

NIGER: COVID-19 Situation Report – #09

22 June to 20 July 2020

unicef 
for every child



Situation in Numbers



1,105 COVID-19 confirmed cases

69 deaths

6,25% Lethality rate

(Ministère de la Santé Publique, July 20th, 2020)



3,800,000 Children affected by COVID-19 school reopening



US\$ 25.8 M funding required

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of the end of the reporting period, Niger registered 1,105 cases of COVID-19, 1,014 patients healed, 69 deaths, 9,197 followed contacts, with a decreasing trend in cases. Even if the rate of imported cases is high, local transmission is still active. 4 out of 8 regions didn't report any cases for at least 2 weeks. UNICEF works closely with the Government and its partners to respond to the ongoing outbreak in the country, which is already facing the consequences of multiple crisis (nutrition, conflicts, natural disasters). As part of the national COVID-19 response plan, UNICEF is providing technical support to the government of Niger to scale-up the national safety net program to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the most vulnerable population, with a special focus on children and women needs. UNICEF continues to support the back to school activities by providing the Ministry of Education with Education and WASH supplies, technical assistance, key messages about COVID-19 prevention and a monitoring system based on RapidPro. UNICEF assists particularly the Ministry of Health (MoH), in the field of risk communication/community engagement (RCCE), infection prevention and control (IPC), supply and logistics, epidemiological surveillance and healthcare provision and it is co-leading 3 of the 8 sub-committees established by the MoH (RCCE, IPC and logistics) at central and sub-national level. UNICEF is also participating to the UN COVID-19 crisis group and has been appointed UN supply and procurement coordinator for COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF's COVID-19 response

Health

In order to strengthen case detection and ensure better case management of COVID/19 patients, training was conducted with financial and technical support from UNICEF. These trainings concerned 25 regional trainers and 263 health care providers trained in epidemiological surveillance in the Tahoua regions (10 regional trainers and 157 health care providers) and in Niamey (15 regional trainers and 106 trainers) and 31 regional trainers in the all 8 regions. 103 health care providers in Niamey region were trained on cases management.

WASH

UNICEF supported the training of 47 additional health workers and hygienists from public and private health centers of Niamey on COVID-19 transmission, barriers

and compliance with infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in healthcare facilities. In order to improve infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in United Nations agencies' offices in Niamey, UNICEF supported the training of a first batch of 27 hygienists on the cleaning, washing and disinfection technics. The training of the second batch is planned for next week.

At subnational level, UNICEF provided 77 schools in Dosso and Tillabery regions with handwashing devices and soap, benefiting 35,199 pupils and 463 teachers. UNICEF also supported the regional directorates of water and sanitation of Tahoua, Agadez and Zinder regions in reinforcing the water supply system and water storage capacities in the COVID-19 case management centers and provided 60 handwashing devices and 30 personal protection equipment.

In addition, in Tahoua and Maradi regions, UNICEF provided 987 handwashing devices with soap for 841 vulnerable households, 60 healthcare facilities, 15 technical services, 30 markets and 41 bus stations.

RCCE/C4D

To empower communities in responding to the coronavirus outbreak, UNICEF has supported community engagement through a wide array of strategies at operational level. At **regional level coordination**, supervision activities have been conducted to improve the work of frontline workers, as well as those at entry points of Maradi and Zinder towns and borders with Nigeria. In **interpersonal communication**, groups of youth conducted sessions with transport bodies of Zinder (Taxi, Moto-taxi, Bus companies) reaching 1,502 members. 2,435 community workers realized home visits to inform households about barrier measures while town criers were diffusing positive messages in the streets of Zinder and Maradi cities, reaching 31,824 people. **Mass communication** strategies were also deployed to reach a maximum of beneficiaries (3,582,177). A One Health committee conducted a caravan in Belbedji district to inform rural population while local celebrity artist Ali Atchili made a round sessions in Zinder and Mirriah departments to reinforce positive messages on coronavirus. Community radios of Zinder and Maradi regions aired messages, and an interactive debate also done in one station of Maradi. **Alert committees** are still being installed as part of the community-based surveillance strategy to inform, track and claim about information and services. For this reporting period, 621 new committees were installed in Maradi and Zinder regions.

Nutrition

As of 28th of June (week 26), 167,085 under-five children suffering from SAM (42.1% of the annual target) were admitted for treatment, including 18,186 cases with medical complications. UNICEF continues to mobilize additional funds to procure more nutrition supplies to ensure an uninterrupted pipeline of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and other critical supplies. During the reporting period, \$1 million have been mobilized, corresponding to 21,600 additional cartons of RUTF. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Public Health to strengthen CMAM activities (including WASH-in-Nut strategy) in Niamey, as the capital city is the most hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education

Schools continued operating, after reopening on June 1st, with courses complemented by remedial classes. Primary and lower-secondary schools held final assessments, and courses have finished. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Secondary Education to reproduce booklets in French and Arabic for 101,626 students (including 48,780 girls) in 6th grade, which provided exercises to support catching-up on the missed learning time during the school closures. In the Maradi region, regional education and training directorates, together with UNICEF, organized missions to monitor the start of the school year in June 2020.

They followed up on the situation of schools and the working conditions of the pupils and of personnel in the context of COVID-19, finding that while most students and teachers had returned, there were continued challenges in meeting the material needs to fully secure schools. UNICEF supported schools in the region with 47,222 exercise books, 400 hand-washing kits, 800 boxes of soap, 3,750 disinfectant kits and 8,700 masks. Teachers, students and communities' members were reached with information on preventing and combating the spread of the pandemic.

In the Diffa region, with UNICEF support, the regional directorate of primary education made available to schools 1,530 litres of bleach for disinfection, 150 handwashing devices, 500 boxes of soaps and 4,888 protective masks for teachers, in addition to the material already distributed at the time of the resumption of the courses (notebooks, boxes of chalk, ballpoint pens and the collections of exercises for the classes of exams). 236 schools were reached.

A Cluster meeting was organized to evaluate the results of the interventions implemented by Cluster members over the 45 days of school reopening to complete the 2019-2020 school curriculum.

A total of 378 schools have put in place prevention measures and school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control) with the support of World Vision, WFP, Plan International and Save the Children in the most vulnerable regions, including Maradi, Tillabéry, Tahoua and Diffa.

380 hand-washing kits, 900 soaps boxes and 1872 alcoholic gel bottles, 70 infrared thermometers and 22,500 masks were distributed. 13,931, including 6,484 girls, benefited from the dry rations provided by the WFP for preventing school contamination. At the educational level, 12,993 collections of exercises and answers in French and mathematics were distributed, including 6,143 CM2 students and 6,850 students in secondary school. 4,606 children from the CI to CE1 levels attended at complimentary reading classes in 40 reading camps under the supervision of 80 trained volunteers on the unlock literacy project model. In terms of community mobilisation, 30,687 people were reached with awareness campaigns on the prevention of COVID-19 and dissemination of barrier measures in the schools of Maradi, Tahoua, Terra, Simiri, komabangou and Zinder. 4 radio stations were used for 12 broadcasts per day.

Child protection

UNICEF continues to provide technical support and guidance to the Regional Directorates for child protection to respond to the pandemic, and to advocate for the involvement of child protection actors in the response for vulnerable children, including talibés children living in the streets and children on the move.

Diffa: 291 children (137 girls), including 11 children whose parents were tested positive to COVID-19, and 150 parents (including 70 women) benefitted from

psychosocial support and sensitization in child friendly spaces, foster families (23 families) and in the communities by social workers from the Regional Direction of Child Protection with UNICEF technical and financial support.

Zinder: 19 GBV survivors (including 2 boys, 8 girls, 9 women) received psychosocial support by the DRPE in centres which is an increase from last report (5 survivors) with four cases of rape (2 boys), two cases of physical violence and six denial of resourced and economic reasons.

145 talibes children, aged 6 to 17, were identified by the Regional Directorate for Child Protection in the region of Zinder. They were all sensitized on COVID19 measures, received hygiene kits and transported to their village of origin, with the technical and financial support of UNICEF. Moreover, 240 child protection village committees were set up in the region and trained on child protection, identification and referral of children as well as COVID19 hygiene measures. They also follow up on talibes children back in their families to avoid stigmatization, violence, etc.

Maradi: 332 talibes children, aged 7 to 15, were identified by the DRPE and accompanied to their villages of origin. They all received COVID19 hygiene kits and psychosocial support. 44 child protection village committees were set up in the region and trained on child protection and creating the listing of talibes children back in their villages for specific follow ups.

Agadez: 19 separated and unaccompanied children as well as 16 children with their parents/caregiver, aged 10 to 17, 12 of them being girls, expelled from Algeria, have been transferred to a centre by IOM for 14 days quarantine since 16th July where they received psychosocial support by the DRPE. They are from the region of Zinder and the DRPE is preparing the reunification process.

Others

As lead Agency of Education and WASH Cluster, Child Protection SC and Nutrition Cluster / Sector, UNICEF is actively contributing to the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan review process and the GHRP for COVID-19.

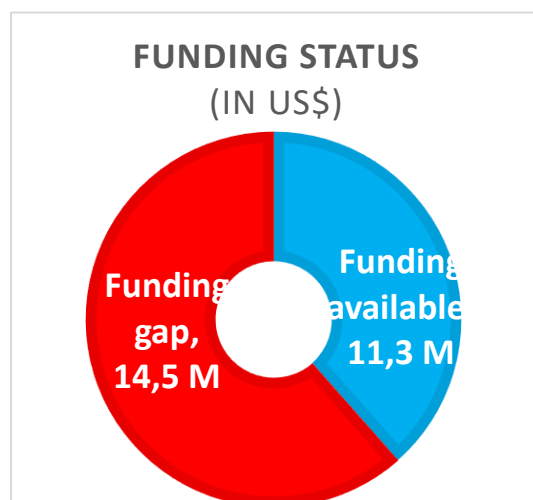
UNICEF is providing technical support to the government of Niger to scale-up the national safety net program to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the most vulnerable population and enhance the shock-responsiveness, nutrition and child-sensitivity of social protection measures as part of the national COVID-19 response plan. UNICEF also supports the Government of Niger to model a productive safety net to address structural economic determinants of vulnerability as part of the country's post-COVID-19 recovery plans.

Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government of Niger and partners to ensure the continuation of essential nutrition services at health facility and community level, while respecting measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission. UNICEF, in collaboration with the UN SUN Network, also supported the Government in the preparation of a joint declaration on adequate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in the context of COVID-19, which was signed by UNICEF and WHO country representatives, and by the Minister of Public Health. UNICEF continues to lead the technical preparation of the upcoming national nutrition survey using the SMART methodology. The survey is planned to be carried out from August to September 2020. A specific guideline on the implementation of this survey in the context of Covid-19 has been developed with UNICEF support, with an emphasis on IPC measures during the different stages of the survey. UNICEF and other partners are working with the Ministry of Public Health to respond to the Polio and Measles epidemics in the context of COVID 19.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

Over the past month, UNICEF and its partners have mobilized additional funding for the response to the Covid-19 outbreak. On behalf of the children of Niger, UNICEF thanks the Global Partnership for Education and Canada for their support to the education sector, including support for 2020-2021 school year's back to school program. The partners' support encompasses both educational, IPC/Wash, and psychosocial and behaviour change communication (BCC) aspects. However, UNICEF Niger's HAC Covid-19 presents a funding gap of 61% (nearly 16 million dollars). While UNICEF Niger has been successful in engaging key partners in the areas of social protection and research, it is important to highlight the under-funding of the health (74%), RCCE, (45%), WASH IPC (32%), nutrition (79%), child protection (84%) sectors.



External Media

UNICEF carried out a series of communication initiatives that highlight UNICEF support over the reporting period.

- **The World Bank and UNICEF deliver vital supplies for Niger's Covid-19 response:** <https://www.unicef.org/niger/press-releases/world-bank-and-unicef-deliver-vital-supplies-nigers-covid-19-response>
- **Flexible funding for humanitarian response :** <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/flexible-funding-humanitarian-response>

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Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2020 target	Total results
Risk Communication and Community Engagement		
# of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	20,000,000	15,120,480
# of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions	5,000,000	4,156,780
# of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through establishes feedback mechanisms.	1,000,000	1,213,422
WASH and IPC		
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	300,000	115,687
# of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	2,500	1,487
# of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	1,500	844
Health		
# of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases	2000	759
# of coordination meetings held with the support of UNICEF (technical and / or financial);	39	-
# of health centres equipped as triage centres	39	3
Nutrition		
# of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	396,539	167,085
Education		
# of schools implementing SAFE SCHOOL PROTOCOLS (COVID-19 prevention and control).	10,000	598
Child Protection and GBV		
# of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	21,000	2751
Social Protection		
# of households receiving HUMANITARIAN CASH TRANSFERS through UNICEF response to COVID-19	25,000	0
# of households benefitting from new or additional SOCIAL ASSISTANCE MEASURES provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	5,000	0

Annex B

Funding Status

Sector	Funding requirements	Funds available	Funding gap \$	Gap %
C4D / RCCE	3,000,000	1,661,732	1,338,268	45%
WASH & IPC	4,000,000	2,717,320	1,282,680	32%
Nutrition	1,400,000	300,000	1,100,000	79%
Health	3,000,000	779,212	2,220,788	74%
Child Protection	1,638,257	259,851	1,378,406	84%
Education	8,000,000	5,105,528	2,894,472	36%
Social Protection	4,000,000	-	4,000,000	100%
Social Research	200,000	-	200,000	100%
Coordination and support capacity	550,000	447,057	102,943	19%
Total	25,788,257	11,270,700	14,517,557	56%