

Highlights

- Launched of “**1 million mask made in DRC initiative**” working with local private sector and vulnerable women and youth groups. **Already 945,598 masks are ordered.**
- Launched the distance learning radio programme to cover **13.9 million children**
- **17,000,000 people reached with COVID-messaging** on prevention and access to services
- **32 oxygen concentrators** handed over to 6 hospitals in Kinshasa
- **159,742 calls** through the COVID-19 Hotline in the last 2 weeks reaching a total of 263,738 calls

COVID-19 overview

30 April 2020

- **500** confirmed cases
- **31** deaths
- **65** people recovered
- **279** cases under investigation
- **6.3%** Fatality Rate
- **74** sample tested

Kinshasa remains the epicenter of the epidemic, with more than 95% (476/500) of all confirmed cases.

Other affected provinces including # of cases are: **North Kivu (5) South Kivu (4) Ituri (2) Haut Katanga (1) and Kwilu (1)**

UNICEF’s COVID-19 Response

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

1) COVID-19 Hotline: During the reporting period the COVID-19 hotline received 159,742 calls. Users call the hotline to receive info or advice on COVID-19.

Rumours and community feedback have been collected and analysed to help guide the intervention strategy. Three formal and strategic recommendations have been submitted and validated by CREC commission and adaptive action has been taken.

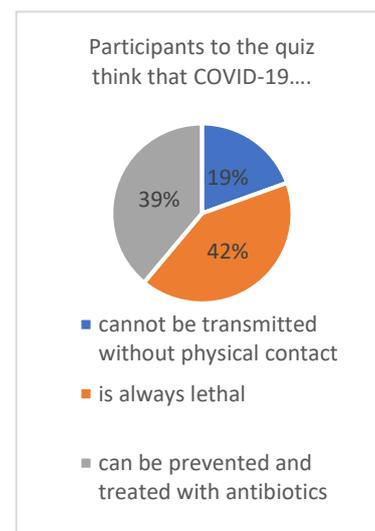
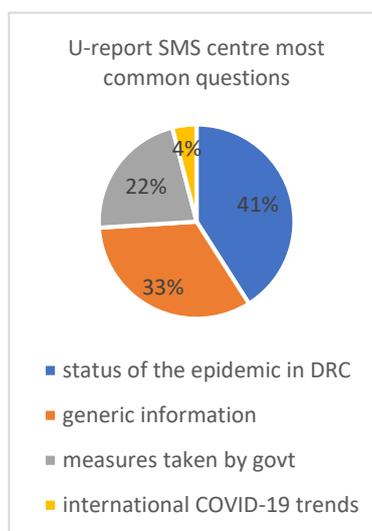
2) U-Report platform: through its automated bot: 30,901 people asked and received appropriate information on COVID-19 statistics, symptoms, spread mechanism, how to protect yourself and how to protect others, and myths.

Through its SMS center 6,979 people received an answer to their questions. Over 40% of the questions were about and status of the epidemic in DRC.

Through its COVID-19 Quiz: during the reporting period, 205 people took the quiz while since its launching (28 march) 4,174 people have answered the quiz questions. 42% of the participants believe that COVID 19 is lethal.

3) Mass media Communication

235 radio stations and 45 TV channels broadcast messages on coronavirus disease with UNICEF support in the 5 provinces affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (Kinshasa, North Kivu, South Kivu, Kwilu and Ituri). Some 15 million people were reached with key messages on how to prevent the disease and other individual and collective protection measures.



Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa and in the affected provinces : community relays and local influencers were trained on prevention measures and contributed to raising awareness of the population on barrier gestures in four main local languages. The Community Engagement Committees in North Kivu were briefed on community-based surveillance and 600 alerts have been communicated.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)/Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

During the reporting period, UNICEF helped implement infection prevention and control activities in 43 health facilities, raised awareness on correct hygiene in the context of COVID-19 among 27,807 people, trained 128 health care staff on infection prevention and control, and installed a 500-litre hand-washing station at the busy Bunia market.

Highlights from the provinces

In Kinshasa and in the affected provinces:

Communication focal points from health zones have raised the awareness of 27,727 people on hygiene promotion while 53 health facilities were provided with infection prevention and control (IPC) supplies and 128 health care providers were trained on infection prevention and control. 500-litre hand washing stations were placed in two public sites in Ituri province.

Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

In Kinshasa, psychologists are now deployed in all of the city's 35 health zones and in the nine hospitals that provide care for COVID-19 patients.

Psychosocial support: through the Psychosocial Commissions, a total of 191 people (including 73 women) confirmed positive to COVID-19 received psychological support in health centres. Mainly in North Kivu and Kinshasa, a total of 240 suspected cases (including 116 women) received psychosocial follow-up, including 111 people (35 women) placed in quarantine. Psychologists conducted consultations with 53 front-line workers (including 21 women).

Child protection: UNICEF has supported the care of 66 children (including 3 girls) living outside the family environment. In particular, 29 children (including 19 girls) separated because of the hospitalization of one of their parent/guardian, received psychosocial support.

UNICEF and its partners also continue to monitor the situation of **children in detention:** 135 children (6 girls) have been released and have been reunited with their families or placed in a transitional care structure (foster families or care centres).

To limit the impact of the pandemic on children living in the street, in Kinshasa, two new reception structures for street children are being rehabilitated. In Goma, 6 reception centres have been evaluated and, in collaboration with Social Affairs, 136 street children, whose links with their families had been maintained, have been reunited with their families.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF handed over 32 oxygen concentrators to the Technical Secretariat of the COVID-19 Response Committee, which will then distribute 20 them to 6 hospitals in Kinshasa. UNICEF will also serve 6 other provinces with the remaining 12 oxygen concentrators.

UN agencies, including UNICEF, and PRONANUT have integrated nutrition guidelines in the national health guidelines for the care of patients with COVID-19. These guidelines will lead to

the elaboration of operational standards for nutritional case management that will serve as a training tool for health personnel, dieticians and nutritionists working in hospitals and caring for COVID patients as well.

Highlights from the provinces

In North Kivu: while vaccinating children against measles UNICEF has provided messages around infection control measures in communities in 7 health zones of the province.

In Tshopo: UNICEF supports the NGO Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to implement the community-based nutrition strategy in the context of COVID-19 through the members of the Community Engagement Committees.

In Ituri: UNICEF has equipped all vaccination centres in four health zones, with infection prevention and control supplies. In these same health zones, UNICEF has also concluded a measles campaign that vaccinated 5,689 children.

Education

The Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education, with support from UNICEF, finalized the content for print homework booklets for students of all grades who cannot access distance learning by radio, TV or online.

The Ministry and UNICEF launched a 15 hour per week national broadcast of primary and secondary school lessons through one of the major Radio in DRC – Radio Okapi. Through this programme, UNICEF could potentially reach 13.9 million children. (37 percent of households in DRC have access to radio) The lessons focus on Maths, French, health education, environment and hygiene, writing and reading, technology, science and IT. Learning kits will also be distributed to more than 2,5 million Congolese children.

Highlights from the provinces

In Kongo Central, Kwilu, Kasai Central, Lomami and Sankuru: UNICEF supported the Ministry of education at provincial level to deliver distance learning programmes to be broadcast on FM radio. More than 30 local radios agreed already to broadcast distance-learning content and some of these will be also available online on YouTube.

Supply and Logistics

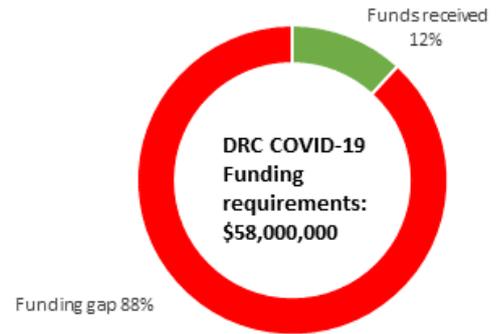
32 oxygen concentrators procured by UNICEF have been distributed as following: 20 concentrators to 6 hospitals in Kinshasa: 3 at Clinique de l’Amitié Sino-Congolais, 4 at Cliniques Universitaires of Kinshasa, 3 at Hôpital St Joseph in Limete, 2 at Centre de santé de Référence Vijana in Lingwala, 4 at Clinique Ngaliema, and 4 at Centre Hospitalier Monkole in Mont Ngafula. The remaining 12 concentrators will be distributed to the following 6 provinces: Kwilu, South Kivu, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, South Kivu and Equateur.

UNICEF has launched the “1 million mask made in DRC” initiative working with local private sector. Already 945,598 masks are ordered and 52,819 masks are delivered.

Funding Overview

UNICEF estimates that US\$ 58 million is required for an immediate response within its areas of responsibility. UNICEF has advanced US\$ 9 million from its own resources to meet critical needs until additional funding is secured. As of 30 April, UNICEF has received \$7,070,000 (12% of total needs) thanks to GAVI, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Solidarity Response Fund and USAID. More than ever, UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding to meet the most critical needs as the epidemic evolves. The UNICEF Representative in DRC has also appealed for in-kind donations.

DRC COVID-19 Response Funding Status



COVID Coordination: UNICEF participates in daily COVID-19 coordination meetings in Kinshasa and in provinces where our 9 field offices are located.

External Media: Social media and online

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the communication team posted more 185 messages on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) – reaching more than 10 million people on Facebook alone.

The [COVID-19 landing page](#) is updated on a regular basis with the latest [press releases](#), [statements](#) and [news notes](#). To date, this page has been consulted more than 12,000 times and allowed visitors to consult other relevant pages on the website. New multimedia material was uploaded on [WeShare](#).

Press releases

- <https://www.unicef.org/drcongo/en/press-releases/UNICEF-hands-over-32-oxygen-concentrators-COVID19-%20Response>
- <https://www.unicef.org/drcongo/en/press-releases/UNICEF-trained-psychologists-social-workers-support-children-familie-cope-COVID19><https://www.unicef.org/drcongo/en/press-releases/immunization-north-kivu-covid19>
- <https://www.unicef.org/drcongo/en/press-releases/1-million%20protective-masks-vulnerable-communities-COVID-19>

Interviews with UNICEF's experts

- Reuters
- China Global Television Network
- Radio Suisse Internationale

UNICEF Novel Coronavirus (COVID-2019) Global Appeal:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/covid-2019.html>

Annex A: Summary of Response Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	Target	Total Result
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	40,000,000	17,000,000
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanism.	1,000,000	263,738
Number of influencers engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	500,000	125,000
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	TBD	160,072
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPE	29,322	26
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in IPC	29,322	1,971
Number of health facilities provided with essential WASH services	1,086	
Child Protection and Psychosocial Support		
Number of children who are victims of violence, including GBV, abuse, neglect or living outside of a family setting that are identified and receiving care in areas affected by COVID-19	600	28
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	14,700	4,133
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	152,643	
Health and Nutrition		
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities	3,390,646	
Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19	412,365	2,324
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	54,061	8,939
Education		
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	15,450,000	-
Number of distributed educational homework booklets to ensure continuity of children and adolescent's learning	2,500,000	163,000

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