



Reporting Period: 1-15 July 2020

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for every child

Central African Republic

Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Situation Report n°7

HIGHLIGHTS

As of 15 July, the Central African Republic (CAR) has registered 4,362 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within its borders - 87% of which are local transmissions. 53 deaths have been reported.

In this reporting period results achieved by UNICEF and partners include:

- Water supplied to **4,000** people in neighbourhoods experiencing acute shortages in Bangui;
- **225** handwashing facilities set up in Kaga Bandoro, Sibut, Bouar and Nana Bakassa for an estimate of **45,000** users per day;
- **126** schools in Mambere Kadei, **87** in Nana-Mambere and **7** in Ouaka prefectures equipped with handwashing stations to ensure safe back to school to final year students;
- **9,750** children following lessons on the radio;
- **3,099** patients, including **2,045** children under 5 received free essential care;
- **11,189** children aged 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) across the country;
- **1,071** children and community members received psychosocial support.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As of 15 July, the Central African Republic (CAR) has registered 4,362 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within its borders - which 87% of which are local transmissions. 53 deaths have been reported.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a decrease in number of new cases does not mean an improvement in the epidemiological situation. This decrease is linked to the new diagnostic strategy that limits testing to symptomatic suspects and people at risk.

Indeed, since 30 June 2020, the Ministry of Health and Population has been revising and updating the strategy for the detection of COVID-19 cases. In order to come to this change, various elements were taken into consideration, including the evolution of the situation

Situation in Numbers



4,362 COVID-19 confirmed cases*

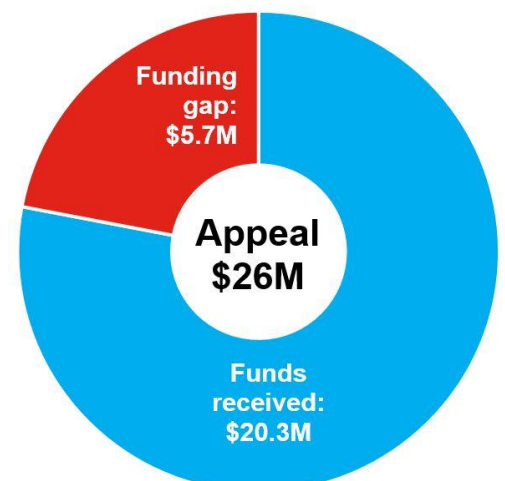
53 COVID-19 deaths*

*WHO/MoHP, 15 July 2020



1.37 million estimate number of children affected by school closures

UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 Appeal
US\$ 26 million



Following the outbreak of COVID-19, all schools in the country have been closed since the 27 March, but on 10 July the Ministry of Education announced their gradual reopening from 15 July, giving priority to grades whose students must sit for examinations at the end of this school year. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education to ensure that the reopening of schools meets minimum hygiene criteria to prevent the spread of the virus.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF, alongside WHO and other actors, has been supporting the CAR's government since the outset of the crisis. Since early March, UNICEF technical staff, have participated in the different technical commissions working on the implementation of the national response plan. UNICEF management continues to be actively involved in the design of the overall strategy, participating in high-level mechanisms chaired by the President (Crisis Committee), the Prime Minister (Technical Committee), and the Health Minister (Strategy and Method Committee).

UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 response plan focuses on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and infection prevention and control (IPC), in particular water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) aspects, but also on ensuring continuous access to healthcare, nutrition services, education, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services, while aiming to mitigate COVID-19's socio-economic impact on the most vulnerable households through cash transfers. It is fully aligned with both the CAR Government's plan and UNICEF's global COVID-19 response plan.

UNICEF continues to lead the WASH, Nutrition, Education Clusters and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster thus ensuring that the needs of children and their mothers are fully considered in the broader CAR humanitarian community's COVID-19 strategy and response.

UNICEF's emergency and humanitarian response to the ongoing CAR crisis fully continues despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding Overview & Partnerships

UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 response plan has been revised and stands now at 26 million USD with increased needs for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), Health & Nutrition, Education and Child Protection sectors and reduced needs for the WASH sector (see Annex B for the sectoral requirements). To date, 78 % of the appeal target has been raised. Funding received during the reporting period from the government of Germany will contribute to extend COVID-19 response in the Infection Prevention Control (IPC), RCCE, Health and Nutrition, Child Protection, and Humanitarian Cash Transfer sectors. In addition, a contribution from the Global Partnership for Education will contribute to scaling-up the education response. Despite the generous contributions received until now, critical gaps remain notably for the IPC, Health and Nutrition and Cash Transfer response.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

To monitor disinformation and rumors about COVID-19, UNICEF has trained seven agents of the partner Réseau des Journalistes pour les Droits de l'Homme (RJDH) on the use of a standardized database for the collection and analysis of rumors broadcast on social networks, media or circulating by word of mouth.

This database has been used as the basis for the creation of their first bulletin on COVID-19. Entitled "Eke Sioni Sango" (Rumors), it was printed and distributed to 180 partners.

Two new radio spots and a song on the importance of wearing a mask were produced by UNICEF partner Radio Ndeke Luka and broadcast across the country.

Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)

During this reporting period, a total of 49,000 people was reached with critical WASH supplies and services.

In the capital Bangui, especially in the areas where water shortages have been the most acute, UNICEF and Agence Nationale de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement (ANEA) have set up two additional water distribution systems serving 4,000 people in Damala and Kokpa suburbs. Both sites are equipped with handwashing stations. In addition, the promotion of hygiene at the Hopital Communautaire in Bangui has been strengthened thanks to the setting up of three additional hand washing stations.

To promote handwashing as a prevention measure, UNICEF, ANEA and the Direction Générale de Ressources Hydrauliques (DGRH) installed 225 additional handwashing facilities in governmental offices and public areas such as at water collection point areas benefitting to 45,000 people in Kaga Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi), Bouar (Nana-Mambéré), Sibut (Kemo) and in Nana Bakassa sous prefecture. In Ouham Prefecture, Malou Health Center and Ippy Hospital were provided with handwashing facilities and soaps.

In partnership with ANEA and the NGO les Beatitudes, UNICEF carried out COVID-19 sensitizations reaching 23,655 people in Bambari (Ouaka), 4,053 people in Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi), 2,770 in Sibut (Kemo), 3,137 in Bossangoa (Ouham) and 4,685 in Paoua (Ouham-Pendé).

Continued access to essential Healthcare

During the first two weeks of July, UNICEF and partners provided free essential care to 3,099 people and prenatal consultations to 959 pregnant women across the country. Among the 3,099 people receiving essential care, 66% were children under five.

The most frequent diseases treated among children under five are malaria (44%), acute respiratory infections (27%) and diarrhea (20%). Out of the 956 pregnant women, 60% received at least one prenatal consultation.

Furthermore, 11,189 children aged 6-59 months were admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) across the country.

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

Following a presidential decree, the symbolic reopening of the school was held in Sibut (Kemo) on 15 July under the aegis of the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, the Minister of Technical Education and the Minister of Tertiary Education.

The resumption of school activities will be gradual, based on the classification of the area according to the number of reported COVID-19 cases.

To facilitate the opening of schools in compliance with the COVID-19 guidelines, UNICEF and its partners provided 87 schools in Bouar (Nana Mambere), 126 in Berberati, Gamboula, Sosso and Carnot (Mambere Kadei and seven in Bambari (Ouaka) with handwashing facilities and soaps. 50 teachers and 33 headmasters were trained on COVID-19 barrier measures to help students resume classes in a safe and healthy school environment.

Awareness raising activities on COVID-19 barrier measures targeting 5,547 people, including 2,394 women, in Bambari and 182 people in Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi) were carried out by UNICEF partners.

In the meantime, UNICEF supports continuing learning through radio education programmes and 9,750 children followed the lessons broadcast by UNICEF partner radios during this reporting period. Daily monitoring shows that despite the reopening of schools, the level of children's participation remains the same.

UNICEF has been working with the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Family and Child Protection of to prepare guidelines for the reopening of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in the context of COVID-19. During the reporting period, the minimum standards for their implementation were approved and in order to make them effective UNICEF and partners trained 32 government and NGO social workers on mental health and psychosocial support in the context of COVID-19, the role of CFS, psychological first aid and monitoring of the well-being of children attending CFS activities. They in turn will train volunteers and community leaders who support affected children at the community level.

In term of direct delivery of protection services to affected children and caregivers, 1,071 parents and children (including 418 boys and 386 girls) were reached door-to-door with UNICEF-supported psychosocial activities and awareness raising activities on COVID-19 child protection concerns. Activities took place mostly in Bangui, Ouham prefecture and in the corridor linking Bangui to Cameroun.

In addition, 57 vulnerable children without adequate parental care (35 boys and 22 girls), including 26 unaccompanied and separated children and 31 children living or working on the street in Bangui, received adequate family care through placement in foster families or reunification with their parents and relatives.

Reports of an increase in sexual and gender-based violence (GVB) continue to be reported, particularly in Bangui, and UNICEF is currently scaling up its response. During the period under review, 76 cases of sexual and GVB were identified and sustained.

UNICEF CAR: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/CAR.html
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Annex A: Summary of Response Result Results

	UNICEF and IPs		
	2020	Total Results	Change since last report ▲ ▼

	Target (March – Dec20)		
RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)			
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	2,000,000	2,000,000	0
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms.	9,000	6,401	590
Number of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions	40,000	6,156	6,156
INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	1,055,000	339,650	49,000
Number of healthcare facilities reached with (one or more) WASH services and IPC equipment	70	5	3
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	250	0	0
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	1,000	172	0
CONTINUITY OF HEALTHCARE*			
Number of children & women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV & GBV* care in UNICEF supported facilities	71,000	50,531	3018
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms	138,000	44,180	0
ACCESS TO CONTINUOUS EDUCATION, CHILD PROTECTION & GBV SERVICES			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	200,000	98,460	9,750
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	1,500	221	221
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	300	106	57
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	20,000	13,480	1,071
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for PSEA	300	181	0
SOCIAL PROTECTION			
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	5,000	0	0

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds received/ reallocated/ Confirmed	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)	1,000,000	560,000	440,000	44%
Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)	11,550,000	7,067,000	4,483,000	38%
Health & Nutrition	3,600,000	2,320,806	1,279,194	35%
Education	5,800,000	7,970,000	-	-
Child Protection	1,550,000	765,651	784,349	50%
Humanitarian Cash Transfer	2,500,000	900,000	1,600,000	64%
Multisector	-	752,349	-	-
Total	26,000,000	20,335,806	8,586,543*	22%

*The funding gap of 8, 586 M does not consider the funding received for the education sector that goes beyond the required funding. Instead, these funds are considered in the graph on page 1 (Funding gap 5.7M)