, which were distributed nationwide in July during several field missions conducted by the Ministry. UNICEF also procured 2,000 handwashing kits which will benefit 100,000 children in N'Djamena and six provinces (Wadi Fira, Lac, Ouaddai, Kanem, Guéra and Logone Occidental) in the last grades of both junior secondary and higher secondary.
In order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 within the provision of psychosocial support services, UNICEF partners and Provincial Delegations for Social Action (DPAS) have adopted innovative outreach and delivery strategies, including reinforcing the mobile Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) approach.

Additionally, to date, a total of 465 unaccompanied and separated children have benefited from family reunification and alternative care measures. Of these, during this reporting period, 70 muhajirine children in Lac were reunified with their families by NGO partner APSELPA with UNICEF support. Throughout the process, these children benefited from a package of services including accommodation; access to food/meals and awareness raising on child protection and COVID-19 preventive measures.

**Access to continuous social protection services**

UNICEF is among the UN agencies currently contributing to the socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19, in support of the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning. In addition, UNICEF has supported the finalization of a multi-sectoral strategy developed by UN agencies in support of the Government’s response to the COVID-19 crisis.

A cash transfer programme including risk communication, water, hygiene, and sanitation and IPC/WASH interventions has been designed jointly with an NGO partner and aims to assist poor households in urban and peri-urban areas of N'Djamena affected by COVID-19 (expected to cover 8,538 households) as part of the UNICEF response. Its implementing is conditional on availability of much-needed donor support.

**Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes**

UNICEF maintains its current support to the Government for the regular programme. UNICEF supports the continuity of all routine health and nutrition services for the most vulnerable children and women, including routine preventive services such as immunization, antenatal and postnatal care and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT); and routine outpatient consultations including for non COVID-19 common diseases. UNICEF supports the MoH with the training of health care providers and community health workers in IPC, ensuring communication for the promotion of good practices in health facilities and communities to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and supplying basic hygiene equipment.

Some management protocols have been and continue to be adjusted to include COVID-19 issues (immunization, infant and young child feeding (IYCF), PMTCT, maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), community-based disease surveillance). The protocol for the management of severe acute malnutrition has been revised and reorganized to avoid further spread of the COVID-19 virus within nutrition units. To this end, front-line health staff were instructed to use only MUAC test strips and bilateral pitting edemas as admission and discharge criteria and children are asked to attend therapeutic nutrition units fortnightly, while health staff are being equipped with protective materials to ensure the safe continuity of services. In addition, the country is moving towards the provision of MUAC tapes to mothers instead of the mass screening previously carried out by community health workers.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, all UNICEF partnerships with NGOs implementing WASH interventions under the regular programme systematically ensure the sensitization of beneficiary populations on COVID-19 prevention measures as well as the provision of WASH kits. Moreover, due to the recent expansion of the COVID-19 pandemic in various provinces nation-wide, UNICEF has prepositioned WASH supplies in the four UNICEF Zonal Offices, which will be prioritized for health centers to support vulnerable populations in the affected areas.

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*Children in an orphanage in the city of N’Djamena receive key messages on COVID-19 preventive measures*

To date, a total of 1,403 children and women have been reached with psychosocial support in CFS by DPAS and Childhood Direction (DE) with UNICEF support. Beneficiaries reached in July include 80 muhajirines, or children separated from their parents in order to study the Quran, in Lac Province; 284 children and women in Mongo (Guéra), 255 children in N’Djamena; 215 children in Moundou (Logone Occidental) and 5 juveniles incarcerated in Abéché (Ouaddai) prison.
In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, psychosocial activities provided to children within CFS have been remodeled to mobile settings. This mobile approach brings psychosocial support services closer to children while ensuring that facilitators conduct individualized activities with children respecting physical distancing. UNICEF has therefore supported the revision of the guidelines for psychosocial support to vulnerable children, with focus on ensuring physical distancing and organizing smaller support groups, as well as ensuring that CFS are equipped with WASH kits and PPE for social workers and facilitators.

To adapt its interventions as schools have been closed since March 2020, UNICEF has partnered with the national NGO TECHNIDDEV, in support of the MoE, to provide students with distance education in order to help students at intermediate and secondary levels maintain contact with the school and complete educational programmes in basic scientific and literary subjects. With a pool of teachers, pedagogues, communicators and ICT specialists, the NGO TECHNIDDEV is producing and broadcasting teaching content to students via radio and television, with UNICEF support. Through mobile telephone and social networks, students will be able to have dynamic interactions with teachers to ensure a deeper understanding of lessons. The use of broad-spectrum communication channels will ensure national coverage in all 23 provinces of the country. UNICEF is assisting the MoE to prepare schools and classrooms for the school reopening in September, with focus on WASH kits and physical distance measures. Discussions are also ongoing with the MoE to prioritize WASH in Schools activities planned under the regular programme.

The planned C4D and youth engagement training workshops on community engagement and participation have been postponed and replaced by specific trainings, workshops and advocacy activities on COVID-19 prevention. The partnerships with media, local radio stations and other public services have also been temporarily reoriented towards COVID-19 messaging, including information on combating fake news, rumours, traditional beliefs and stigmatization.

Policy work on the revision of the National Social Protection Strategy is ongoing, integrating a stronger focus on shock-responsive social protection, including shock due to the COVID-19 pandemic and expansion of social protection coverage for children. In order to reinforce the social protection system and capacities, a training in shock responsive social protection is planned for key partners in the Ouaddai, Sila and Wadi Fira provinces. Some funding for planned activities is reoriented to provide technical support to an evaluation of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and to finance cash transfer programmes to vulnerable families with children.

**Funding Overview and Partnerships**

- **UNICEF requires US$ 13.1 million to meet the growing demand for critical needs and scale up the response to the COVID-19 virus outbreak.**

- **As of 22 July, UNICEF has received US$ 4.9 million thanks to generous contributions by ECHO, CERF, USA, World Bank and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). Additional support is received through the global thematic humanitarian funds from various donors provided to the COVID-19 Humanitarian Action Thematic Pool.**

- **UNICEF is in discussion with partners to secure additional funding through new allocations or reprogramming. UNICEF thanks partners for flexible and timely funding to support an effective and efficient COVID-19 response in Chad.**

**External Communication**

UNICEF has aligned with global campaigns on COVID-19 and has been disseminating information through its social network ([Twitter](https://twitter.com), [Facebook](https://facebook.com), [Instagram](https://instagram.com)).

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## Annex A

### Summary of Programme Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF and IPs Response</th>
<th>2020 target</th>
<th>Total results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,770,206</td>
<td>6,446,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,080</td>
<td>2,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms</td>
<td></td>
<td>138,723</td>
<td>155,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WASH and IPC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td></td>
<td>735,275</td>
<td>68,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,603</td>
<td>1,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women</td>
<td></td>
<td>384</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nutrition</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms</td>
<td></td>
<td>235,752</td>
<td>1,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition</td>
<td></td>
<td>414,301</td>
<td>115,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning</td>
<td></td>
<td>805,594</td>
<td>114,258</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection and GBV</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>1,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of UNICEF personnel &amp; partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation &amp; referrals for survivors, including for PSEA</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social Protection</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,494</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Annex B

### Funding Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Funding requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap $</th>
<th>Gap %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication &amp; Hygiene</td>
<td>1,652,185</td>
<td>1,310,265</td>
<td>341,920</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>3,450,907</td>
<td>1,690,463</td>
<td>1,760,444</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>2,376,444</td>
<td>696,405</td>
<td>1,680,039</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>2,388,831</td>
<td>848,631</td>
<td>1,540,200</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>998,250</td>
<td>249,425</td>
<td>748,825</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,579,416</td>
<td>74,900</td>
<td>1,504,516</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash-based Transfers</td>
<td>702,179</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>702,179</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,148,212</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,870,089</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,278,123</strong></td>
<td><strong>63%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
