



Situation in Numbers

 2,422 total cases
43 deaths

 Around 300,000
Children affected by COVID-19
school closures

 US\$ 3,2 M
funding required

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of end of November, Guinea-Bissau has recorded 2,422 cases. Of these confirmed cases, 2,080 (86%) are in Bissau, the capital. Ten (10) regions out of the 11 in the country have confirmed COVID-19 cases. The death toll is 43 people, representing a fatality rate of 1.77%. Among the confirmed cases, 377 (16% of COVID-19 cases in the country) are healthcare workers. The country continues to have more cases amongst males, 37% of confirmed COVID-19 cases are amongst females while 63% are amongst males.

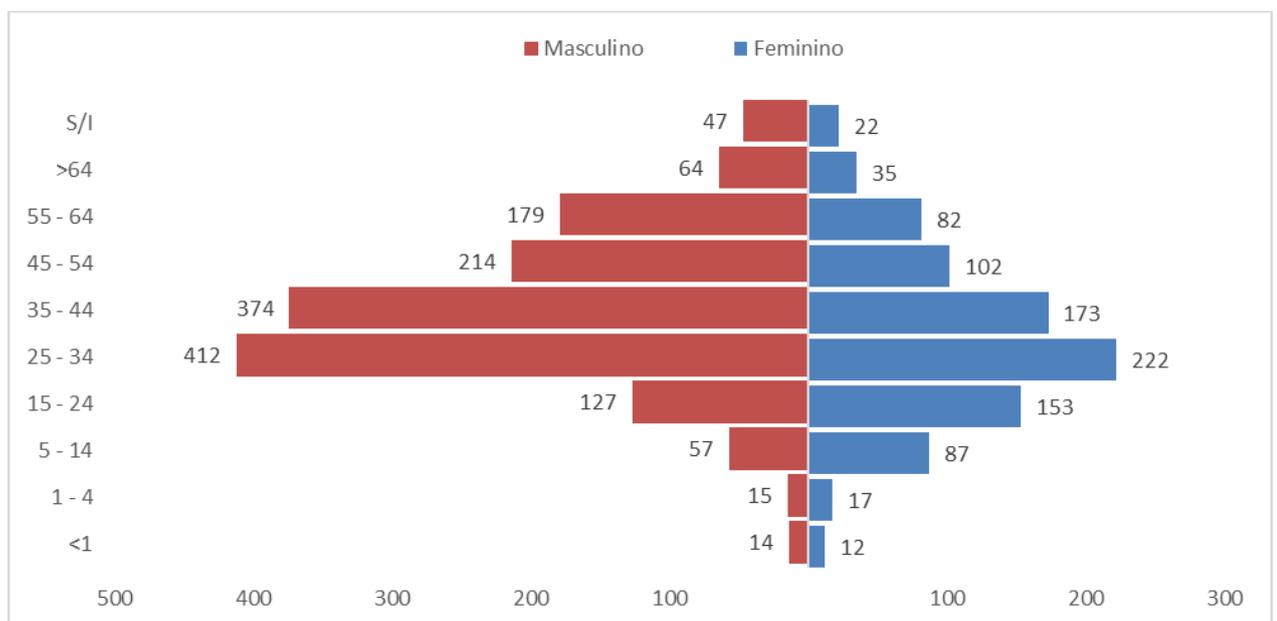


Figure1: Age and sex distribution among confirmed COVID-19 cases (red colour for males and blue colour for females)

UNICEF's COVID-19 response

Health & Nutrition

During the month of November, UNICEF supported a 5-days training of 7 laboratory technicians in the use of GeneXpert machine for multiple use: HIV among HIV exposed children below ≤ 2 months of age, tuberculosis, CD4 Viral Load and Covid-19. In addition, the installation of the GeneXpert machine in Gabu Hospital was supported.

UNICEF signed a 6-months partnership agreement with the National Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (RENAP GB+) to implement community-based peer counselling activities including COVID-19 in 6 regions (Bafata, Gabu, Oio, Quinara, Tombali and Biombo). From July to November, HIV counselling and psychological support coupled with prevention of COVID-19 reached 4,579 pregnant women in antenatal care including outreach activities in the communities.

WASH

Support to health centers

Supporting the access to water in health centers, the delivery and installation of foot-operated handwashing devices were finalized in collaboration with two NGOs, Homem Novo in Bissau and ASPAAB in the other regions. During the month of November, infection prevention and control training in 41 health centers was initiated. This training includes subjects like disinfection and cleaning of Health Centers and the maintenance of WASH infrastructures. The beneficiaries of this training are the managers of the health centers and the cleaning staff.

Support to schools

During the reporting period, UNICEF worked in close partnership with the Ministry of Education to carry out the infection prevention and control training in schools. The entire training program and the contents were designed to include prevention measures for the coronavirus, as well as addressing other diseases caused by poor hygiene and the consumption of unsafe water. At the end of the training, to ensure a greater efficiency of the preventive measures COVID-19, the school's principals and teachers were guided in the preparation of an action plan to improve the conditions of water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) in their schools. Through the training, teachers also learned to build low-cost hand washing devices and the correct way to wash hands with soap and water. The training has been done in three phases, prioritizing the regions

with the highest incidence of COVID-19. Phase one (Bissau, Biombo and Cacheu) was attended by 473 teachers and principals. Phase two (Bafata, Gabu and Oio) had 809 teachers/principals and the final third phase (Quinara and Tombali) had 567 principals/teachers participating. In total, 1250 of the initially predicted 1500 schools have been covered and a total of 1,963 teachers/directors were trained, of which 351 were women.

A training for the data collectors was conducted in Bafata. They will contribute to produce a mapping and assessment of all 15000 schools on access to WASH structures. The mapping will also inform about the current number of students compared to last year's enrollment to assess COVID-19 related dropout following the Ministry of Education decision to limit class size to 30 students.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement/C4D

The coordination of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities, led by the High-Commissioner against COVID-19, continued to be strengthened, with the support and participation of UNICEF. The main activities carried out during the reporting period included countrywide monitoring of the epidemiological situation and COVID-19 response, particularly, the follow-up of the coronavirus sensitization training carried out for religious leaders. They also entailed the production and dissemination of COVID-19 sensitization TV spots by the players of the national football team.

In support of the National Response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF continued to focus its RCCE response on the interpersonal sensitization activities among the population, being carried out by National Red Cross volunteers in the Autonomous Sector of Bissau. During the reporting period, these interventions have reached 24,054 people (9,617 children, 7,850 women and 6,587 men). In total, 1,253,508 people have been reached through interpersonal communication being carried out in their communities through door-to-door visits, residences, main public markets and ports in the Autonomous Sector of Bissau.

In addition, coronavirus preventive communication contents continued to be aired through UNICEF traditional media partners (national television, national newspaper and 30 national and community-based radios countrywide). These contents are available in the most used local language of their communities. Through these media outlets, 1.6 million people have been reached countrywide. During the reporting period,

UNICEF social media platforms have received 620,156 comments/reactions.



Red Cross volunteers in action in Bissau

Education

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued supporting the implementation of the National contingency plan for the education sector in response to COVID-19. Two meetings of the Technical Committee for the Implementation of the Contingency Plan were held aiming at coordinating activities among partners.

The "Back to School Campaign" has been prepared and is ready to roll out from December onwards. This campaign associates UNICEF, Ministry of Education, the National Confederation of Students and the National Parents' Association with the purpose of sensitizing children, young people and their families of the importance of going back to school, on the one hand, and on the other hand, to reinforce information about COVID-19 and its prevention in educational communities. The main purpose is to contribute to the reduction of the drop-out rate and late entry in school amplified in the context of the pandemic.

Negotiations with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Communication are taking place to define the framework for the sustainability of production and broadcasting of distance learning products and define the ways distance learning modalities as a short, medium- and long-term response will be embraced by the system.

In the meantime, a total of seventy-eight products were developed and are ready for broadcast. These correspond to approximately 31 hours of pre-school and early grades foundational literacy and numeracy content.

The full package of radio lessons was translated, and contextualizing workshops were prepared. Radio lessons adaptation workshops are scheduled to begin December 4th and will extend for a 4 weeks period.

Child Protection

During the reporting period, 18 Bissau-Guinean talibé street children returned from Senegal. This first group of children are part of a total 68 street children from Guinea-Bissau that were assisted during the COVID-19 pandemic and lock down in Senegal, along with other vulnerable street children from other sub-region countries. UNICEF, jointly with other key partners, is supporting the government in coordinating the return process with the Senegalese authorities as well as coordinating the national repose (through the National Committee for Human Trafficking prevention) to ensure that all children are reintegrated in their families and communities. As per established reintegration protocol, Psychosocial and medical support is being provided as well as birth registration to returned children, all from Gabu region (east of the country) in the NGO AMIC shelter (UNICEF partner). Also, families will benefit with food and non-food supplies.

Social inclusion and cash transfers

During the reporting period, the joint UNICEF/WFP cash transfer programme, provided the second payment of 40.000 CFA to households identified as highly vulnerable to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Overall 1500 households have been identified across Sao Domingos, Quinhamel, Bissora, Mansaba, Sonaco, SAB, Bula, Cacheu and Bigene.

A Cash & Voucher (C&V) working group meeting took place and enabled all the stakeholders to be informed about the project progress. The C&V working group is acting as a platform for various stakeholders interested in the use and delivery of cash and vouchers across Guinea Bissau. Its purpose is to oversee and coordinate a harmonized approach towards planning and implementation of C&V related activities in Guinea Bissau.

In the meantime, UNICEF has started implementing cash transfer interventions funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). A steering committee

has been put in place in order to oversee the implementation of the project. The steering committee has already validated the regions, and villages where the project will be implemented as well as the selection

criteria. The project will be implemented in the regions of Oio, Bafata and Gabu. A manual of operation has also been developed in order to guide the implementation of the interventions.

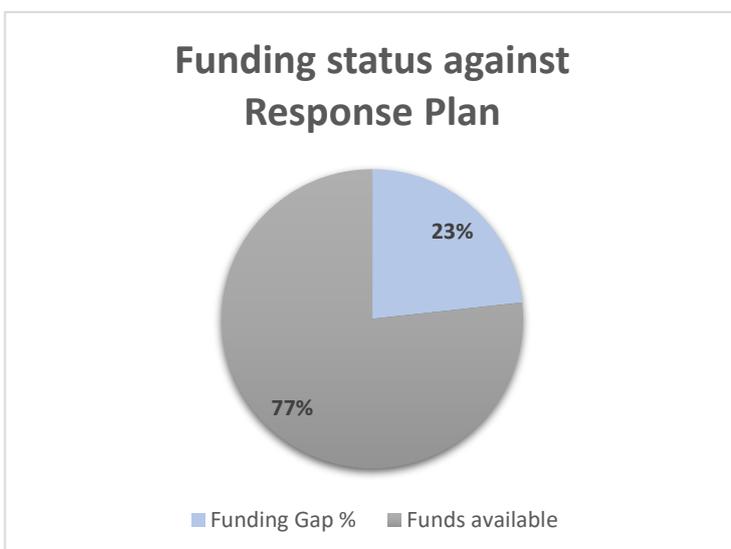
Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

Child Protection:

- Joint work with UNHCR in strengthening community mobilization for birth registration in remote areas, targeting vulnerable people, continued during the month of November. During the reporting period, 422 children (under five years of age) from Canhabaque island (Bijagos region) benefited from mobile birth registration services in this area of the country where basic social services are scarce.
- Also, UNICEF has advocated for a stronger interoperability between Birth Registration and the Education sector and is providing technical assistance to both ministries in developing a concept note with key strategies to reinforce the partnership between the two sectors, based on past experiences and lessons learned. A first working meeting took place during the month of November and was led by both Ministers of Education and Justice.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF Guinea-Bissau has contributed to the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan with a request of USD 3.2 million for preparedness and response needs. The country office has redirected \$US 270,000 of its own regular resources to the response. The office also received US\$ 70,000 provided by the Education Sector Plan Development Grant (ESPDG) from GPE, US\$ 3,500,000 from GPE COVID-19 Accelerated funding (as coordinator of the Education Sector partners), reallocation of US\$ 191,000 from GAVI, US\$ 100,000 from the UNICEF Regional Office Emergency Fund, US\$ 200,000 from UNICEF Thematic Humanitarian fund, US\$ 100,000 from the MPTF COVID-19 Response and Recovery fund and US\$ 51,100 from Portuguese Cooperation.



Current resource mobilization efforts include the negotiation of a tripartite agreement with the High Commission for COVID-19 and the African Development Bank of a two-year project focusing on community-based interventions.

EXTERNAL MEDIA

MEDIA ARTICLES

UNICEF doa materiais de combate a pandemia ao Ministério da Saúde Pública:

http://angnoticias.blogspot.com/2020/06/covid-19-unicef-doa-materiais-de_5.html?m=1

UNICEF oferece materiais para prevenção ao Ministério da Justiça:

<http://angnoticias.blogspot.com/2020/06/covid-19-unicefofrece-para-prevencao.html#links>

COVID-19: alta comissária critica fraco uso de máscaras e pouco cumprimento de medidas de prevenção

<https://www.odemocratagb.com/?p=27036>

SOCIAL MEDIA

UNICEF Guinea-Bissau social media pages:

[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and www.unicef.org/guineabissau

UNICEF Guinea-Bissau dedicated webpage for coronavirus content in Portuguese:

<https://www.unicef.org/guineabissau/pt/coronavirus-na-guine-bissau>

WEBSITE PAGES

[Tudo o que você precisa saber sobre como lavar as mãos para se proteger contra o coronavírus;](#)

[Principais Mensagens e Ações para a Prevenção do Coronavírus \(Covid-19\) em Escolas;](#)

[Marco de ação e recomendações para a reabertura de escolas](#)

[Covid-19: UNICEF makes available guidance to protect children and support safe school operations](#)

VIDEOS

New video: Weekly media briefing from WHO's Representative on the current epidemiological situation in the country, as well as, the UN's response to the coronavirus pandemic

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUGuineBissau/videos/1209216139427848/>

UNICEF donation of essential medical drugs & supplies for #COVID19 response

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMOvEPEhE6c>

Videos produced by the young reporters' network, supported by UNICEF:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVa6HU48w7Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTEWSnuyet8>

<https://youtu.be/Mtgn1yQZ7ok>

<https://youtu.be/l6sCpWWRYXQ>

UN COVID-19 sensitization video on the use of the mask: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62yazoG5Ygc>

Summary of 3 months #COVID19 risk communication activities in Guinea-Bissau

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBVBU_9aEpE

MUSIC

National coronavirus song produced with support from the UN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFZNw6yzhkw>

WASH DASHBOARD

Monitoring dashboard for COVID-19 WASH interventions: https://bit.ly/GNB_covid19_unicef_WASH

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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2020 target	Total results
Risk Communication and Community Engagement		
RCCE 1: Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	2,000,000	1,822,629
RCCE 2: Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	91,350	96,215
WASH and IPC		
IPC 1: Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	500,000	Total 387,776 Male 186,133 Female 201,643
IPC 2: Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	4,338	-
IPC 3: Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control	4,338	190
Health		
Continuity of Health Care 1: Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women	440	159
Continuity of Health Care 4: Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	1,547	802
Child Protection and GBV		
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 1: Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	500,000	Total: 319,176 (0-5 y) Male: 163,416 Female: 155,760
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 2: Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)	1,500	1,500
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 3: Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	200	Total: 161 Male 0-17 years: 147 Female 0-17 years: 9
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 4: Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	32,000	Total: 28,505 Male: 7,916 /0-17y: 5,240 Female: 9,203 /0-17y: 6,146
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 5: Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors	150	195
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services 6: Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	50,000	48,073 Male 15,030/0-17y:5,852 Female 20,172/ 0-17y: 7,019
Social Protection		
Indicator 1: Number of households receiving HUMANITARIAN CASH TRANSFERS through UNICEF response to COVID-19	2,600	1,500

Annex B

Funding Status

Sector	Funding requirements	Funds available	Funding gap \$	Funding Gap %
C4D / RCCE	170,000	306,000	0	0%
WASH & IPC	800,000	285,000	515,000	64%
Social Protection	800,000	825,000	0	0%
Health	710,000	551,311	158,689	22%
Child Protection	120,000	302,100	0	0%
Social Sciences Research	50,000	-	50,000	100%
Operational and staff costs	100,000	77,000	23,000	23%
Education	450,000	1,883,000	0	0%
Total	3,200,000	4,229,411	746,689	23%