

# Equatorial Guinea: Bata Explosions

## Situation Update

### 30 April 2021



## Situation Overview

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On 13th April, the Government of Equatorial Guinea, through the Emergency Committee, and the United Nations launched a coordinated Humanitarian Response and Recovery Plan for Equatorial Guinea following the tragic events of 7M. The Plan aims to provide urgent assistance to some 16,000 women, men, girls, boys and adolescents affected by the explosions through provisions of life saving support (food, health and WASH), as well as support the rapid restoration of access to basic services, support to recovery of livelihoods and rehabilitation of destroyed homes and/ public infrastructure. The plan seeks a sum of **US\$10.6 million** for a period of one year.

To ensure accountability, the Government set up a technical commission to work with the UN technical team to review and include an Evaluation component in the Coordinated Humanitarian Response and Recovery Plan. This team submitted it's work to the Emergency Committee for approval last week and is now validated for implementation.

UNDP has trained students (20) and professors (5) of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, five UN volunteers and 10 members of the Bata City Council in the methodology of Home and Building Damage Assessment (HBDA). The training took place from 15-16 April at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. On 20 April, the trainees started data collection and daily data management; working in 4 teams. The process of analyzing and data visualization and other relevant information products will be concluded in the first week of May. The objective of this assessment is to support the government, UNDP and other UN agencies in evidence-based decision making for reconstruction and recovery. Specifically, the HBDA would provide government authorities with vital information for the prioritization of the rehabilitation and reconstruction process. Initiate damage assessment of homes and buildings with a target of assessing 1,000 affected buildings. The data collection process is ongoing, with over 700 buildings having been evaluated so far. Planning and preparation for rubble removal using the "Cash for Work" modality in underway. The Mayor's office continues to support the initiative as evidenced by its pledge to donate two vans.

In order to help affected communities to rebuild better, UNFPA is implementing a CERF project aimed at providing access to a multisectoral and integrated life-saving protection service for populations affected by the Bata explosions, including on Gender based violence (GBV)/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), HIV, psychosocial and economic support to women and girls in greater vulnerability.

Meanwhile the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) is in the process of finalising a project proposal for submission to the government in support of implementation of some of the recommendations included in the UNREC-AMAT mission report.

# Humanitarian Response

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The Government of Equatorial Guinea continues to lead the response to the ammunition blast that occurred in Bata on 7 March. Some of the measures taken include setting up a support fund for the victims, to which it contributed ten billion CFA Francs (around US\$ 18 million); establishing an Emergency Management Committee; deployment of medical personnel from other regions; launching an appeal for blood donations and negotiating for provision of emergency shelter through private centres like the Spanish College, SOS, EKUKU and Los Salesians. On 24 March, the Government of Equatorial Guinea announced an allocation of 1.5 million CFA Francs to 1,482 families, victims of the 7 March incident in Bata.



## Education

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- In coordination with the Ministry of Education and through the collaboration of the NGO ASAMA, UNICEF has installed 10 tents in 8 affected schools that will serve as meeting points for parents to pick up homework during this period of COVID-19. The tents will also serve as temporary offices for teachers. The second round of tent installation will begin shortly.
- In collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF has been leading discussions with Ministries at the technical level in order to present the operational report to Ministers for validation, particularly in the areas of education, protection and health.



## Health

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- WHO continue to provide logistic and technical support for the management of medical warehouse located at Bata Regional hospital, including safe storage and distribution of emergency medicines, medical materials and equipment donated by WHO and partners
- WHO participated in the joint UN field assessments coordinated by UNDAC, particularly providing inputs on hospitals needs and general health system requirement.
- WHO has donated an emergency trauma kits (TESK) to cover surgical treatment of 100 persons to the Bata general hospital
- WHO has deployed an incident Manager to Bata and a physiotherapist to support the MoH and hospitals in Bata.
- UNFPA is working to ensure that affected and vulnerable communities have access to a quality Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) service provision. Targeted Bata health facilities (maternity ward, Family Planning center, Maria Gay center, Rafols center, Libertad center) will receive emergency reproductive health kits (equipment and products), including post rape kits.
- UNFPA is preparing a training of health providers on the Minimum Initial Service Package on SRH in crisis situation, including on clinical management of rape.
- UNFPA will provide 1000 people with post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and condom for HIV protection.
- UNFPA has also initiated to work with the Ministry of health in order to subsidize access to essential SRH and GBV related services in the Bata hospital for the most vulnerable households.



## Nutrition

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- **Cash transfer:** In coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and NGOs, UNICEF has continued to identify affected families. For the first round of cash transfers, 100 of the most vulnerable families will be selected according to the following criteria: female-headed households, family members with a disability or a chronic illness, and families with children under 5 years of age in their care. 200 more families will be supported with additional funding.

- UNICEF is currently conducting assessments to select these families as the displacement situation remains fluid. Some families could be located outside of Bata district, so planning for logistics is essential for the success of this initiative.

## Protection

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- Psychosocial support: In collaboration with partners, UNICEF is designing a psychosocial support programme for affected people, including women and children.
- The Ministry of Information, Press and Radio, through its Information, Education and Communication (IEC) mobilizers and with the support of UNICEF, have over the past 2 weeks developed community sensitization activities to prevent the population from handling the unexploded ordnance that are scattered in the residential neighbourhoods near Nkuantoma Zone where the explosions took place. The team of mobilisers consists of 22 people, including officers and supervisors are distributed in teams in the field. To date, they have sensitized communities in the most populous neighbourhoods such as MONDONG where the social housing is located, NKOANTOMA, the residential area of BATA 2 and ALEP. In these communities and in front of public establishments such as hospitals, ministerial delegations, markets, squares, transport stations and tourist centres, IEC mobilisers have put up posters with key messages on how to prevent accidents due to unexploded ordnance and what to do to alert the relevant authorities through the toll-free number made available by the National Emergency Committee. On the ground, IEC officers met several citizens who alerted them to the presence of ammunition near their homes. This information was communicated to the Ministry of Defense for redress.
- Information spots produced by UNICEF to prevent the handling of unexploded ordnance are also broadcasted daily on television. It should be noted that the same campaign has been developed through digital platforms such as Facebook with the support of UNESCO and MAG.UNFPA is working to ensure access to protection services through provision of life-saving information and service on GBV/SEA and SRH. This will include awareness raising activities in collaboration with local CSO/NGO and media, distribution of 1000 dignity kits and a three days' refresher trainings sessions for 30 people from the Ministry of gender, Ministry of health, police, gendarmerie, justice auxiliary and local NGOs.
- UNFPA is also preparing to provide financial support to 450 most vulnerable households through vouchers for buying food related items in 3 selected commercial centers of Bata.

## Shelter

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- UNDP has trained 20 students and five professors of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, five UN volunteers and 10 members of the Bata City Council in the methodology of Home and Building Damage Assessment (HBDA). The training took place from 15-16 April at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. On 20 April, the trainees started data collection and daily data management; working in 4 teams. The process of analyzing and data visualization and other relevant information products will be concluded in the first week of May.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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- UNICEF has established contacts with the Global WASH experts to mobilize international technical assistance in support of the WASH emergency response plan



## Logistics

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- On 23 April, the World Food Programme (WFP) aircraft arrived at Malabo airport and is expected to begin operations in the near future. The aircraft managed by UNHAS will ensure the connection between Malabo and Bata and will allow for the fluidity of the interventions of the UN team and its partners involved in the response to the Bata explosions.
- UNICEF has taken the lead in coordinating aid distributions to affected families between the government and NGOs to ensure the most effective and equitable ways. In addition, together with the Ministry of Social Affairs, support has been provided for warehouse management and a protocol has been established for incoming and outgoing materials for distribution
- In collaboration with WHO, UNICEF continues to provide technical and logistical support in the management of the medicines and health commodities warehouse at the Bata Regional Hospital, with the appointment of a support staff. This support has improved the management and control of incoming goods to the warehouse from donations, stock control and outgoing goods for the care of the affected people and has provided greater credibility of MINSABS with the National Emergency Committee.
- In the framework of inter-agency collaboration, UNICEF has coordinated reception of donations from different international and national partners, including donations from the United Nations Refugee Agency.
- In addition, UNICEF has provided technical support to the warehouses of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the NGO ASAMA for the management of materials and products of the donations, especially in the transfer of skills to local teams with the collaboration of an expert from the UNICEF Cameroon Office.

## Funding

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As of 30 April, the United Nations System (UNS) has mobilized a total sum of **US\$ 1.8 million** including US\$ 1 million from the CERF

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