

Equatorial Guinea: Bata explosions

Situation Update

June 2021



Overview of the situation

In June, the UN and its partners have made important progress with the implementation of the Joint Response and Recovery Plan after the explosions of March 7, 2021.

The Plan responds to the needs of some 16,000 women, men, youth, girls and boys affected by the explosions by increasing access to basic social services and other support activities aimed at livelihoods recovery and rehabilitation of destroyed houses. A sum of US\$10.6 million is required for a period of one year; of which, the UN and its partners have raised US\$ 2,2 million so far.



During the reporting period, a delegation from the United Nations System in Equatorial Guinea, chaired by the Resident Coordinator a.i. held two meetings to coordinate and review progress made with the implementation of the Plan with the Government counterparts both at the technical and political level. In these meetings, the outstanding issues were presented, and key challenges encountered including insufficient financial resources thus far were addressed.

UNICEF and its partners have carried out a major assessment of water quality and domestic use as part of the recommendations resulting from the multi-sectoral rapid assessment (MIRA) carried out after the disaster. Samples were taken from 32 wells, 5 rivers, 4 taps, 1 puddle and a soil sample. The results from rapid testing revealed, traces of copper or nitrates and, high PH level in the water. The study also showed that **86% of the wells tested contain the Bacteria Escherichia Coli (E.Coli). This implies that there is a high risk of disease amongst the population if the water is not treated or boiled before consumption.**

UNDP together with its national counterparts and other partners, continued with the implementation of the cash for work project initiative, 120 identified victims received in exchange of labour, financial and psychosocial support. The work entailed collecting debris from homes affected by the explosions.

UNICEF and UNFPA are supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality (MINASIGE) with the development of a single social registry. Data from 7M victims were colleagues by the UN agencies, along with NGOs partners. Vulnerability criteria were developed and applied when establishing the social registry.

UNFPA together with MINASIGE, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MINSABS) and NGOs partners, carried out gender violence assessment amongst families affected by the 7M.

NGOs partners ASAMA, Salud Positiva, ADMAD and foundations such as FCMNO, Fundación Martínez Hnos. the private sector continued to distribute goods to families who lost their livelihoods and homes.

Recovery response

The early recovery response continues under close coordination with the Government of Equatorial Guinea and in partnership with NGOs, Foundations, and private sector. During the reporting period, several activities were carried out including:

- Evacuation by the Government to Israel of seven seriously injured people from the explosions.
 - Rehabilitation of schools by the Government of affected by the explosions; this activity was supervised by the Vice President of the Republic on 16 June 2021.
 - Distribution by the government of construction materials to nearly 500 families for the rehabilitation of the affected houses.
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Education

UNICEF in collaboration with the ministry of education and ASAMA set up five additional tents at the Esmeralda Center for preschool children.

Health

In June, WHO continued providing technical support to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to prevent and respond to the Covid-19 pandemic within the framework of the response to the Bata emergency as a direct cause of the increase in cases recorded after the explosions. As of 30 June, there has been a reduction in the number of positive cases for Covid-19 in the Continental Region, with nine confirmed cases out of 2,717 samples analysed in the last two weeks of June 2021.



- The positivity rate goes from 1.2% to 0.3%.
- Massive testing (2,717 people screened)
- By June 30, a total of 144,956 doses of vaccines were administered since the start of the mass vaccination campaign in the continental region of the country.
- 24 health workers located in the COVID-19 isolation area of the Sports Center have been trained on assessment and management of risk exposure of health workers in the context of COVID-19.
- A meeting held with Education personnel in Bata on the implementation of the COVID-19 prevention and control plan in educational centres.

- Community social mobilisation at district level continued UNICEFF continued to provide technical support in the management of the warehouse of materials and sanitary products donated for the 7M disaster in Bata.
- UNICEF continued to implement a recovery strategy for children not vaccinated through community interventions and in health centres UNFPA, has completed the planification for carrying out mobile consultations for 450 families affected by the 7M explosions. It has also proceeded to the acquisition of Sexual reproductive emergency kits for the management of obstetric complications, STI / HIV / AIDS... etc.

Protection

UNICEF in partnership with MINASIG and private sector company, transferred 150,000 francs CFA to 90 families selected according to established vulnerability criteria Some of these families were also visited to verify that they indeed meet the vulnerability criteria and how they are using the cash transfer and availed psychosocial support as per need. More cash transfers will be made to other beneficiaries in the coming weeks. The selection and verification process are ongoing to reach a total of 300 vulnerable families.

UNFPA in collaboration with MINASIGE and the NGOs ASAMA, Salud positiva and ADMAD have highlighted the following achievements:

- The purchase of 450 food stamps to distribute to the affected families.
- The purchase of 1,000 dignity kits for affected women and girls.
- Preparations made for the initiation of psychosocial support through a telephone line.
- Police, gendarmes, NGOs, MINASIGE and MISABS technicians are being trained on psychosocial care for women and girl's victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV)

Livelihoods

UNDP has completed the Cash for Work project. In total Overall 120 victims participated and benefited from the project, grouped in three groups of 40 participants. The activities were carried out jointly with MSIGE and the Bata city council. Overall waste and debris of approximately 500 families were collected. 400 cubic meters of wood and metal were recycled.

- The Cash for training project has been launched. The project aims at supporting with tools and business advice 20 young people to develop their own small businesses
- The Micro and Medium Enterprises subsidy project began in June with the participation of 20 young people. Each will receive a grant to restart a subsidy for the rehabilitation of their businesses.





Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF deployed two experts to conduct a more in-depth analysis of WASH in collaboration with the Government. The preliminary results were presented to the multisectoral emergency technical commission in Bata on June 15 and to the emergency committee. Water samples have been taken to specialised laboratories in France and the Netherlands to further analysis. Final results are expected in September 2021.



Logistics

- The UN has established an airlift between Malabo and Bata through its UNHAS Humanitarian Air Services under the coordination of WFP and supervision of the UNS Coordination Office.
- During the month of June 32 flights were accomplished on a regular schedule of 4 weekly frequencies. The aircraft has been transported a total of 124 passengers and 450 kilograms of Humanitarian Cargo.
- UNHAS Air Service has served 8 UNS Agencies and several Government and Diplomatic missions who are collaborating with UNS in the ERP implementation.
- This airbridge has enabled to enhance the dialogue, exchange and coordination with government institutions, local authorities, others partner and the UN. It has also enabled the UN to strengthen its monitoring and reporting and assessing the impact of the interventions on the beneficiaries.
- UNICEF continues to provide logistical support in the management of equipment and materials donated for the 7M emergency, stored in the facilities of MINASIGE and the NGO ASAMA.



Financing

Resource mobilization efforts are ongoing. As of June 30, a total sum of US \$ 2,2 million has been mobilized, including US \$ 1 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

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