



Reporting Period: 16-30 April 2020

unicef 
for every child
Central African Republic
Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Situation Report n°2

HIGHLIGHTS

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Central African Republic (CAR) increased sharply in the reporting period, jumping from 12 on 15 April to 64 on 30 April, with still no casualties reported. Imported cases, mostly from Cameroon, CAR's main trading partner, make up 75% of the total (48 out of 64).

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

- **An estimated 2 million people (40% of the country's population)** reached with COVID-19 radio spots broadcast daily on 12 stations across the country; **811,525** COVID-19 sensitization messages also distributed through mobile phone networks
- **11** boreholes under construction in Bangui and surroundings
- **2,000** prisoners sensitized to COVID-19 prevention activities in Bangui and Mbaiki
- **13** handwashing stations set up at control points along the main road to Cameroon
- **20,412** children and mothers received free essential care
- **27,947** parents sensitized on infant and young child feeding practices in the context of COVID-19
- **168** school lessons in French and Sango recorded for the radio education program,
- **960** officials from local authorities (including 477 women) sensitized on COVID-19 child protection risk and basic psychological support
- **10** tons of medical supplies received

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Central African Republic (CAR) increased sharply in the reporting period, jumping from 12 on 15 April to 64 on 30 April, with still no casualties reported. Imported cases, mostly from Cameroon, CAR's main trading partner, make up 75% of the total (48 out of 64).

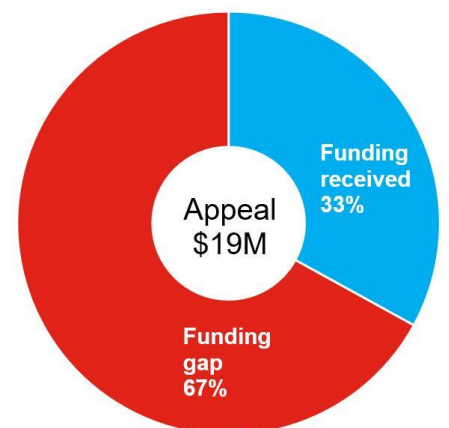
The CAR authorities have therefore stepped up efforts to control the flow of travellers coming from Cameroon, increasing sanitary controls at the main border crossings and along the main road to the capital Bangui. On 27 April, the Interior

Situation in Numbers

64 COVID-19 confirmed cases*
0 COVID-19 deaths*
**WHO/MoHP, 30 April 2020*

1.37 million estimate number of children affected by school closures

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



and Transport Ministers issued a joint decree suspending traffic between four main Cameroon border crossing towns (Ngaoundaye, Garoua-Boulai, Gamboula and Yantchi) and Bangui for a duration of 1 month. Exceptions apply for commercial trucks, as well as official, and UN and humanitarian NGO vehicles.

All active confirmed cases are currently located in the capital Bangui. However, with the current acceleration of both importation and local transmission, the risk that the epidemic will eventually reach the interior of the country is increasing.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF, alongside WHO and other actors, has been supporting the CAR government since the outset of the crisis. Since early March, UNICEF technical staff, have participated in the different technical commissions working on the preparation of the national plan. UNICEF management has also been 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 RCCE and IPC (in particular WASH aspects), but also on ensuring continuous access to healthcare, nutrition services, education, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services. It is fully aligned with both the CAR Government's plan and UNICEF's global COVID-19 response plan.

In this time of pandemic, 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 taken into account in the broader CAR humanitarian community's COVID-19 strategy and response.

Funding Overview & Partnerships

UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 response plan stands at 19 million USD (see Annex B for the sectoral requirements). To date, 37 per cent of the appeal target has been raised through the confirmation of either new or reallocated funds.

During the reporting period, discussions with several institutional and bilateral donors have been held to secure the reallocation of existing or additional funding to extend UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 response in the WASH, Health, Education and Child Protection sectors.

Generous responses from donors through swift agreement to reallocations and new contributions, allowed UNICEF to initiate the response to child protection, health, WASH, and education needs. However, they are increasing as a result of the socio-economic impact of prevention measures, compounded by decreasing water supply due to the dry season. In addition, the sharp increase in confirmed cases in the past two weeks could indicate an acceleration of the epidemic. In order to scale up and sustain a response commensurate to the scope of the needs, UNICEF currently will require additional resources.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

During the reporting period, UNICEF and its partners trained more than 400 people on RCCE, including Regional Health Directors, Chiefs of Health Districts, health and community workers in Bossangoa, Bouar and Bambari. UNICEF collaborated with Ground Truth Solutions (GTS) to support the national RCCE commission led by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to better define its messages through the development of a perception survey. It will be rolled out in [x areas] starting [when].

In addition, two COVID-19 sensitization prevention and spots have been aired 26 times a day by UNICEF partner Radio Ndeke Luka, and then retransmitted by 10 community radio stations throughout the country. UNICEF also supported the production and airing on these same stations of weekly round tables involving health stakeholders and of a program focusing on health matters fully dedicated to COVID-19. Radio Ndeke Luka estimates that about 2 million people are being reached by the messages (about 40% of the country's population).

UNICEF has also been supporting risk communication through mobile phone networks. Key messages were crafted in French and Sango then recorded as voice messages in support to the Regulatory Authority for Communication and Postal Services. This has resulted in the distribution of 811,525 voice messages through the Télécél network.

In Bouar, a city in the West at high risk of importation of cases from Cameroon, UNICEF placed 200 posters in key locations and ensured the distribution of 3,000 leaflets with a focus on COVID-19 facts, myths, symptoms and preventive measures in markets, government offices, public places and hotels.

Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)

To ensure the continuity of water distribution in the capital Bangui town, UNICEF provided SODECA, the national water distribution company with 13 tons of aluminum sulfate (10-day supply) and 6 tons of chlorine (one-month supply).

Thus far UNICEF has planned the drilling and equipment of 37 boreholes for the COVID-19 response, including 11 already under construction in Bangui and surroundings, 11 in Nana Mambere prefecture (West, bordering Cameroon) for which contract is already signed and 15 additional in Bangui for which the bidding process is still on going.

In collaboration with the national NGO Initiative Development Communautaire (IDC) COVID-19, UNICEF launched prevention activities in prisons and police stations in Bangui and Mbaiki (Lobaye, 110km West of Bangui). Sensitization was conducted for 2,000 detainees and hygiene committees were set up. Thirty committee members were trained in prevention measures in Ngaragba, Bimbo, Petevo, PK9 and Mbaiki detention centers and police stations.

UNICEF and the Agence Nationale de l'Eau de et l'Assainissement (ANEA) set up 13 handwashing stations at control points on the main Bangui-Cameroon road, between Baoro and the Garoua Boulai border crossing, serving 6,500 people, mainly the travelers coming from Cameroon. Community health workers have been mobilized for the sensitization of the travelers and the management of the handwashing stations.

Continued access to essential Healthcare

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 response, UNICEF has been maintaining its support to basic health and nutrition structures and a total of 32,113 mothers and children received free essential care. For the last two weeks of April, 20,412 people received care, including 16,502 children aged of 0-23 months for routine catch-up immunization activities in Nana-Gribizi, 2,675 children under 5 years treated for malaria, acute respiratory infections or diarrheal diseases, and 1,235 pregnant women who received prenatal care.

UNICEF has also provided the MoHP with 30,600 determinate tests and 2,120 Uni-Gold tests for the screening of pregnant and lactating women and malnourished children and 100 double strand break (DSB) repair testing kits for children born of seropositive mothers.

Regarding nutrition, 27,947 parents of children aged of 0-23 months have been sensitized on infant and young child feeding practices in the context of COVID-19, including 15,520 in this reporting period.

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

UNICEF has continued supporting the Ministry of education (MoE) and Fédération Nationale des Parents d'Elèves de Centrafrique (FNAPEC - the national parents association) for the extension of the radio education program in response to the closure of schools. 168 lessons in French and Sango out of the planned 208 have already been designed and recorded. Broadcast is ongoing from Monday to Saturday in Bangui, Bambari, Bozoum, Bouar, Bossangoa, Ndélé and Mbaiki. The local procurement of an additional 2,620 solar radios will allow around 11,100 children living in very vulnerable households to access to radio education and COVID-19 sensitization spots.

The national COVID-19 Education response plan, currently being developed with the support of UNICEF and the local group of Education partners will be included in the overall national COVID-19 prevention and response plan to be adopted by the Technical Committee led by the Prime Minister. UNICEF held a meeting with its implementing partners to present the overall national plan and discuss their involvement in its implementation.

Child Protection

The focus for the past two weeks has been on activities for the prevention of COVID-19 related child protection risks, including community mobilization and awareness raising. 15 sensitization sessions on COVID-19 protection risks and basic psychological support were carried out for the local authorities, reaching a total 960 people, including 477 women.

UNICEF supported the Ministry for the Promotion of Family, Women and Child Protection with the finalization of its COVID-19 response plan, which is being included the national response plan. To support its implementation, UNICEF

is currently reviewing the ongoing partnership agreements to include the provision of child protection services, awareness raising, care and support to children affected in a context of COVID-19. Additionally, UNICEF is working with the Ministry to reinforce the capacity of social workers who will be deployed to support the provision and follow-up of child protection services to affected children, including children in quarantine.

As part of its strategy for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) UNICEF trained 30 managers, (6 women and 24 men) from 30 national NGOs partnering with UNICEF to strengthen their capacities for the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse. Emphasis was placed on the new directions relating to reporting mechanisms for COVID-19 assistance.

Child Protection messages were developed in collaboration with the MINUSCA Child Protection Section and are being used through radio broadcasts and at prefectural levels by MINUSCA and UNICEF field office in advocacy activities.

Supply & Logistics

In the reporting period, UNICEF received 10 tons of medical supplies, including essential drugs for the continuity of healthcare and 10 72m2 tents for COVID-19 response. Orders were placed for additional drugs, hand sanitizer, COVID-19 rapid test kits, medical equipment and soap. Two companies have been contracted for borehole drilling in Bangui and in health centers located along the main road to the Cameroon border. Thanks to the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) emergency funding for COVID-19 response, UNICEF also placed orders for 2,620 solar radios, 2,837 20-liter buckets with taps and 28,455 soap bars.

UNICEF is participating in OCHA-led coordination of in-country logistics management for supplies, storage and delivery operations to end users. The main constraint remains the air shipment transportation to Bangui. UNICEF is planning a charter flight for the delivery of essential COVID-19 response supplies to its Cameroon, Chad and CAR country offices.

UNICEF CAR: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/CAR.html

UNICEF CAR Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNICEFCAR

UNICEF CAR Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNICEFCAR>

UNICEF CAR Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <http://www.unicef.org/appeals/car.htm>

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Annex A: Summary of Response Result Results

	UNICEF and IPs		
	2020 Target (March – Dec20)	Total Results	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	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,998,000
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms.	9,000		
INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)			
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	175,000	10,500	6,500
Number of healthcare facilities reached with (one or more) WASH services and IPC equipment	60	1	1
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	1,654		
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	1,654		
CONTINUITY OF HEALTHCARE*			
Number of children & women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV & GBV* care in UNICEF supported facilities	71,000	32,113	20,412
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms	138,000	27,947	15,520
ACCESS TO CONTINUOUS EDUCATION, CHILD PROTECTION & GBV SERVICES			
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	850,000	4,205	
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	300		
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	2,500	960	960
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for PSEA	TBD	146	146
SOCIAL PROTECTION			
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	5,000		

* These activities are funded under the pre-existing CAR Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), and not included in UNICEF CAR's COVID-19 response budget.

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds received/ reallocated/ Confirmed	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)	600,000	860,000	-	-
Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)	6,000,000	3,010,000	2,990,000	50%
Health & Nutrition	3,100,000	900,000	2,200,000	71%
Child Protection	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	100%
Education	5,300,000	1,820,000	3,480,000	66%
Humanitarian Cash Transfer	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	100%
Multisector	-	1,200,000	-	-
Total	19,000,000	7,790,000	12,770,002	67%