



Antonette, 12, uses the 'Tippy Tap' that she built at Slovoville Primary School in Soweto, Johannesburg. Simple handwashing stations are helping to save water and keep children and teachers safer at school. Photo:UNICEFSouthAfrica/Fricker

# SOUTH AFRICA COVID-19

## Situation Report No. 10

01-30 November 2020



### Situation in Numbers

Confirmed cases: 790,004

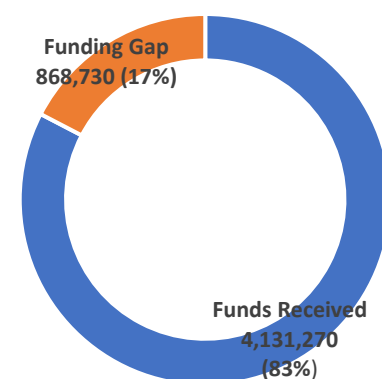
Recovered: 731,242

Deaths: 21,535

Tests Conducted: 5,383,078

(As of 01 December)

### FUNDING STATUS (US\$)



Reporting Period: 01-30 November 2020

### Highlights

- UNICEF South Africa is urgently scaling up its risk communication and community engagement work on the ground through a partnership with the South African Red Cross. This follows rapidly increasing rates of COVID-19 infection, particularly in Eastern and Western Cape provinces, infections which are predicted to worsen over the festive season. This work is being conducted in coordination with the National COVID-19 RCCE Technical Working Group and provincial teams, as well as the 'Incidence Management Team'.
- Final school year 'Matrics' students started their exams after a year of school disruptions. UNICEF South Africa has been supporting the pupils through 'Woza Matrics' – an innovative partnership with the Department of Basic Education, South African Broadcasting Corporation and the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) that provides learners with educational materials and psychosocial support as they prepare for their exams.
- UNICEF's CEO Network of more than 30 business leaders from across South Africa met again virtually to discuss the situation for children and the COVID-19 response to date. The focus was on the continued critical role and engagement of the private sector in reimagining a safer, fairer and better South Africa.

### Situation Overview

- The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is now 790,004 with COVID-19 related deaths at 21,535.
- Eastern Cape province makes up 50 to 55% of the country's daily positive cases, followed by the Western Cape with approximately 25% of daily cases. The Eastern Cape also now accounts for more than half of COVID-19 related deaths.
- Concerns about the rise in cases in Eastern and Western Cape are being exacerbated by the upcoming holiday season when many people traditionally travel to the two provinces. UNICEF is rapidly scaling up risk communication and community engagement work to reinforce COVID-19 prevention measures ahead of this period.

# Summary of Preparedness and Response Actions

## Education

1. Technical assistance continues to be provided to the Department of Basic Education on psychosocial support in schools and is being scaled up through the Common Element Treating Approach (CETA) initiative. This innovative approach was conceived by Johns Hopkins University and approved by the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and trains non-mental health professionals to help treat depression, anxiety, substance abuse and trauma.
2. UNICEF in partnership with USAID and Woolworths are constructing 100 more handwashing stations in selected schools through to the end of January 2021.
3. The psychosocial support and WASH in schools programmes form part of the wider sector implementation of the *Care and Support in Teaching and Learning* (CSTL) pillar.
4. In partnership with 2Enable, UNICEF continues to produce and distribute videos for learners, parents, teachers and support staff. To date, 600 educational videos have been produced.
5. Some 21 million young people and caregivers have been reached through COVID-19 messaging focused on staying safe at school. This includes through PSAs and messaging on DSTV's SuperSport channel and via the Children's Radio Foundation (CRF). Remote learning resources, including through online platforms, broadcast (radio and TV) and social media have also reached nearly 6.5 million children.
6. UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the Department of Social Development and the DBE, including standard operating procedures to encourage the safe re-opening of early childhood development programmes.
7. UNICEF continues to work with the DSD and the DBE 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. So far, this programme has reached more than 620,000 caregivers who have used the resources to support the continued engagement of some 940,000 of their children aged birth to five years.
8. UNICEF continues to work with the NECT on curriculum recovery plans for the education sector. This entails coordination and technical support for the 'curriculum trimming exercise' for the education catch-up programme.

## Child and Social Protection

1. Provincial consultations are being held to initiate a rapid assessment of child wellbeing and to determine the immediate impacts on children of the governments' response to COVID-19. The study will inform policy and programmatic decisions that will guide the Department of Social Development's (DSD) ongoing national COVID-19 response. The research will provide real time data, enabling a response to the immediate needs identified among children. The study is supported by UNICEF, with support from the Innovation Fund, and will be conducted with the DSD, Strategic Analytics Management and Wits University. The research uses a mobile app to collect data. The timing of the study provides an opportunity to gather evidence on what is needed in response to the needs of children and to identify the available resources in targeted communities.
2. More than 160 religious leaders from six provinces were trained on child protection services, including the child protection legislative framework, reporting mechanisms and referral systems for children affected by violence, abuse and neglect. These trainings were conducted in partnership with the DSD and led to a pledge to create a 'nurturing environment of care for every child'.
3. A 'Faith Based Child Protection Movement' has been established and was recognized in the Men's Parliament session held over 19-20 November, where religious leaders committed to not presiding over, or solemnizing, the marriage of any person under the age of 18 years.
4. An additional 67 social service professionals (SSPs) were trained on the 'Sinovuyo ePLH programme', bringing the total number trained as facilitators to 97 across the Eastern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng Provinces. UNICEF also supported Save the Children and the Department of Social Development in the capacity building of 50 social service professionals in Limpopo to strengthen the COVID-19 specific response and support to unaccompanied and separated minors.
5. A total of 820 people visited the COVID-19 parenting tips section on the Internet of Good Things that brings the number between May and November to more than 10,000 people.

6. UNICEF is working with the South African Red Cross Society on a data audit of unaccompanied and separated migrant children in alternative care. The audit will enable government and partners to effectively plan and implement response strategies to ensure that all children on the move have access to the services they need.
7. UNICEF, in partnership with ACT and IOM, continue to provide direct relief support to vulnerable migrants affected by COVID-19. A total of 147 grocery vouchers valued at R700 each were distributed to migrants in Pretoria, Yeoville and Vanderbijlpark areas to support the wellbeing of migrants.
8. The partnership with Department of Basic Education and GIZ continues is engaging children across the country on digital opportunities and dangers, equipping them with guidance and tips on how to stay safe online. In addition, 60 educators have been trained in level one psychosocial support, including on how to make referrals.

## Health and Nutrition

1. In collaboration with the Child Health Priorities Association, UNICEF hosted the 2020 'Child Health Priorities Conference' – a forum for engagement on the most pressing issues facing the health and well-being of children. This year's conference theme – *Putting Children First! COVID-19 from response to recovery*, highlighted the significant impact COVID-19 has had and will continue to have on children in South Africa. Resolutions emerging from the conference focussed on improving immunisation coverage, child-focused food systems, re-imagining child health service delivery and protecting the rights of children to health, education and protection.
2. UNICEF continues to support the National Department of Health in reviewing the current holistic status of child health, including the update on available services. This surveillance is helping to further inform the response to ensure caregivers and children get the health care they need, from HIV to nutrition and immunisation services.
3. UNICEF is supporting the child health catch-up drive aimed at children under 5. This will run until the end of March 2021 and focusses on missed immunisations, while providing HIV services (HIV screening and referral for treatment) and nutrition services (such as vitamin A supplementation, deworming, nutrition screening and referral). UNICEF is providing intensified support to Eastern Cape, specifically the Nelson Mandela Bay area through microplanning and social mobilisation. The immunisation catch-up communication strategy was finalised, and the procurement of communication materials is ongoing.
4. UNICEF and partners are ensuring that health services continue to reach adolescent girls and young women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. The virtual support reminds clients of their ART pick up dates, HIV exposed infant testing, viral load testing, as well as HIV retesting. Peer mentors are screening girls and young women, providing information on their sexual and reproductive health and rights while remaining vigilant for signs of gender-based violence. To date, a total of 14,870 adolescent girls and young women have been contacted.

## WASH

1. UNICEF, with partners EnviroSan and WaterAid have installed 169 handwashing with soap stations in nine provinces, with 24 installed at schools and 18 in health facilities across four provinces. These handwashing stations improved access to handwashing for some 82,100 people in high-risk areas of the country.
2. UNICEF and World Vision distributed 9,861 WASH kits to vulnerable households in Free State and Gauteng. The WASH kits provide critical WASH supplies – such as masks, soap, sanitizer, a bucket and WASH education materials – to an estimated 39,444 people for a period of at least three months.
3. UNICEF's partner, WaterAid, has installed 62 handwashing with soap stations across Gauteng – 18 of which are in schools and 10 of which are in health care facilities. UNICEF and WaterAid have plans to install a further 18 handwashing stations in Limpopo province.
4. World Vision has begun installing 100 handwashing stations in the provinces of Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng and Western Cape. Priority has been given to the installation of handwashing stations in 36 schools in the provinces.

## Communication, Risk Communication and Community Engagement & Partnerships

### Communication

1. UNICEF released its new report, [\*'How COVID-19 is changing childhood in South Africa: Responding and reimagining for every child'\*](#) on World Children's Day, 20 November. The report looked at the broad ranging impact of COVID-19 on children across the country, as well as UNICEF and partners response and recommendations moving forward.

2. World Children's Day also saw the first in a series of virtual 'design thinking' workshops, bringing children together online from across the country to discuss how they reimagine a safer, fairer and better South Africa in 2021. A final outcome declaration will be produced and shared with UNICEF and the Youth Ministry, setting out the vision of children and young people looking forward.
3. Sebatso, a 19-year old from Ivory Park, Johannesburg, joined David Beckham in a [virtual discussion](#) about the challenges that young people are facing in the country and how they are reimagining a better future. The video received widespread engagement on social media platforms and [media coverage](#) in South Africa. The video was also used by PWC at their '[Future of Education](#)' summit conducted in partnership with CNBC Africa.
4. UNICEF South Africa launched a [new campaign with TikTok](#) on #SharingPositivity to help tackle online abuse and bullying. The campaign reached more than 10-million young people and included a range of [media coverage](#) on broadcast and online outlets.
5. UNICEF South Africa worked with UNICEF's global media team and the [BBC on a report](#) about the impact of violence on women and girls during COVID-19, aligned to the start of the 16-days of activism against GBV. This included an animation that told the story of one young woman affected by violence in South Africa.
6. The [#Move4Change challenge](#) was launched to encourage young people and their caregivers to be more active and to pledge support to UNICEF in reaching the most vulnerable children.

### ***Risk Communication and Community Engagement***

1. Support to the National COVID-19 RCCE Technical Working Group (TWG) is ongoing, primarily addressing the heightened risk of transmission during festive season travel and gatherings. Support to provincial RCCE teams has been intensified and planning meetings have been held with six provinces to align messaging and identify gaps in the response. UNICEF is a key partner in the provincial plans presented to the 'Incidence Management Team' which oversees RCCE activities.
2. UNICEF facilitated the recording of a "Celebrate Safely" message to Matrics (final year school students) from Miss South Africa 2020, and screening was secured via the Department of Basic Education Channels.
3. UNICEF continues to provide support for social listening by circulating community feed and social media monitoring reports for Southern and Eastern Africa.
4. UNICEF is finalising a partnership with the South African Red Cross Society to intensify community engagement around a potential festive season resurgence of COVID-19. Initial implementation is in three provinces, through training of community action groups and the deployment of a truck equipped to project and broadcast audio visual messaging in high risk locations. Sites are being identified in collaboration with provincial COVID-19 communication teams and aligned with the related strategies. In each province, short 'vox pops' will be filmed of local people describing their COVID-19 experiences and encouraging others to take prevention seriously.
5. World Vision and four community-based organizations working with UNICEF on WASH/RCCE programming in Nelson Mandela Bay (NMB) are providing critical feet on the ground for community engagement to address the surge of cases in the metropolitan area. The NMB team is finalising plans to mobilise youth across all wards in the area, to address the widespread perception that Level 1 lockdown means COVID-19 is no longer a threat. CBOs in eight other World Vision sites are also finalising RCCE plans for the festive season.
6. UNICEF finalised the immunisation catch-up communication strategy for NMB and is facilitating procurement of communication materials in support of the metropolitan response.
7. An estimated 39,444 people were reached through the RCCE sticker inside WASH kits distributed by World Vision. These included messaging on COVID-19 prevention, access to health services, nutrition and parenting.
8. RCCE work is being expanded in Gauteng and Limpopo through the Water Aid WASH programme, including through developing a brochure to support handwashing installation, the training of community leaders around key RCCE messages and working with the Department of Water and Sanitation to plan community radio interviews and discussions to address barriers to COVID-19 prevention.
9. WASH/RCCE will be implemented in a further 127 schools and drop in centres through the USAID WASH-in-schools grant.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

- Woolworths has extended their support to UNICEF for another year, through the joint programme with DBE on WASH and nutrition in schools. The project will run from August 2021 to July 2022, providing R1 million for WASH in schools.
- The latest virtual UNICEF CEO Network meeting was held on 27 November under the banner, 'Joining hands during COVID-19 in South Africa'. UNICEF provided an update on the latest situation for children and UNICEF's response to the more than 30 business leaders from across the country.
- The UNICEF CEO Network in South Africa will be used as a global UNICEF multi stakeholder e-learning module on the global training platform.
- The UNICEF Swiss National Committee confirmed R1.7million (\$109,000) for WASH in schools programming, while the Il Stella and Paul Loewenstein Trust raised R500,000 from the Investec Wealth trust also for WASH in schools.

## Challenges

- With COVID-19 rates rising in provinces such as Eastern Cape, there are fears that a more significant resurgence could occur in the days and weeks following the December festive season. UNICEF is scaling up its RCCE work in response, including through a new partnership with the South African Red Cross that will target hotspot locations at a community level with key COVID-19 prevention messages.

## Who to contact for further information:

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## Annex A

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

Indicators	Target to 31 Dec 2020	Results as of 31 November 2020
<b>Education</b>		
# of children – and parents - supported with distance/home-based learning [ECD, Primary, Secondary Ed]	7,200,000	6,824,791
<b>Social Policy and Child Protection</b>		
Number of children without parental or family provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	15,000	18,767
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community- based mental health and psychosocial support	100,000	140,000
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	2,500,000	181,000
<b>Social Policy</b>		
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)
<b>WASH</b>		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies, including hygiene items, and services	500,000	104,600
<b>Health and Nutrition</b>		
Number of children & women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV & GBV care in UNICEF supported facilities (national and monthly)	171,858	181,311
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	14,870
<b>Risk Communication</b>		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	7,000,000	7,574,354
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	40,000	73,555
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	100,000	37,200

## Annex B

### Funding Status, UNICEF South Africa, November 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	-147,805	-7%
Social Policy and Child Protection	1,550,000	775,000	775,000	248,485	1,301,515	84%
Education	5,090,000	2,545,000	2,545,000	1,205,005	3,884,995	76%
Data collection and analysis of disease and secondary impact on women and children	60,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	50%
Communication for Development	300,000	150,000	150,000	68,745	231,255	77%
<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>