



WASH kits are distributed by UNICEF, World Vision and local partners to communities in Soweto, Johannesburg. The household level engagement included sharing key COVID-19 messaging on prevention measures. Photo UNICEFSouthAfrica/DesIngramBrown

Reporting Period: 01-30 September 2020

## Highlights

- South Africa moved to Alert Level 1 on September 21, as new COVID-19 infections continued to slow across the country and the National Department of Health (NDoH) reported that the epidemiological curve has plateaued. UNICEF and partners are now working on further scaling up risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) efforts to prevent a second wave, as movement of people increases, and the holiday season approaches.
- UNICEF joined a task team, under the Minister of Education, to deal with the challenges of lower than normal school attendance. The rates of pupils going back to school varies from 94% in Mpumalanga province to 77% of learners attending class in Free State province.
- UNICEF's '[Tippy Tap Challenge](#)' has been taken up by more than 11,000 young people who have registered on the Zlto platform. This provides an opportunity for young people to not only improve handwashing facilities and behavior in their communities but to earn digital rewards that can be exchanged for food and airtime when they show evidence of a new Tippy Tap.

## Situation Overview

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has reached 672,572, with COVID-19 related deaths at 16,667 and the recovery rate now stands at 90%.
- New data shows that children make up 7,6% of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and 2,9% of all COVID-19 associated admissions to hospitals. The number of cases and the incidence risk ratio was higher in 15-18 years old girls compared to boys. Nearly 70% of cases had underlying conditions, with asthma and chronic pulmonary disease the most frequently reported followed by HIV and diabetes.
- Nearly 32,500 healthcare workers have been infected with COVID-19, accounting for 4.8% of all cases. Of those, 257 healthcare personnel have died.
- As COVID-19 infection rates have slowed, the broader impact of the virus and related lockdown is becoming clearer. Violence against children and gender-based violence issues have been called the country's second pandemic and UNICEF is working to strengthen prevention and early intervention programmes. Some 20,000 children have been assisted with online counselling, referrals and information for their physical, emotional and psychological health.

# SOUTH AFRICA COVID-19

## Situation Report No. 8

01-30 September 2020

unicef   
for every child

## Situation in Numbers

Confirmed cases: 672,572

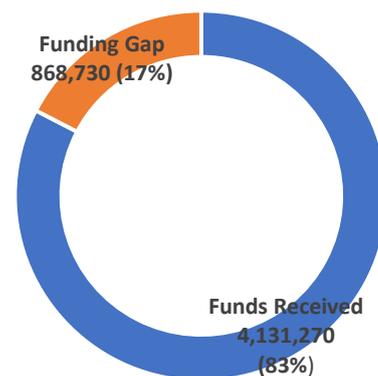
Recovered: 605,520

Deaths: 16,667

Tests conducted:

(As of 30 September)

## FUNDING STATUS (US\$)



# Summary of Preparedness and Response Actions

## Education

1. Reports show a low number of infections in schools, however one school in Eastern Cape reported over one hundred pupils testing positive.
2. UNICEF continues to support the back to school initiative, printing and distributing child friendly standard operation procedures, including posters on how to stay safe at school. Videos for learners, parents, teachers and support staff have also been produced, while work on improving access to WASH in schools is ongoing.
3. At least 6,2 million children have been provided with remote learning resources, including through online platforms, broadcast (radio and TV) and social media. UNICEF is also supporting the WoZa Matric programme that provides learners with learning materials and psychosocial support as they prepare for their final exams.
4. Some 21 million people have been reached through COVID-19 messaging focused on staying safe at school. This includes through PSAs and messaging on DSTV Supersport channel and the Children Radio Foundation.
5. A significant number of early childhood development programmes, especially in poorer areas, have not re-opened and some parents are reluctant to send their children back. UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the Department of Social Development and the Department of Basic Education, including standard operating procedures to encourage the safe re-opening of these programmes.
6. UNICEF works with the Department of Social Development and Department of Basic Education through the *Tshwaragano ka Bana: Let's play, learn and grow together* series, to provide ECD resource materials to all parents of young children at home. This programme reached more than 620,000 parents, and an estimated 940,000 children aged birth to five years. The '*ActiveLearning@Home*' series supports parent's with pupils from Grade R to 9, while the 'Do It More Foundation' shared educational resources at food distributions with three million meals provided to vulnerable communities, many of whom have limited or no access to online resources.
7. UNICEF continues to work with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) on the coordination and 'curriculum trimming exercise' for the education catch-up programme, as well as with the education sector on the 'Care and Support in Teaching and Learning' (CSTL) pillar, which includes psychosocial support.
8. UNICEF supported the Department of Basic Education on a national and provincial webinar for 95 children from Eastern Cape province focused on preventing violence and child protection issues.

## Child and Social Protection

- Violence against children and gender-based violence issues have been called the country's second pandemic and have reportedly worsened during and post the COVID-19 hard lockdown. UNICEF is actively engaging in media coverage on these issues and this included the Child Protection Chief on various TV debates, such as [NewzRoom Afrika](#), [eNCA](#) and SABC. The TV debates and news reports are also now highlighting child abductions and kidnappings that may be happening as a result of increasing crime.
- UNICEF participated in high level talks with [UNICEF USA](#) and UNICEF Netherlands to highlight the impact of COVID-19 and the related lockdown on children, as well as presenting the solutions and a call for resources to help scale-up child protection support to children across the country.
- UNICEF co-organised and was a keynote speaker at the high level GBV Conference organized by Multichoice that included Mrs. Graca Machel and the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Bekele Thomas. The event led to a call to action for corporates to take on young people as their mentors through the 'Big Brother Big Sisterhood' programme, as well as to invest in positive parenting, 'mencare' and youth centers. These efforts are part of ongoing work to develop a social compact for South Africa between the government, UNICEF, corporates and civil society.
- UNICEF continues to support Childline SA to respond to the psychosocial needs of children and to refer child abuse cases to relevant service providers, including the National Department of Social Development and South African Police Services. More than 20,000 children have been assisted with online counselling, referrals and information regarding their physical, emotional and psychological health.
- The training on economic empowerment, gender-based violence awareness and distribution of dignity kits for migrants is ongoing and reached more than 1,800 migrants to date in KwaZulu-Natal province. With the

lockdown easing to level one, the training will reach more migrants, as the number of people allowed to gather in one place has increased.

- UNICEF has taken an active role in the leading the development of the One UN Gender-Theme-Group workplan to support government with innovative models on preventing violence against women and children.
- On 29 September, a webinar was held with children on violence and harmful cultural practices, with the Deputy Minister of Education joining the conversation. Children from Limpopo led this discussion through their Facebook page, which led to a broader reach. These discussions help to challenge stereotypes, patriarchy and the inequalities that are still pervasive in the country. The webinars are co organized by UNICEF SA, GIZ, Agape, Media Monitoring Africa, Department of Basic Education and provincial staff, to provide opportunities for children to participate across all provinces and all racial and economic classes.

## Health and Nutrition

1. UNICEF is engaged in five provinces to promote the continuity of child nutrition services during COVID-19 and to develop and implement recovery plans on key child nutrition interventions. This work is critical as data shows that the coverage of child nutrition services, specifically for children with acute malnutrition, has dropped by almost half since the hard lockdown began in April.
2. A media campaign for 'National Nutrition and Obesity Week' is being developed by UNICEF and the NDoH, targeting adolescents and youth with key nutrition messages on healthy eating in the context of COVID-19. The campaign will create awareness amongst adolescents and youth so they can become agents of change to reduce risk factors linked to non-communicable diseases.
3. UNICEF is partnering with The Clinton Health Action Initiative, the Foundation for Professional Development and others to leverage resources to improve the expanded immunization programme and overall primary health care system. The immunization catch-up drive will take place in November across 12 priority districts, including 7 metropolitan municipalities which were badly affected by COVID-19. The catch-up drive will include nutrition screening and micronutrient supplementation, deworming, immunization, screening and referrals for HIV testing and treatments among children under five years.
4. UNICEF is supporting the NDoH in implementing the new PMTCT guidelines to identify any gaps. This includes collaborating with the Clinton Health Action Initiative to support provinces and districts in data analysis in light of COVID-19 and the new PMTCT guidelines. The project will inform the development of a toolkit to support data analysis and interpretation for maternal and child health programmes, with a focus on HIV and PMTCT.

## WASH

1. UNICEF developed a field guide on 'How to build your own Tippy Tap' and digital rewards partner Zlto created a related short course about the guide. By mid-September, 9,291 people had completed the Tippy Tap course. An estimated 1724 youths uploaded evidence of building a Tippy Tap on the Zlto platform to claim their digital rewards, the challenge is now scaling up towards Global Handwashing Day events.
2. UNICEF is planning activities for Global Handwashing Day on 15 October. The Tippy Tap challenge has been identified as a key activity to demonstrate and encourage handwashing in schools and communities. UNICEF are also on the team planning the GHD webinar for provincial health communicators and promoters.
3. UNICEF and Envirosan installed 95 handwashing with soap stations in eight provinces, with 14 installed at schools and health facilities across four provinces. These communal stations improved access to handwashing for 47,500 people in high-risk areas.
4. UNICEF and World Vision distributed 2,850 WASH kits to vulnerable households in Free State, and Gauteng provinces. Each WASH kit includes critical supplies such as masks, soap, sanitiser, a bucket and WASH education materials. These kits cover a family for at least 3 months.
5. Locations in public spaces and schools within informal settlements have been identified by UNICEF's partner, World Vision, for the installation of an additional 100 communal handwashing stations. UNICEF is liaising with the relevant local authorities for acceptance of these stations and the responsibility of maintaining the water and soap supply.
6. UNICEF is partnering with WaterAid on the installation of 80 handwashing stations in schools and vulnerable communities in Gauteng and Limpopo provinces. The partnership will also provide an opportunity to improve community knowledge and practices to prevent and mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

## Communication, Communication for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

### **Communication**

1. UNICEF released an engaging video and web story of [Livhuwani, a 'ChildLine' worker](#), to recognize the essential role of social workers in the COVID-19 response to support the mental and physical wellbeing of children.
2. A [new article](#) was released to provide UNICEF's individual donors with an overview of the past few months work in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people.
3. Violence against children was discussed and debated during two media appearances, including the Child Protection Chief, on broadcaster eNCA and SABC. UNICEF South Africa also spoke on a Newzroom Afrika broadcast feature about hunger and nutrition issues.
4. UNICEF Deputy Representative was featured in a [Devex article](#) about COVID-19 in South Africa.
5. A series of new images, highlighting the distribution of WASH kits, were released across social media platforms.
6. 'What excites us, unites us' a [video](#) about the power of football to unite people and to advocate for the rights of migrant and refugee children was re-released on the Sport and Development platform and across UNICEF's platforms.
7. A new [blog on the power of sport](#) in supporting children during COVID-19 was released by UNICEF South Africa's sports for development team in collaboration with UNICEF Innocenti.
8. UNICEF's volunteer club at Wits University hosted a panel discussion with young people on upholding the rights of vulnerable children during lockdown.
9. UNICEF South Africa released a social media version of the 'Jerusalema Challenge' on Heritage Day that was shared by the Presidency South Africa account.
10. UNICEF South Africa participated in a webinar about 'Media Reporting on Children' hosted by the Department of Social Development (DSD). The session focused on the importance of hearing the voices of children through ethical media reporting.

### **C4D / Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

1. UNICEF's partner World Vision is engaging communities to spread messaging on COVID-19 prevention measures, such as mask wearing, good nutrition and encouraging the safe use of routine healthcare services. During the distribution of WASH kits in Gauteng and Free State provinces, community groups engaged 4,620 people through household visits and socially distanced street meetings.
2. The [Tippy Tap challenge](#) is being promoted by the National Department of Health (NDoH) through provincial networks in the build up to Global Handwashing Day. The Department of Social Development (DSD) included the Tippy Tap Challenge guidelines in the standard operating procedures for 1,374 drop-in centers for orphans and vulnerable children. Health promotion specialists from the national, provincial and district health departments attended the Slovoville Tippy Tap field demonstration ahead of promoting the challenge across all provinces. The Children's Radio Foundation launched its 'Youth Reporter Tippy Tap Challenge' through an on-line webinar with young journalists to promote making handwashing facilities in underserved homes and communal areas. The reporters broadcast on 18 community radio stations, reaching 1,3 million listeners.
3. UNICEF is providing technical support to the NDoH risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) technical working group to prevent and mitigate a resurgence of COVID 19, as the movement of people [is?] increasing across the country. This work includes articulating key activities and indicators on social and behaviour change, sexual and reproductive health concerns and planning for a holiday season campaign.
4. To tackle misinformation and to ensure community feedback to the COVID-19 response, monitoring across all UNICEF platforms is being refined. Technical support is also being provided to the NDoH to map and collate feedback on rumours and community concerns through multiple channels to develop an RCCE response focused on priority issues. UNICEF is also informing the national response to social media and community feedback trends on COVID-19 through UNICEF regional and inter-agency monitoring reports and dashboards.
5. UNICEF is working to improve coordination and collaboration among all partners, co-convening a meeting with the South African Red Cross Society, WHO, and the International Federation of Red Cross to map

activities and opportunities to strengthen the COVID-19 response. UNICEF is also coordinating with WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on provincial level RCCE resurgence planning.

6. A rapid community assessment on behavioural responses to COVID-19 and the uptake of HIV and sexual reproductive health services is being set up in collaboration with UNICEF's East and Southern Africa Regional Office, the global UNICEF Evaluation Office and the social and behavior change advisory group at the Wits School of Public Health.
7. Social distancing markers have been installed at 90 handwashing stations, reaching 45,000 community members with COVID-19 prevention messaging. COVID-19 prevention and health promotion stickers have been printed and included in all hygiene kits to be distributed to 10,000 vulnerable households.
8. World Vision facilitators completed the WASH/ RCCE household survey in nine high priority WASH sites, with 353 submissions received and data analysis now underway.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

- Standard Bank donated Rand 300,900 (US\$18,235) for nutrition gardens, playgrounds and psychosocial support for children affected by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Standard Bank donated Rand 1 million for the COVID-19 education response, with a focus on psycho-social support for teachers and learners.
- Markhams, part of The Foshini Group, conducted a gender-based violence campaign in stores, selling a t-shirt line of which R86 per t-shirt goes to Sonke, a UNICEF implementing partner. The total of the expected donation is R860,000 (US\$52,000).
- UNICEF South Africa presented an update on the COVID-19 situation and fundraising needs in the country to a global UNICEF audience in support of resource mobilization needs.

## Challenges

- The easing of lockdown measures means more people are on the move again and with the holiday season approaching later in the year there are concerns of a potential COVID-19 resurgence. UNICEF is further strengthening its RCCE work, in collaboration with government and partners, with a focus on community engagement on COVID-19 prevention measures in hotspot areas.
- COVID-19 could reverse the gains and progress made on HIV prevention, with data indicating a rising caseload of mother-to-child transmission since the outbreak of the virus and related lockdown measures. UNICEF is working with partners to identify interventions that can reduce mother-to-child transmission, including postnatal pre-exposure prophylaxis, among others.
- South Africa's GDP could plunge by 8% this year due to COVID-19, according to UNDP. Women and in-turn their children in the poorest female headed households are expected to bear the brunt. The socio-economic impact is also showing signs of leading to increased xenophobia that will impact on already vulnerable migrant children and their families. UNICEF is working with partners, such as Media Monitoring Africa and UN partners, to engage with media and to tackle negative narratives across social media platforms.

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## Summary of Programme Results, UNICEF South Africa, September 2020

Indicators	Target to 31 Dec 2020	Results as of 30 September 2020
<b>Education</b>		
# of children – and parents - supported with distance/home-based learning [ECD, Primary, Secondary Ed]	7,200,000	6,810,250
<b>Social Policy and Child Protection</b>		
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community- based mental health and psychosocial support	100,000	130,800
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for PSEA	20	70
UNICEF technical support to COVID-19 top-up of government social protection cash transfer system	5,700,000 (households)	5,700,000 (households)
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	2,500,000	158,920
<b>Health, Nutrition and WASH</b>		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies, including hygiene items, and services	500,000	60,075
Number of children & women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV & GBV care in UNICEF supported facilities (national and monthly)	172,980	164,294
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received infant and young child feeding counselling through facilities and community platforms through UNICEF supported adolescent girls and young women peer mentors project	5,774	10,567
<b>Risk Communication</b>		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	7,000,000	7,350,550
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	40,000	60,635
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	100,000	37,000

## Annex B

## Funding Status, UNICEF South Africa, September 2020

Sector	Requirements (US\$)			Received (US\$)	Funding gap from HAC (HAC-Received)	
	Total	COVID-19 HAC	Regular Programme		\$	%
Nutrition	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	0.00	500,000	100%
Health and WASH	2,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,147,805	-1,147,805	-115%
Social Policy and Child Protection	1,550,000	775,000	775,000	591,900	183,100	24%
Education	5,090,000	2,545,000	2,545,000	1,292,820	1,252,180	49%
Data collection and analysis of disease and secondary impact on women and children	60,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	0%
Communication for Development	300,000	150,000	150,000	68,745	81,255	54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>4,131,270</b>	<b>868,730</b>	<b>17%</b>