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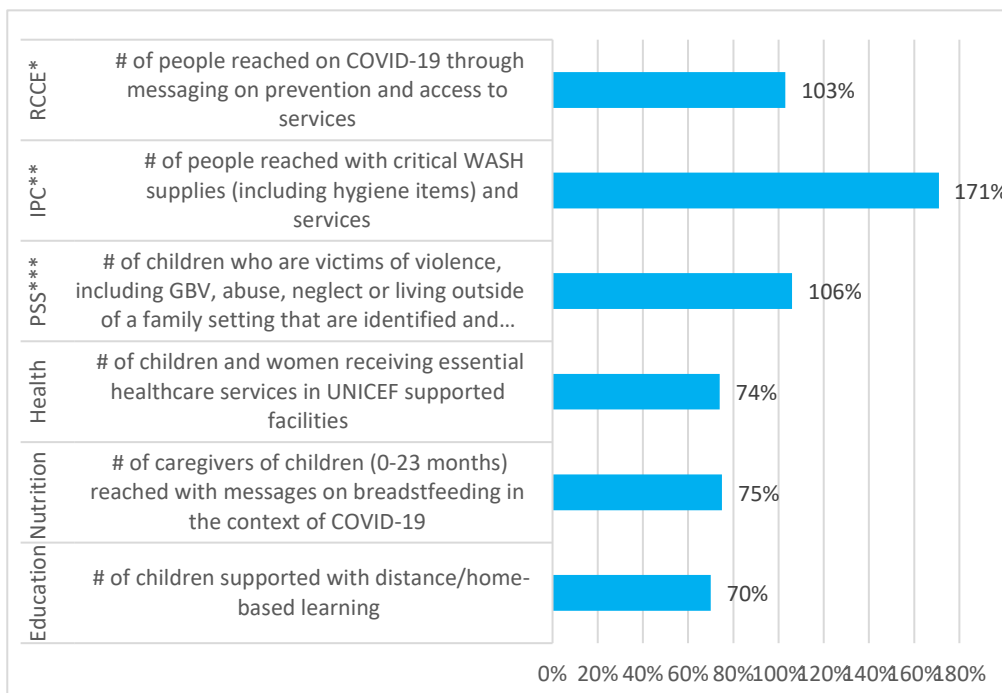
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COVID-19
Situation Report #18
26 November 2020 -
22 January 2021

Highlights

- **More than 9 million children have access to distance learning** thanks to partnerships with 91 radio stations and 7 TV channels
- **More than 1.6 million community masks distributed**
- **8 million people** reached with key messages on how to prevent COVID-19 through mass media channels (84 radio stations and 30 TV channels)
- **More than 150,000 calls** managed by the COVID-19 Hotline
- **77,236 people** (including 24,253 children) affected by COVID-19 and **6,417 frontline workers** provided with **psychosocial support** since the beginning of the epidemic

UNICEF's COVID-19 Response



COVID-19 overview

(as of 21 January 2021)

 **21,302** confirmed cases

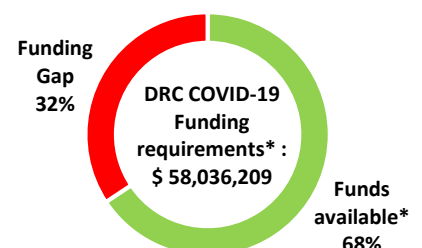
 **640** deaths

 **14,834** people recovered

3 % Fatality Rate

Kinshasa recorded 79% (16,915) of all confirmed cases. Other affected provinces including # of cases are: **North Kivu** (1,266) **Haut Katanga** (600) **Kongo Central** (1,308) **South Kivu** (459) **Ituri** (224) **Lualaba** (176) **Haut Uele** (94) **Bas-Uélé** (6) **Tshopo** (100) **North Ubangi** (40) **Kwilu** (9) **Equateur** (48) **South Ubangi** (7) **Tanganyika** (6) **Kwango** (2) **Haut Lomami** (1) **Kasai** (2) **Kasai Central** (16) **Maniema** (17) **Kasai Oriental** (4) **Tshuapa** (2)

DRC COVID-19 Response Funding Status



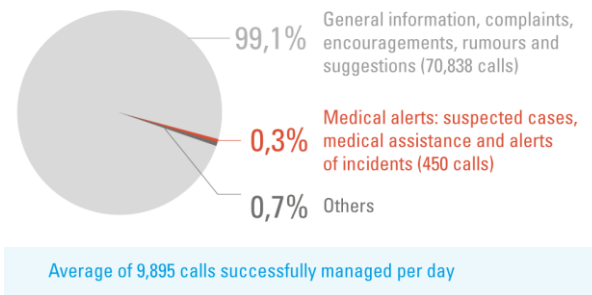
*Funds available include 9 million USD UNICEF regular resources allocated by the office for first response needs.



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

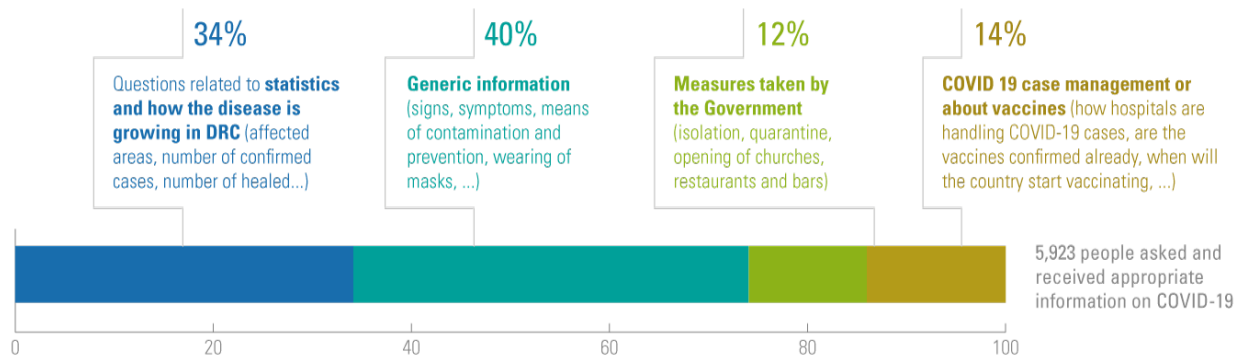
1) COVID-19 Hotline

During the reporting period, the COVID-19 hotline successfully managed 150,422 calls. 450 calls were potential medical alerts (suspected cases, medical assistance and alerts of incidents) and 148,902 were about general information, complaints, encouragements, rumours and suggestions. The Hotline provides appropriate information, feeds the alerts mechanism and creates the link to the services (medical assistance). Compared to the previous SitRep, number of calls successfully managed by the Hotline has remained stable. During the reporting period, the Hotline was successfully managing an average of 9,895 calls per day.



2) U-Report platform

- Through its SMS center:** 5,923 people received an answer to their questions. Over 34% 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), 40% of questions were about generic information (signs, symptoms, means of contamination and prevention, wearing of masks, etc), 12% were about measures taken by the Government (isolation, quarantine, opening of churches, restaurants and bars) and 14% were about COVID-19 case management or about vaccines (how hospitals are handling COVID-19 cases, are the vaccines confirmed already, when will the country start vaccinating....)



- Through its automated bot:** 7,839 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.

3) Mass media Communication

25 media professionals were trained on prevention measures and warning signs of COVID-19. 84 radio stations and 30 TV channels continue to broadcast messages on COVID-19 with UNICEF’s support in the provinces affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. 8 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

A total of 951 community relays and influencers were trained on COVID-19 prevention measures by UNICEF and Communication Task Force members (with UNICEF support). 16,297 actors have conducted awareness raising activities across the DRC, reaching 4,568,047 people.

44,000 COVID-19 leaflets in Tshiluba and French language were distributed to communities in Kasai-Oriental and Lomami Provinces.

In Tshopo Province, 1,991 youth leaders women leaders, leaders of civil society organizations, child reporters, Red Cross members and religious leaders conducted awareness raising activities on COVID-19 prevention measures with 105,279 people in 5 Health Zones (Kabondo, Tshopo, Makiso-Kisangani, Lubunga, and Mangobo).

In Bas Uele Province, 5,664 Community Relays and CAC reached 132,606 people in 11 Health Zones with awareness raising activities on COVID-19 prevention.

40 “COVID-19 awakening committees” were established in Kisangani and 20 in Buta to ensure compliance with the prevention measures against COVID-19 in the workplace and other public places.

In Kasai Oriental Province, 1,991 youth and women leaders and 600 CAC member relays have conducted COVID-19 awareness activities, reaching 347,234 people.

In Sankuru Province, 37 churches and 14 schools conducted awareness activities on hygiene practices and COVID-19 prevention in the Health Zones of Lodja, Omendjadi, Katako Kombe, Tshumbe, Lomela, Tshudi Loto, Kole and Lusambo, reaching 27,077 people.

In Lomami Province, 37 churches ,14 schools promoted, 980 CAC, 48 Leaders and 25 community-based organizations helped promote COVID-19 prevention measures in 4 urban Health Zones of Kabinda, reaching 205,789 people.

In Tanganyika Province, 141 front-line community-based and local government influencers reached 82,969 people with messages on prevention measures against COVID-19.

In North Kivu Province, in collaboration with the local NGO Réseau des Médias (REMEDI), UNICEF trained 200 school directors on COVID-19, including how to detect symptoms and prevention measures. These activities were carried out to strengthen community-based surveillance related to COVID-19 response.



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

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services to 57,940 people and personal protective equipment to 147 health care workers within health facilities and communities in Kinshasa and other affected provinces. UNICEF supported the training of 629 healthcare workers and community health workers on infection prevention and control and provided 33 new health facilities with essential WASH services.

UNICEF continues to strengthen the coordination of the WASH Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) team at national and provincial level, mobilizing the government, partners on the IPC response in health care facilities during this second COVID-19 wave.

Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa Province, partner company EFFET carried out, with UNICEF’s support, 5 mechanical drillings in 4 health facilities (Onatra, Mabanga, Kimbondo and Kalemelembe health centres, as well as Kitambo General Hospital)

In Kongo Central Province, partner NGO ADRA, with support from UNICEF, distributed infection prevention and control materials (boots, hydro-alcoholic gel, face shield, protective glasses, protective overalls, non-sterile surgical masks and examination gloves) to 12 health facilities.

ADRA is also bulding, with UNICEF funding, the partner ADRA built 21 incinerators, 19 concrete supports, 2 latrines in health care facilities in the Matadi and Nzanza Health Zones.

In Ituri Province, UNICEF’s partner Feconde provided mechanical drilling and a photovoltaic system to the Araba health centre in Aru Health Zone in order to improve its water supply. It also helepd set up waste areas (incinerators,

latrines and permanent showers, placenta pits and rubbish pits) in 4 health facilities in the Mahagi, Rethy and Aru Health Zones.

The Education Division of Ituri, with support from UNICEF, distributed hygiene kits (soaps, masks, bucket, brooms, gloves, hand washing devices and flash thermometers) in 198 schools in the province.

In South Kivu Province, the Health Division, with support from UNICEF, provided 450 liters of hydro-alcoholic gel to 15 health facilities in the Kabare and Miti-Murhesa Health Zones. UNICEF's partner Church Aid continues building WASH infrastructures in 7 health facilities in the Kabare Health Zone. It also decontaminated 9 households in the Ibanda Health Zone in the city of Bukavu.

In Tanganyika Province, the Health Division, with support from UNICEF, installed 10 large-capacity (60-litre) hand-washing devices in public places, specifically in 7 markets, one port, 2 entry checkpoints in Kalemie. It also increased awareness of COVID-19 prevention among 150 members of the Infection and Prevention Control Committees, and provided visibility kits, hydro-alcoholic gels, and protection materials to 25 members of the Infection Prevention Control Commission of Kalemie.

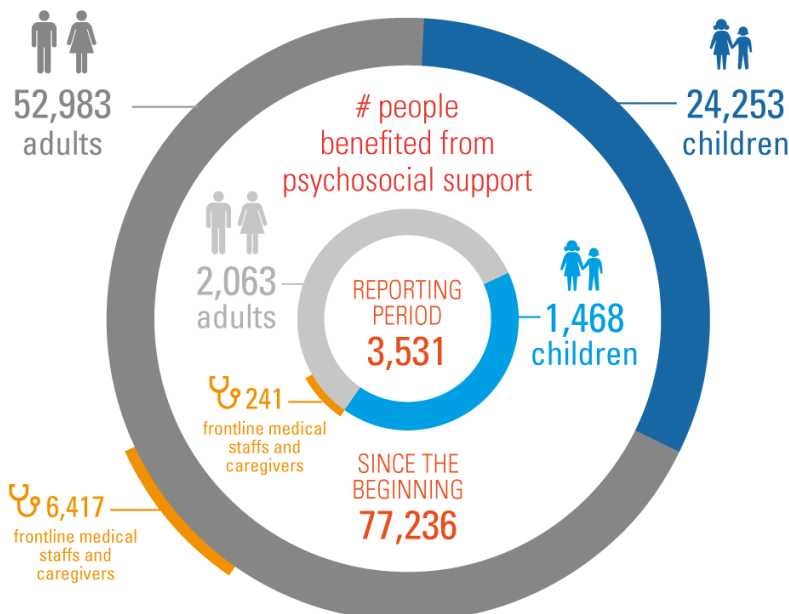
Partner NGO Médecins d'Afrique provided 15 health center and nutrition facilities in the Manono Health Zone with soap and chlorine sprayers to improve hygiene and prevent disease transmission. In addition, it briefed 165 health facility staffs on infection prevention and control.



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

During the reporting period, 3,531 people infected with or affected by COVID-19 including 1,468 children received individualized emotional and psychosocial support as part of the COVID-19 response, reaching a total of 77,236 people, including 24,253 children since the beginning of the COVID-19 response in DRC. This figure includes 241 (including 89 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 6,417 (3,150 women).



UNICEF continues to closely work with the Ministry and Division of Social Affairs and child protection partners to provide appropriate to vulnerable children and/or children victims of violence as indirect consequence of the COVID-19. During the reporting period, 469 children (including 155 girls) living outside the family setting benefited from adapted transitional care.

Safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse were made available to 2,080 persons during the reporting period.

Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa Province, social workers identified 28 vulnerable children (including 17 girls) among which 22 children (including 15 girls) were living in a street environment. In addition to the psychosocial support received, these children were referred to transitional reception centres for care while the family tracing process was undergoing.

In Ituri Province, para-social workers identified 157 cases of vulnerable children (including 96 girls) of which 154 children (including 94 girls) were referred for vocational training (carpentry, auto mechanic or dressmaking).

In Kongo Central, 29 children (all boys) were released from places of detention Ituri, and 13 children (all boys). They were either immediately reunited with their families or placed in transitional care. 1,216 children (including 783 girls) victims of violence including GBV received individualized support bringing the total to 11,164 children (including 6,370 girls) since the start of the COVID-19 response.



Health and Nutrition

UNICEF has continued to support the National Programme on Nutrition (PRONANUT) and partner NGOs to improve nutritional care for COVID-19 patients in Kinshasa Province, and to implement the simplified approach to the treatment of acute malnutrition in the Binza Météo and Nyankunde Health Zones. The support has yielded the following results:

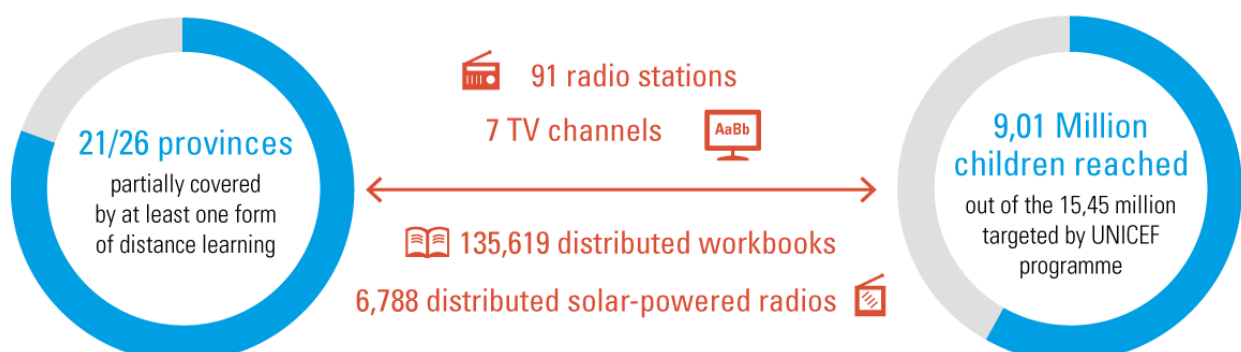
- 10 hospitals in Kinshasa are providing medical treatment for COVID-19 patients and are supplied with appropriate management tools and materials to care for and carry out the nutritional analysis of COVID-19 patients who are malnourished and at risk of malnutrition;
- 151/166 COVID 19 patients (90%) admitted to UNICEF-supported facilities received dietary advice on a balanced diet;
- Nutritional status assessments were carried out on 135/166 COVID 19 patients (81%);
- 67 health workers (care providers, members of the health zone management teams) were trained on the simplified treatment for acute malnutrition;
- 210 community actors (community relays, members of community animation cells (CAC), members of health committees (CODESA) were trained on community screening, referral of severe cases and simplified community treatment of uncomplicated cases of malnutrition;
- 340 mothers and caregivers were trained in the use of the brachial perimeter (BP) and the detection of edema to detect cases of malnutrition;
- 18 health structures and 36 community care structures were supplied with appropriate management tools and materials to care for and carry out the nutritional analysis of COVID-19 patients who are malnourished and at risk of malnutrition;
- 280 acutely malnourished children under the age of 5 were admitted to care in community treatment structures.



Education

21 out of 26 provinces are partially covered by at least one form of distance education through 91 radio stations and 7 television channels, reaching 9,013,021 children and adolescents. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 135,619 workbooks have been distributed in 12 provinces, and 6,788 solar-powered radios have been distributed to children of vulnerable households in 19 provinces to allow them to follow distance learning classes.

However, schools have remained closed after the Christmas break due to the second COVID-19 wave. UNICEF has called on the Congolese government to prioritise the reopening of schools and to take all preventive measures to make schools as safe as possible.





Social Science Analysis

During the last reporting period, the CASS continued exploring the broader health impacts of the COVID-19 response in the DRC, monitoring and highlighting changes in access and use of health services over time.

Impact of COVID-19 on communities in Kinshasa and the East

- Workshop on the impacts of COVID-19 on communities in Eastern DRC (10 January) with partners;
- Publication (FR-EN) with all partners [“The impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak response on women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo”](#).

Study on the impacts of school closures (Massisi-Goma). Key results were:

- The impacts of the closures are different for girls and boys, but felt by all families;
- The socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on households meant that when schools closed, many adolescents sought work;
- In Massisi, fewer boys went back to school compared to Goma, mainly because of membership in armed groups and lack of financial means;
- In both zones, early pregnancies are the main reason why girls do not return to school.

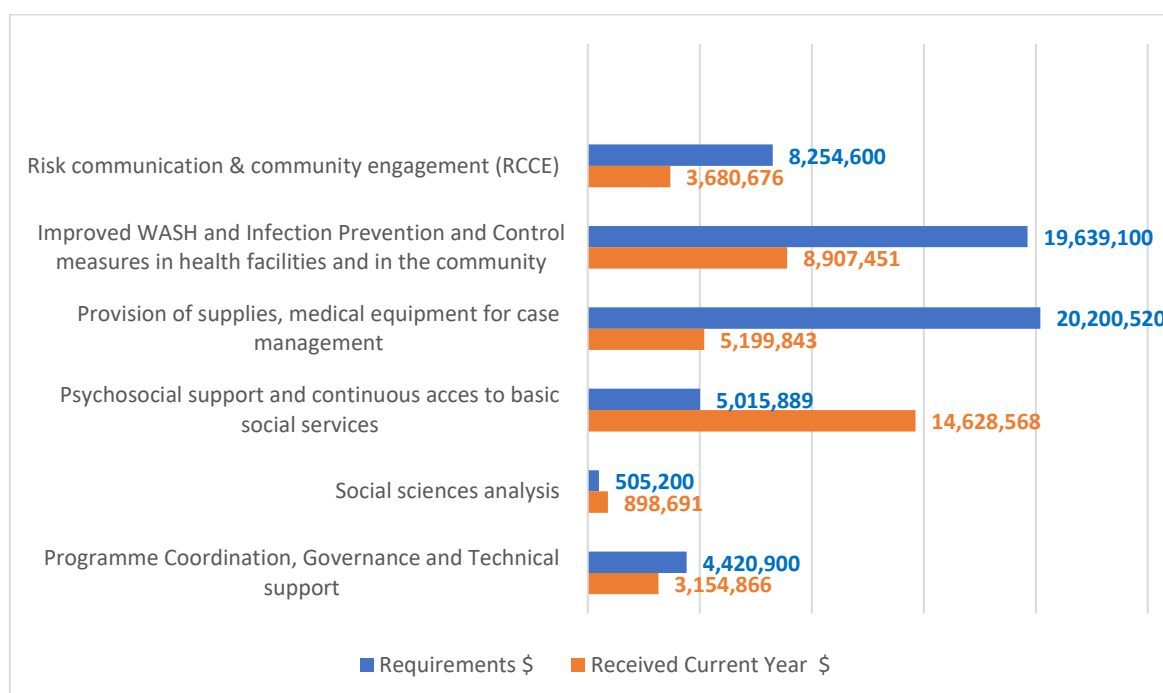
The full list of CASS studies and resources is available [here](#).



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 20 January 2021, UNICEF has received \$39.4 million (68 % 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), 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:

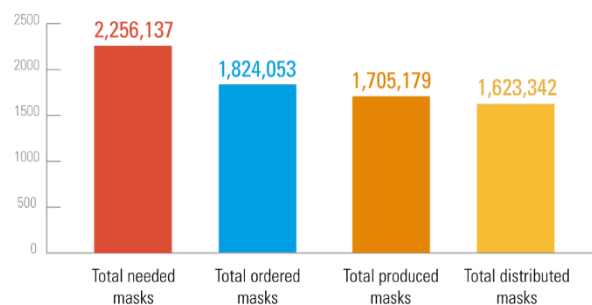




UNICEF's "Masks Made in DRC" initiative

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.

1,705,179 masks have already been produced and 1,623,342 masks have been distributed to the most disadvantaged communities in the provinces most affected by COVID-19.



External Media

1) Social media and online

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the communication team posted 107 messages on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) – reaching more than 40 million people on Facebook alone. Based on [evidence](#) provided by the [Social Sciences Analytics Cell](#), UNICEF [called to safely re-open schools in DR Congo](#). This call was amplified through [social networks](#) and generated a lot of engagement. Child Reporters also [advocated for the reopening of schools](#) on [www.ponabana.com](#).

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

- [L'UNICEF plaide pour la réouverture des écoles en RDC](#)
- [Selon les estimations, 10,4 millions d'enfants en République démocratique du Congo, dans le nord-est du Nigéria, au Sahel central, au Soudan du Sud et au Yémen souffriront de malnutrition aiguë en 2021](#)

3) National/international media coverage mentioning UNICEF

- [RDC : face à la recrudescence de la Covid-19, l'UNICEF appelle à donner la priorité à la réouverture des écoles](#)
- [Les impacts de la réponse COVID-19 sur les femmes et les filles en RDC](#)
- [Covid-19 : les campagnes de vaccination reprennent en RDC](#)
- [The impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak response on women and girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo FR](#)

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 ▲▼
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	40,000,000	41,265,604	▲5%
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	843,665	▲13%
Number of influencers engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	10,000,000	6,122,838	▲8%
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	2,142,790	3,732,169	▲2%
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPE	9,643	5,788	▲3%
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in IPC	9,643	14,049	▲5%
Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services	357	576	▲6%
Child Protection and Psychosocial Support			
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	11,164	▲12%
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	169,000	77,236	▲5%
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	152,643	47,149	▲8%
Health			
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities	2,776,339	2,046,270	▲0%
Nutrition			
Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19	412,365	308,350	▲0.2%
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	54,061	23,003	▲3%
Education			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	15,450,000	9,013,021	▲5%
Number of distributed educational homework booklets to ensure continuity of children and adolescent's learning	2,500,000	648,462	▲26%