Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of 1st October 2020, Guinea-Bissau has recorded 2,362 cases. Of these confirmed cases, 2,043 (87%) are in Bissau, the capital. Ten (10) regions out of the 11 in the country have confirmed COVID-19 cases. The death toll is 39 people, representing a fatality rate of 1.65%. Among the confirmed cases, 282 (12% of COVID-19 cases in the country) are healthcare workers. The country continues to have more cases amongst males, 1,301 (56%) compared to females. The age group of 25-34 years remains the most affected by the virus with 483 confirmed (21%) followed by the group of individuals who did not specify their age group with 431 cases (19%), and then the 15-24 years group with 363 (16%) cases (figure below).

![Figure1: Cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases by age and sex. 22 September 2020](image)
UNICEF’s COVID-19 response

Health & Nutrition

During the month of September, UNICEF continued its support, mainly focusing on improving the conditions for case management. UNICEF purchased additional 140 oxygen cylinders to fill the gap in oxygen availability in the hospitals, while necessary equipment is being put in place for an optimum local production of oxygen.

Also, UNICEF contributed to an integrated training of health technicians on various aspects of COVID-19. This comprehensive training took place in all the regions and will help improve both case management and preventive measures everywhere in the country.

Lastly, UNICEF purchased and delivered 20 hospital beds that will be used in the main hospital in Bissau where there is still room for improvement of case management conditions.

WASH

Support to health centers

The distribution of WASH kits and the installation of foot-operated handwashing stations in health care facilities in the regions continues. During the second half of the month, the delivery of WASH critical supplies was concluded in 41 health centers. As a second phase in the improvement of handwashing facilities in health centers, the installation of foot-operated handwashing stations is expected to begin during the month of October. In the capital Bissau, the installation of pedal operated Handwashing stations in nine health centres was completed.

Training of health technicians on Infection Prevention and Control, with a focus on cleaning and hygiene procedures as well as hand washing, was conducted: 18 technicians from the 9 health centers in Bissau, 10 technicians from the 5 health areas in the area of Farim and 23 technicians from 9 health areas in Tombali health region benefitted from the training.

Support to communities

In Bafatá and Gabú regions, rapid response teams continue to distribute critical WASH supplies to COVID-19 affected households and communities in both 15 rural and 14 urban areas. The distribution of the supplies is followed by the installation of handwashing devices and sessions on hygiene promotion.

Support to schools

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF has supported the development of a WASH in schools training plan. UNICEF led and conducted the training in WASH and Infection Prevention Control to 50 technicians of which 38 are technicians from the Ministry of Education and 12 are from CSO partners. These Trainers will be responsible for the replication of the training at the national level in the 1,500 schools benefiting from support of the GPE fund (3,000 teachers will be trained).

Support to the High Commission for COVID-19

UNICEF continues its support to the High Commission for COVID-19 on data management through the development of a database that automatically transfers, cleans, geolocates, and publishes testing data for use by government officials involved in the national COVID-19 response. Since the launch in August/September, doctors and laboratory technicians can search and download patient test results without patients having to return to the lab for test results. This reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission substantially. A live visualization of lab results, produced by UniPiaget and regional laboratories, was also supported.

RCCE/C4D

UNICEF continued to ensure technical assistance to the High Commission for COVID-19 within the Risk Communication and Community Engagement multidisciplinary team. One of the main products of the team has been the COVID-19 prevention songs (both in
CREO and other local languages) that were presented at a concert on 18 September.

UNICEF continued focusing its Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) response through door-to-door sensitization activities among the population, being carried out by National Red Cross volunteers in the Autonomous Sector of Bissau. During the reporting period, these interventions have reached 15,726 people (7,056 children, 4,535 women and 4,135 men). So far, 863,504 people have been reached through interpersonal communication being carried out in their community, through door-to-door visits, at residences, main public markets and ports in the Autonomous Sector of Bissau, Cacheu and Biombo regions.

Coronavirus preventive communication contents continued to be aired through UNICEF traditional media partners (national television, national newspaper, and 30 national and community-based radios countrywide). These contents are available in the most used local languages of the country. Through these media outlets, 1.6 million people have been reached countrywide. During the reporting period, UNICEF social media platforms have reached 245,098 comments/reactions.

**Education**

With the reopening of schools planned for 5th October, UNICEF has focused its efforts in supporting the Ministry of Education to accelerate the implementation of the national contingency plan for education, supporting the printing of key guidance tools to promote best practices and safe operations in schools. Moreover, a training of trainers’ on infection prevention and control, water, basic sanitation and hygiene in the school context was conducted, as described above.

UNICEF procured approximately 6,000 cloth masks for children as well as water containers and soap for handwashing and supported the reproduction and dissemination of key documents that will guide services and schools to reopen safely at all levels.

UNICEF engaged with the national television to continue broadcasting televised content focusing on foundational learning in a strategy to enhance the promotion of continuity of learning and allow home-based learning. A total of 52 products were developed, totalling approximately 1,110 hours of pre-school content. These are expected to be broadcasted in line with the new school year, the first week of October. The full package of the Children Radio Foundation lessons for preschool, school-age, and out of school children has been translated from English to Portuguese and contextualizing workshops are being prepared.

**Child protection**

The National Association of Social Workers (AGAS) is implementing a two-month awareness campaign in Bissau to address violence prevention and case management during the COVID-19 pandemic. 24 social workers (10 women and 14 men) were involved receiving 3 days of training to improve their knowledge and to harmonize community approaches. As children continue without access to school, it is important to strengthen approaches supporting families, communities and children to cope with violence and abuse in the household and community. Six main neighbourhoods of Bissau were targeted and so far, 850 people reached. The AGAS is collaborating with 10 community health workers and 12 local associations sharing information on prevention of violence at home, including contacts of services available in Bissau, through group meetings, door to door, leaflets distribution and radio messages. COVID-19 prevention messages were also shared, and 450 masks and 60 sanitizers distributed to people involved.

**Social inclusion and cash transfers**

During the reporting period, electronic registration of all households targeted for cash transfers has been completed. The data has been collected through smart phones including vulnerability indicators and household demographics. A vulnerability assessment has been used to identify the most vulnerable families in the selected villages using 19 indicators. In total 1,500 households representing 11,000 people have been selected to benefit from monthly payments. Starting end of September, each family will receive 40.000 XOF for three months in order to help mitigate the socio-
economic impact of the crisis caused by the pandemic. Among the selected families 66% are headed by women, 90% have 5 or more dependents, 52% are headed by pregnant or lactating women, 37% of families have out of school children, 71% of families lack access to toilets or water. A Complaint and Feedback Mechanism (CFM), through a toll-free hotline, has also been put in place. This system allows beneficiaries to provide suggestions, feedback and present complaints.

UNICEF has provided cell phones to all beneficiaries not only to enable them to use the CFM mechanism, but also in order to facilitate the electronic disbursement of cash through MTN mobile money as well as to enable to conduct the baseline and end line surveys. Theses surveys will enable to assess the impact of the intervention by collecting data on household decision making process, coping strategies, dietary diversity of women and children, water access and vaccination.

Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

UNICEF has used mid-year review meetings held by sectoral programmes to readapt their work plans in order to contribute to the COVID-19 response and improve their results.

- **Child Protection:**
  - Under the UNFPA/UNICEF Joint Programme to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), five national NGOs continue working at community level in six (out of 9) country regions. Despite the raining season, 3,135 people, including 617 adolescents were involved in community dialogues to address FGM and child marriage, as well as COVID-19 prevention measures. 10 new community animators were trained in Bafata region, increasing communication skills to involve adolescents as actors of social norms change and the door to door approach.
  - Assistance to family and community reintegration of vulnerable talibé children continued during the month of September. With UNICEF, IOM and PAPEV, 34 more children have returned to their families (5 arrived from Senegal by their own means an the remaining 29 have escaped and were sheltered by NGO AMIC in their centre). For two weeks, children were provided with psychosocial support while judicial authorities and social services were managing the case. All of them received COVID-19 prevention hygienic kits and, as per established reintegration protocol. Civil registration services are in the process of ensuring birth registration to those with no birth certificate and families are benefiting from food and non-food supplies.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF Guinea-Bissau has contributed to the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan with a request of USD 3.2 million for preparedness and response needs. The country office has redirected $US 270,000 of its own regular resources to the response. The office also received US$ 70,000 provided by the Education Sector Plan Development Grant (ESPDG) from GPE, US$ 3,500,000 from GPE COVID-19 Accelerated funding, reallocation of US$ 191,000 from GAVI, US$ 100,000 from the Regional Office Emergency Fund, US$ 200,000 from the Thematic Humanitarian fund, US$ 100,000 from the MPTF COVID-19 Response and Recovery fund and US$ 51,100 from Portuguese Cooperation.

Current resource mobilization efforts include the submission of funding proposals to the African Development Bank jointly with WHO (US$ 3,300,000) and to the Japan’s Supplementary budget (US$ 1,724,220).
EXTERNAL MEDIA

MEDIA ARTICLES
UNICEF doa materiais de combate a pandemia ao Ministério da Saúde Pública:
http://angnoticias.blogspot.com/2020/06/covid-19-unicef-doa-materiais-de_5.html?m=1

UNICEF oferece materiais para prevenção ao Ministério da Justiça:
http://angnoticias.blogspot.com/2020/06/covid-19-unicefoferece-para-prevencao.html#links

SOCIAL MEDIA
UNICEF Guinea-Bissau social media pages:
Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and www.unicef.org/guineabissau

UNICEF Guinea-Bissau dedicated webpage for coronavirus content in Portuguese:

WEBSITE PAGES
Tudo o que você precisa saber sobre como lavar as mãos para se proteger contra o coronavírus:
Principais Mensagens e Ações para a Prevenção do Coronavírus (Covid-19) em Escolas:
Marco de ação e recomendações para a reabertura de escolas
Covid-19: UNICEF makes available guidance to protect children and support safe school operations

VIDEOS
New video: Weekly media briefing from WHO’s Representative on the current epidemiological situation in the country, as well as, the UN’s response to the coronavirus pandemic:
https://www.facebook.com/ONUGuineaBissau/videos/1209216139427848/
UNICEF donation of essential medical drugs & supplies for #COVID19 response
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMOvEPEhE6c
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/l6sCpWWRYXQ
UN COVID-19 sensitization video on the use of the mask: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62yazoG5Ygc
Summary of 3 months #COVID19 risk communication activities in Guinea-Bissau
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBVBU_9aEpE

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

PICTURES
Folder for pictures of COVID-19 interventions here

WASH DASHBOARD

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## Annex A

### Summary of Programme Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF and IPs Response</th>
<th>2020 target</th>
<th>Total results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCCE 1: Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,787,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCCE 2: Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,432</td>
<td>1,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WASH and IPC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPC 1: Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td></td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>Total: 338,837 Male: 163,862 Female: 174,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPC 2: Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,338</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPC 3: Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,338</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuity of Health Care 4: Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection and GBV</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 1: Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning</td>
<td></td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>Total: 319,176 (0-5 y) Male: 163,416 Female: 155,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 2: Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 3: Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements</td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Total: 45 Male: 45 Female: 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>Total: 20,161 Male: 5,406/0-17y: 3,617 Female: 6,614/ 0-17y:4,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
<td>150</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>Total: 36,860 Male 12,203/0-17y 3,473 Female16,704/ 0-17y 4,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Protection</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator 1: Number of households receiving HUMANITARIAN CASH TRANSFERS through UNICEF response to COVID-19</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex B

#### Funding Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Funding requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap $</th>
<th>Funding Gap %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C4D / RCCE</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>306,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH &amp; IPC</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>285,000</td>
<td>515,000</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>825,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>710,000</td>
<td>551,311</td>
<td>158,689</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>302,100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences Research</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational and staff costs</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>77,000</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>1,883,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,200,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,229,411</strong></td>
<td><strong>746,689</strong></td>
<td><strong>23%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>