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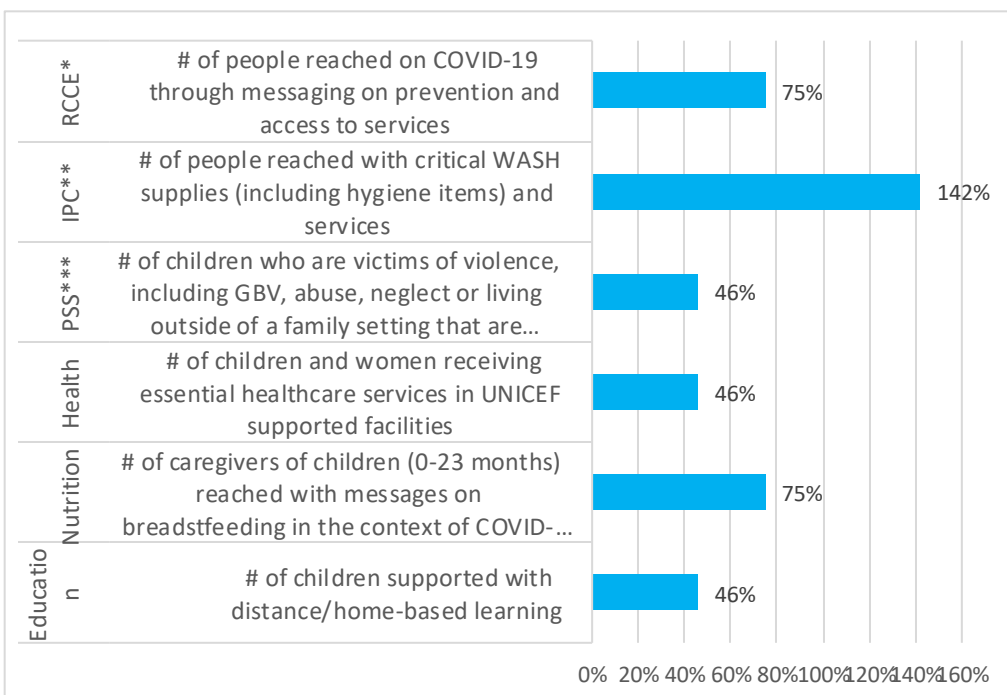
unicef   
for every child

COVID-19  
Situation Report #15  
27 August 2020 -  
23 September 2020

## Highlights

- **More than 7 million children have access to distance learning** thanks to partnerships with 322 radio stations and 23 TV channels
- More than **1.1 million community masks distributed**
- **30 million people** reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19 through mass media channels (360 radio stations and 60 TV channels)
- **52,574 calls** managed by the COVID-19 Hotline
- **36,949 people** (including 14,015 children) affected by COVID-19 and **5,805 frontline workers** provided with **psychosocial support** since the beginning of the epidemic

## UNICEF's COVID-19 Response



## COVID-19 overview

(as of 23 September 2020)

 **10,537** confirmed cases

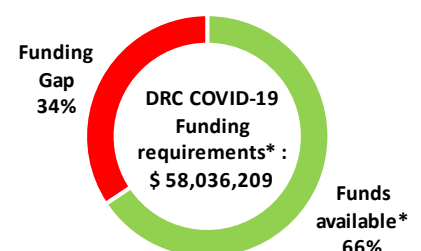
 **271** deaths

 **10,041** people recovered

**2.55%** Fatality Rate

**Kinshasa** recorded 77% (8,113) of all confirmed cases. Other affected provinces including # of cases are: **North Kivu** (907) **Haut Katanga** (326) **Kongo Central** (466) **South Kivu** (303) **Ituri** (149) **Lualaba** (94) **Haut Uele** (67) **Tshopo** (38) **North Ubangi** (23) **Kwilu** (6) **Equateur** (15) **South Ubangi** (6) **Tanganyika** (6) **Kwango** (1) **Haut Lomami** (1) **Kasai** (1) **Kasai Central** (1) **Maniema** (2) **Kasai Oriental** (1) **Tshuapa** (1)

## DRC COVID-19 Response Funding Status



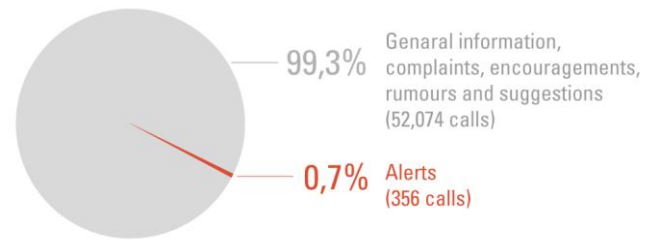
\*Funds available include 9 million USD UNICEF regular resources allocated by the office for first response needs.



## Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

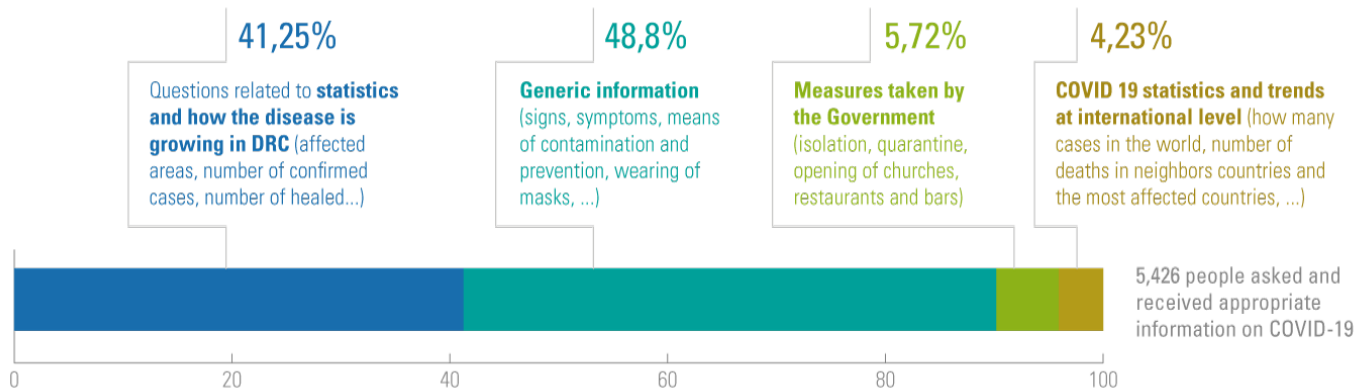
### 1) COVID-19 Hotline

During the reporting period, the COVID-19 hotline successfully managed 52,574 calls. 356 calls were potential medical alerts (suspected cases, medical assistance and incident) and 52,074 calls were about general information, complaints, encouragements, rumors and suggestions. The Hotline provides appropriate information, feeds the alerts mechanism and creates the link to the services (medical assistance). During the reporting period, the Hotline was successfully managing an average of 3,093 calls per day.



### 2) U-Report platform

- **Through its automated bot:** 4,043 people asked and received appropriate information on COVID-19 statistics, symptoms, spread mechanism, how to protect yourself and how to protect others, and myths on COVID-19.
- **Through its SMS Center:** 5,426 people received an answer to their questions. 41.25% of the questions were related to statistics and how the disease is growing in DRC (affected areas, number of confirmed cases, number of recoveries, etc), 48.8 % of questions were about generic information (signs, symptoms, means of contamination and prevention, wearing of masks, etc), 5.72 % were about measures taken by the Government (isolation, quarantine, opening of churches, restaurants and bars) and 4.15 % were about COVID-19 statistics and trends at international level (how many cases in the world, number of deaths in neighbouring countries and the most affected countries, etc).



- **Through sending Key messages:** A nutrition survey aimed to understand nutritional practices during the period of COVID-19 and improve awareness and knowledge on COVID-19 and nutrition in targeted people. It has been taken by 6,565 people. Here are two key questions shared: *Do you think that your children aged from 6 to 59 months are eating healthily during this Coronavirus epidemic period? And for what reason do you think that?* The survey is [online here](#).

### 3) Mass media Communication

20 media professionals were trained on prevention measures and warning signs of COVID-19. About 360 radio stations and 60 TV channels continue to broadcast messages on COVID-19 with UNICEF's support in the provinces affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. 30 million people were reached by mass media with key messages on how to prevent the spread of the disease and other individual and collective protection measures.



#### Highlights from the provinces

UNICEF is supporting the DRC government and World Health Organization (WHO) in an awareness campaign to prevent co-morbidities related to COVID-19. As part of the campaign, a mass screening for diabetes and hypertension will be conducted in Kinshasa between 25 September and 25 December 2020. For this, UNICEF produced 500,000 leaflets and 50,000 posters in French and Lingala, and 40 banners that were distributed to the 35 health zones of Kinshasa and to the 10 sites where the screenings will take place. 2 TV spots, 2 radio spots and 1 radio microgram have been produced and are being broadcast for one month on 10 television channels, 25 local radio stations and 52 market radios. In addition, 40 media professionals have been briefed on the themes related to this campaign and are in the process of raising public awareness through audio-visual, written and online media. The 35 health zones teams (Chief Zone Doctor and Community Facilitator) were briefed to conduct outreach campaigns through community-based health workers, community animation cells, churches, and other local associations.



### Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)/Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

During the reporting period, UNICEF has provided critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services to 797,589 people and provided personal protective equipment to 1,618 healthcare workers within health facilities and to community relays in all affected provinces. In addition, UNICEF supported the training of 827 healthcare workers and community health workers on infection prevention and control (IPC) and provided 97 new health facilities with essential WASH services in all affected provinces.

UNICEF is testing an innovative approach that involves install a water supply such as borehole, water tower, solar pumping) in schools or health centres in an urban context that ensures that there is enough water (compartmented reservoir) for the school or health centre, but also allows for the surplus water to be available to the surrounding community. The school or health centre would then be able to collect some revenue to assure maintenance of the water supply. These approaches are currently being tested in Kinshasa and Kongo Central.

#### Highlights from the provinces

WASH activities in the affected provinces include:

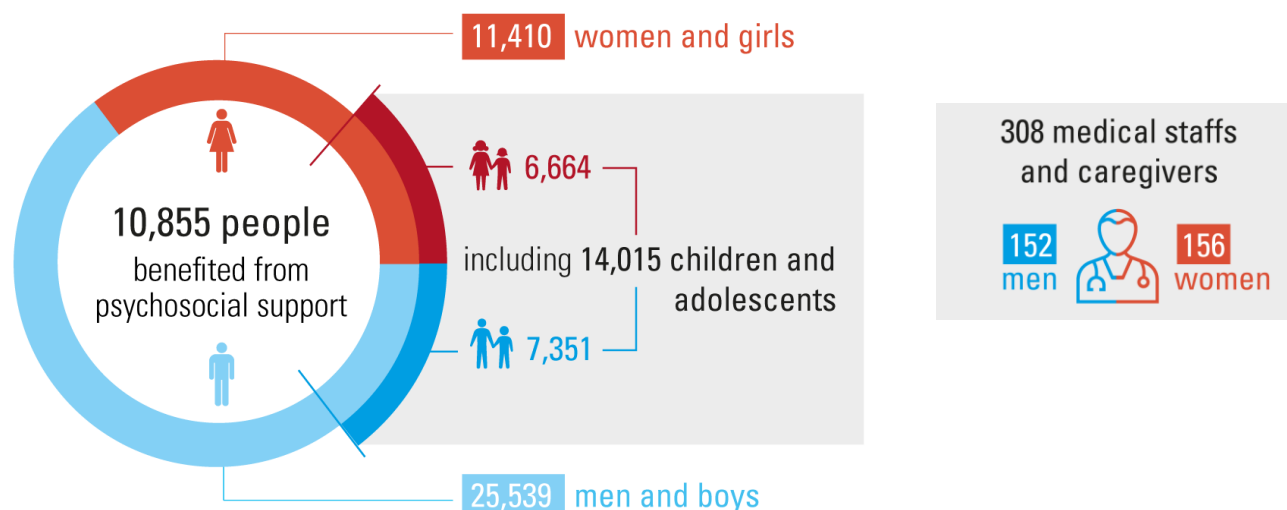
- Provision of water for hand washing at strategic entry points to towns, in markets and car parks. More than 57,376 people have been sensitised and have washed their hands at these checkpoints in Tshopo, Kongo Central, Kananga and Tanganyika provinces;
- Construction of 2 mechanic drilling wells for safe water and provision of a 5,000 litre water tank for safe water storage to Kabinda and Lemba Hospitals, Kinshasa province; Construction of one latrine/shower bloc and 5 incinerators in Bandalunga, Bumbu and Selembao hospitals, Kinshasa province;
- Supply of 10 automatic taps to the main market in Bunia, Ituri province, so that the handwashing station covers at least 14,000 people per day;
- Donation to the Provincial Division of the Education of Ituri of 10 cartons of soap containing each 9 bars for the preparation of primary school exams end-of-year exams;
- Donation to the Provincial Health Division of Ituri of 45 tanks of 100 litres water capacity and soap for 45 handwashing stations in the town of Bunia;

- Support to the construction of 5 medical waste incinerators in health care facilities of Lubumbashi, Haut Katanga ;
- Provision of WASH services and supplies to 10 health care facilities, distribution of personal protective equipment to 120 health care facility staffs, training of 240 community health workers infection prevention and control and reaching 71,110 people with essential WASH services, including hygiene items in Lualaba province;
- Provision of 17 public hand washing stations to the town hall of Kananga, Kasai Central, and 10 to the town hall of Tshikapa, Kasai;
- Provision of 50 public hand washing stations to the health zones of Kenge, Boko et Popokaba, Kwango province;
- Support to 8 healthcare facilities to achieve the “healthy status certification” and infection and prevention control standard for COVID-19 in Kasansa, Kabeya and Kamuanga health zones, Mbuji Mayi province;
- Support to the disinfection of the COVID-19 travel testing sites, 6 health care facilities in Thsopo province;
- Support to the construction and rehabilitation of latrines, incinerators and water systems in 7 general hospitals in Kisangani, Thsopo province; strengthening of the triage mechanism in 3 general hospital and 3 isolation centers in Kisangani, Thsopo province;
- Donation of 4 flash thermometer to 4 schools in peri urban areas of Kalemie, Tanganyika province;
- Support to the training of 8,327 internally displaced people (IDPs) on COVID-19 prevention measures in Kalemie, Moba and Manono territories, Tanganyika province;
- Provision of 1,200 hydro-alcoholic gels to the Health Division of Tanganyika. These were then distributed to 6 health zones and the PCI commission members in Tanganyika province;
- Provision of 44 hand washing stations to 3 health care facilities and 9 primary schools in Moba, Tanganyika, province.



## Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

During the reporting period, 10,855 people infected with or affected by COVID-19 including 8,131 adults (1,167 women) and 2,724 children (1,022 girls) received individualised emotional and psychosocial support as part of the COVID-19 response, reaching a total of 36,949 adults (11,410 women) and 14,015 children (6,664 girls) since the beginning of the COVID-19 response in DRC. 308 (including 156 women) frontline medical staffs and caregivers received psychosocial and emotional support to cope with the negative impact they may face during their professional activities, bringing the total number of medical personnel and caregivers supported since the beginning of the response to 5,805 (2,859 women).



A total of 123 children (including 12 girls) were released from detention and reunified with their families as a result of continuous advocacy conducted by child protection actors and the collaborative work between UNICEF, the DRC justice system and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Social workers trained by UNICEF continue to monitor, refer and assist children victims of violence - including women, girls and boys who survivors of sexual and gender-based violence - in all the provinces affected by COVID-19. 1,440 children (626 girls) victims of violence and/or abuse including sexual and gender based violence survivors were

identified and assisted. Furthermore, safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse were made available to 3,957 persons (708 girls and 962 women).

### Highlights from the provinces

18 vulnerable households including 42 children (including 25 girls) were identified and assisted by social workers in the main COVID-19 epidemic hotspots of Kinshasa. These households received psychological support as well as social assistance (foods, non-food items or hygiene kits) as a result of one of the family members was directly affected by the COVID-19 or because of the more broadly socio-economic impact of the COVID-19. This assistance helps families to provide better care for their children and thus reduce the risk of adopting negative coping mechanisms as child marriage or child labour.

In Ituri, 34 para social workers deployed to Bunia internally displaced people (IDP) sites continue to carry out awareness-raising activities among children on barrier measures against COVID-19.

In Kinshasa, 14 new children (four girls) in street situation were referred to emergency centers by child protection community actors. A total of 65 children (19 girls) are currently receiving individualized support (including medical assistance) in those centres. Family tracing and/or research of long-term solutions are ongoing.

In Haut Katanga 52 children (including 42 girls) in street situations received adapted transitional care. Among them, 38 boys were enrolled in vocational trainings and seven children (including one girl) were reunited with their families.

In South Kivu, 78 (including 36 women) staff and volunteers working in the COVID-19 response were for example trained on GBV case management and prevention measures, including protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), as well as on safe referral of SGBV survivors.



## Health and Nutrition

UNICEF continues to work with institutional and not-for-profit partners to ensure the continuity of services for children and women, namely immunization, neonatal, child and maternal care services in the context of COVID-19. Some of the results achieved in this area include:

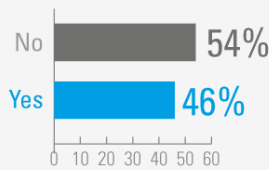
- 95,641 pregnant women out of 139,799 targeted (68.4% coverage) were assisted by trained providers during delivery;
- 556,389 children under 5 out of 825,688 children targeted (67.4% coverage) are being cared for malaria, acute respiratory infection and against all form of diarrhea;
- 907,374 children under one year of age out of a target of 1,810,852 (50.2% coverage) have received their third dose of Pentavalent 3 vaccines during vaccination sessions organised at the level of Health Zones.

UNICEF has donated a batch of equipment consisting of 64 adult and child height measuring sticks, 3,300 adult and child mid-upper arm circumference tapes, 62 electronic scales to 10 hospitals treating COVID-19 patients, with the aim to strengthen the assessment of the nutritional status and risk of undernutrition of COVID-19 patients.

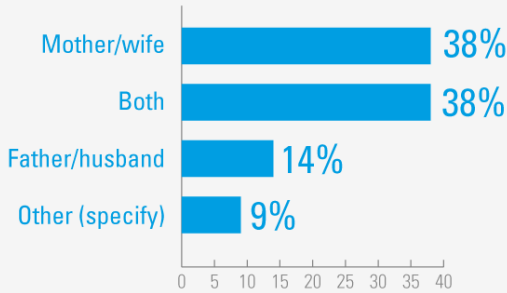
A survey on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 was carried out through U-Report. Approximately 6,455 people participated in the survey and the results showed that 51% of U-Reporters do not know that it is safe for a COVID-19 positive mother to breastfeed her baby, as long as she wears a mask. The results of the survey are presented in the graphs below:



Have you received any information on breastfeeding during COVID-19?



Who is the main decision maker about breastfeeding?



Is it safe for mothers to breastfeed during the pandemic?



A mother who has/thinks has COVID-19, should breastfeed?



Should a baby be immediately placed skin-to-skin and breastfed if the mother has/thinks has COVID-19?



It is safer for a mother who has or thinks has COVID-19 to give her baby infant formula milk instead breastmilk?



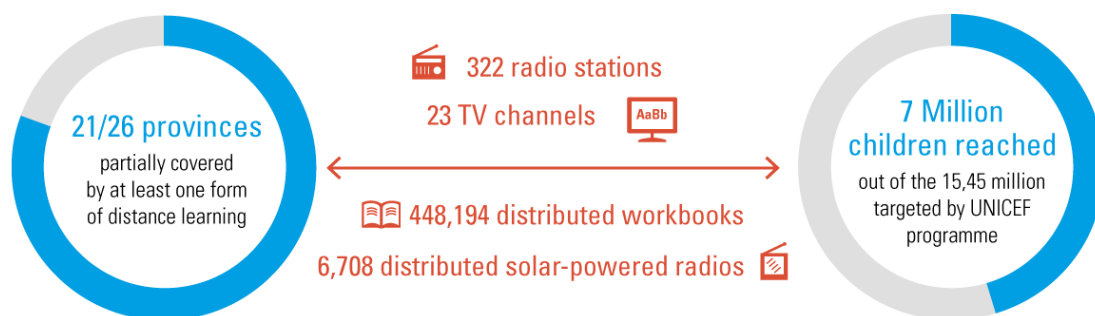
A mother who has/thinks has COVID-19 but does not have a face mask, should still breastfeed?



## Education

21 out of 26 provinces are partially covered by at least one form of distance education through 322 radio stations and 23 television channels, reaching 7,062,453 million children and adolescents. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 448,194 workbooks have been distributed in 11 provinces, and 6,708 solar-powered radios have been distributed to children of vulnerable households in 17 provinces to allow them to follow distance learning classes.

8,840 schools were supported in the implementation of COVID-19 prevention safety measures during the organisation of primary and secondary school leaving examinations in August and September 2020 with 805 thermosflashes, 5,662 hand washing kits, 277,047 protective masks and 882 information posters.



## Social Science Analysis

The Social Sciences Analytics Cell (CASS) is making progress with a 6-phase cohort study exploring the broader community health impacts of the COVID-19 response in the DRC. The study including methodology, presentations and results for both Kinshasa and Goma are available online [here](#).

Key results from Goma Phase II integrated analyses (data collected in July):

- The COVID-19 response has impacted household revenues, caused by the closure of the border, lack of work, increased market prices and an elevated exchange rate
- Business in Goma and the east of the DRC have been impacted more severely by the COVID response measures than other parts of the country
- Observed increase in the use of general health services in public hospitals in Goma providing free care since the start of the COVID response, but a perceived reduction in patient attendance for general consultation at private health structures
- Observed increase in vaccination uptake, correlating with the beginning of the COVID response. However, some parents reported avoiding bringing their children for vaccinations due to concerns of new risks associated with routine vaccines
- Sexual and reproductive health of women and girls perceived to be at increased risk because of school closures and intense confinement measures in Goma
- Health structures seem to be generally well prepared through training and IPC received during the Ebola response to prevent nosocomial COVID infection.

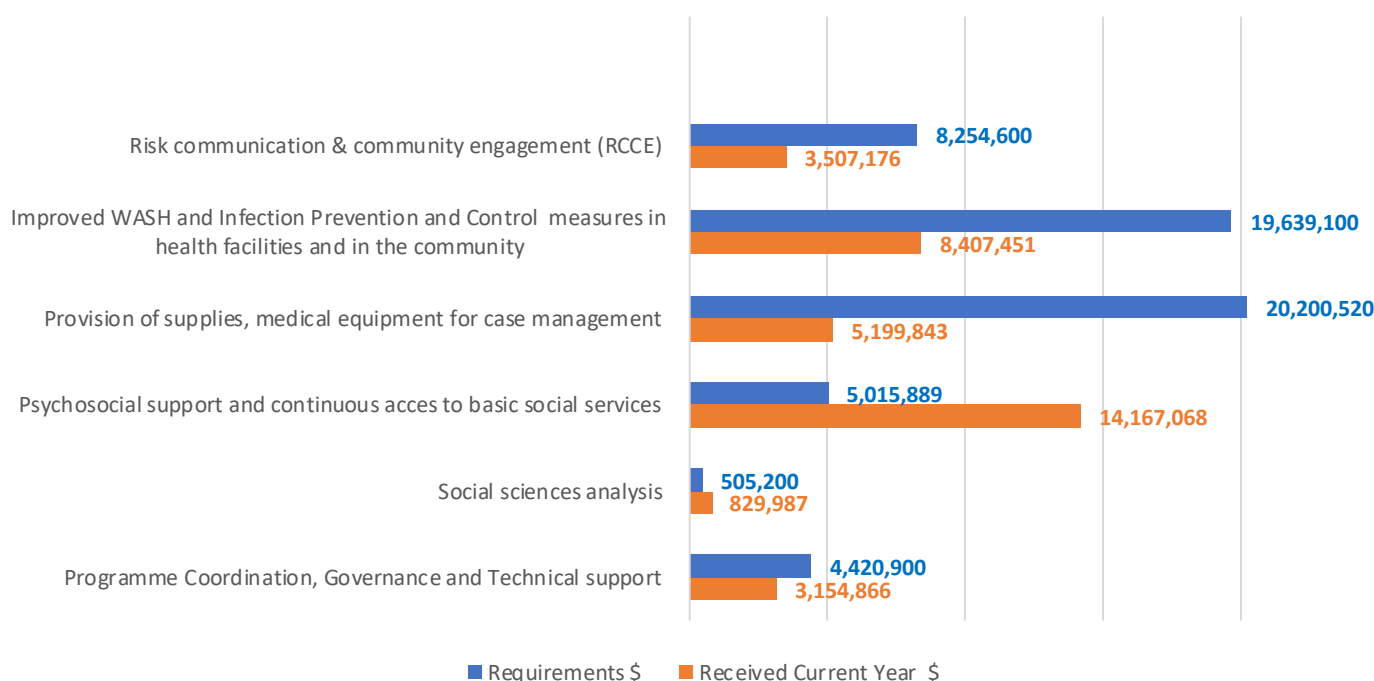
For a full list of CASS studies and resources, please see [here](#).



## Funding Overview

UNICEF estimates that US\$ 58 million is required for an immediate response within its areas of responsibility. UNICEF has advanced US\$ 9 million from its own resources to meet critical needs until additional funding is secured. As of 17 September 2020, UNICEF has received \$30.3 million (52 % of total needs) thanks to GAVI, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), The Republic of Malta, The Solidarity Response Fund, Unilever UK & Ireland, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, The Government of Japan, The Government of Canada, The Government of the United Kingdom, The Government of Germany, The World Bank Group and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)- Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding that can be allocated quickly to where funds are needed most. The UNICEF Representative in DRC has also appealed for in-kind donations.

Below is an overview of the funding received and the funding needs by area of intervention:

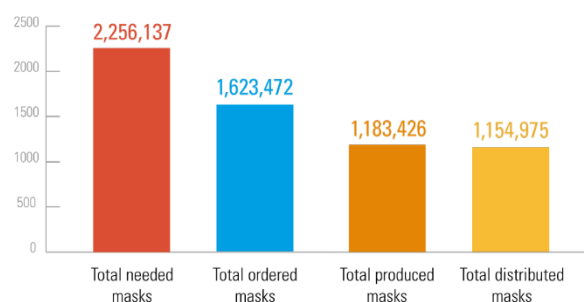




## UNICEF's "Masks Made in DRC" initiative

Through the "Masks made in DRC" initiative, UNICEF has commissioned some NGOs and women's associations to manufacture locally one million reusable non-medical protective masks for children and adults. The target is to produce and distribute 2,256,137 masks.

1,183,426 masks have already been produced and 1,154,975 masks have been distributed to the most disadvantaged communities in the provinces most affected by COVID-19.



## Supply and Logistics

Following the fire that destroyed its warehouse in Kinshasa in August, UNICEF, in partnerships with the DRC government, has successfully secured a warehouse in Kinkole, Kinshasa, to store all incoming supply items. A second warehouse is being rented from WFP. Some UNICEF staff have therefore been relocated to Kinkole and are working with governments counterparts to ensure warehouse is fully functional and operational.

UNICEF is also working around the clock to replenish essential stock lost in the fire to minimize the disruptions to its programs. During the reporting period, purchase orders worth more than US \$ 2 million have been placed to equip UNICEF DRC with priority supplies. The list includes 437 resuscitators kits, 87 sterilizers, 12,000 tablets of penicillin, 519 midwifery kits, 70 protective aprons, 11,000 boxes of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF), 35,797 packs of vitamin supplements. IT material and equipment, as well as educational kits and other medical devices and accessories have also been ordered.



## External Media

### 1) Social media and online

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the communication team posted more than 815 messages on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) – reaching more than 162 million people on Facebook alone. Dancer Jeny Bsg has [joined forces with UNICEF to remind people on social media of the importance of handwashing](#).

During the reporting period, new stories highlighting [routine immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) and [UNICEF's support to promote the vaccination of children](#). New multimedia material was also uploaded on [WeShare](#).

### 2) Press releases and human interest stories on UNICEF DRC website

- [Arrival of 5,000 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food to replace items lost in the recent fire at UNICEF warehouse](#)
- [Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNICEF and the Ministry of Health to store vital medical equipment and material in the central warehouse of the Expanded Immunization Program in Kinkole](#)
- [Routine vaccinations during coronavirus](#)
- [RDC/Covid-19 : une campagne de dépistage massif du diabète et de l'hypertension prévue à Kinshasa pour réduire le risque de décès](#)

## UNICEF Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global Appeal:

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19/donate>

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## Annex A: Summary of Response Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response		
	Target	Total result (cumulative)	Change since last report ▲ ▼
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)</b>			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	40,000,000	30,057,606	▲ 3%
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanism.	1,000,000	729,626	▲ 3%
Number of influencers engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	10,000,000	2,235,334	▲ 1%
<b>Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)</b>			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	2,142,790	3,037,876	▲ 37%
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPE	9,643	3,172	▲ 104%
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in IPC	9,643	9,612	▲ 9%
Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services	357	412	▲ 31%
<b>Child Protection and Psychosocial Support</b>			
Number of children who are victims of violence, including GBV, abuse, neglect or living outside of a family setting that are identified and receiving care in areas affected by COVID-19	10,500	4,808	▲ 66%
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	169,000	56,769	▲ 45%
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	152,643	35,798	▲ 13%
<b>Health</b>			
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities	2,776,339 *	1,560,404	▲ 16%
<b>Nutrition</b>			
Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19	412,365	307,658	▲ 24%
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	54,061	20,317	0%
<b>Education</b>			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	15,450,000	7,062,459	▲ 1%
Number of distributed educational homework booklets to ensure continuity of children and adolescent's learning	2,500,000	448,194	▲ 15%