

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of 22 May, the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has reached 1,114 with 42 patients who have recovered and 6 deaths, thus bringing the number of active cases to 1,066. Male (68%) continue to be more affected than female (32%). The 30-39 years age group has most of the confirmed COVID-19 cases with 27.5% of cases, followed by the 40-49 years age group with 21.8% of cases. As of 20 May there were 93 children from 0 to 19 years infected. The type of transmission is now considered community transmission with most cases (96%) concentrated in the capital, Bissau. The evolution of the confirmed cases over the last two months is shown below:

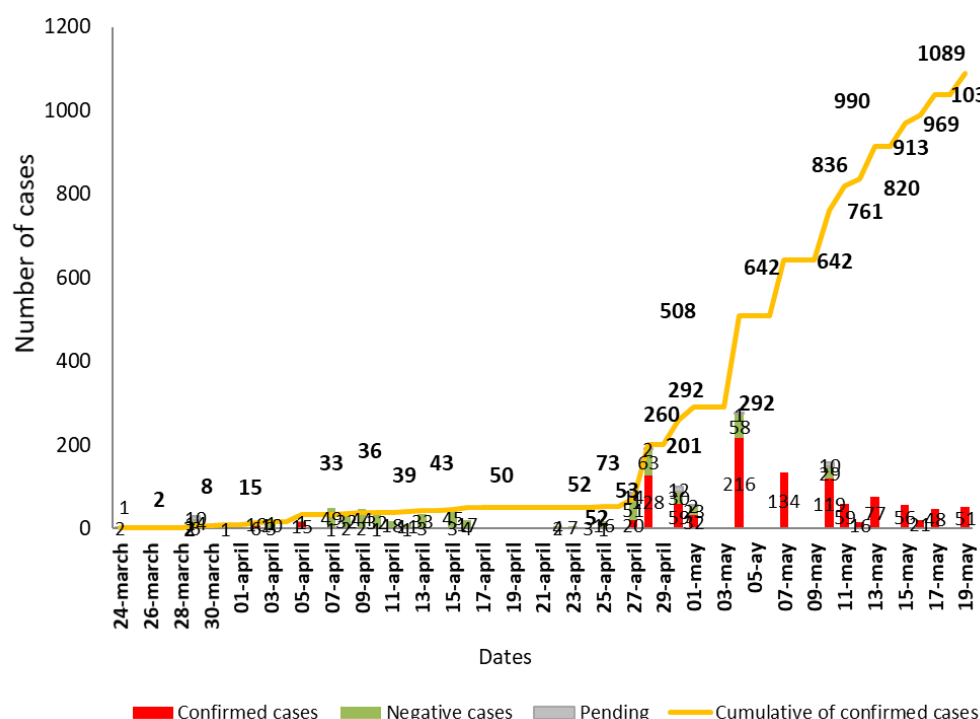


Figure 1: confirmed cumulative COVID-19 cases since 24 March-19 May 2020

The National Health Emergency Committee, under the Ministry of Health, continues to lead the response, supported by the UN system and other partners like IMVF, Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières. In support of the National Contingency Plan, the UN has developed a UN joint COVID-19 Operational Support Plan. Within the support plan, UNICEF leads the UN interagency Task Force on risk communication and community engagement in support of the response and in close coordination with the National Health Emergency Committee. Meetings among donors are conducted weekly to ensure coordinated interventions and investment in urgent priorities.

Preventive and restrictive measures instaurated by the Government include: mandatory curfew from 20h to 6h; liberty of movement for essential purchases only from 7h to 14h; no movement between regions in the country; mandatory use of mask in public spaces.

UNICEF's COVID-19 response

In support to the National Contingency Plan for COVID-19, UNICEF response strategy and interventions focus on the following:

- Risk communication and community engagement and C4D
- WASH and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures;
- Health – Continuous access to health services, capacity strengthening of medical personnel and

- provision of medical consumables, essential drugs and equipment;
- Education: provision of distance education and support to education sector response and recovery
- Child Protection: Psychosocial support and continuous access to child protection services;
- Procurement and logistics

Situation in Numbers



1114 total cases

6 deaths



Around 300,000
Children affected
by COVID-19
school closures



US\$ 2,48 M
funding
required

Health

UNICEF works with the Ministry of Health to ensure continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including immunization, prenatal and postnatal care, HIV care and nutritional services. UNICEF is supporting the National Health Emergency Committee planning additionally training for 205 health technicians and hygienists on COVID-19 case management and infection prevention and control in seven regions. UNICEF has supported the training of 268 community health workers (CHWs) on COVID 19 prevention and control in two regions, which consequently conducted households' sensitization, reaching total of 10,227 households. Following recent discussions with UNICEF, the World Bank committed to provide financial support for training of all CHWs and purchasing of their personal protective equipment.

WASH

The installation of handwashing stations continues across the 960 targeted communities. In total, 175 communities have now handwashing stations installed and have been informed on proper behavior to avoid being infected with COVID-19. The population reached amounts to 32,737 people nation-wide. During the reporting period, sensitization sessions on prevention of COVID-19 were held in 72 communities in Gabu, the largest region of the country. In addition, 2 handwashing devices and soap were installed in each community.

RCCE/C4D

UNICEF continued to partner with the National Red Cross to carry out door to door sensitization activities. The capital Bissau, worst-hit of the country continued to be the focus of all risk communication interventions combined with the distribution of communication material and masks. The door-to-door campaign has reached during the reporting period 8,196 people, among them 2,958 children, 2,880 Women and 2,358 men. In addition, outreach activities continued in two additional regions, which currently register coronavirus cases, Biombo and Cacheu. Through these interventions, 6,414 people have been reached in Biombo region, among them 2,556 children, 2,045 women and 1,813 men. 7,246 people have been reached in northern Cacheu region, among them 2,974 children, 2,386 women and 1,886 men. Altogether, the COVID-19 door to door sensitization activities being carried out in the residences and main markets of the Autonomous Sector of Bissau, Cacheu and Biombo regions, have reached a total of 203,688 people since 30th March 2020.

On May 20, the third video of the series of coronavirus sensitization material produced by young people has been released, through the national television and UNICEF Guinea-Bissau social media platforms. Social media posts on COVID-19 have reached 312,559 people during the reporting period, being Facebook the most used platform.

Education

During this period the focus was on the finalization of the education sector COVID-19 national response and recovery plan. The document was submitted to the Local Education Group for validation. In addition, the funding proposal to Global Partnership for Education COVID-19 fund was presented and endorsed by the Local Education Group.

Child protection

The social service unit from the Health Ministry has already identify the six (6) social assistants and psychologists that will start providing remote psychosocial support to affected and infected people from the COVID-19. Also, the content of the recreative kits for affected children was finalized. According to the Ministry of Health, the team will start providing support in one week, expecting to cover 80 people per week.

The Online platform against gender-based violence named Bioksan (a local female name), supported jointly by UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, WFP and IOM, along with other national partners, was launched on the 18th May, on social media and with a presentation video. Audios on national language (creole) are being developed, as well as other information and communication tools. Preparation for the training on GBV prevention and service provision to the Bioksan platform partners' organizations (accountable to report and refer GBV cases) started also and UNICEF is providing a set of material and guidance.

UNICEF is supporting the family reintegration of the first group of 85 talibes children (out of 985) assisted by the Child Protection services, under the COVID-19 emergency response plan.

Supplies

UNICEF has placed an order for medical equipment and supplies for the isolation ward located in the National Hospital Simao Mendes, including 10 oxygen concentrators. An initial delivery of medical supplies has been handed over to the Hospital while the rest of the order is received. In addition, 20,000 hand-made masks are being purchased for distribution among the population and at-risk groups.

Social inclusion and cash transfers

UNICEF is jointly working with other UN agencies on the assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Guinea Bissau. The assessment will also identify some recommendations that will focus not only on the response but also on the recovery phase. UNICEF has started designing a cash transfer programme for the most affected and vulnerable boys, girls and their families. In collaboration with other UN agencies, funds have already been secured to provided cash for 1200 families.

Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

UNICEF development programmes have been adapted to the COVID-19 context by reformulating some activities, by using programme resources to enhance COVID-19 interventions or by adding sensitization on COVID-19 prevention to our current programmes.

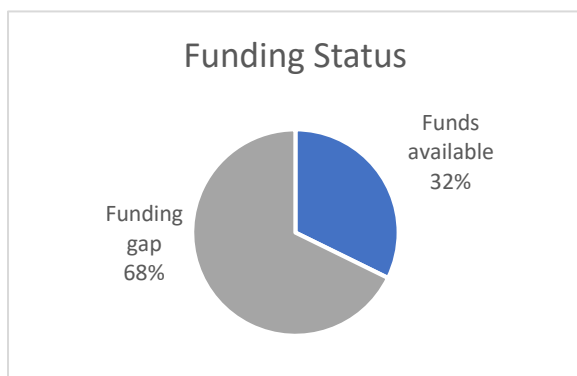
- **Community health programme:** Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, an increase of acute malnourished children is expected during the incoming critical months. UNICEF released regular resources amounting USD 51,164 to purchase nutrition material for active screening of acute malnutrition.
- **Ensuring continuous access to vaccination:** To keep key scheduled immunization actions during this COVID-19 period, UNICEF has supported the MoH on finalization of introduction plans, budgets, and Men-A campaign plan, for introduction of Men-A and MCV-2 vaccines, that were uploaded in GAVI portal.
- **HIV:** To anticipate and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on access to prevention of mother to child transmission and paediatric AIDS services, UNICEF is finalizing a 6 months partnership with a local NGO (RENAP-GB). The partnership agreement will include the prevention of COVID-19 as well as quality family health in the context of COVID-19. In addition., UNICEF supported the development and submission a proposal to Global Fund to reallocate some existing funding to COVID-19 interventions. UNICEF will provide co-funding through community radios to increase the demand of services.
- **Supplies:** provision of supplies for HIV and nutrition programmes continues despite the movement restrictions to ensure continuity of services
- **Female Genital Mutilation programme:** The UNFPA/UNICEF FGM Joint programme continues to support community interventions to end FGM, child marriage and other forms of violence against children and women. The current 109 communities, from the most affected regions, have adapted their community dialogues approaches, where gathering a large number of people has stopped in nearly all communities. After improving the capacity of NGOs coordinators, supervisors and community workers and volunteers, on COVID-19 prevention, and adaptation of ongoing interventions to the new context, a set of planned activities were discussed with the National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Practices (CNAPN), redesigned and are being implemented, covering 12,000 people until end June. Community workers, who are members of the community, are providing an information pack on COVID-19 prevention and also reinforcing messages on domestic violence prevention and prevention on violence against children, within the new context. Community and religious leaders have agreed and are very supportive.

Pictures of door-to-door sensitization campaign in Bissau



Funding Overview and Partnerships

The Guinea-Bissau CO has contributed to the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan with a request of USD 2.48 million for preparedness and response needs. UNICEF Guinea-Bissau has redirected \$US 270,000 of its own resources to the response. The office also received US\$ 70,000 provided by the Education Sector Plan Development Grant (ESPDG) from GPE, US\$ 60,000 from GAVI, US\$ 100,000 from the Regional Office Emergency Fund, US\$ 200,000 from the Thematic Humanitarian fund and US\$ 100,000 from the MPTF COVID-19 Response and Recovery fund.



Current resource mobilization efforts include the preparation of funding proposals to the GPE COVID-19 Accelerated Funding window (up to US\$ 5,000,000), to the African Development Bank jointly with WHO (US\$ 1,000,000) and the reallocation of GAVI Health System Strengthening funds (up to US\$ 300,000).

External Media

Videos produced by the young reporters' network, supported by UNICEF:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVa6HU48w7Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTEWSnuyet8>

<https://youtu.be/Mtgn1yQZ7ok>

<https://youtu.be/I6sCpWWRYXQ>

New UN COVID-19 sensitization video on the use of the mask: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62yazoG5Ygc>

National coronavirus song produced with support from the UN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFZNw6yzhkW>

Monitoring dashboard for COVID-19 WASH interventions: https://bit.ly/GNB_covid19_unicef_WASH

UNICEF Guinea-Bissau social media pages:

[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and www.unicef.org/guineabissau

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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2020 target	Total results
Risk Communication and Community Engagement		
RCCE 1: Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	1,600,000	1,458,909
RCCE 2: Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	5,421	935
WASH and IPC		
IPC 1: Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	239,000	32,737
IPC 2: Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	4,338	-
IPC 3: Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control	4,338	190
Health		
Continuity of Health Care 1: Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women	440	440
Child Protection and GBV		
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 3: Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	200	45
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 4: Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	1,100	150
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 5: Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors	150	65
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 6: Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	2000	140

Annex B

Funding Status

Sector	Funding requirements	Funds available	Funding gap \$	Gap %
C4D / RCCE	50,000	74,000	-24,000	-
WASH & IPC	800,000	80,000	720,000	90%
Social Protection	800,000	86,000	714,000	89%
Health	310,000	383,000	-73,000	-
Child Protection	120,000	60,000	60,000	50%
Social Sciences Research	50,000	-	50,000	100%
Operational and staff costs	100,000	47,000	53,000	53%
Education	250,000	70,000	180,000	72%
Total	2,480,000	800,000	1,680,000	68%