

Highlights

- **More than 17 million (42% of target) people** reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19.
- **Increased the target for « mask made in DRC initiative » to 1.4 million;** already 1 million masks are ordered, and more than 200,000 masks are delivered
- **In partnership with 237 radio stations and 14 television channels for the distance learning**
- **123,791 calls** through the COVID-19 Hotline in the last 2 weeks reaching a total of 387,529 calls
- 427 COVID-19 patients, 117 frontline caregivers and 173 children affected by COVID-19 provided with **psychosocial support.**
- 131,587 children **vaccinated against measles** in North Kivu.

COVID-19 overview

13 May 2020

- **1,242** confirmed cases
- **50** deaths
- **157** people recovered
- **331** cases under investigation
- **4.5%** Fatality Rate
- **192 new samples tested**

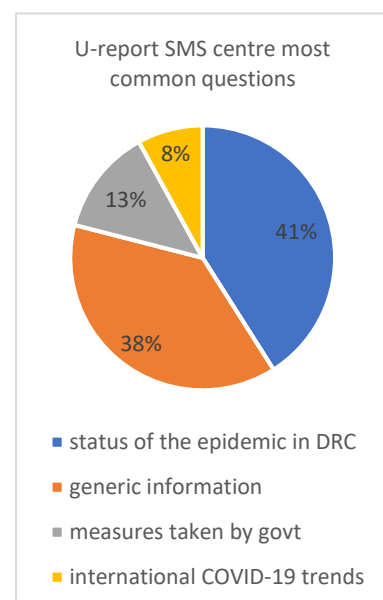
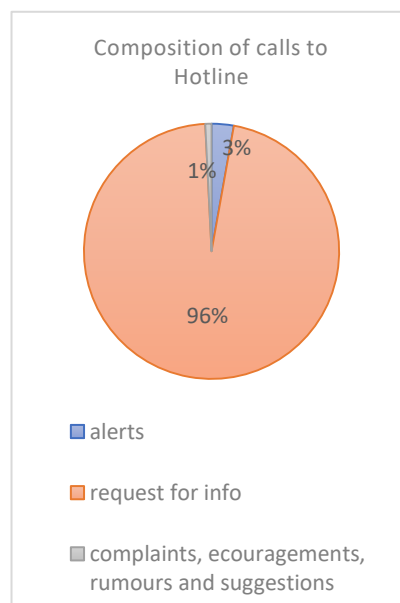
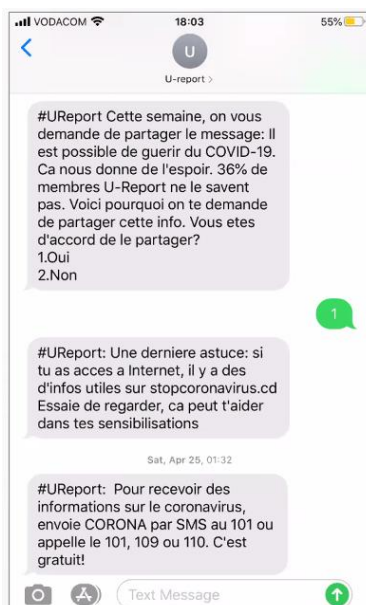
Kinshasa remains the epicenter of the epidemic, with more than 93% (1,162/1,242) of all confirmed cases. Other affected provinces including # of cases are: **North Kivu (8) South Kivu (4) Ituri (2) Kongo Central (55) Haut Katanga (10) and Kwilu (1)**

UNICEF's COVID-19 Response

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

1) COVID-19 Hotline: The COVID-19 hotline received 123,791 calls, out of which 20% were successfully managed. 961 calls were potential medical alerts and 23,933 were requesting general information, giving complaints and encouragements, etc. Rumors and suggestions have been collected and analyzed to help guide the overall communication strategy.

2) U-Report platform: through its automated bot: 21,591 people asked and received appropriate information on COVID-19 statistics, symptoms, spread mechanism, how to protect yourself and how to protect others, and myths.



Through its SMS center: 4,986 people received an answer to their questions. Over 41% of the questions were related to statistics and how COVID-19 is spreading in DRC (affected areas, number of confirmed cases, number of people recovered...) and 38% of questions were about generic information (signs, symptoms, modes of transmission, prevention, wearing of masks...).

Through sending key messages: 118,234 people received at least one key message. Key messages shared are: "Coronavirus is not always deadly"; "The best way to protect yourself and other is to respect the prevention measures", "Staying informed can help you or your family members. Call the 101, 109 or 110 to get appropriate information on COVID-19, send an alert or receive medical assistance".

Through agents of change: 1,766 Agents of Change shared one vital information received from the U-Report with at least three people. 921 Agents of Change agreed to share as information that COVID-19 is not always deadly. This strategy aims to enrol community members as Agents of Change and share information with their relatives and friends, and promote good practices.

3) Mass media Communication

271 radio stations and 55 TV channels broadcast messages on COVID-19 in the 7 most affected provinces (Kinshasa, North Kivu, South Kivu, Kwilu, Kongo Central, Haut-Katanga and Ituri). Some 20 million people were reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19.

Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa and other most affected provinces: The training of Community Relays and local influencers on COVID-19 prevention measures continued in the last 2 weeks and contributed to raising awareness of the population. Awareness is raised in four main local languages. In addition, The Community Engagement Committees in North Kivu were briefed on community-based surveillance and 600 alerts have been relayed to government.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)/Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

During the reporting period, UNICEF helped implement infection prevention and control activities in 23 health facilities, raised awareness on correct hygiene in the context of COVID-19 among 173,012 people, including WASH hygiene kit distribution to 173,012 people. In addition, UNICEF trained 207 health care staff on infection prevention and control, equipped bus stops with 10 handwashing stations and distributed 491 masks to community health workers.

Highlights from the provinces

In North Kivu: UNICEF and its partner Programme for the Promotion of Healthcare (PPPS) have helped rehabilitate 10 handwashing points at bus stops. 136,897 people were reached with messages on the importance of handwashing to prevent COVID-19.

In Ituri: UNICEF mobilised 7,174 people to spread prevention messages among the general population in Bunia and Mwanga. UNICEF also distributed WASH kits to 99 households and 491 locally-produced masks to community health workers. In addition, UNICEF trained 32 healthcare facility staff in infection prevention and control and provided 25 healthcare workers within health facilities with personal protective equipment.

In Haut Katanga: The Provincial Department of Health, with support from UNICEF, provided 22,678 people with hygiene promotion and 32 healthcare workers within health facilities with personal protection equipment. In addition, it trained 60 healthcare facility staff on infection prevention and control.

In South Kivu: UNICEF's partners Oxfam and Norwegian Church Aid provided 21 health facilities provided with essential WASH services (8 in Bukavu and 13 in Uvira). They also distributed hygiene kits to 5,930 people.

Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

UNICEF, in partnership with the Psychosocial Commission, continued to monitor patients in the community and in treatment centres across the country. In addition, UNICEF, through the deployment of social workers, continued to provide social, food and shelter assistance to vulnerable households and street children.

The strategic plan of the Psychosocial Commission for COVID-19 was finalized and shared with the provincial commissions for their guidance.

In all the DRC provinces, UNICEF continues to monitor and advocate for the release or diversion and alternative detention measures for minors in detention. A total of 325 files are followed up by UNICEF and social agents to guarantee adequate measures and assistance for these children.

Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa: UNICEF, in partnership with the Psychosocial Commission, provided 427 COVID-19 patients (in hospitals and at home), 117 frontline caregivers and 173 children affected by COVID-19 with psychosocial support.

UNICEF, through the deployment of social workers, provided social and food assistance to 4 vulnerable households. 6 children who were in quarantine after one of their family members was infected with COVID-19 were also supported. 11 street children were admitted to a Transitional Care Center in Kinshasa, which has been recently renovated by UNICEF in the context of the COVID-19 response.

Thanks to UNICEF's advocacy, 21 children (19 boys and 2 girls) were released from detention facilities in Kinshasa. They were reunited with their parents or tutors identified by the social workers.

In North Kivu: the all 8 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection and 21 frontline caregivers received psychosocial support in Goma. In addition, UNICEF briefed 8 psychologists on child protection referral mechanisms in the context of the COVID-19 response.

In six health zones of Lubero, territory already affected by Ebola, six Rapid Intervention Teams provided psychosocial support to people affected by Ebola as well as those affected by COVID-19. Each team is composed of 1 psychologist and 2 para-social workers.

UNICEF distributed 30 bales of second-hand clothing and 40 boxes of soap and infection prevention and control kits to Transitional Care Centres in Goma.

47 children (including two girls) in detention were released and assisted by UNICEF.

In Kasai Oriental: 27 psychologists were identified to support mental health and psychosocial activities in the context of COVID-19 in Mbuji Mayi.

In Kasai: 34 social workers were briefed on COVID-19 children's case management. In addition, 20 host families and 15 transitional care structures were briefed on the norms and standards of care for vulnerable children in the context of COVID-19.

In Ituri: 20 internally displaced women were identified in Bunia to produce more than 20,000 masks to be distributed to the internally displaced people (IDP) camps. The production of masks will help the women generate an income for themselves and their families.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF continues to provide technical assistance to the government of DRC in its response to COVID-19. As part of this, UNICEF supported the development of additional guidance to health providers on the provision and use of maternal, newborn, child and adolescent reproductive health services, including nutrition in the context of COVID-19.

UNICEF has supported the National Programme on Nutrition (PRONANUT) to carry out an assessment of 7 hospitals treating COVID-19 patients on their capacity to ensure adequate feeding and nutritional care. The outcome of the assessment showed that health centres are not equipped to perform adequate nutritional screening of patients due to the lack of materials and weak capacity of nutritionists to carry out appropriate treatment. That is why UNICEF is working closely with the government to formulate a plan for the integration of nutrition in the management of patients with COVID-19.

UNICEF is also supporting several nutrition-related activities: (i) estimation of the impact of COVID-19 on the nutrition status of the population; (ii) integration of key nutrition activities in maternal and child health guidelines, and; (iii) development of tools and training modules for the nutritional care of patients.

Nutrition supplies such as Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) are being distributed to outpatient therapeutic nutritional units inside health centres in provinces affected by acute malnutrition (notably Kasai and Kwango).

Highlights from the provinces

In Ituri: UNICEF helped organize a distance “training of trainers” on COVID-19 related themes. These 11 trainers will in turn train other local health providers in the health zones and areas of Ituri.

In South Kivu: UNICEF and its partners supported the outpatient and intensive nutritional care of 157 children aged 6 to 59 months in the Uvira Health Zone.

In North Kivu: 131,587 children were vaccinated during the measles vaccination campaign. UNICEF provided health workers with COVID-19 prevention equipment such as gloves, hydro-alcoholic gel, hand washing devices, thermoflashes and soap. In addition, UNICEF and its partners raised the awareness of 3,346 mothers and caregivers on infant and young child feeding in emergencies.

In Haut Katanga: UNICEF facilitated the training on COVID-19 of 68 managers of the 17 health zones of the Haut Katanga Provincial Health Division. UNICEF supports the construction work of the 2 COVID-19 treatment and care centres of Lumbumbashi and Kasumbalesa through the provision and installation of 10 tents with the aim to increasing the hosting capacity of both centres.

In Kwilu: UNICEF supports the manufacturing of 6,250 masks locally. The province received the 2 Oxygen concentrators that were dispatched earlier this month.

In Kasai and Kasai Central: UNICEF and its partners are supporting the treatment of 1,291 children aged 6-59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition in health facilities while respecting the COVID-19 prevention measures.

Education

UNICEF completed the mapping of community radios for broadcasting classes in areas not reached by Radio Okapi. The result of this mapping will be used by the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education to draft agreements with community radios in order to reach students in remote parts of the country.

UNICEF supported children’s access to radio-based distance learning programs through the distribution of 10,000 radios to vulnerable families in the Kinshasa.

Highlights from the provinces

In Haut-Uele, Bas Uele, Tanganyika and Kasai Oriental: radio-based distance learning programmes were launched.

In South Kivu: UNICEF provided out-of-school adolescents and youth with starting kits to make 8,178 masks.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF DRC has a stock worth US \$725,435 which includes medical devices and equipment that will shortly be distributed to the 8 priority provinces.

UNICEF has increased the target for the “mask made in DRC” initiative to 1.4 million (including 400,000 for teachers). Already more than 1 million masks are ordered and 217,311 are delivered.

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 11 May 2020, UNICEF has received \$12,9 million (18% of total needs). Now more than ever, UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding to meet the most critical needs as the epidemic evolves. The UNICEF Representative in DRC has also appealed for in-kind donations.

COVID-19 Coordination: UNICEF participates in daily COVID-19 coordination meetings in Kinshasa and in provinces where our 9 field offices are located.

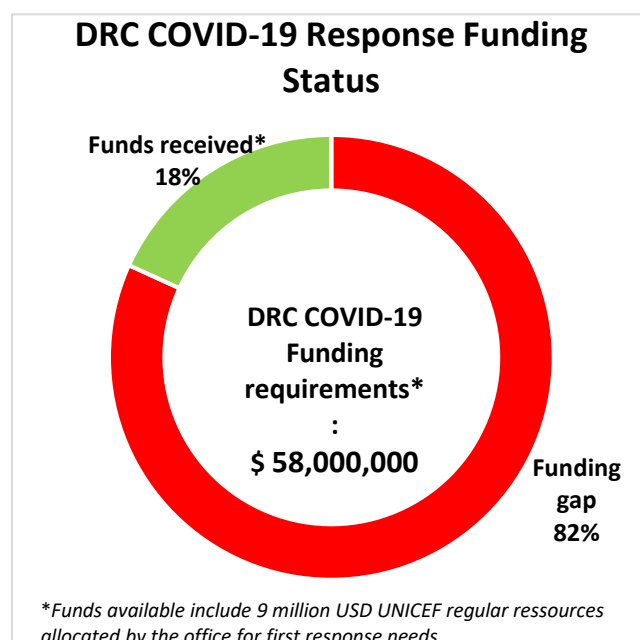
External Media

1) Social media and online

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the communication team posted more than 280 messages on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) – reaching more than 34 million people.

The UNICEF DRC [COVID-19 landing page](#) is updated on a regular basis with the latest [guidance](#) and [press releases](#). To date, this page has been consulted more than 20,000 times and allowed visitors to consult other relevant pages on the website. New multimedia material was uploaded on [WeShare](#).

2) Press releases & stories



- With mounting threat of COVID-19 increasing number of children at risk of not being vaccinated <https://www.unicef.org/drcongo/en/press-releases/mounting-threat-covid-19-increasing-number-children-risk-not-being-vaccinated>
- UNICEF prints first children workbooks for distance learning in DR Congo <https://www.unicef.org/drcongo/en/press-releases/unicef-prints-first-children-workbooks-distance-learning-dr-congo>
- The DRC's response to Covid-19 must be tailored to local context <https://mg.co.za/coronavirus-essentials/2020-05-02-the-drcs-response-to-covid-19-must-be-tailored-to-local-context/>
- Covid-19 : Unicef disponibilise les premiers cahiers d'exercices pour les cours à distance : www.adiac-congo.com/content/covid-19-unicef-disponibilise-les-premiers-cahiers-dexercices-pour-les-cours-distance-115788
- Coronavirus : en RDC, Radio Okapi lance une émission scolaire pour les enfants privés d'école <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2020/05/1067982>

3) Interviews with UNICEF's experts

- China Global Television Network

UNICEF Novel Coronavirus (COVID-2019) Global Appeal:

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

Annex A: Summary of Response Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	Target	Total Result
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	40,000,000	17,118,243
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	271,364
Number of influencers engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	500,000	136,512
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	271,5000	333,084
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPE	29,322	83
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in IPC	29,322	2,178
Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services	1,086	3,907
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	600	182
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	14,700	1,822
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	152,643	-
Health and Nutrition		
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities	3,390,646	Available after 16 June
Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19	412,365	6,615
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	54,061	8,939

Education

Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	15,450,000	1,131,633
Number of distributed educational homework booklets to ensure continuity of children and adolescent's learning	2,500,000	-

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