

NIGER: COVID-19 Situation Report – #13

19 October to 23 November 2020

unicef 
for every child



Situation in Numbers



1,381 COVID-19 confirmed cases

70 deaths

5,07% Lethality rate

(Ministère de la Santé Publique, November 23rd, 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 1,381 cases of COVID-19 over the 43,665 people tested, 1,166 patients healed, 145 patients under treatment, 70 deaths, with an increasing trend of cases since November 06th. The last death case was reported on November 14th, after a period of 4.5 months without fatality. All schools (primary and secondary) opened at the beginning of the academic year on the 15th of October. UNICEF is supporting the Ministries of Education by securing the school environment through material and technical support. 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 continues to support the fight against the pandemic, particularly at the sub-national level. Supervision and coordination meetings within the framework of the prevention and the fight against COVID-19 virus in health centres are carried out in Tahoua municipality with the support of UNICEF. The constructions of 9 triage centres the Tahoua municipality and 3 triage centres in Gaya (Dosso region) have started with UNICEF support.

WASH

UNICEF continued to support the WASH/IPC (Infection Prevention and Control) response at national and sub-national level. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported the National IPC commission to undertake

the evaluation of the compliance with IPC measures in 177 public and private healthcare facilities of six regions (Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri and Zinder) and to draw relevant recommendations.

In addition, UNICEF supported the Regional Directorate of Water and Sanitation of Zinder with the construction of 20 latrines in 4 health facilities and purchased 10,000 WASH kits for vulnerable households. Moreover, a total of 36,112 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).

RCCE/C4D

During the reporting period, UNICEF is continuing to support RCCE efforts at national and sub-national levels. The consultant hired by UNICEF to support the

Social and Behaviour Change Commission of the COVID-19 response in Niger is providing support to the strategic decisions and orientations in terms of communication. Recommendations on fighting the pandemic have been dispatched nationwide, following the release of the updates by the Government. About the reinforcement of local structures, 8 teams had been set to train again people from community radios, women leaders and communication officers from the Health sector in the 8 regions with the support of UNICEF. One good point to be highlighted is the waving of COVID-19 messages by community radios (233) at their own initiative, as their own contribution to the nationwide efforts to prevent the spread of the virus.

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. As of the end of October, 333,326 under-five children suffering from SAM (representing 62.5% of the revised annual target), were admitted for treatment, including 44,026 cases with medical complications. UNICEF, in support to coordination, organized a meeting with partners to present and discuss the results of the 2020 national nutrition survey. In collaboration with partners, the Nutrition Technical Group (NTG), developed the sectoral response strategy for the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, which was informed by the results of the survey.

Education

The school year started on the 15th of October, for around 3.8 million children (across all levels). UNICEF has supported the ministries of Primary and Secondary Education to develop COVID-19 guides for the teachers, which include guidance on how to integrate COVID-19 related topics into lesson plans. More than 18,000 handwashing kits, with soap, have been procured for 3,400 primary and lower secondary schools with UNICEF support. The Back to School video messages, with a focus on COVID-19 pandemic, for secondary education have been finalized.

Child Protection

UNICEF continues to provide technical support and guidance to the Regional Directorates for child protection and 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 in the regions.

Maradi & Zinder: UNICEF national NGO partner, with local NGOs, have identified and have followed 4,096 talibés children who have returned from Nigeria and have been reunified with their families in 23 municipalities. They all received psychosocial support and were sensitized on the COVID-19 pandemic and the respect of barrier measures. 62 child protection village committees were set up and/or reinforced by the UNICEF partners in the Maradi and Zinder regions. 3,580 persons, including 2,414 children, were sensitized in focus groups on the role and responsibilities of parents in respect to COVID-19 pandemic. 9 girls, gender-based violence survivors, received psychosocial support and alternative care in community centers in Maradi and Zinder under the management of the Regional Directorates in charge of Child protection (DRPE).

Agadez: The UNICEF partner, the Regional Directorate for Child Protection, identified 286 unaccompanied children and 93 separated and unaccompanied children (most of them aged between 6 and 14 years old) after being returned from Algerian authorities. All children were sensitized on barrier measures, received alternative care and psychosocial support in the transit center under the management of the Regional Directorate in charge of child protection (DRPE). Due to the COVID-19 situation in North Africa, more forced returns are to be expected up to the end of the year. Child protection capacities and training of social workers are being organized in order to offer an immediate response to the children expected to be returned.

Others

UNICEF continues to support the preparation for the scale-up of the national COVID-19 emergency cash transfer programme, which will reach about 500,000 households in all 8 regions of Niger affected by the COVID-19 as part of the national COVID-19 response plan. Technical work to model a productive safety net that addresses structural economic determinants of vulnerability continues with support from UNICEF as part of Niger's post-COVID-19 recovery plans.

As lead Agency of WASH and Education Cluster. Nutrition Technical Group and Child Protection AoR, UNICEF contributed to the ongoing process for the development of the Humanitarian Needs Assessment and Humanitarian Response Plan, including also COVID-19 crisis.

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.

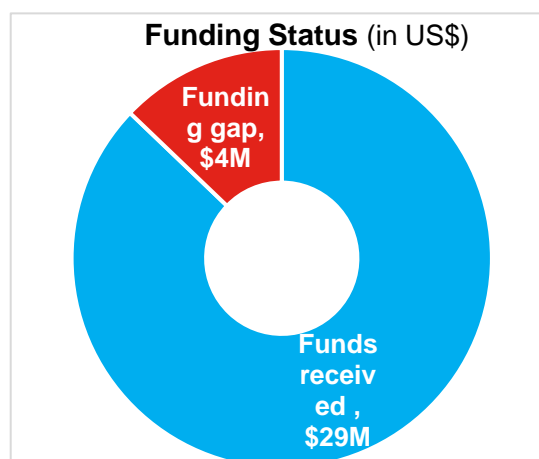
As restrictions on community activities have been lifted since August, UNICEF continues to support the government in strengthening community-level preventative activities while ensuring that infection prevention and control measures are respected.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

Resource mobilization for the COVID-19 response plan has been successful for the sectors of C4D/RCCE, Health, and Social Protection. Coordination needs have equally been covered.

Nevertheless, an overall funding gap of US\$ 4.2 million remains. The remaining needs include a funding gap of 71% regarding COVID-10 specific Child Protection activities, as well as funding gaps (20 to 29%) in the sectors of WASH & IPC, Education, and Nutrition.

UNICEF Niger thanks the USA / BPRM for their generous support of a multisectoral COVID-19 response focusing on refugee populations; as well as the Spanish Development Cooperation AECID for their support allowing to address additional needs for the treatment of malnutrition due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Irish National Committee for UNICEF provided funds to accelerate the catch-up process in the education system.



External Media

During the reporting period, UNICEF scaled up COVID-19 sensitization and communication initiatives to support the Government and partners to respond to the increase of new cases in the country. Several mass communication products were disseminated and distributed through national media, social media platforms, and the UNICEF website in Niger.

World Children's Day linked to COVID-19:

<https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/my-greatest-hero-through-lens-child>
<https://www.unicef.org/niger/reports/celebrating-covid-19-heroes-niger>

Child-led media reports:

<https://www.niameysoir.com/societe-la-covid-19-nest-pas-un-vieux-souvenircest-une-realite-persistante/>

Music videos with well-known local artists for a safe return to school:

<https://web.facebook.com/unicefniger/videos/1750938828406084>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=434pRpj6_8c&ab_channel=UNICEFNiger
<https://web.facebook.com/unicefniger/videos/828991677919832>

Open editorial from UNICEF Representative a.i. Ilaria Carnevali:

<https://www.niameysoir.com/message-20-novembre-2020-journee-mondiale-de-lenfance-reinventons-lavenir-pour-chaque-enfant-par-ilaria-carnevali-representante-a-i-de-lunicef-au-niger/>

<https://www.actuniger.com/tribune-opinion/16745-20-novembre-2020-journee-mondiale-de-lenfance-reinventons-lavenir-pour-chaque-enfant-par-ilaria-carnevali-representante-a-i-de-l-unicef-au-niger.html>

<http://www.anp.ne/article/20-novembre-2020-journee-mondiale-de-lenfance>

For more information contact:

Ilaria Carnevali
Representative a.i.
UNICEF Niger
Tel : (+227) 20727100
E-mail: icarevali@unicef.org

Amadou Alassane Cisse
Deputy Representative a.i.
UNICEF Niger
Tel: (+227) 20727124
E-mail: aacisse@unicef.org

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

Summary of Programme Results

	UNICEF and IPs Response	
Sector	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	16,507,552
# of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions	5,000,000	4,197,650
# of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through establishes feedback mechanisms.	1,000,000	1,233,981
WASH and IPC		
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	300,000	360,075
# 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	3
# 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	333,326
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	12,030
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	3,313,588	0	0%
WASH & IPC	4,000,000	3,194,177	805,823	20%
Nutrition	1,400,000	987,941	412,059	29%
Health	3,000,000	3,699,493	0	0%
Child Protection	1,638,257	479,029	1,159,228	71%
Education	8,000,000	6,351,723	1,648,277	21%
Social Protection	4,000,000	10,081,058	0	0%
Social Research	200,000	0	200,000	100%
Coordination and support capacity	550,000	560,099	0	0%
Total	25,788,257	28,667,107	4,225,387	16%