



Peer mentor Jogi Mokoema prepares to record the weight of 3-day old Resegopetse with the help of mum, Yvonnia Shadung, at Phedisong 4 Clinic in Ga-Rankuwa, Tshwane.

SOUTH AFRICA COVID-19

Situation Report No. 3

16-31 May 2020

unicef 
for every child

Situation in Numbers

Confirmed cases	32,683
Recovered	16,809
Deaths	683
Tests conducted	725,125

(As of 31st May)

Reporting Period: 16 - 31 May 2020

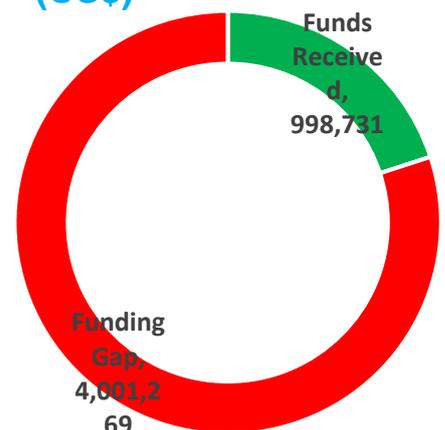
Highlights

- The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is carrying out a rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture, food security and nutrition. Evidence from this study including findings on acute malnutrition will inform policy makers and design of appropriate interventions in different settings (i.e. urban, rural) due to the pandemic's impact on food security.
- UNICEF leveraged the partnership with ViacomCBS and the World Food Programme (WFP) to raise awareness on Africa Day (25 May) of the plight of children in Africa during COVID-19. The benefit concert reached an audience of **100 million** viewers through ViacomCBS's platforms and in partnership with YouTube. In his opening statement, President Ramaphosa committed to nurture Africa's children and youth. UNICEF amplified the concert on all its social media channels.
- UNICEF shared the **Framework for Reopening of Schools** with the Department of Basic Education which is informing decisions on the phased reopening of schools. UNICEF is supporting the **production of materials** such as easy to use standard operating procedures, communication and messaging around COVID-19.

Situation Overview

- South Africa continues to have the highest number of confirmed cases in Africa at **32,683** with **683** deaths. To date, **16,809** people have recovered from COVID-19, a recovery rate of 51%.
- Western Cape Province has the heaviest burden with **21,382** confirmed cases and **465 deaths**, representing 65.4% of all cases and 73.6% of all deaths in the country, followed by Eastern Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal.
- Four provinces (Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal) continue to have the highest number of confirmed cases.
- The number of areas with higher levels of infection and transmission ("hotspots") has risen to 14 after the National Department of Health (NDOH) reclassified seven new districts with higher numbers of coronavirus cases.
- Testing capacity has increased, totaling **725,125** tests conducted across the country. Nearly 60,000 community health workers are going door-to-door to identify possible cases of coronavirus.

FUNDING STATUS (US\$)



- On 24th May, President Ramaphosa announced Cabinet's decision to lower South Africa's alert level from 4 to 3, effective **1st June**. Moving to Level 3 marks a significant shift which will include:
 - Opening of the economy and easing of restrictions on movement of people. A phased return to work will ensure that workplaces are coronavirus ready to reduce the risk of infection.
 - A differentiated approach will be implemented in the 14 hotspots, and will be linked to testing and quarantine facilities and additional hospital beds.
 - Reopening of schools from 1st June will be guided by a phased approach, starting with Grades 7 and 12.

Coordination

- In health, UNICEF is supporting the Gauteng command centre to prepare for opening of schools, including the **adaptation of the national COVID-19 school assessment checklist** for use in Gauteng to assist schools to be COVID-19 compliant and minimize the risk of transmission. In the Free State, UNICEF continued to support the Mangaung district to **disseminate and provide orientation on relevant COVID-19 guidelines**. This aims to assist clinics with COVID-19 interventions and services specifically relating to mothers and children (based on the risk assessments that showed that the clinics didn't have the relevant guidelines). In collaboration with WHO, UNICEF will make sure the clinic findings are fed into the district command centre for COVID-19.
- The Social Policy and Child Protection team has coordinated and **completed inputs to the UN-led vulnerability assessment** emphasizing the plight of poor children, unregistered children and undocumented foreigners due to the social and economic loss of the lockdown and exclusion from government's social relief package in response to COVID-19.
- UNICEF is a **key member of the Education Sector COVID-19 Response Steering Committee**. This committee is charged with coordinating all sector responses and advising the DBE on a wide variety of areas. With a secretariat at the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), it is the main channel for resource mobilisation, coordinating continuity of learning through radio and TV broadcasts, and liaison with the Civil Society Organisations to give a voice to all stakeholders, map interventions and ensure synergies rather than fragmentation.

Summary of Preparedness and Response Actions

Education

1. Although schools were due to open on 1st June 2020, on 31st May 2020 the Council of Education Ministers directed that only school management teams, teachers and non-teaching staff would return to schools on 1st June, with Grade 7 and 12 learners returning to school on 8th June 2020.
 - UNICEF has produced child and user-friendly versions of **key messages on COVID-19 and prevention measures have been produced** and are ready to print. These have been shared via social media, based on the core protocols and guidelines developed by the Department of Basic Education (DBE).
 - UNICEF assisted the DBE in the development of **Back to School Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**.
2. The process to embed emergency technical support in the DBE / National Education Collaboration Trust is advanced with the advertisement period ending Friday, 5th June 2020.
3. The first phase of TV and radio broadcasts concluded to coincide with schools reopening. Given the phased approach and need for continuous learning for grades still at home, the **radio broadcasts will continue** through to 1st September 2020. Broadcasts for the Foundation Phase (Gr. R – 3) remain accessible on the *2Enable* online platform and app. Radio broadcasts have **reached estimated 3.7 million children** across the country.
4. **UNICEF concluded a partnership between 2Enable and Ubongo** for the *Ubongo* content to be accessible on the *2Enable* platforms and therefore to all children in South Africa.
5. The reach of *Active Learning@Home* (a partnership programme between the DBE, UNICEF SA and the LEGO Foundation) has widened with more partners coming on board, e.g. MIET Africa, to distribute in their networks. Estimates are that these have **reached at least 1 million homes**.
6. The *Tshwagarano Ka Bana* series continue to reach more parents to support their children's learning, with the DBE platform helping to widen the reach significantly as it is the first point of call for parents. Complemented with the

support from the British Council through the *2Enable* platform, the series under the theme '*Let's play, learn and grow together*' has now been **accessed by over 480,000 parents** of young children to date.

7. UNICEF partnership with the Children's Radio Foundation (CRF) on COVID-19 messaging has **reached over 1.5 million households**, with broadcasts continuing to the end of June 2020. This may be continued beyond the end of June, subject to availability of funds.

Child and Social Protection

1. UNICEF participated in a two-day **Dialogue Forum on Violence against Children** with partners from government, civil society and academia identifying the policy recommendations on violence against children for the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide.
2. The UNICEF Social Policy and Child Protection teams have **completed inputs to the UN-led vulnerability assessment** emphasizing the plight of poor children, unregistered children and undocumented foreigners due to the social and economic loss of the lockdown and exclusion from government's social relief package in response to COVID-19.
3. UNICEF and partners **continue to advocate for improved access to services for migrants**, including reintegration support for shelters and other facilities.
 - **UNICEF and partners provided psychosocial support to 200 migrants** and facilitated reunification of 20 migrants (8 women and 12 children) with families who were separated prior to lockdown, providing basic reunification kits. UNICEF and partners continue to raise awareness on COVID-19, services available to migrants, and facilitate access and referrals.
 - UNICEF has received feedback from migrant communities about the lack of access to COVID-19 GBV key messages for migrants. We will continue to support the partners in **developing GBV messages** which will be translated into different foreign languages and shared through various online platforms.
4. UNICEF has partnered with South African Council for Social Services Professions (SACSSP) to **strengthen the capacity of 3,000 social service providers** to adequately respond to GBV and strengthen existing community-based psychosocial support as part of the emergency response to COVID-19.
5. Following the Government's announcement of schools reopening, **Childline recorded increased calls** with high levels of anxiety from children and parents concerned about their welfare and safety at schools. A total of 27,473 were recorded during May 2020 of which 13,747 were between 16-31 May.

Health and Nutrition

1. While no data exists yet to show an increase in child malnutrition due to COVID-19, a surge is expected in the coming months. Millions of families living in poverty have lost income during the lockdown, and the schools closure meant a discontinuation of school meals to 9.1 million children normally assured of at least one daily nutritious meal. **UNICEF South Africa coordinated and facilitated a guidance document** for provinces, districts, partners and civil society organizations **on nutrition responses** and the continuity of nutrition services in the context of COVID-19 during and post-lockdown. UNICEF is supporting the rollout of the implementation of the guidance document to enable stakeholders to develop their nutrition response plans.
2. UNICEF is supporting the NDOH to **finalize the Maternal and Child Health Contingency Plan** to respond to the ongoing challenges the Department is facing to ensure Maternal and Child Health Services are delivered. The plan includes strategies to mitigate risk factors that might affect service provision. UNICEF also provided technical support to develop **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the quarantine/isolation of pregnant and post-partum women, neonates and children**. The SOPs will guide their referral, admission and care in relation to quarantine sites, and ensure that quarantine and isolation is implemented uniformly at these sites.
3. UNICEF continues to provide technical support for planning district- and provincial-focused **strategies to ensure catch up of missed immunizations** when it is safe to do so. Regular meetings are held with the NDOH and WHO to monitor the performance of district immunization status, vaccines and supplies availability, performance of vaccine preventable diseases surveillance and cases.
4. UNICEF South Africa, in coordination with the NDOH, initiated the planning and implementation of **communication and health care messaging** beyond measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 **to incorporate key messages around child health, safety and nutrition**, including the benefits of breastfeeding and food hygiene and the need to make up missed vaccinations following the lockdown.

WASH

1. UNICEF secured additional funding from USAID which will facilitate expansion of WASH programmes to reach more communities with communal handwashing with soap (HWWS) stations. So far, UNICEF has completed **installation of 35 stations in four provinces**. In Alexandra Township, Johannesburg where four units are installed, UNICEF staff obtained feedback from users during a site visit. The team is using this information to further improve planned installations.

2. UNICEF is promoting the use of **social distancing markers** to avoid crowded queuing and the tanks have stickers with **environmental cues** (i.e. stickers) to encourage users to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds. Installations are scheduled for KwaZulu-Natal, and locations for the Northern Cape are being finalised.



The graphic features a central illustration of hands being washed under a stream of water. To the left and right are blue panels with text in English and isiZulu. The English text on the left says 'Wash hands with lots of soap for 20 seconds' and 'Was hande met seep vir 20 sekondes'. The isiZulu text on the left says 'Hlatsoa matsoho ka sesepa se sengata, metsotsoana e mashome amabedi' and the isiZulu text on the right says 'Geza izandla ngensipho eningi, nge imizuzwana esingamashumi amabili' and 'Hlamba izandla ngesepha eninzi, imizuzwana elingamashumi amabini'.

Communication, Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability Communication

1. UNICEF is working with the national Department of Social Development on highlighting **Child Protection Week 2020 (31 May – 7 June)**. Activities include participation in a session with child parliamentarians from all nine provinces presided over by the Minister of Social Development, joint visit involving UNICEF to Gauteng Province and media engagement.
2. With schools set to return in June, an interview was facilitated with **ENCA Television News** and the **Citizen Newspaper** with Dr Wycliffe Otieno, UNICEF SACO Chief of Education, on the return to school plans.
3. UNICEF SACO Deputy Representative, Muriel Mafico, conducted a **radio interview on 5FM** on the humanitarian response to COVID-19 by UNICEF in South Africa.
4. UNICEF produced a **photo essay** in collaboration with the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) titled “Outsmarting COVID-19: Virtual connection transform child and youth care work,” which highlights the importance of care and educational support during this period.
5. UNICEF SACO is chairing the **Joint UN Back to Work Communication Team** through the UN Communication Group.

C4D

1. UNICEF continues to lead integrated planning of the WASH/RCCE programme.
2. UNICEF is finalising the development of Research tools for the WASH/RCCE rapid assessment. A **WASH/RCCE U-Report poll** will be opened by 8th June and a Key Informant survey circulated to community leaders through partner networks. Together



Save water

Boloka meetse

Onga amanzi

Spaar water

with the CRF, UNICEF is planning qualitative research to follow up on the short RCCE/WASH survey conducted with youth reporters.

3. The **package of environmental cues** for the handwashing stations has been finalised and preparations are being made for installers to attach them to the handwashing stations before the next round of installations. Ward Councillors will be engaged regarding applying the stickers to existing installations.
4. UNICEF is leading the development of **IEC materials** to accompany the hygiene kits for households.

- Discussions to explore programme synergies have been held with Population Services International (South Africa), regarding geographic areas and overlaps, with USAID, Child Protection and U-Report on gender-based violence, and with the COVID-19 multisectoral waste management platform on waste management messaging.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

- The **Pledge Campaign, “Buckets of Care”** to raise funds for care kits for vulnerable families - providing hygiene kits, including a bucket with a tap attached, soap, sanitizer, masks and bleach - has raised **R39,044 (US\$ 2,241)** to date. The campaign is drawing positive attention of both individuals and corporates.
- P&G has donated **300,000 sanitary pads** to UNICEF SA to the value of US\$ 500. The pads will be delivered to UNICEF implementing partners MIET Africa, the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW), Mothers2Mothers, Action for Conflict Transformation (ACT), Red Cross and the Limpopo Trust in the first week of June.
- Woolworths has donated **20,000 reusable cloth masks** (valued at US\$ 20,000) which will be used in the hygiene buckets (“Buckets of Care”) for vulnerable families.



Challenges

- The NDOH has identified maternal and child health services as essential services, yet major disruptions are being experienced due to lack of public transport, misconceptions about terms of the lockdown and physical and human resources being reallocated to support adult COVID-19 care. Healthcare workers have higher risks of exposure and contracting the virus and deal with the loss of patients and overwork which could lead to burnout.
- While data suggest that children may be less vulnerable to COVID-19 infection than adults, experience less severe symptoms, or be asymptomatic carriers of the virus, it is difficult to predict how COVID-19 will impact on children in South Africa given the high proportion of children whose immune systems are compromised by exposure to HIV (21%), stunting (27%) and TB. Moreover, in some provinces, paediatric services are already stretched to capacity coping with the annual diarrhoea and pneumonia surge season in the winter season, a peak period for these conditions.

The confluence with the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to overburden the health system with negative consequences for child health when there is an annual increase in demand for paediatric services¹. These pre-existing vulnerabilities are likely to intensify under lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic which is likely to further compromise children’s access to food, water and sanitation, and increase their exposure to domestic violence. UNICEF is working with the NDOH to safeguard children infected with or affected by COVID-19 within the health care service, and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on essential child health services.

- In education, the UN-led Country Needs Assessment to respond to COVID-19 draft was submitted (with a detailed budget and findings), but the slow pace of progress runs the risk of some of the needs being irrelevant as schools scheduled to reopen on 8th June.

Who to contact for further information

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¹ Child Health Priorities Association

Summary of Programme Results, UNICEF South Africa, 31 May 2020

Indicators	Target to 31 Dec 2020	Results as of 28 May 2020
Education		
# of children – and parents - supported with distance/home-based learning [ECD, Primary, Secondary Ed]	7,200,000	3,400,000
Social Policy and Child Protection		
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support	100,000	15,428
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for PSEA	20	15
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	13,000,000	13,000,000
Health, Nutrition and WASH		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	2,500,000	17,500
Number of children & women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV & GBV care in UNICEF supported facilities (National and monthly)	171,858	179,915
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms (through UNICEF supported Adolescent Girls and Young Women peer mentors project)	5,774	7,011
Risk Communication		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	7,000,000	7,000,000
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	40,000	25,514
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	800,000	30,464

Annex B

Funding Status, UNICEF South Africa, May 2020

Sector	Requirements (US\$)			Received	Reprogrammed	Funding gap (HAC – Received)	
	Total	HAC	Regular Programme			\$	%
Nutrition	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	0.00	0.00	500,000	100%
Health and WASH	2,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	848,731	485,000	151,269	15%
Social Policy and Child Protection	1,550,000	775,000	775,000	50,000	341,973	725,000	94%
Education	5,090,000	2,545,000	2,545,000	50,000	1,170,000	2,495,000	98%
Data collection and analysis of disease and secondary impact on women and children	60,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	0	0%
Communication for Development	300,000	150,000	150,000	20,000	35,600	130,000	87%
Total	10,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	3,031,304	2,032,573	4,001,269	80%