



In Khayelitsha, Western Cape, field researchers conducted surveys on perceptions of COVID-19, engaging more than 15,000 individuals on handwashing promotion, COVID-19 prevention and the uptake of routine services. Photo: UNICEFSouthAfrica/ImpactResourceCentre

SOUTH AFRICA COVID-19

Situation Report No. 12

01 - 31 January 2021

unicef 
for every child

Situation in Numbers

Confirmed cases: 1,456,309

Recovered: 1,306,022

Deaths: 44,399

Tests Conducted: 8,300,749

(As of 02 February 2021)

Reporting Period: 01 -31 January 2021

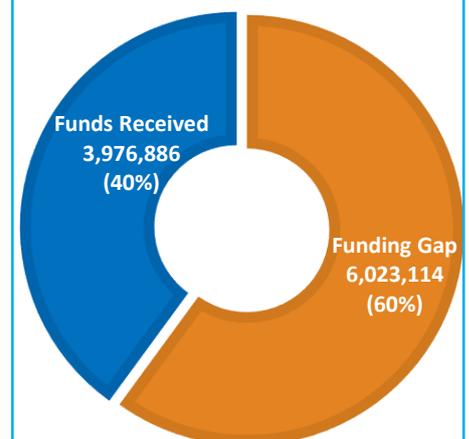
Highlights

- Children and adolescents now account for 9.2% of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and 3.9% of all COVID-19 associated hospital admissions, a total of 5,743 admissions since the start of the pandemic. There have been 152 in-hospital deaths of under 19-year olds.
- UNICEF's #TheTruck multimedia activation visited urban areas across Gauteng province, including Johannesburg, and Tshwane Metropolitan areas. The COVID-19 prevention messaging campaign, including community engagement, took place at the height of the holiday travel period and included stops at busy toll plazas, as well as informal settlements.
- Preparations for the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines and the subsequent roll out gathered pace, with UNICEF supporting the training of health workers, who are in line to receive their first shots in mid-February.

Situation Overview

- As of 31 January 2021, South Africa reported nearly 1,5 million cases of COVID-19, with 44,164 deaths (case fatality rate of 3%).
- Due to an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, the President declared an adjusted Level-3 lockdown with effect from the 29 December. The second wave of COVID-19 infections has been largely driven by a newly identified and more transmissible variant 501.V2 of the SARS-COV-2 virus.
- The country is planning to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine in three phases starting with the 1.25 million health workers who are expected to start receiving shots as of the second week of February. The first vaccines (Astra Zeneca from Serum Institute) arrive in-country at the beginning of February.
- South Africa is aiming to vaccinate 67% of the population during 2021, some 40 million eligible people. This includes procurement of vaccines through the UNICEF supported COVAX facility for 10 percent of the population.

FUNDING STATUS (US\$)



Summary of Preparedness and Response Actions

Education

1. School reopening, scheduled for 27 January 2021, was delayed until: 15 February for learners; 25 January for senior management teams and general workers; and 1 February for educators.
2. Technical assistance continues to be provided to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) through a UNICEF consultant embedded in the DBE who supports the coordination of the emergency response.
3. The psychosocial support and WASH in schools programme continues as part of the wider sector implementation of the Care and Support in Teaching and Learning (CSTL) pillar.
 - a. UNICEF in partnership with USAID and Woolworths are constructing 117 more handwashing stations in selected schools through to the end of March 2021.
 - b. Psychosocial support in schools is being scaled up through the Common Element Treating Approach (CETA) initiative. This approach was conceived by John 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.
4. In partnership with 2Enable, UNICEF continues to produce and distribute educational videos for learners, parents, teachers and support staff. By the end of November 2020, 600 educational videos had been produced and are now accessible [online](#).
5. Almost 28 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, via the Children's Radio Foundation (CRF), GBEM platforms, and other platforms excluding social media. Also included are the remote learning resources – through online platforms, broadcast (radio and TV) and social media – which have reached nearly 6.5 million children.
6. UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the DBE on issues including the standard operating procedures to encourage the safe re-opening of early childhood development programmes.
7. UNICEF is working 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 634,576 caregivers who have used the resources to support the continued engagement of some 958,812 of their children aged birth to five years.
8. UNICEF continues to work with the National Education Collaboration Trust 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. In addition, UNICEF, in partnership with the European Union, is implementing a programme to provide quality assurance of the trimmed curriculum, reading programme and parental involvement programme.

Child and Social Protection

1. The national assessment on child wellbeing was launched in Kwa Zulu Natal in December. Early data shows that some ten percent of children interviewed with their caregivers reported child sexual abuse, hunger and suicidal intentions. These findings triggered a response on the ground from social and health workers to follow up on the families visited and to provide the necessary support, including case management for children whose safety is at risk. The Real Time Monitoring Tool will now be rolled out across provinces and SOPs are being put in place. The real time data collection led to an immediate response to the needs of children in the households visited and a higher-level commitment to further strengthen the social welfare system.
2. UNICEF inputted into in the preparation of a session with the President to take place on 04 February where a multisectoral GBV Fund will be launched to support implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on gender-based violence and femicide. The session will engage the private sector to help fight the scourge of GBV and violence against children. UNICEF, on behalf of the UN, supports the 'Collaborative' in the Presidency which has been established to help implement the NSP.
3. Governance documents and structures have been put in place for the EU supported children on the move programme, working with the Department of Social Development, UN partners and civil society.
4. The COVID-19 parenting tips received strong engagement, with 1075 parents accessing the guide in January alone. Most people viewed tips on keeping children safe online and on how to manage stress.

5. The South African Red Cross Society completed data collection in six provinces on migrant children in alternative care, to help finalize a database working with the Department of Social Development
6. Childline received 31,487 calls in December 2020, among which 8,436 were calls in which children received either psychosocial support or were linked with other services as necessary.

Health and Nutrition

1. Children and adolescents accounted for 9.2% of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and 3.9% of all COVID-19 associated hospital admissions, a total of 5,743 admissions since the start of the pandemic. There have been 152 in-hospital deaths of under 19-year olds. The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) data currently suggests there were no consistent changes in incidence trends associated with the timing of opening or closing of schools. There were also no differences in the proportion of children admitted to public hospitals, ICU or dying in hospital, between the first and second waves of COVID-19.
2. UNICEF continues to support the child health catch-up drive in 12 priority districts. It is expected that under 5 children – who missed the completion of immunization, Vitamin A, deworming, nutrition status screening and HIV testing and treatment during the hard lockdown will be prioritized with appropriate services. Demand creation, which is one of the pillars of the catchup drive, is also supported by partners and UNICEF participated in a national radio interview to this effect. Only 4 of the 12 priority districts reached (or exceeded) the under 1-year fully immunized coverage target of 90% during November 2020. As for the Measles 2nd dose, only 2 districts reached 90% coverage in November 2020.
3. UNICEF, together with other UN Agencies supported the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) led project on the rapid assessment of COVID-19 impact on agriculture, food security and nutrition. The purpose is to produce actionable proposals to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on agriculture and food security in the country. UNICEF will use the evidence generated through this rapid assessment to continue advocating for the placing of children first on government-led interventions aimed at mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food and nutrition security.
4. Responding to a gap in child nutrition research, UNICEF analyzed two surveys – The National Income Dynamics Study – Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM) and AskAfrica – and produced estimates of the impact of COVID-19 on child nutrition. The findings reflect serious concerns over child nutrition, as a result of food insecurity. The AskAfrica survey showed that the number of hungry children increased by 2,7 million children, with more than 4.8 million children going to be hungry compared to 2.1 million in 2019. The NIDS-CRAM reported a lower prevalence of child hunger and revealed that there was an increase of 90,000 children who went to bed hungry due to COVID-19 and lockdown in 2020, compared to 2019.

WASH

1. UNICEF, together with implementing partners EnviroSan, WaterAid, World Vision and MIET have installed a cumulative total of 232 handwashing with soap stations in 9 provinces, including in schools and health facilities. These handwashing stations improved access to handwashing for some 120,624 people in high-risk areas of the country. Social distancing markers, and stickers above each tap to encourage optimal handwashing practices continue to be installed with each hand-washing station.
2. Community-based organizations (CBOs) supported by UNICEF, engaged 15,189 people in Khayelitsha, Western Cape on handwashing promotion. On World Community Health Day, another 652 people in the Silvertown and Old Hostel informal settlements in Slovoville, Soweto were engaged on handwashing promotion, COVID-19 prevention and the uptake of routine services. Tippy Tap home handwashing stations activations continue to be a popular feature of these house hold level activities, with over 80 built in the past two months.
3. In Nelson Mandela Bay, World Vision and CBOs used RCCE videos circulated by UNICEF to initiate a What's App dialogue on the vaccine rollout with community leaders in high-risk areas, providing valuable feedback on community sentiments. Young people who supported the truck community engagement project continue to generate local solutions to COVID 19, across all wards of the metropolitan.
4. Baseline surveys on handwashing and COVID prevention practices are underway in Limpopo and Gauteng, through UNICEF's partner, WaterAid.

Communication, Risk Communication and Community Engagement & Partnerships

Communication

1. UNICEF launched the #AccessforEVERYchild campaign with partners, Scalabrini. The campaign provides free information and advice to the families of children on the move in South Africa.
2. A new web story highlighting UNICEF South Africa's RCCE COVID-19 prevention messaging 'truck' multimedia activation was released on [UNICEF's global website](#).
3. UNICEF's report, '[How COVID-19 is changing childhood in South Africa: Responding and reimagining for every child](#)', continues to get picked up by partners and media, leading to presentations and media engagement. The report highlights the broad ranging impact of COVID-19 on children across the country and guides UNICEF and partners' response and recommendations moving forward.
4. Media engagement included, among others, an eNCA TV interview on the holistic impact of COVID-19 on children and a SABC TV interview related to the reopening of schools following the summer holidays.
5. Social media referrals to UNICEF's website almost doubled in mid-January with users downloading resources and posters to assist with COVID-19 prevention and home-based schooling.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

1. #TheTruck multimedia activation visited Gauteng province and covered the City of Johannesburg, Tshwane Metropolitan, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan, as well as the West Rand and Sedibeng district municipalities. The COVID-19 prevention messaging campaign took place at the height of the holiday travel period and included stops at busy toll plazas, as well as a wider footprint in informal settlements in all districts covered.
2. The first round of data collection for the Community Rapid Assessment was sent out in December, and data collected was received in January. The UNICEF Regional Office analysed the data and work is underway to present this data to the National RCCE Technical Working Group (TWG) and other stakeholders. The findings are expected to provide social and behaviour insights at multiple levels (individually & community) on coping strategies and challenges posed to adopt protective COVID-19 behaviours to help inform programming.
3. UNICEF is playing a lead role in supporting the TWG to provide RCCE and COVID-19 vaccine communication training to provincial and district level RCCE communicators. Hosted by the Foundation for Professional Development, RCCE training materials will be adapted and localised into self-learning modules, micro-training WhatsApp videos and interactive sessions.
4. Social listening partners, channels and methods have become key as the country works to address the rumours and misinformation surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine. With support from the UNICEF Regional Office social media monitoring reports are providing detailed support to co-ordinate and formalize the country's social listening and response.
5. With support from UNICEF Regional Office C4D and the RCCE Collective Service, UNICEF fast tracked the national partner mapping process, which will enable the National Department of Health (NDoH) to collect and visualise details of RCCE activities.
6. UNICEF facilitated the launch of the Internet of Good Things and the NDoH health workers COVID-19 vaccine survey in response to find out what health workers feel about the vaccine, especially considering that they are first in line to receive it. The behavioural and social drivers survey was developed by global experts working on immunization uptake. More than 18,000 health workers responded within four days of launching the survey.
7. The social mobilisation stream of the TWG was set up as one of a number of work streams to be supported by UNICEF. Its role is primarily as the mobilisation of communities towards vaccine acceptance and to dispel myths and misinformation about vaccines. It is supported by partner organisations involved in community support work. A framework for the support to be provided is being drawn up, with links to other streams, including training for community health workers.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

1. The UNICEF Swiss National Committee raised US \$92,592 for WASH in schools work, while the UNICEF German National Committee raised US \$258,000 for the Safe Park Programme.

2. Rand 1 million was raised through a donation from Lifebuoy towards UNICEF's COVID-19 relief efforts.
3. UNICEF South Africa's #WriteForChange campaign continued in January raising nearly Rand 10,000 from individual donations.

Challenges

- The second COVID-19 wave has delayed the start of school following the holiday season. UNICEF continues to provide guidance on the safe reopening and educational resources for online learning.
- According to Government statistics, by mid-December over 38,000 health workers had contracted COVID-19, with around 1% (380) fatalities. Infections among health workers is directly contributing to disruptions in community access to critical health, nutrition and HIV services.

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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results, UNICEF South Africa, January 2021

| Indicators | Target to 31 Dec 2021 | Results as of 01 February 2021 |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Education | | |
| # of children – and parents - supported with distance/home-based learning [ECD, Primary, Secondary Ed] | 7,200,000 | 7,300,000 |
| Social Policy and Child Protection | | |
| 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 | 153,535 |
| Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse | 2,500,000 | 195,535 |
| Social Policy | | |
| Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for PSEA | 20 | 72 |
| UNICEF technical support to COVID-19 top-up of government social protection cash transfer system | 5,700,000 (households) | 5,700,000 (households) |
| WASH | | |
| Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies, including hygiene items, and services | 500,000 | 160,068 |
| Health and Nutrition | | |
| 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 |
| Risk Communication | | |
| Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services | 7,000,000 | 8,354,088 |
| Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions | 40,000 | 106,830 |
| Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms | 100,000 | 38,993 |

Annex B

Funding Status, UNICEF South Africa, January 2021

| 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 | 2,388,384 | -388,384 | -19% |
| Social Policy and Child Protection | 1,550,000 | 775,000 | 775,000 | 281,821 | 1,268.179 | 82% |
| Education | 5,090,000 | 2,545,000 | 2,545,000 | 1,207,935 | 3,882,065 | 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% |
| Total | 10,000,000 | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | 3,976,886 | 6,023,114 | 60% |