



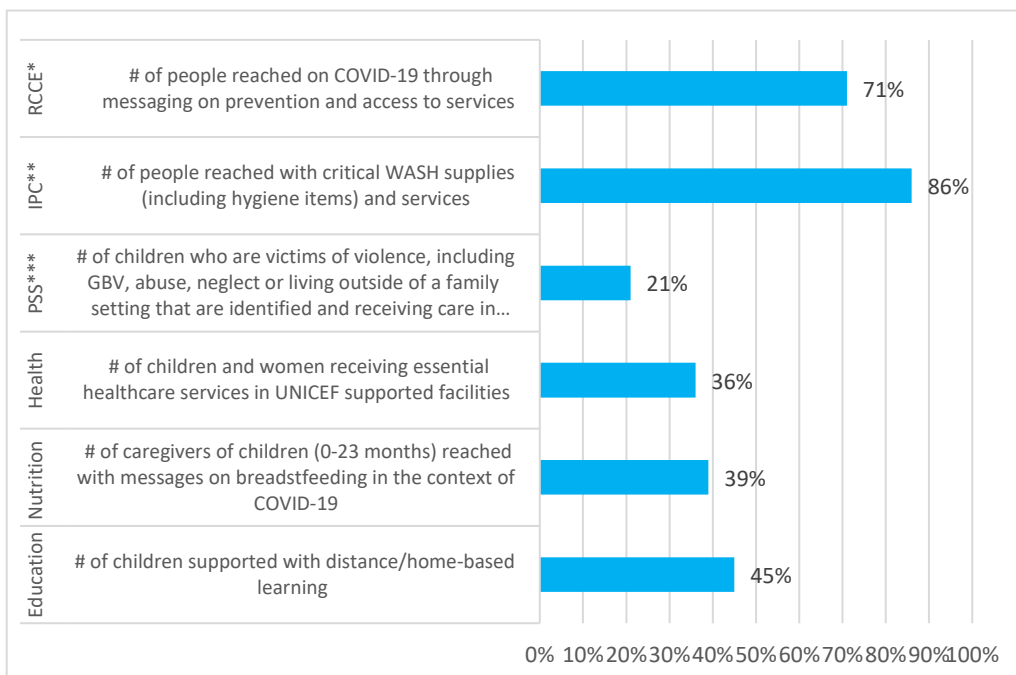
unicef 
for every child

COVID-19
Situation Report #13
23 July-12 August 2020

Highlights

- **6.9 million children** have access to distance learning thanks to partnerships with 327 radio stations and 25 TV channels
- **More than 950,000 community masks** distributed
- **30 million people** reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19 through mass media channels
- **40,578 calls** managed by the COVID-19 Hotline (23 Jul – 12 Aug)
- **30,210 people** (including 7,214 children) affected by COVID-19 and **3,552 frontline workers** provided with **psychosocial support** since the beginning of the epidemic

UNICEF's COVID-19 Response



* Risk Communication and Community Engagement
** Infection Prevention and Control
*** Child Protection and Psychosocial Support

COVID-19 overview

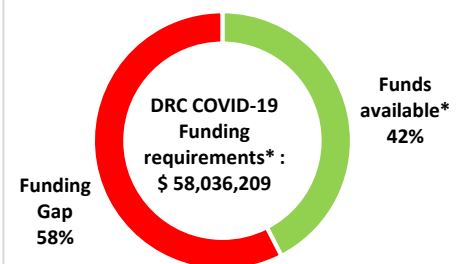
(as of 12 August 2020)



2.35% Fatality Rate

Kinshasa recorded 85% (7,780) of all confirmed cases. Other affected provinces including # of cases are: North Kivu (472) South Kivu (295) Ituri (73) Kongo Central (424) Haut Katanga (260) Kwilu (6) Kwango (1) Haut Lomami (1) Lualaba (88) Tshopo (26) Haut Uele (39) North Ubangi (6) South Ubangi (5) Equateur (5) Kasai (1) Kasai Central (1)

DRC COVID-19 Response Funding Status

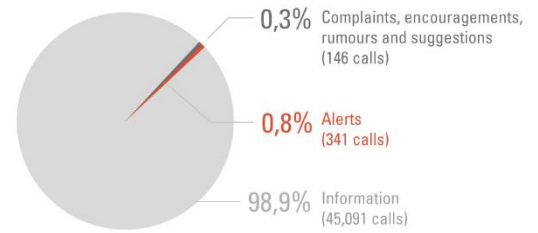


*Funds available include 9 million USD UNICEF regular resources allocated by the office for first response needs.



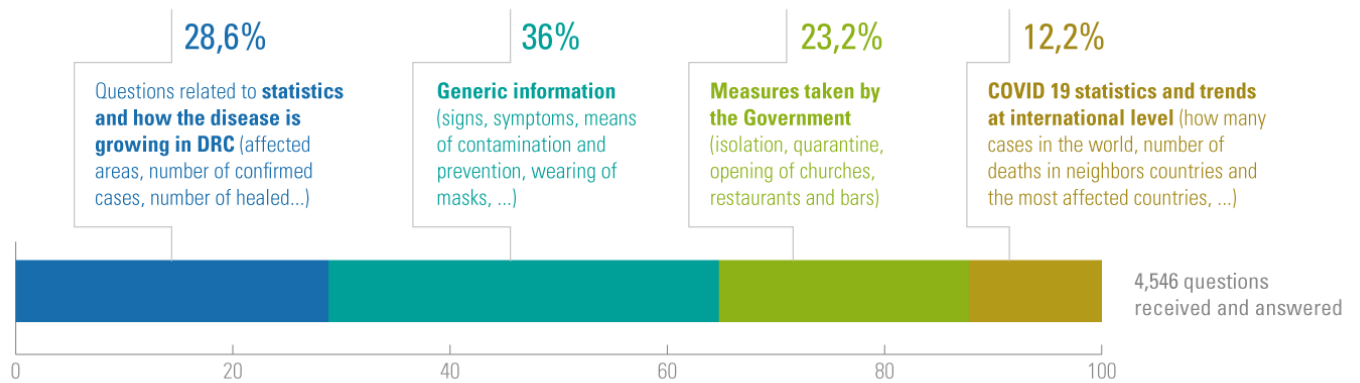
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

1) COVID-19 Hotline: During the reporting period, the COVID-19 hotline successfully managed 45,578 calls, which is equivalent to an average of 3,039 calls per day. The majority of the calls are from individuals requesting general information on COVID-19 (98.9%).

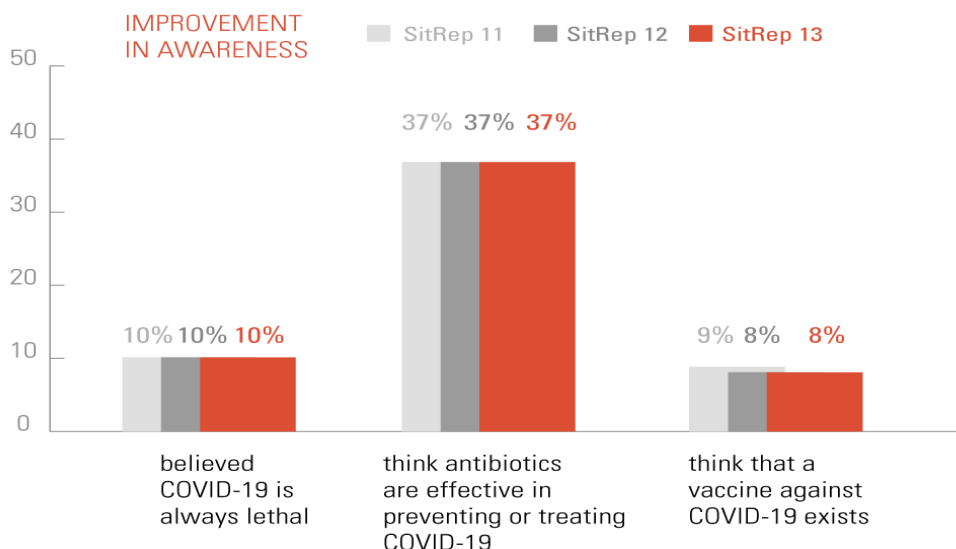


2) U-Report platform

- **Through its automated bot:** 2,427 people asked and received appropriate information on COVID-19 statistics, symptoms, spread mechanism, how to protect themselves and how to protect others, and myths.
- **Through its SMS center:** 4,546 questions were received and answered. Over half of questions were about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and how to protect oneself from the disease. 28.6% of the questions were about the progression of the epidemic in DRC and in the rest of the world, and the measures taken by the government.



- **Through the COVID-19 quiz:** Compared to the results of the previous quiz, there was no significant change in awareness about COVID-19. For instance, 10% of people believed that COVID-19 is always lethal, against the same percentage in the previous quiz, 37% believed that antibiotics are effective in preventing or treating COVID-19 against the same percentage in the previous SitRep, and 9% think that a vaccine against COVID-19 exists, compared to 8% in the previous SitRep.



3) Mass media communication: 359 radio stations and 65 TV channels have broadcast messages on COVID-19 in the 15 affected provinces. 30 million people were reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19 through mass media channels. 70 media professionals were trained on prevention measures against COVID-19.

Highlights from the provinces

In the 17 affected provinces, 4,217 people were trained on COVID-19 prevention measures by UNICEF and its partners. Those trained have in turn raised awareness of people about COVID-19 in 18 provinces of DRC, reaching 968,290 people and reporting 130 suspicious cases.

In Haut Katanga, Haut Lomami and Lualaba provinces, 18 additional local radio stations have signed a partnership agreement with UNICEF to broadcast messages and programmes related to COVID-19, which brings to 41 the total number of local stations under partnership with UNICEF in these 3 provinces. 206,500 leaflets were distributed to households, in markets and at bus stations.

In North Kivu, UNICEF trained 200 local facilitators who in turn trained members of Community Engagement Committees on COVID-19 prevention measures. UNICEF also trained 145 people from local associations and 128 heads of avenues and neighborhoods in Butembo with a view to strengthen community-based surveillance.

In Tanganyika, UNICEF helped organise 30 focus groups in different communities to gather knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to the COVID-19 response by community members.

In Tshopo and Bas Uele, UNICEF in collaboration with the DRC's Red Cross collected feedbacks on community rumors on COVID-19 and raised the awareness on COVID-19 prevention of 8,122 people in 1,481 households in 5 Health Zones of Kisangani and the Bafwasende Health Zone in Tshopo.

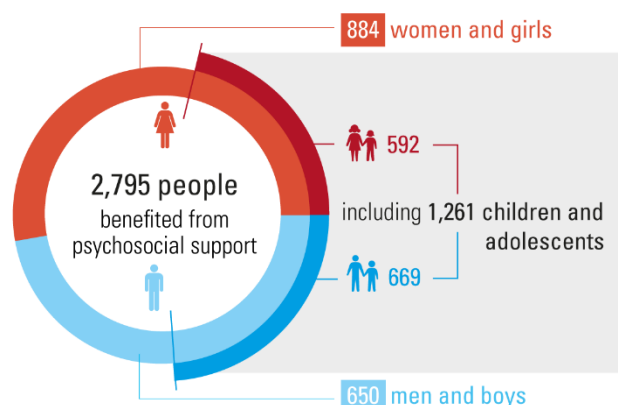
In Ituri, 5,206 Community Relays and members of the Community Engagement Committees held dialogue sessions in the communities of the Health Zones of Bunia, Rwampara, ARU, Mahagi and Mambasa. 112,686 people were reached with the messages recalling the importance of adapting prevention measures against COVID-19 (social distancing, wearing of masks, etc.).



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

During the reporting period, an increased number of adults and particularly children benefited from psychosocial support provided by UNICEF and the Psychosocial Commission:

- 2,795 people including 1,534 adults (884 women) and 1,261 children (592 girls) received a psychosocial support as part of the COVID-19 response.
- 295 frontline medical staffs and caregivers also received psychosocial support to cope with the negative impact they may face during their professional activities.



295 medical staffs and caregivers



Since the beginning of the response to COVID-19, 30,210 people (22,996 adults and 7,214 children) and 3,552 frontline medical staff (1,841 men and 1,711 women) have received a psychosocial support.

During the reporting period, 135 children (including 23 girls) were released from detention centres and unified with their families as a result of the close follow-up and individualised support provided by social workers.

Social workers continue to support victims of sexual violence, monitor and document alerts related to sexual violence in different territories and support victims to access medical treatment. 419 children (including 285 girls) victims of violence including gender-based violence received individualized support bringing the total to 2,139 children (including 1,672 girls) since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse were made available to 1,606 people during the reporting period.

Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa, out of 269 people (including 135 girls) identified by social workers, 52 households received a combination of food support, hygiene and infant kits. 12 children (7 orphans and 5 street children) were received by transitional reception centres. The emergency reception centres in Bandalungwa and N'djili hosted 38 children (including 8 girls) and 35 children (including 6 girls) respectively. In addition, 2 new training sessions on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) were given to 50 members (including 13 women) of the Psychosocial Commission.

In Kwilu, 476 children (including 242 girls) directly affected by COVID-19 received emotional or psychosocial support through individualised case management by social workers. In Ituri, para social workers deployed to the displacement sites in Bunia carried out COVID-19 awareness-raising activities targeting children. In Kisangani, 15 psychoeducation sessions were conducted for 35 people (including 8 men, 15 women and 12 children). In Kasai-Central, 15 community actors and social workers (including 4 women) were briefed on their role in providing psychosocial support and on child protection and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse during COVID-19.



Health and Nutrition

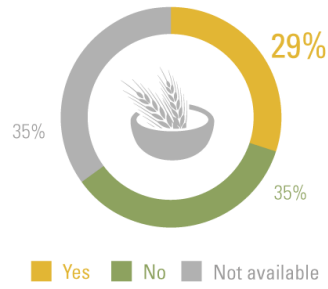
UNICEF continues to work with institutional and not-for-profit partners to ensure the continuity of services for children and women, namely immunization, neonatal, child and maternal care services in the context of COVID-19. Some of the results achieved in this area include:

- 92,167 pregnant women out of 139,799 targeted (65.9% coverage) were assisted by trained providers during delivery;
- 534,56 children under 5 out of 825,688 children targeted (64.7% coverage) are being cared for malaria, acute respiratory infection and against all form of diarrhea;
- 665,040 children under one year of age out of a target of 1,810,852 (36.7% coverage) have received their third dose of Pentavalent 3 vaccines during vaccination sessions organised at the level of Health Zones.

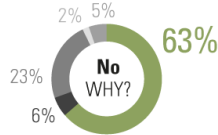
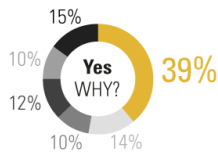
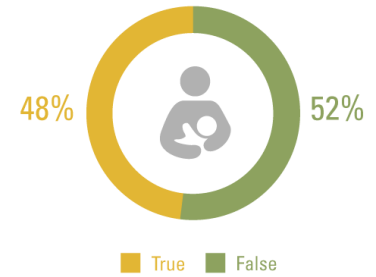
Through the U Report platform, UNICEF conducted a survey to evaluate the perception of households on the causes of change in the diet of children aged 6 to 59 months during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approximately 6,500 people participated in the survey and the results show that nearly a quarter of children under 5 do not eat healthily during the COVID-19 pandemic. Children are fed any type of food that is available at home because of the increase in food prices and lack of financial resources observed in more than 60% of households. More than half of households do not consider the wearing masks and hand washing as measures to safely breastfeed children under 6 months of age.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, do you think your children (6-59 months) are eating healthy?



A woman sick with COVID-19 can keep breastfeeding her baby if she wears mask and washes her hands



- They eat 3 meals a day (no matter the variety)
- They eat 3 meals+2 snacks
- They eat fruits+vegetables
- They eat meat+milk products+fruits+vegetables
- They eat enriched soup
- Other reasons
- I don't have money
- Food is not available
- Prices are increased
- They are sick (not with COVID-19)
- Other reasons

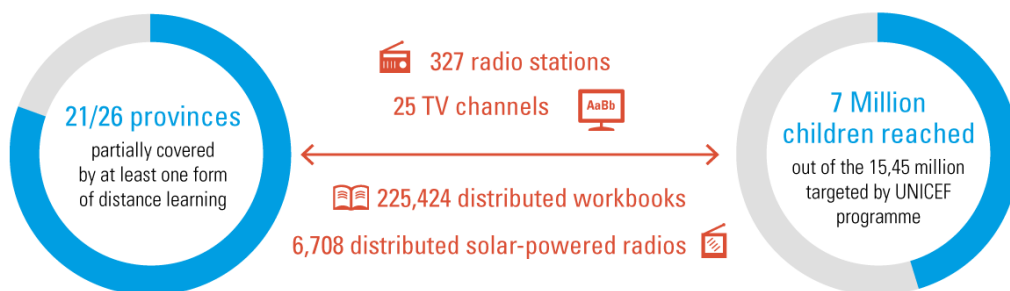
Highlights from the provinces

In South Kivu, UNICEF is supporting partners to strengthen maternal and child health in 19 Health Areas of the Bunyikiri Health Zone, carrying out the training of 69 health care providers on maternal nutrition and hemoglobin testing among women of reproductive age during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Bas- Uélé, UNICEF supported in the briefing of 59 front-line service providers on COVID-19.



Education

21 out of 26 provinces are partially covered by at least one form of distance education through 327 radio stations and 25 television channels, reaching 6,970,762 million children and adolescents. So far, 225,424 workbooks were distributed in 11 provinces, and 6,708 solar-powered radios were distributed to children of vulnerable households in 17 provinces to allow them to follow distance learning classes.





Supply and Logistics

On 7 August 2020, a fire broke out at UNICEF's warehouse in Kinshasa destroying a large stock of materials and equipment for vulnerable children and communities in the DRC. Fortunately, the fire did not affect UNICEF's main office. However, the warehouse, materials and equipment were destroyed. The fire mainly impacted UNICEF's nutrition program in the western part of the country and some of the COVID-19 response activities. UNICEF is fully committed to replace the lost equipment as soon as possible in order to continue the activities for children.



Social Science Analysis

The Social Sciences Analytics Cell (CASS) continue work together with partners from the Ministry of Health, Bluesquare, Antwerp Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) and Kinshasa School of Public Health (KSPH) on a **longitudinal study which looks at secondary impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak and response interventions on community health including access, availability and use of health services**. The study including methodology, presentations and results for both Kinshasa and Goma are available [online here](#). Results are published each 6 weeks. Key study results from Kinshasa Phase II (data collected in June) are the following:

- Healthcare workers feel less exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace and consider the risk of infection to be significantly lower than last month due to improved IPC equipment and training;
- Perception that general consultations have increased but has decreased for services that are not considered "urgent" (e.g. treatment of chronic diseases and family planning). This trend is being monitored closely to compare with health data from the Ministry of Health and private facilities and will be made available in Phase III;
- Financial hardship continues to limit access to health care for parents and children, disproportionately affecting women;
- After financial burden caused by the Public Health and Social Measures (PHSM), fear of nosocomial infection and the risk of quarantine were reported as the main factors delaying access to health care, despite the perception of a reduced risk of COVID-19 infection in communities;
- Perceived increased risk to the sexual safety and reproductive health of women and adolescent girls affected by school closures and PHSM (including reports of underage pregnancies, and women presenting with complications from clandestine abortions).

The full list of CASS studies and resources, is available [here](#).



Funding Overview

UNICEF estimates that US\$ 58 million is required for an immediate response within its areas of responsibility. UNICEF has advanced US\$ 9 million from its own resources to meet critical needs until additional funding is secured. As of 12 August 2020, UNICEF has received \$24,6 million (42% of total needs) thanks to GAVI, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), The Republic of Malta, The Solidarity Response Fund, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, The Government of Japan, The Government of Canada, The Government of the United Kingdom, The Government of Germany and The World Bank Group. Advanced discussions are ongoing with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding that can be allocated quickly to where funds are needed most. The UNICEF Representative in DRC has also appealed for in-kind donations.



UNICEF's "Masks Made in DRC" initiative

Through the "Masks made in DRC" initiative, UNICEF has commissioned some NGOs and women's associations to manufacture locally one million reusable non-medical protective masks for children and adults. The enthusiasm for the production and the needs of these masks has prompted UNICEF to increase production 2 million masks. 950,455 masks have already been produced and 760,766 masks have been distributed to the most disadvantaged communities in the provinces most affected by COVID-19. 423,000 masks will be distributed to primary and secondary teachers for them to use when the school term will begin next month.



External Media

1) SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the communication team posted more than 620 messages on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) – reaching more than 140 million people. New multimedia material was uploaded on [WeShare](#).

2) SELECTION OF COVID-19 RELATED PRESS COVERAGE MENTIONING UNICEF

- [Covid-19: l'UNICEF octroie au gouvernement 470 000 USD pour freiner la contamination de la maladie au Kasai](#)
- [RDC : L'apport financier de l'Unicef dans la lutte contre la covid-19 au Kasai](#)
- [Éducation : la Fondation Denise Nyakru et l'UNICEF déterminés à soutenir les enfants démunis à la prochaine rentrée scolaire](#)
- [Covid-19 au Bas-Uélé : l'UNICEF organise une formation des cadres de la division provinciale de la santé](#)

UNICEF Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global Appeal:

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19/donate>

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Annex A: Summary of Response Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response		
	Target	Total result (cumulative)	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	40,000,000	28,765,349	▲ 3%
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanism.	1,000,000	637,990	▲ 13%
Number of influencers engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	10,000,000 *	304,265	▲ 83%

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	2,142,790	1,851,640	0%
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPE	9,643	1,338	0%
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in IPC	9,643	7,793	0%
Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services	357	261	0%
Child Protection and Psychosocial Support			
Number of children who are victims of violence, including GBV, abuse, neglect or living outside of a family setting that are identified and receiving care in areas affected by COVID-19	10,500	2,178	▲ 26%
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	169,000	33,762	▲ 23%
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	152,643	29,450	▲ 14%
Health			
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities	2,776,339 *	1,234,364	0%
Nutrition			
Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19	412,365	161,862	0%
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	54,061	20,317	0%
Education			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	15,450,000	6,970,762	▲ 2%
Number of distributed educational homework booklets to ensure continuity of children and adolescent's learning	2,500,000	365,485	▲ 52%

* Targets were adjusted since last SitRep