



Reporting Period: 1 - 30 September 2021

Ghana

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 22



Highlights

As of 30th September 2021, Ghana recorded over 127,400 COVID-19 cases, with over 3,000 active cases and 1,156 deaths.

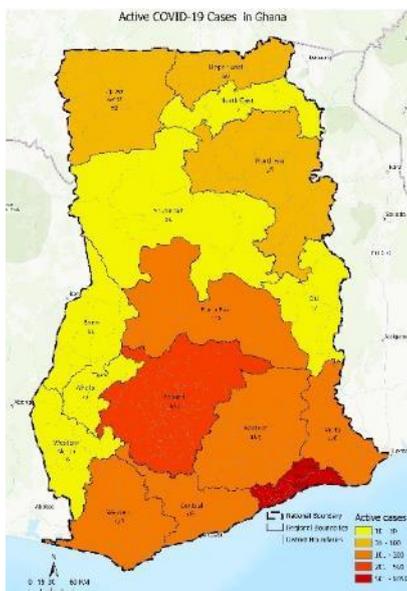
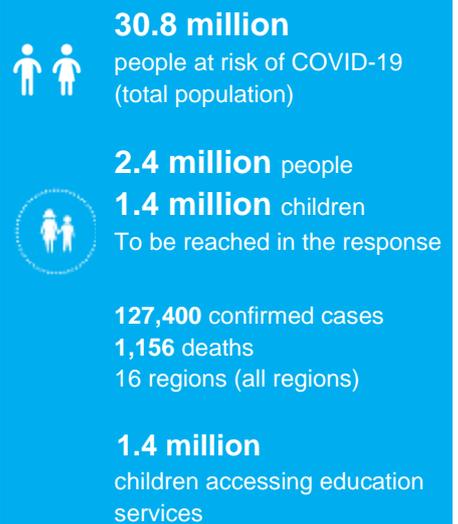
On the 4th of September, over 1.2 million Moderna COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Ghana, donated by the US Government through the COVAX facility. This added to the range of vaccines available to eligible persons.

On the 14th of September, 487,600 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines also came to Ghana, with support from the Governments of Germany and Norway through the COVAX facility.

So far, over 1.6 million vaccines doses have been administered with over 786,000 people fully vaccinated, reaching 2.5% of the population. The number is expected to rise as the vaccination campaign continues steadily.

In close cooperation with the UN Country Team, UNICEF continues to work with the Government across the sectors to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other critical humanitarian risks reaching the most vulnerable children and adolescents.

Situation in Numbers



Active COVID-19 cases as at 30 September 2021, Ghana. Source: GHS



Top: A delegation from the Ministry of Health, US Embassy & UNICEF receive 1.2 million doses of Moderna COVID19 vaccines.

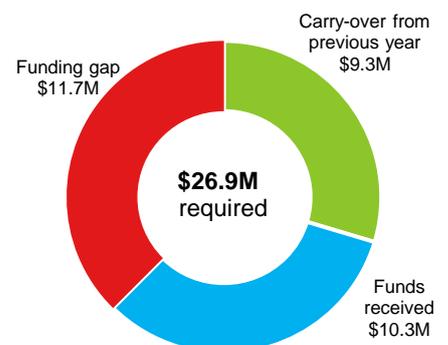
@UNICEF/KOKOROKO

Bottom: A delegation from the Ministry of Health, Germany & Norway & UNICEF receive 487,600 doses of AstraZeneca COVID19 vaccines.

UNICEF Appeal 2021

US\$ 26.9 million

Funding status*



Note: the funding gap does not take into consideration overachievement at the sector level.

Analysis of Programme Response

Health

In September, Ghana continued to receive COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility, with UNICEF leading the transport and logistics. Over 1.2 million doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccines were donated by the United States Government on 4th September through the facility. The Governments of Germany and Norway also jointly donated 487,600 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines on the 14th of September. The vaccination campaign continues smoothly country-wide, thanks to these donations.



UNICEF Health and Nutrition Officer, Porbilla Ofosu-Apea, monitoring the vaccination campaign in the Northeast region.
©UNICEF/UN619909/MILLS

A total of 2,400 Samsung Tablets have been delivered to the Ghana Health Service as part of the COVID-19 Response Project in Ashanti Region funded by Global Affairs Canada. These tablets will be configured and used in the fourth quarter for the orientation of 2,000 Community Health Nurses (CHNs) in 1,078 functional Community Health Planning and Services (CHPS) zones to collect, report, and analyse data for decision making. They will also be used to support the establishment of a comprehensive denominator-based planning platform at the level of CHPS zones.

At the National Patient Safety and Quality Care Conference, UNICEF reiterated the importance of investing in quality maternal and new-born care to make significant strides for quality health care for all, especially in the COVID-19 pandemic. This will require translating national policies into action and implement proven interventions at scale to ensure that no mother and no new-born infant is left behind.

UNICEF also joined the Ministry of Health, its agencies, and development partners in the sector in the 2021 Mid-Year Review and Business meeting to discuss progress made in quality health care delivery and assess gaps exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also an opportunity to share strategies proposed to address challenges.

Nutrition

As part of the China AID-supported COVID-19 Response, UNICEF conducted trainings for 180 Health workers in the Northeast Region on the use of Micronutrient Powders (MNPs) to improve the quality of complementary feeding. The trained healthcare workers across all six districts of the Region now have the capacity to distribute Micronutrient Powders to children 6-23 months during visits to the Child Welfare Clinic.



UNICEF Chief of Field Office, Bhanu Pathak, speaks to health workers during a training on the use of micronutrient powders.
©UNICEF/UN451100/MILLS

UNICEF also provided technical and financial support to the Ghana Health Service and partners to embark on a National launch of World Breastfeeding Week celebration in the Western North Region. The theme for this year's celebration was "Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility."

The event saw the participation of key stakeholders from Government, traditional and religious leaders, development partners, Civil Society Organisations, and caregivers. UNICEF called on all stakeholders especially the corporate sector to make more investments in supporting, promoting, and protecting breastfeeding by creating an enabling environment at workplaces to support breastfeeding employees.



UNICEF Nutrition Specialist, Ruth Situma, speaks at the celebration of National Breastfeeding Week.
©UNICEF/UN451900/ADATSI

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

UNICEF supported activities led by government partners to promote the practice of hand washing with suitable facilities and soap, as part of Community Led Sanitation programs. These activities reached over 1000 people in various communities.

Under Denmark supported COVID-19 programming in Greater Kumasi and Greater Accra Urban areas, environmental health officers and supporting agencies have begun rolling out community sanitation mobilization and enhanced hygiene sensitization in three Municipalities (Kwadaso and Asokore Mampong, in the Ashanti Region, and Adentan Municipality in the Greater Accra Region).

The laying of main pipelines in nine targeted low-income urban communities is in progress and is expected to enhance access to safe water for about 50,000 people.

To support improved sustainability and service management, gender responsive Water User Associations (WUAs) have been formed in all nine communities to facilitate engagement with the water utility company, the Ghana Water Company Ltd. (GWCL). There are a total of 91 committee members (50 men and 41 women) trained and empowered to participate in service management.



Left to Right:
 1. A trench for pipes being dug in a community in the Ashanti Region to improve access to water.
 2. UNICEF WASH and Supply officials inspecting pipes to be connected for water access.
 3. UNICEF WASH Specialist, Samuel Amoako Mensah, engaging with traditional leaders and community members in Kwadaso Nzema, Ashanti region. The community will have improved access to safe water, with support from the Government of Denmark and UNICEF.
 ©UNICEF/ADATSI

Technical needs assessments for WASH have been completed in 68 schools, 17 health care facilities and 26 public places, and the procurement of infrastructure is underway.

UNICEF, the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR) and other key government agencies, have developed a draft theory of change for accelerating Hand Hygiene for all in Ghana. This will be framed into a National Costed Hand Hygiene Strategy, with attached Operational Guidelines. The major constraints that have been observed are relapses in handwashing behaviour since the onset of the pandemic in 2020. This is evidenced by the reduction in the presence of functional handwashing facilities. UNICEF has been working to strengthen gaps in supply and demand, by advocating for and supporting the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Hand Hygiene.

Recent floods in the Upper West region have left several people displaced and schools, farms and bridges destroyed. UNICEF distributed relief items to the affected population, with a focus on water, sanitation and hygiene.



Left to Right:
 1. Relief items from UNICEF being loaded onto a truck headed to the Upper West Region. ©UNICEF/UN233110/BUTA
 2. UNICEF WASH Specialist and Emergency Response focal point, Osman Mumuni, speaking to community members affected by floods in Bulenga, Upper West region. ©UNICEF/UN821011/BUTA
 3. A young boy in Kulkpong Community in the Upper West region reading pamphlet on safety tips during floods provided by NADMO and UNICEF. ©UNICEF/UN452977/BUTA

Child Protection

There has been a significant increase in the number of people engaged via community engagements and social media in September. Overall, 32,057 people were directly engaged as part of the community-based child protection and psychosocial support services. Similarly, almost 300,000 online audiences were engaged with messages from the Ghanaians Against Child abuse (GACA) movement, across various topics, including COVID-19 awareness and prevention of violence against children.

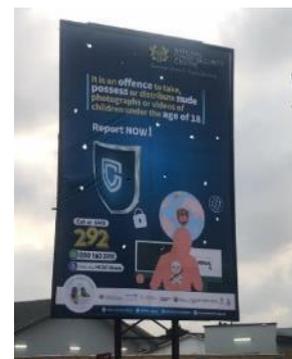
UNICEF and partners enrolled over 2,300 adolescent girls on the safe space program over the reporting period. Girls were engaged on issues related to reproductive health, protection, and nutrition. Similarly, over 1,200 boys and men were mobilised through various group activities to address harmful gender norms. The adolescent girls and boys used drama and role-play to engage communities on the need to end child marriage, teenage pregnancy, rape, and other forms of Sexual Gender Based Violence.



Community engagement on SGBV at Korle Gonno - Accra. ©NCCE

The drama sessions were used to generate intergenerational dialogues to trigger actions to create safe and protective environments within families and the community for adolescents to grow and thrive.

An extensive media campaign was held via traditional and social media channels on online child safety during COVID-19, with a focus on Child Online Protection provisions in the new Cybersecurity Act, 2020 (Act 1038). Cumulatively, over 3 million people were reached daily during the period of the campaign via live mentions and jingles on radio and TV. Billboards with similar messages were also mounted at high traffic areas in Accra (37 roundabout and Tema/Spintex highway).



A billboard with messages on Child Online Protection in Accra. ©Ministry of Communications

The Department of Social Welfare (DSW), with support from UNICEF, conducted monitoring and face-to-face coaching on the use of the Social Welfare Information Management Systems (SWIMS) in 40 Municipal and Metropolitan District Assemblies (MMDAs) as additional support to social workers trained in the use of the Case Management Forms and SWIMS. DSW case workers from institutions like hospitals, shelters and remand homes were also included in the coaching. Currently, all the 100 piloted MMDAs have gone live, with 3,413 cases entered in SWIMS. Since this coaching exercise commenced, there has been tremendous improvement in the way cases are managed and documented by DSWCD officers in the selected MMDAs.

The refurbishment of gender-based violence courts in six new regions is nearing completion. The courts have been painted and furniture well-polished. Air conditioners have been installed in most of the courtrooms. Victims testifying rooms have been rehabilitated. The Damango and Nalerigu Gender-Based Violence courts are housed in new buildings supported by respective district assemblies. These courts are almost completed, and the contract has been awarded to a contractor to install CCTV and other items to make it child and victim friendly. One GBV and one family court located at the Police headquarters in Accra have been completed.



Left to Right:

1. A newly constructed GBV court at the Police Headquarters in Accra. ©Judicial Service
2. A child-friendly witness holding room at the GBV court. ©Judicial Service
3. Books and toys in a child-friendly witness holding room at the GBV court. ©Judicial Service

Education

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service (GES), advanced training on Psychosocial Support reaching 1,666 head teachers and teachers in 833 Junior High Schools (JHS) across the 20 focus districts in eight regions. The trained heads of schools and teachers are orienting over 8,000 additional teachers, to provide psychosocial support to 87,574 learners in Junior High School, of which of 41,500 are girls.

UNICEF supported GES/Lively Minds to resume delivery of play-based Early Childhood Education (ECE) lessons by 6,096 mothers, benefitting 18,000 children in 152 Kindergartens in 3 Regions. 265 fathers in the Garu district were oriented on good parenting and play practices to enable them support mothers better.



Girls on their way to school in Tolon, Northern Region. ©UNICEF/UN452910/ADATSI

Back-to-School campaigns and COVID-19 awareness messages continue to be broadcast in 16 local languages via radio, reaching some 2 million listeners in 8 Regions. UNICEF supported community reading interventions, reaching additional 80 children from Eastern Region with new books, increasing the total number of children reached to 3,202 (1,109 girls).

The Ministry of Education and its agencies marked National Education Week with development partners, CSOs and NGOs. As chair of the Education Development Partners Group, UNICEF represented Development Partners. The participants reviewed achievements, including the successful back to school campaign and recruitment of over 23,000 new teachers. Constraints to the COVID-19 pandemic and innovative strategies were also discussed.



The Ministry of Education, its agencies and partners at the National Education Week, October 2021 ©UNICEF

With regards to closing the digital divide in education, UNICEF continues to gather and process several datasets containing school locations in Ghana, with the outlook of adding over 20,000 school locations to the Giga's Project Connect platform by the end of October.

Communication for Development

UNICEF Ghana continued to support COVID-19 vaccine confidence jointly with the key stakeholders through the dissemination of messages on the availability of second dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to 500,000 subscribers of the Agoos UNICEF platform. Across social media platforms, messages reached over 3 million people in September.

Qualitative research on vaccine hesitancy has been finalized and presented among religious leaders to the National Sub Communication Committee. In addition, about 82 Health Promotion Officers and Disease Control Officers at the National and Regional levels were trained on polio and COVID-19 vaccine confidence. The cascade training will be undertaken nationwide at the district and sub-district levels to include Community influencers, Traditional and Religious leaders to sustain the gains on awareness creation and demand generation around immunization in their communities.

UNICEF coordinated analysis and response on misinformation and regular taskforce meetings with over 80 members. The Agoos platform continues to provide information on COVID-19 prevention, maternal and child health, child protection, adolescents issues to as many as 10,054 callers in September with updated content. A total of 240 young people access the She Plus call centre on reproductive health issues.

UNICEF supported the Training of Trainers (ToT) and stakeholders' meetings for Greater Accra and Ashanti Health Regional Directorates around WASH, Lead and Mother, Newborn Child Health social and behaviour change communication interventions. Communication capacities of CSOs and government partners continue to be strengthened through Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) network with regular knowledge and opportunities shared through various platforms. A workshop on experimental behaviour science research and a session on mobile photography for over 55 participants this month was undertaken during the reporting period.



UNICEF C4D Specialist, Anastasiia Nurzynska speaking at the Annual Social and Behaviour Change Workshop in Accra. ©UNICEF



Joint efforts continue with CSO partners to strengthen community engagement around adolescent reproductive health. Over 10,000 duty bearers, chiefs and elders, representatives of faith-based organizations as well as representatives of community health workers and teachers were engaged in discussions on enabling environment on adolescent reproductive health.

Together with the University of Ghana, UNICEF conducted the Annual Knowledge Exchange Seminar on best practice and lessons learnt in social and behaviour change communication with a focus on COVID 19 prevention.

Youth Engagement and Empowerment

In September 2021, the four UPSHIFT pilots being implemented in the Greater Accra, Volta and Northern Regions focused on completing the delivery of the first two phases of the curriculum to over 400 adolescent and youth participants. The curriculum is aimed at empowering young people with skills in identifying and understanding challenges in their communities, designing, and building an innovative product and creating a business around it.

Additionally, during social entrepreneurship summits, innovative solutions developed by the participants were presented to community members and a panel of judges. These exercises help young participants build their skills on social innovation and entrepreneurship and provide them with a platform to learn how to best translate their ideas into pitches to potential investors.

In late September, UNICEF Ghana initiated work with Goodwall focused on the development of a co-creation dialogue process to engage with young people on thematic areas such as skill building, employability, and entrepreneurship, including a component on understanding the impact of COVID-19 on their experiences in these areas. Over the next two to three months, this engagement with young Ghanaians will intensify through the organization of surveys, conversations, and virtual challenges. The data that is collected will support strategic planning and youth engagement for UNICEF and Generation Unlimited.

UNICEF and the Ghana Library Authority launched a joint initiative to establish ten youth engagement centers in library spaces. The collaboration will focus on improving young people's sustained access to quality learning, employability, and empowerment opportunities. The youth engagement centers will support at least 10,000 young Ghanaians aged 14-24 years over a one-year period to develop digital and entrepreneurship skills by accessing online courses, regular peer-to-peer learning sessions within their community, engagements with industry leaders and mid-career professionals for career guidance and mentorship support, and accessing tools to build their policy advocacy skills.



UNICEF Deputy Representative, Fiachra McAsey handing over assorted equipment for setting up youth centres to the Ghana Library Authority.
©UNICEF/UN829911/ADATSI

Innovation & Technology for Development

After six-month of mentorship and training, 22 young entrepreneurs graduated from the UNICEF StartUp Lab in September 2021. This year's cohort have developed solutions in health, education, logistics, waste management, financial inclusion, digital identity, digitalization, and employability. Participants have received access to individual mentorship, network of UN System partners and prototyping funding. Five participants are currently discussing potential pilots with UNICEF Ghana and eight participants have opened a submission track with the Digital Public Goods Alliance to register their solution as a Digital Public Good (DPG).



The graduating class of the 2nd cohort of the UNICEF Startup Lab.
©UNICEF/UN721990/ACQUAH

In September UNICEF and The Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA) raised awareness on the open source/free software and the Alliance in Ghana by supporting national Software Freedom Day celebrations and partnering with the Kofi Annan Center of Excellence. The event brought together the open source community and the relevant government stakeholders. UNICEF in Ghana continued its work as a DPG Pathfinder by discovering two solutions that have been successfully vetted by the DPGA and added to their registry as the first from Ghana.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy in Ghana involves protecting children and their families from exposure to COVID-19, minimizing mortality and supporting the continuity of services while ensuring preparedness for potential humanitarian crisis. The response is aligned with key global, regional and national frameworks and has identified gaps and targets. It prioritizes the most vulnerable groups, especially in high-risk areas.

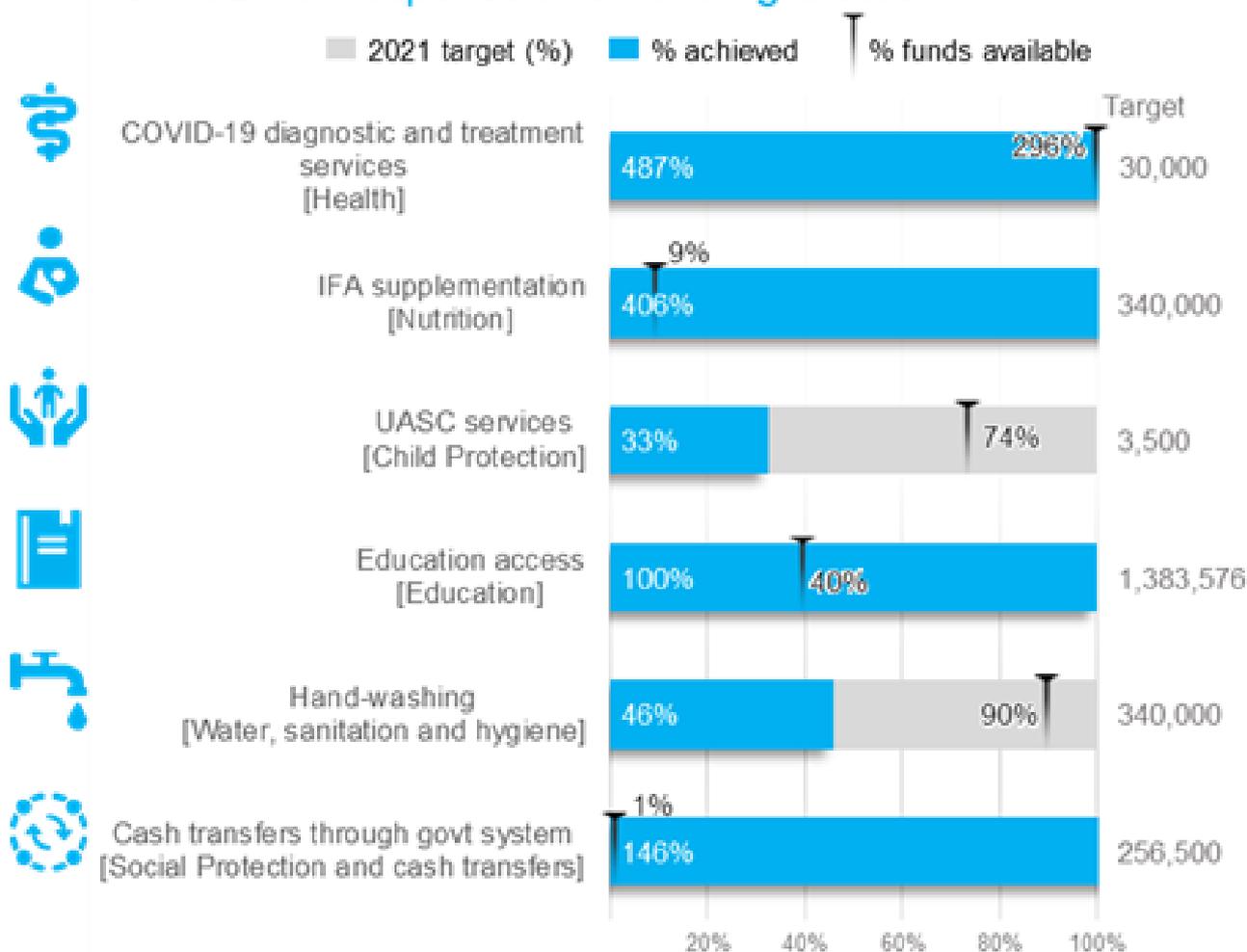
UNICEF is coordinating through existing emergency preparedness and response mechanism. The team is providing additional support to severely stretched capacities at national and sub-national levels in water and sanitation, nutrition, health, education, child protection and social protection sectors.

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal in Ghana presents a funding gap of US\$ 11.7 million. UNICEF continues to coordinate closely with the Government and the UN Country Team to deploy the COVID-19 response in priority areas. These include health, vaccination campaign rollout, risk communication and community engagement, mitigation of the socioeconomic impact of the crisis and ensuring continuity and access to critical services – nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, child, and social protection.



UNICEF has been able to support the national response thanks to the strategic support of development partners and private donors, including Canada, China International Development and Cooperation Agency, Denmark, United Kingdom, USAID, GAVI, the Mastercard Foundation and Binance Charity. UNICEF calls for more stakeholders to provide additional support to ensure vaccination and the continuity of basic social services, including health, nutrition, water and sanitation. Scaling up efforts to promote quality inclusive education, innovative solutions and maintaining child and social protection commitments will help fill the gaps and ensure a comprehensive and effective response for vulnerable children, young people, and families in Ghana.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



*Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

- <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/ghana-to-receive-13m-covid-19-vaccines-from-us/2373504>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/covid-19-us-donates-1-2million-moderna-vaccines-to-ghana.html>
- <https://www.myjoyonline.com/covid-19-ghana-receives-1-2million-doses-of-moderna-vaccine/>
- <https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2021/09/05/ghana-receives-1-2-million-doses-of-moderna-vaccines-from-us/>
- <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/ghana-receives-15m-doses-of-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-from-germany/2375540>
- <https://www.myjoyonline.com/covid-19-norway-donates-98400-doses-of-astrazeneca-vaccines-to-ghana/>
- <https://www.msn.com/en-xl/africa/ghana/ghana-takes-delivery-of-98400-doses-of-astrazeneca-covid-vaccines-from-norway/ar-AAOyLRu>
- <http://apanews.net/en/news/press-zooms-in-on-15m-doses-of-astrazeneca-vaccines-donated-by-germany-others/>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/1st-batch-of-germany-s-vaccines-arrive.html>

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Annex A - Summary of Programme Results – Ghana

Sector	Total Needs	UNICEF and IPs Response		
		2021 target	Total results*	Change
Nutrition				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	16,424	16,424	5453	29%
Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	350,000	350,000	239058	56%
Adolescent girls receiving iron and folic acid or multiple micronutrient supplements	1,000,000	1,000,000	1827424	8%
Health				
Children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF -supported facilities	500,000	500,000	3,377,484 (Total) 2,678,343 (Women) 699,141 (Children)	18%
People who received diagnostic and treatment services for COVID-19	30,000	30,000	672,841	26%
WASH				
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	30,000	30,000	6,500	0%
Children accessing appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	40,000	40,000	28,056	0%
People reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services	50,000	50,000	7,200	0%
People reached with key hygiene messages, services and/or supplies, including handwashing with soap	340,000	340,000	159,708	1%
Child Protection				
Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	120,000	120,000	101,275 (Total) 29,128 (Girls) 24,616 (Boys) 28,672 (Women) 18,859 (Men)	46%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	120,000	120,000	10,729 (Total) 3,625 (Girls) 2,780 (Boys) 4,324 (Women)	1%

People with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse	3,500	3,500	279	3%
Unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	3,500	3,500	1,157 569 588	1%
Education				
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	1,383,576	1,383,576	677,952 [girls] 705,624 [boys] 1,383,576 [Total]	0%
Schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)	10,545	10,545	10,545	0%
Social Protection				
Households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding	256,500	256,500		
Communication for Development / Communication / AAP				
People participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change	1,000,000	1,000,000	657,117	35%
People reached through messaging on key health behaviours, available social services and response to COVID-19	6,000,000	6,000,000	9,000,000	0%
People who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	200,000	200,000	193,634	50%

* Change since last report.

Annex B - Funding Status - Ghana

Section	Requirements	Humanitarian funds received	Carry-over funds from previous year	Total Funds available	Funding gap	% \$ Gap
Health	1,900,000.00	4,552,850.65	1,072,714.36	5,625,565.01	-	0%
Nutrition	2,372,597.00	225,135.99	-	225,135.99	2,147,461.01	91%
Child Protection	1,175,000.00	427,825.57	437,853.94	865,679.51	309,320.49	26%
Education	5,780,805.00		2,288,141.31	2,288,141.31	3,492,663.69	60%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	8,140,000.00	3,687,893.77	3,628,531.16	7,316,424.93	823,575.07	10%
Social Protection and cash transfers	5,030,000.00		63,668.49	63,668.49	4,966,331.51	99%
Communication for Development	2,550,000.00	1,356,656.37	1,772,884.09	3,129,540.46	-	0%
Grand Total	26,948,402	10,250,362	9,263,793	19,514,156	11,739,352	44%