Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of 28th October 2020, Guinea-Bissau has recorded 2,413 cases. Of these confirmed cases, 2,060 (86%) are in Bissau, the capital. Ten (10) regions out of the 11 in the country have confirmed COVID-19 cases. The death toll is 41 people, representing a fatality rate of 1.69%. Among the confirmed cases, 377 (16% 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. Poor data collection by the surveillance team in Bissau during the second half of the month of October has resulted in the lack of COVID-19 data that is sex- and age-disaggregated.

Figure 1: Summative update on the COVID-19 epidemic in Guinea-Bissau

Situation in Numbers
- 2,413 total cases
- 41 deaths
- Around 300,000 children affected by COVID-19
- School closures
- US$ 3.2 M funding required

GUINEA-BISSAU: COVID-19 Situation Report – #22
October 2020
UNICEF’s COVID-19 response

Health & Nutrition

During the month of October, UNICEF supported the training of 248 local and regional health technicians and 264 Rapid Response Team’s members. The objective of the training is to enable the health system to have a comprehensive and integrated intervention on COVID-19 prevention and control.

In terms of equipment, UNICEF handed over to the High Commission for COVID-19 twenty additional hospital beds for the isolation room of patients infected by COVID-19.

WASH

Support to health centers

The first unit of the UNICEF Guinea-Bissau designed foot-operated handwashing station was delivered in early October and other units will be installed in 41 priority health centers, replacing the hand operated handwashing facilities already installed there. The handwashing station has been developed as an open source project and will be available as technical drawing and bill of quantities for any organization within or outside the country to use. By the end of the reporting period, foot-operated handwashing devices were installed in 7 centers of Bissau, 5 in Cacheu, 4 in Bafata and 8 in Oio.

All handwashing devices are accompanied by training of staff on hygiene and the division of tasks and responsibilities for cleaning and disinfection activities within the health centers. This is the starting point for the WASH FIT approach, a UNICEF/WHO developed risk-based, continuous improvement framework with a set of tools for undertaking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) improvements as part of wider quality improvements in health care facilities.

Support to schools

During the reporting period, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education in the training of school principals and teacher in IPC and WASH. Training support manuals have been developed and adapted with a focus on preventing COVID-19 transmission and maintenance of WASH infrastructures. In the last week of October, the training started in the regions of Bissau, Cacheu, Biombo and Bijagos. Approximately 3000 staff from the Ministry of Education will be trained in the context of IPC with funding from the Global Partnership of Education. Target for the first phase of roll out of the training is 612 staff from Ministry of Education, regional directorate staff, teachers and principals.

Support to the High Commission for COVID-19 on data management

Since the beginning of June, UNICEF has been supporting the High Commission for COVID-19 to create a unified list of test results and patient information from the various patient result forms, lab notebooks, PCR machine logs, and database entries. This support has also seen the creation of preliminary versions of epidemiological reports that show case counts, daily reports, and GIS mapping of cases. The various sources of data have been integrated by custom Python scripts that require a high-level of computer programming knowledge. A visualization platform to monitor lab outputs using the Tableau Online platform was created. This dashboard shows the total number of tests done, broken down by result (positive/negative), age group, lab, and geographic region. Users can explore the data by filtering to a single date, a specific week, and specific (or multiple) laboratories.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement/C4D

Technical assistance to the High-Commissioner for COVID-19, the entity mandated by the President of the Republic to lead the national response, continued to be ensured by UNICEF through the Risk Communication and Community Engagement multidisciplinary team.

On October 23, UNICEF participated in a joint field visit to some of the risk communication activities being implemented in the capital Bissau. In the joint field visit the High-Commissioner (HC), Red Cross, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF participated. During the visit, the HC has praised the technical and financial support being
provided by UNICEF, UNDP and UNHCR since end of March 2020 and reiterated the need for the population to adhere to the COVID-19 preventive measures.

The High Commissioner for COVID-19 during the joint field visit

UNICEF continued its support to the national response focusing on interpersonal sensitization activities among the population, being carried out by National Red Cross volunteers in the capital Bissau. During the reporting period, these interventions have reached 36,564 people (11,806 children, 15,234 women and 9,524 men). Overall and since March 2020, 1,229,454 people have been reached through interpersonal communication being carried out in their communities through door-to-door visits at residences, main public markets and ports.

COVID-19 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 language of their communities. Through these media outlets, 1.6 million people have been reached countrywide. During the reporting period, UNICEF social media platforms have reached 394,529 comments/reactions.

Education

UNICEF continues to focus its efforts in supporting the Ministry of Education in the reopening of schools and resumption of face-to-face classes. 2000 Manuals of National Quality Standards, 1500 safe schools’ guidance and 1500 WASH manuals are also been distributed to the 1500 schools with funding from the GPE. In addition to this, to ensure COVID-19 safety and hygiene for school-age children, UNICEF is also supporting with the purchase and distribution of a range of products in schools including 60,000 litres of bleach; 30,000 litres of liquid soap and 605,000 masks.

The full package of the radio lessons for preschool, school-age, and out of school children has been translated from English to Portuguese and contextualizing workshops are being prepared and scheduled to start on November 9th.

UNICEF continues its efforts to develop content for television broadcasting with focus on foundational learning using a play-based approach. At this moment, more than 570 hours of pre-school content audio-visual products are finalized and ready to be broadcasted. They aim at reinforcing home-based learning and COVID-19 prevention.

Social inclusion and cash transfers

During the reporting period, the joint UNICEF/WFP cash transfer programme, has continued providing 40,000 CFA to households identified as highly vulnerable to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Overall 1500 households have been identified across Sao Domingos, Quinhamel, Bissora, Mansaba, Sonaco, Bissau, Bula, Cacheu and Bigene.

A lessons-learnt workshop was conducted on the cash transfer programme organized with all key stakeholders including Ministry of Family and Social Solidarity, MTN and 8 NGOs in order to draw some lessons on the different components of the project. The targeting, the registration, the payment and the complaint and feedback mechanism have been assessed and recommendations made on how to improve them. During this workshop, preliminary results of the baseline study as well as those of the satisfaction assessment were presented and discussed by participants.

In the meantime, UNICEF has started preparing the beginning of another phase of a cash transfer programme funded by GPE. The main objective of the project is to provide vulnerable children, boys and school-age girls affected by COVID-19 with cash transfers in order to ensure retention, return to school and educational outcomes. The regions with the worst education outcomes according to MICS6 will be targeted and 1400 households most deprived selected.

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:

Birth registration:
- In collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Justice in strengthening community mobilization for birth registration given some disruption of services due to COVID-19. With the strong involvement of traditional and religious leaders, youth associations and health professionals, five (5) vulnerable communities from Bafatá region benefited from 5 day-sessions benefitting 1,429 children (out of 1,200 targeted) from 0 to 7 years old. Communities involved are in remote zones and distant from civil registration services.
- During the reporting period the Ministry of Justice continued expanding birth registration services in health structures, in particular partnership with immunization services. 30 health workers from three (3) health centers in Bafata and Gabu regions benefited from a training on birth registration. Birth registration will start operating next month in these centers, twice a week, at the immunization services.

Programme for the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):
- With the end of rainy season and the decrease of COVID-19 movement restrictions FGM preventive activities continued to intensify during the month of October. The national coordination structure (CNAPN- Comite Nacional para o Abandono das Praticas Nefastas), responsible for the monitoring of the FGM national strategy and action plan implementation has increased field monitoring as well as awareness and advocacy activities outside the capital Bissau.
- The school year started in early October and awareness campaigns to prevent FGM and child marriage are being organized in school setting. After having schools closed for over 6 months, the reinstatement of these activities is very important to the prevention of these harmful practices. 72 teachers and school directors, from six high schools, in the capital Bissau and Gabu region (with the highest rate of FGM in the country) have increased their knowledge on FGM prevention and how they can play a more active role and refer cases to protective services. Along with this initiative, similar interventions were organized during the reporting period with health workers from the capital Bissau and East of the country (Gabu and Bafata regions). 26 health staff, including social workers (14 women and 12 men), are equipped with appropriate knowledge on FGM harmful consequences and care procedures and referral mechanisms.

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 negotiation, jointly with WHO and the High Commissioner, of a two-year project to be funded by the African Development Bank.
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:

COVID-19: alta comissária critica fraco uso de máscaras e pouco cumprimento de medidas de prevenção
https://www.odemocratagb.com/?p=27036

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/ONUGuineBissau/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/I6sCpWWRYXQ
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=uvBVU_9aEpE

MUSIC
National coronavirus song produced with support from the UN: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFZNw6yzhkw

WASH DASHBOARD

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# Annex A

## Summary of Programme Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF and IPs Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RCCE 1</strong>: Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RCCE 2</strong>: Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions</td>
<td>91,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH and IPC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IPC 1</strong>: Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IPC 2</strong>: Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td>4,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IPC 3</strong>: Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control</td>
<td>4,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuity of Health Care 1</strong>: Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuity of Health Care 4</strong>: Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)</td>
<td>1,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection and GBV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 1</strong>: Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 2</strong>: Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 3</strong>: Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 4</strong>: Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 5</strong>: Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 6</strong>: Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Social Protection
**Indicator 1:** Number of households receiving HUMANITARIAN CASH TRANSFERS through UNICEF response to COVID-19

<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>