

NIGER: COVID-19 Situation Report – #10

21 July to 22 August 2020

unicef 
for every child



Situation in Numbers



1,172 COVID-19 confirmed cases

69 deaths

5,58% Lethality rate

(Ministère de la Santé Publique, August 22th, 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 1,172 cases of COVID-19, 1,083 patients healed, 20 patients currently under treatment, 69 deaths, with a decreasing trend in cases and the last fatality dating on the 2nd July. 7 out of 8 regions didn't report any cases for at least 2 weeks, with Niamey remaining the epicentre of the outbreak. Even if the situation appears calm, the rate of imported cases is high and local transmission is still active. Considering the current trend, the Government allowed the opening of the airport to international flights starting on the 1st August. 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). 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. As part of the national COVID-19 response plan, UNICEF continues to provide technical and financial support to the government of Niger to ensure the continuity of access to social services as education, child protection, nutrition and 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 is also participating to the UN COVID-19 crisis group and has been appointed UN supply and procurement coordinator for COVID-19 pandemic. Clusters and sectors led by UNICEF actively contributed to the revision of the Niger 2020 HRP taking in account COVID-19 impact and response, published during the reporting period.

UNICEF's COVID-19 response

Health

As part of the prevention and control of COVID-19 infection in healthcare settings, UNICEF supported the regions of Zinder and Maradi in the training of healthcare providers and auxiliary workers: 235 health providers and 145 auxiliary agents in the region of Maradi, and 602 health workers in the region of Zinder. In addition, UNICEF is providing support to the health district of Tahoua Commune with regard to the continuity of care in the context of COVID-19.

WASH

In order to build the capacities of frontline actors on the COVID-19 IPC, UNICEF continued to support the training of health workers and hygienists. During the

reporting period, a total of 300 health workers from Agadez, Diffa, Tahoua and Zinder regions were trained with UNICEF support through its partnership with the Nigerien Red Cross, in close collaboration with the regional directorates of public health. In addition, to improve IPC measures in United Nations Agencies' offices in Niamey, UNICEF supported the training of a second batch of 20 hygienists on cleansing and disinfection techniques.

The Ministry of Water and Sanitation equipped 54 healthcare facilities, 85 schools and 71 public places of Niamey with 362 handwashing with 4 taps each thank to UNICEF support.

Moreover, in close collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF contributed to strengthen the WASH/IPC response in the site of SENO (Niamey), identified by the government to

accommodate the returnees waiting for the results of their COVID-19 test (141 returnees received yet out of the 3,390 planned). The activities included awareness raising on the COVID-19 and prevention measures, maintenance and disinfection of the latrines and cleansing.

RCCE/C4D

To reinforce **community engagement** UNICEF is supporting community structures as well as decentralized organizations of the government. Thus, 182 coordination field visits had been conducted over 5 regions (Maradi, Zinder, Diffa, Tahoua and Agadez) to strengthen quality of the activities implemented by frontline workers (*Community Workers, Health personnel, Traditional leaders*). To involve all the community stakeholders, the One Health Committee in Maradi has also conducted its monthly meeting. To decrease resistance to behaviour change, traditional and religious leaders in these 5 regions held **advocacy** meetings with leaders of 216 groups, especially nomads. Officials of Zinder region conducted a visit to the Chief of the canton of Takieta (Zinder) to discuss prevention interventions especially in the context of resistance to observance of barrier measures. In terms of **mass communication**, 82 community radios are keeping populations informed with messages and spots on coronavirus prevention and barrier measures with 807,733 persons reached. In Zinder, town criers were employed in all small towns to inform on positive behaviours, reaching 337,458 persons. In addition, 11,566 Community Workers were daily deployed in door to door visits, talking and responding to households on barrier measures, reaching out 961,896 persons. Even in the context of slow local transmission, **community surveillance** was still active in 160 localities perceived of high risk, with awareness activities also conducted at the Nigeria borders, as people are keeping moving naturally across borders. In terms of **partnerships**, Search for Common Ground is continuing to support local medias, with UNICEF support.

In terms of **mass communication**, UNICEF is supporting the national commission to produce a new set of communication materials – including child-friendly materials (spots, flyers, roll-up, etc.) to align with the current changing context - especially the reopening of the airport and the preparation of the reopening of schools.

Nutrition

As of end of July (week 31), 211,620 under-five children suffering from SAM (representing 53,4% of the annual target¹), were admitted for treatment, including 22,750 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, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Public Health (Directorate of Nutrition and the regional directorate of public health of Niamey) to develop and finance a response plan for CMAM activities in the COVID-19 context in Niamey. In addition, key messages for promotion of adequate IYCF practices were developed and shared with nutrition actors. UNICEF, in coordination with partners, funded local radios for dissemination of these key messages throughout the country.

Education

In the education sector, primary and lower secondary school students are on school holidays. Those in the second cycle began their baccalaureate exams on August 17th.

At the Cluster level, some of the partners' activities were suspended because of the school holiday period. Nevertheless, construction activities, community mobilization and the distribution of take-away meals continued. Thanks to Education Cannot Wait (ECW) support, the World Food Program (WFP) continued food support for schools with canteens in the form of takeaway rations, reaching 10,836 beneficiaries, including 4,897 girls. Education stakeholders received financial support to monitor and distribute take-home rations and 12,000 protective masks for pupils and teachers and the CGDES were provided. The Cluster held an ordinary meeting during which COVID-19 the challenges for the next school year were discussed in the context of the pandemic.

UNICEF started discussions with national partners on preparation for the start of the 2020/2021 school year in the context of the pandemic. Two meetings were held with the COVID-19 communication commission of the Ministry of Public Health (MSP) which identified a series of activities to be implemented. Thus, on August 19th, UNICEF facilitated the organization of a meeting bringing together representatives of the ministries of education, the COVID communication commission and UNICEF to discuss key messages to raise awareness about the pandemic. It was agreed to validate these messages by the concerned ministries and to identify the appropriate channels of communication so that the tools are prepared as soon as possible, with next workshop planned for the 27th August.

Child protection

UNICEF continues to provide technical support and guidance to the Regional Directorates for child protection and to the local NGOs 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: 1685 children (856 girls), including 11 children whose parents were tested positive to COVID-19, and

1279 parents (including 659 women) benefitted from psychosocial support and sensitization in child friendly spaces, community mechanism approaches, foster families (86 families) and in the communities by social workers from the Regional Direction of Child Protection and from local NGO WARAKA with UNICEF technical and financial support.

Others

As lead Agency of Education and WASH Cluster, Child Protection Sub-Cluster and Nutrition Cluster / Sector, UNICEF actively contributed to the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan review process. According to this revised version of the 2020 HRP², 3.7 million people in Niger are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance, including about 2 M children. 2.2 million people (+27%) are targeted for non-COVID-19 response with an updated budget of 433.8 M USD (+8%). The revised HRP also targets 3.1 M people in the country for COVID-19 response with a budget of

82.3 M USD (66.6 M USD for health activities) for a new HRP total budget of 516.1 M USD.

Strategically, UNICEF also focuses its efforts on strengthening national social protection systems and expanding the reach of these systems to previously non-targeted populations affected by the COVID-19 and other crises. As part of the national COVID-19 response plan, UNICEF has provided technical support to the government of Niger for the scale-up of the national safety net program to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the most vulnerable population, with particular focus on enhancing the shock-responsiveness, as well as nutrition and child-sensitivity of targeting criteria. The national COVID19 safety net programme targets a total 455,984 households across rural and urban areas in all 8 regions of Niger and will be delivered through the government's system (Wadata Talaka – PFS programme). 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

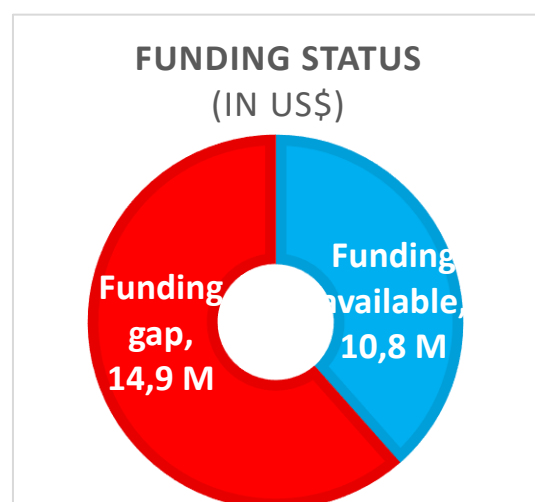
UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government of Niger and partners to ensure the continuation of essential nutrition services at health facility and community level, while respecting measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission. UNICEF continues to lead the technical preparation of the upcoming national nutrition survey using the SMART methodology. The survey is planned to be carried out from August to September 2020. UNICEF recruited a national consultant to support the technical committee and ensure the quality of data. The training of surveyors started on 18th of August and will end with the pilot survey on 24th of August. UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, is supporting the Directorate of Nutrition in the elaboration of a national strategy to scale up the mother-MUAC approach. 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. As technical coordinator, UNICEF is participating at the review of the RRM COVID-19 SOP to adapt them to the outbreak evolving scenario.

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 World Bank and OFDA for their support to health, Wash/IPC and RCCE interventions, including support for 2020-2021 immunization program.

However, UNICEF Niger's HAC Covid-19 presents a funding gap of 42% (nearly 11 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 WASH IPC (25%), nutrition (79%), and child protection (84%) sectors.



² The revised version of the Niger 2020 HRP is available here: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/op%C3%A9rations/niger/document/niger-plan-de-r%C3%A9ponse-humanitaire-revis%C3%A9>

External Media

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

- **Publication and dissemination of the second edition of the UNICEF Covid-19 Diaries:**
<https://www.unicef.org/niger/reports/turning-threats-opportunities>
- **Large dissemination of the “coping with covid-19: through a girl’s eyes series”:**
<https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/pandemic-through-girls-eyes>
- **Press release highlighting the support provided by Education Cannot Wait :**
<https://www.unicef.org/niger/press-releases/additional-support-education-cannot-wait-scale-education-emergency-response-niger>
- **Press release on WASH support :** <https://www.unicef.org/niger/press-releases/improving-access-sustainable-water-hygiene-and-sanitation-services-niger>
- **Celebration of the World Humanitarian Day, paying special tribute to Real Life Heroes, including Covid-19 Heroes:** <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/meet-reallifeheroes>
- **News article: Mitigating the impacts of Covid-19 on children’s education:**
<https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/mitigating-impacts-covid-19-childrens-education>
- **News article: Bringing the power of connectivity to fast track access to educational resources and opportunities:** <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/power-connectivity>

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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 | 15,228,114 |
| # of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions | 5,000,000 | 4,171,763 |
| # 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 | 188,228 |
| # 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 | 1,164 |
| Health | | |
| # of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases | 2000 | 1,741 |
| # of coordination meetings held with the support of UNICEF (technical and / or financial); | 39 | 2 |
| # 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 | 211,620 |
| Education | | |
| # of schools implementing SAFE SCHOOL PROTOCOLS (COVID-19 prevention and control). | 10,000 | 841 |
| Child Protection and GBV | | |
| # of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support | 21,000 | 5,715 |
| 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 | 2,634,773 | 365,227 | 12% |
| WASH & IPC | 4,000,000 | 3,008,110 | 991,890 | 25% |
| Nutrition | 1,400,000 | 300,000 | 1,100,000 | 79% |
| Health | 3,000,000 | 3,094,375 | -94,375 | -3% |
| 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 | 0 | 4,000,000 | 100% |
| Social Research | 200,000 | 0 | 200,000 | 100% |
| Coordination and support capacity | 550,000 | 500,157 | 49,843 | 9% |
| Total | 25,788,257 | 14,902,794 | 10,885,463 | 42% |