



Situation in Numbers



1,694 COVID-19 confirmed cases

34 deaths



2M children affected by school closures



US\$ 16.3 M funding required

Situation overview

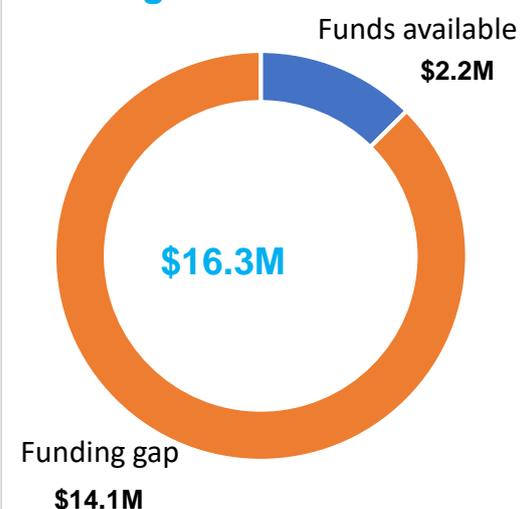
Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases continued to increase from June 13 to July 24 with 251 new cases confirmed for a total of 1,694 cases as of July 24. Number of deaths increased from 23 to 34 during the reporting period. The fatality rate is 2% whilst the recovery rate increased from 38% to 54,2%.

This evolving situation has led the government to readjust the mobilization of front-line support staff to strengthen the response in the departments located in the former “cordon Sanitaire,” which remain the most affected, and to accelerate deployment of COVID-19 laboratories across the country, which currently has 12 functional laboratories.

Key updates

- There are currently **893 recovered cases**;
- **Transmission is currently local**;
- On 10 July 2020, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance announced that **mobile money transfers** were provided to thousands of individuals identified as negatively impacted by COVID-19 government prevention measures as part of a national census conducted in May 2020.
- **Extension of school holidays for pre-school and the first 5 years of primary school**, compulsory wearing of face masks, and mandatory tests (rapid and PCR) upon arrival at the cost of 100,000 FCFA (170 US\$) for travelers arriving at Cotonou International Airport remain in place.

Funding Status



Highlights



5.2 million people informed through mass media



382,675 women and children received essential health services



293,805 people benefited from WASH services



1.7 million children supported with distance learning



3,633 children continue to receive psychosocial support



A malnourished child eats with his mother in the Zou department
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UNICEF's COVID-19 response

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF Benin continues to support the Rapid Response Teams in the 3 most affected departments through the provision of vehicles to support cases management and contact tracing. In addition to the 9,000 RT-PCR tests provided to the Ministry of Health, UNICEF delivered a large batch of PPE and infection prevention equipment to the National Primary Health Care Agency to ensure secure continuity of health and nutrition services. The number of **trained health workers** on infection prevention and control, COVID-19 case management and reorganization of services **increased from 358 to 527** during the reporting period, with 6 health zones covered. **708 new community health workers were trained and provided with masks.** As a result, a total 1,150 community health workers can now provide care for children under 5 with illnesses, strengthen sensitization efforts on COVID-19 and reinforce community-based surveillance. In UNICEF-supported areas, **382,675 women and children received essential health services**, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV care.

Close monitoring of stocks by UNICEF ensured the availability of vaccines in health districts. Follow-up with UNICEF Supply Division to accelerate shipment of vaccines to Benin enabled the Country Office to receive 31,000 vials of Penta and 652,198 doses of BCG. These supplies in vaccines helped refill stock at national level. UNICEF is working to ensure recommended IYCF practices are promoted in the COVID-19 context. As a result, **23,267 mothers and caregivers** of children aged 0 to 23 months **received support and counselling to breastfeed** and provided diversified complementary food to young children (6 to 23 months).

WASH

As part of the UNCT joint effort to ensure children can return to schools in safe environments, **19,526 school children and teachers** of 74 primary school exam centres in the Littoral, Alibori and Borgou regions benefited from **the provision of critical hygiene kit** made of 56,340 pieces of soap, 20 liters of liquid soap and 400 jerricans. UNICEF continued supporting vulnerable household by provision of critical hygiene kit to 1,934 new families. 1,200 handwashing devices are being used in public places in the most affected areas in 20 municipalities. Support for disinfection in schools, health facilities and COVID-19 treatment centers continues, benefiting 20,281 people, including 16,300 school children. At the community level, **2,527 new household handwashing devices (tippy tap) were set up** in partnerships with targeted municipalities and NGOs. These efforts enabled 11,741 households to practice handwashing to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. To this day, **293,805 people benefited from critical WASH supply and services.**



1,000 PPE shipped from UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen arrived by air at Cotonou International Airport on 4 July 2020 ©UNICEFBenin



UNICEF staff discusses COVID-19 sensitization efforts and protection of children in Voodoo convents with the King of Ahouannonzoun near Allada ©UNICEFBenin

RCCE

The Country Office produced **multimedia awareness raising content**, reaching more than **5.2 million people**. In partnership with NGOs in 7 high-risk municipalities and Heath zones, 1,384 new community relays, youth animators, and women group were trained on COVID-19 sensitization. In total, **317,076 people** were **reached through small group discussions and house-to-house visits**. 2,734 new community and youth leaders are mobilizing their communities on COVID-19. **14,929 people shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications about COVID-19** through home visits, group discussions and social media interaction. Engagement of religious and traditional leaders is helping to strengthen sensitization efforts, especially in places of worship. In partnership with the municipality of So-Ava, 207 community health workers, village chiefs, local artists and women groups were trained on COVID-19 and interpersonal communication techniques. Posters produced by young artists in partnership were displayed in several school exam centres in Cotonou to encourage children and teachers to respect protection measures. **12 projects developed by youth** selected as part of the Country Office's innovation challenge "HackCovid19" are being accelerated. These youth-led solutions in the field of information, education, health, low-cost innovation and social support will be piloted in the coming two months.

Education

UNICEF distributed **handwashing stations to 2,847 schools** (1,337 in the sanitary cordon, 1,510 in Alibori, Borgou and Zou) and is mobilizing its partners to respond to additional needs identified by Education Ministries. With UNICEF support and in partnership with 36 community radios, the Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education continues to **broadcast radio educational programmes for children who can't return to schools** (preschool until grade 4). In cooperation with Sèmè City, the Country Office is supporting the set-up of a distance learning platform (web, TV and radio) developed by 8 young innovators and local start-ups. As the lead of the COVID-19 local education group, UNICEF continues to advocate for the respect of prevention measures in schools and the

continuity of education for children who can't return to school with its partners and key actors. The Government's proposal to the Global Partnership for Education on supporting response and early recovery of the education sector in response to COVID-19, developed with the support of UNICEF, was approved for a total of USD\$ 7 million. In line with the reinforcement of risk mitigation measures against COVID-19, **UNICEF has provided handwashing equipment to 452 primary school examination centres, benefiting 141,503 students.**



A student washes his hands before entering his class to pass his exam in Cotonou ©UNICEFBenin

Child protection

To date, **3633 children and adults received psychosocial support**. During the reporting period, 30 children (18 girls and 12 boys) had access to alternative care, amount to a total of 580 children. 126 new children (73 girls and 53 boys) and 826 new adults (761 women and 65 men) received integrated services, including psychosocial support, health care and/or legal assistance. 9 additional social affairs departmental directorates received funding from UNICEF to establish child-friendly spaces in more than 60 Centres for Social Promotion. This will significantly increase access to psychosocial support and services for the most vulnerable children and their families and help respond to the increased risks of gender-based violence and violence against children.



A local NGO worker striving to provide psychosocial and legal support to girls subjected to sexual violence confirms cases of violence against children are increasing in the COVID-19 context ©UNICEFBenin

Messages on mechanisms in place to address violence against children and on positive parenting reached more than 800,000 people online. To ensure humanitarian actors enhance their knowledge and capacity to protect children from violence, 419 actors (77 UNICEF staff and 342 implementing partners) completed the training on the mitigation of gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19. 337 actors (53 UNICEF staff and 284 implementing partners) completed the training on PSEA. The country office developed new sensitization materials on PSEA including an internal complaint mechanism that was shared to all staff. As a result, **361 actors** (77 UNICEF and 284 implementing partners) now have **access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse**.

Social Protection & Cash-based assistance

UNICEF and partners launched a Cash Working Group “Ad-Hoc Committee on Cash Transfers” to facilitate the coordination of cash-based interventions in response to impacts of COVID 19, with support from CashCap. A task force of the Committee is expected to present a technical note with recommendations for the government-planned intervention during a high-level meeting by the end of July 2020. UNICEF is working on **designing a cash-based intervention for vulnerable families and children**, including defining modalities for implementation. Resource mobilisation to support this program is ongoing.

Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

- In the field of **child protection**, the Country Office is focusing its efforts on the **establishment of safe spaces** to provide psychosocial support for children and their families.
- In the field of **social protection**, priority is given to **linking urgent humanitarian cash transfers with long-term social protection programmes** and strengthening Government systems as well as humanitarian-development coordination.
- In the field of **education**, efforts to develop distance learning solutions through radio, TV and digital platforms are expected to **strengthen the resilience of the education system in the long-term**.
- In the field of **health**, UNICEF supports national authorities to **ensure the continuity of primary and essential health care services for all**. The WASH coordination cluster was also reinforced to coordinate the COVID-19 response with all stakeholders.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

Based on the national plan and its assessment of priority needs, UNICEF Benin submitted a COVID-19 response proposal to its Regional Office amounting to **US\$ 16,325,000** and which is integrated into UNICEF’s Humanitarian Action for Children Novel Coronavirus (COVID-2019) Global Response. Innovative partnerships are being established, including the “Innov Covid-19 Benin Taskforce”, a coalition of government, UN agencies, NGOs, CSOs, private sector companies and start-ups to develop emergency solutions to the crisis.

External Media

The Country Office joined forces with UNICEF National Ambassador Zeynab Abib and an 8-year-old local singer, Fifa La Lune, to produce **a song and video clip for children** and the public at large on COVID-19 prevention measures. The song is aired on community radios and three TV stations, including the national broadcaster. UNICEF is partnering with Sèmè City and UNFPA to roll out the “ASUKA” initiative (meaning “courageous” in Fon language), a communication campaign based on Avengers and Wakanda-inspired comic characters who use their superpowers to block and combat COVID-19. As part of the ASUKA campaign, the Country Office supported young artists to create **7 engaging street murals and posters** with key protection messages.



Social media posters developed as part of the ASUKA campaign © SèmèCity

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Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2020 target	Total results
Risk Communication and Community Engagement		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	5,553,773	5,228,990
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	500,000	317,076
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	30,000	14,929
WASH and IPC		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	500,000	293,805
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	3,000	1,385
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	6,750	510
Health		
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women	1,500	527
Number of children & women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV & GBV care in UNICEF supported facilities	500,000	382,675
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms.	20,000	23,267
Nutrition		
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	15,000	5,066
Education		
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	2,000,000	1,708,617
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	15,811	11,342
Child Protection and GBV		
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	1,000	580
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	15,000	3,633
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for PSEA	600	539
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	1,000	361
Social Protection		
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	20,000	0

Funding Status

Sector	Funding requirements	Funds available	Funding gap \$	Gap %
C4D / RCCE	2,500,000	70,000	2,430,000	97
WASH & IPC	6,000,000	200,000	5,800,000	96
Health & Nutrition	165,000	100,000	65,000	39
Continued education, child protection, GBV services & social protection	6,300,000	1,870,000	4,430,000	70
Research	60,000	0	60,000	100
Coordination, technical & operational costs	1,300,000	0	1,300,000	100
Total	16,325,000	2,240,000	14,085,000	86