

NIGER: COVID-19 Situation Report – #12

21 September to 18 October 2020

unicef 
for every child

Situation in Numbers



1,210 COVID-19 confirmed cases

69 deaths

5,70% Lethality rate

(Ministère de la Santé Publique, October 18th, 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 1,210 cases of COVID-19 over the 30,845 people tested, 1,126 patients healed, 15 patients under treatment, 69 deaths, with a decreasing trend in cases and the last fatality dating on the 2nd of July. 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.

UNICEF's COVID-19 response

Health

UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Public Health with the purchase of 140 oxygen concentrators as part of the fight against COVID-19. These concentrators will be distributed to hospitals in the 8 regions in order to enhance their care capacity.

WASH

During the reporting period, UNICEF, in close collaboration with regional directorates of hydraulic and sanitation and its implementing partners, supported the provision of hand washing devices and soap to 35,895 people in Tahoua, Maradi and Niamey. 13,478 people benefited from awareness raising activities on the COVID-19 pandemic and the prevention measures in Diffa, Zinder and Agadez regions with UNICEF support through its partners (the Nigerien Red Cross and the regional directorates of public health). A total of 2,272

community workers and implementing partners staffs were trained on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and provided with Personal Protection Equipment thanks to UNICEF support. UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of health to evaluate the compliance with IPC measures in the health centre facilities of six regions of Niger.

RCCE/C4D

UNICEF continued to support RCCE efforts at national and regional levels. A consultant been hired with UNICEF support. As part of the RCCE committee, he is advising the Ministry of Health on all interventions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, a specialised company was involved in developing and designing communication materials. A special focus was put on the Back to School campaign in connection with COVID-19 pandemic. In order to promote barrier measures amongst communities in Dosso region, 22 community and private radios continuously aired 05

audio spots and 736,000 people benefitted from this activity.

Nutrition

During the reporting period, UNICEF supported the Regional Directorates of Public Health of Niamey and Zinder (the epicenters of the COVID-19 pandemic in Niger) to develop an integrated response plan for Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) activities in the COVID-19 context. As part of this response plan, UNICEF strengthened early detection of acute malnutrition through door-to-door screening and supported the training of 120 health workers on the integration of CMAM and WASH-in-Nut in the context of COVID-19. As of the end of September, 275,216 under-five children suffering from SAM (representing 69.6% of the annual target), were admitted for treatment, including 31,618 cases with medical complications. UNICEF continues to mobilize additional funds to scale up its nutrition response, particularly the procurement of more nutrition supplies to ensure an uninterrupted pipeline of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and other critical supplies and continues to provide technical support and guidance to the Government and partners.

Education

The 2020-2021 school year started on the 15th of October, delayed slightly by COVID-19 pandemic and the heavy flooding events. However, all schools have reopened, from pre-primary to university. UNICEF has developed and printed a series of key messages on COVID-19 pandemic with the collaboration of the ministries in charge of education and health. These include posters on handwashing, official instructions regarding school reopening, parental messages and a COVID-19 question-answer guide. The messages validated by the ministries and the behavior change sub-committee were translated into audio-visual messages. As part of the prevention measures, 175,264 masks were procured for 87,632 teachers (primary and secondary). 12,101 handwashing devices were delivered to 2,421 schools, together with soap. In addition, COVID-19 teacher training modules have been developed by the ministries of Education. These modules are currently being reviewed at the national COVID-19 commission and will support the integration of COVID-19 related content into the curriculum. These actions aim to strengthen prevention and make schools more resilient to epidemics. To complement the development of radio-education programmes, financed by the Global Partnership of Education, 75,000 radios have been procured for primary and secondary students in remote areas.

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.

Niamey and Dosso: Since the beginning of the pandemic, sensitization sessions took place thanks to two UNICEF national NGO partners. The activities reached a total of 8,438 people including 7,276 children (2,137 street children among them 382 girls and 46 with disabilities) and 5,108 talibés children. 1,371 children (including 14 girls) received psychosocial support by social workers and a hygiene kit adapted to COVID-19 measures. 60 children received adequate care in a transit centre by one of UNICEF's partner and 30 of them were reunified with their families. Sensitizations sessions took place in 89 neighbourhood chiefs, 114 coranic schools and 42 sites where usually street children meet at night.

Maradi & Zinder: 252 talibés children were identified by the Regional Directorate for Child Protection in Maradi (16 boys) and Zinder (236 boys). They were sensitized on the COVID-19 pandemic measures, and they received hygiene kits, food and health checks. They returned to their villages, with the technical and financial support of UNICEF. UNICEF national NGO partner, with local NGOs, is now identifying villages in Zinder and Maradi regions to create and reinforce 69 child protection village committees in order to accompany talibés children returned from Nigeria.

Agadez: At the beginning of October, 148 unaccompanied children (97 girls), aged 3 to 16 years old escorted to the border (Assamaka in Niger) by the Algerian authorities, were sensitized on COVID-19 measures and received alternative care in the transit center in Agadez. They received psychological support, NFI kits and were reunified to their family by the Regional Directorates for Child Protection in the regions of Zinder and Maradi.

Others

The national COVID-19 emergency cash transfer 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 is providing technical and financial support to enhance the shock-responsiveness as well as nutrition and child sensitivity of the cash transfer programme. In addition, UNICEF is working to expand the reach of the national emergency cash transfer programme to 32,659 previously non-targeted households affected by the COVID-19 crisis and, and supporting the Ministry of Employment, Work, and Social Protection to develop a new model of productive safety nets as part of the country's post-COVID-19 recovery plans with the view of addressing structural determinants of economic vulnerability.

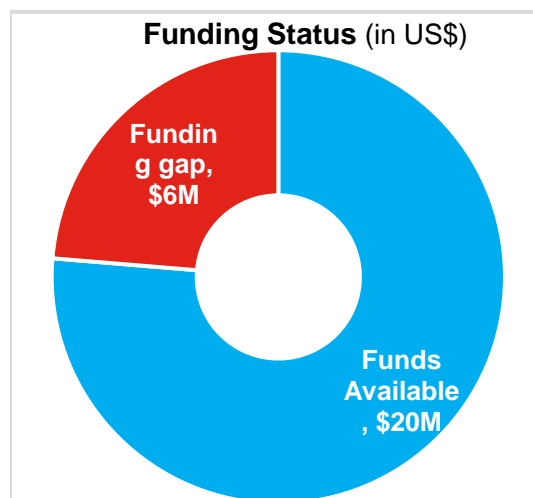
Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government of Niger and partners to ensure the continuity of essential nutrition services at health facility and community level, while respecting measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Sensitization on adequate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices is ongoing at community level while respecting social distancing and Infection Prevention and Control measures. The dissemination of specific IYCF messages in the context of COVID-19 is also ongoing through community radios. UNICEF is working together with WFP to ensure implementation and scaling up key nutrition interventions in areas with high burden of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

Resource mobilization for the COVID-19 response plan is ongoing, a funding gap of 24% remaining. New funds have been received for COVID prevention measures in the education system, as well as funds dedicated to cash transfers and complementary services to absorb the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. UNICEF Niger thanks the Education Cannot Wait fund for its latest contribution and Germany (KfW and BMZ) for their generous support to limit long-term effects of the pandemic.

Currently, UNICEF Niger's HAC COVID-19 remains underfunded by US\$ 6.1 million, with the most significant funding gaps touching upon the areas of WASH/IPC (25%), Nutrition (64%), and Child Protection (73%). Once the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration's contribution of US\$ 1.4 million is confirmed, it will be reduced to US\$ 4.7 million (18%).



External Media

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

- **Video series – Young, fearless, and girls:** <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/young-fearless-and-girls>
- **National Media – Girls take the floor on national television:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoDaMKgNNFE&list=PLZihjOZRNotbo2wQ6xCRTLxIPolsTQCgy&index=2&ab_channel=UNICEFNiger
- **Press release – Schools reopen in Niger after pandemic closings:**
<https://www.unicef.org/niger/press-releases/schools-reopen-niger-after-pandemic-closings>

For more information contact:

Félicité Tchibindat
Representative
UNICEF Niger
Tel : (+227) 20727100
E-mail: ftchibindat@unicef.org

Ilaria Carnevali
Deputy Representative
UNICEF Niger
Tel: (+227) 20727124
E-mail: icarnevali@unicef.org

Giuliaserena Gagliardini
Emergency Specialist
UNICEF Niger
Tel: (+227) 20727106
E-mail: ggagliardini@unicef.org

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	15,964,318
# of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions	5,000,000	4,174,215
# of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through establishes feedback mechanisms.	1,000,000	1,221,635
WASH and IPC		
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	300,000	359,275
# of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	2,500	1,867
# 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	1,750
# of coordination meetings held with the support of UNICEF (technical and / or financial);	39	2
# of health centres equipped as triage centres	39	5
Nutrition		
# of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	396,539	275,216
Education		
# of schools implementing SAFE SCHOOL PROTOCOLS (COVID-19 prevention and control).	10,000	3,262
Child Protection and GBV		
# of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	21,000	7,546
Social Protection		
# of households benefitting from new or additional SOCIAL ASSISTANCE MEASURES provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	431,000	-

Annex B

Funding Status

Sector	Funding requirements	Funds available	Funding gap \$	Gap %
C4D / RCCE	3,000,000	2,754,773	245,227	8%
WASH & IPC	4,000,000	3,008,110	991,890	25%
Nutrition	1,400,000	503,801	896,199	64%
Health	3,000,000	3,094,375	-94,375	-3%
Child Protection	1,638,257	439,851	1,198,406	73%
Education	8,000,000	6,258,273	1,741,727	22%
Social Protection	4,000,000	3,120,318	879,682	22%
Social Research	200,000	0	200,000	100%
Coordination and support capacity	550,000	500,157	49,843	9%
Total	25,788,257	19,679,658	6,108,599	24%