



Situation in Numbers



412 COVID-19 confirmed cases

6 deaths



2,000,000 Children affected by COVID-19 school closures



US\$ 16.3 M funding required

Situation overview

The Government of Benin prepared a COVID-19 response plan for **US\$672,095,179**. The plan has six strategic objectives including:

1. Strengthening capacities for preparedness
2. Minimizing inter-human transmission
3. Reinforcing capacities for intervention
4. Increasing resilience capacities for confirmed cases
5. Strengthening coordination
6. Promoting research-action

Key updates

- There are currently **184 cases under treatment** and **222 recovered**;
- Transmission of the virus is mainly local: **73.1% of confirmed cases are locally acquired**;
- On 11 June 2020, the Government announced a **FCFA 74 billion (124 M US\$) stimulus package** to support businesses, craftsmen, small-scale and informal traders and the most vulnerable;
- **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.

Highlights



2.3 million people informed through mass media



168,052 women and children received essential health services



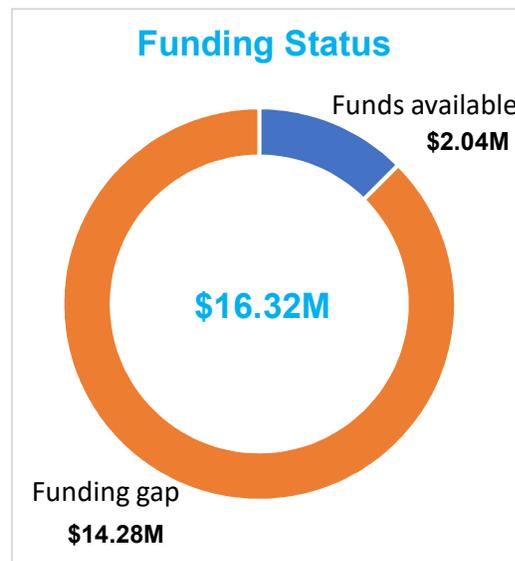
121,552 people benefited from WASH services



1.7 million children supported with distance learning



2,100 children continue to receive psychosocial support



UNICEF's COVID-19 response

Health and Nutrition

The Country Office donated 3 vehicles to the Ministry of Health to support rapid response teams in 3 departments. To ensure continuous operation of the reference laboratory for the diagnosis of COVID-19, UNICEF provided the Ministry of Health with 4,000 liters of fuel. A first batch of **1,000 PCR tests** was provided to national authorities to support screening efforts. In UNICEF-supported areas, to date, **168 052 women and children received essential health services**, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV care.



Information Session before prenatal consultation at Bohicon maternity ward ©DEDRAS

UNICEF is working to ensure recommended IYCF practices are promoted in the COVID-19 context. As a result, **12,586 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

64 sprayers, 9,240 soap bars and, 6,930 kilos of chlorine were provided to the Ministry of Health to support disinfection efforts and improve hygiene practices in schools, health centres and public places in 34 districts. The **disinfection of classes, treatment rooms and latrines** in 83 schools and 10 health centres in the Mono and Kandi **benefited 16,797 people**, including 16,300 school children. **1,038 new** handwashing devices (tippy tap) were set up in partnerships with targeted municipalities and NGOs. These efforts enabled **3,018** households to practice handwashing to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. 46 frontline facilitators were trained on continuity of WASH service delivery including hygiene promotion and construction of handwashing facilities. To this day, **121,552 people benefited from WASH services**.



A mother washes hands with her children in Cotonou © UNICEFBenin

RCCE/C4D

The Country Office provided the Ministry of Health with **60,000 posters, 500,000 flyers and 300 large-size posters to sensitize the public**. 56 radios and TV stations are broadcasting audio and video spots produced by UNICEF. The Country Office produced multimedia awareness raising content, reaching more than 2.3 million people. In partnership with NGOs in 6 high-risk municipalities, 223 community members were briefed on COVID-19 prevention messages and **121,552 people** were reached through **small group discussions and house-to-house visits**. As part of these efforts, 922 community leaders committed to sensitizing their communities on COVID-19. In addition, 158 community-based surveillance committees were revitalized to boost community engagement. More than 500 youth also took part in “HackCovid19 Bénin Challenge”, an initiative launched by UNICEF for **young innovators to develop solutions against COVID-19** in the field of information, education, health, low-cost innovation and social support.

Education

UNICEF started distributing **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). The Country Office is cooperating with two private TV stations to broadcast school programmes. In cooperation with Sèmè City, the Country Office is supporting the set-up of a **distance learning platform** (web, TV and radio) developed by **6 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.



Home visit (Awareness on COVID-19 in Bakanni Peulh) ©DEDRAS



Marzouk and his mother sew face masks in Porto-Novo © UNICEFBenin

Child protection

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Interior in **training 30 police officers** who are child protection focal points (2 women) on the rights and protection of children, the risks faced by children, their consequences and gender-based violence risk mitigation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Children affected by COVID continued to receive mental health and psychosocial care with UNICEF support. This week, 4 new children (2 girls and 2 boys) had access to alternative care and 238 children (154 girls and 84 boys) and 20 adults (8 women and 12 men) received integrated services including psychosocial support, health care and/or legal assistance in court. To date, **2,100 children and adults received psychosocial support**.

Social Protection & Cash-based assistance

Findings of a multi-agency (UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, WFP and others) socio-economic study are expected by end of June 2020. The study will support the early recovery task force in defining recommendations, including in terms of access to social protection and basic social services.

UNICEF and partners have 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. 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

On the basis of 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

UNICEF Benin is mobilizing its « friends of children » journalists' network and leveraging its social media platforms to share prevention messages. 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. UNICEF also collaborated with young street artists to create [7 engaging murals and posters](#) with key protection messages.

Press releases and media coverage

- Croisade contre le coronavirus : Angélique Kidjo reprend Pata Pata pour diffuser l'espoir
<https://lanationbenin.info/croisade-contre-le-coronavirus-angelique-kidjo-reprend-pata-pata-pour-diffuser-lespoir/>
- Contre le coronavirus, un HackCovid19 Bénin Challenge initié
<https://cio-mag.com/contre-le-coronavirus-un-hackcovid19-benin-challenge-initie/>
- L'UNICEF soutient le Bénin dans la mise en œuvre de l'enseignement à distance en réponse au COVID-19
<https://medium.com/@UNICEFBenin/lunicef-soutient-le-b%C3%A9nin-dans-la-mise-en-oeuvre-de-l-enseignement-%C3%A0-distance-en-r%C3%A9ponse-au-152c3976ec0f>
- L'UNICEF fait appel aux innovateurs du Bénin pour soutenir des solutions contre le COVID-19
<https://medium.com/@UNICEFBenin/lunicef-fait-appel-aux-innovateurs-du-b%C3%A9nin-pour-soutenir-des-solutions-contre-le-covid-19-6eb529d7690>
- Don de matériel de désinfection et d'intrants médicaux au Ministère de la Santé
<https://medium.com/@UNICEFBenin/don-de-mat%C3%A9riel-de-d%C3%A9sinfection-et-de-savon-pratique-du-lavage-des-mains-au-minist%C3%A8re-de-la-sant%C3%A9-8331c7b51085>

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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	2,321,519
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	2,000	2,750
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	5,000	3,647
WASH and IPC		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	1,600,000	121,552
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	3,000	153
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	3,000	46
Health		
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women	1,500	0
Number of children & women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV & GBV care in UNICEF supported facilities	500,000	168,052
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms.	20,000	12,586
Nutrition		
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	15,000	4,957
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	10,981
Child Protection and GBV		
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	1,000	533
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	15,000	2,100
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for PSEA	100	435
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	1,000	337
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	0	6,000,000	100
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	2,040,000	14,285,000	87.5