



## Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of 30 September, COVID-19 cases continue to rise and currently stand at to 16,454 nationally. Antananarivo remains the major cluster though the clustering is now shifting to the Diana, Sava and Vatovavy Fitovinany regions. The national trend of cases is on a downswing with the largest concentration of new cases in Analamanga and Sava. Nearly 10 per cent of the total active cases across the country (790) are currently in Diana region. According to the Institute Pasteur de Madagascar<sup>1</sup>, 79,189 PCR tests have been done this far and the total positivity rate has decreased to 7.2 per cent. To date, 93.8 per cent have recovered and 1.4 per cent have resulted in death (231). The 7-day running average of the number of cases decreased from 327 on 23 July to 74 on 10 September 2020. Over the same period, the 7-day running average positivity rate has decreased from 45 per cent to 13 per cent. The 7-day running average number of deaths decreased from 4 on 30 July to 0.71 on 30 September. This is largely attributed to the decrease in cases in the Analamanga region.

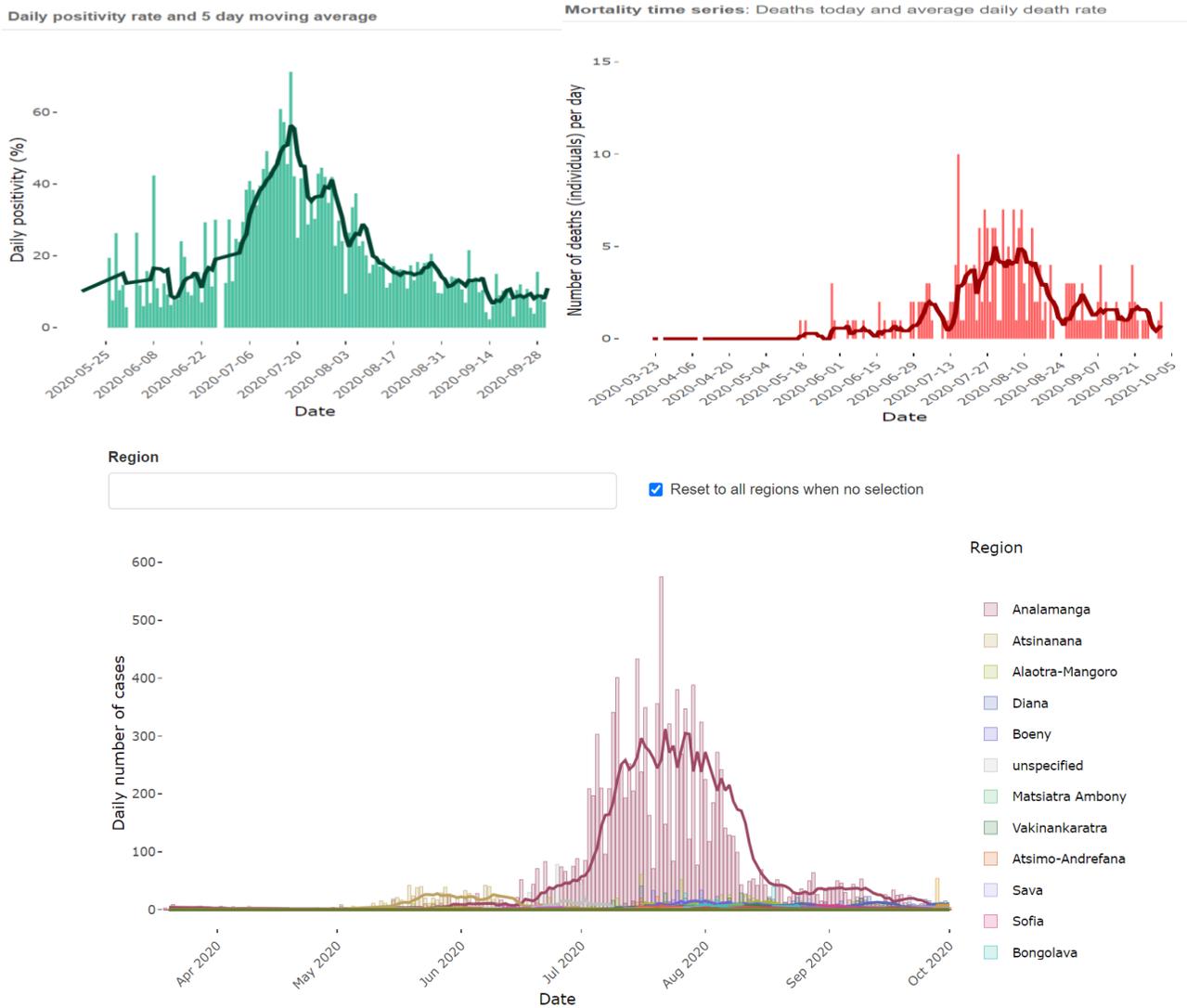


Figure2 : Evolution of number of cases per day: Source : <https://www.covid19mg.org/>

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pasteur.mg/coronavirus-disease-2019-activites-institut-pasteur-de-madagascar/>

## Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF Madagascar pursues its prevention and response strategy to the COVID-19 pandemic, but over the past month has added additional components, especially on advocacy, with three key additional strategic elements: ensuring that access to regular services is re-opened, building back better and remaining mindful of other humanitarian situations in Madagascar (drought, malnutrition, poverty, preparation for plague and cyclone seasons).

## Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF maintains regular coordination of its response with existing government coordination bodies especially CCO (COVID-19 Operational Coordination Center). While the first weeks of the response were focused on basic equipment and non-food items (NFIs) in a joint effort with other agencies, the evolution of the situation and its technical consequences led UNICEF to give priority to strategic positioning with the SWAT team at Ministry of Health and as facilitator in other platforms such as WASH, Education, Nutrition and Cash.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Strengthening Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

In collaboration with the Communication Commission under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, the baseline report of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) COVID-19 survey is available, with the support of ATW Agency. The survey was conducted at the urban and rural areas in 6 regions. A midline survey and an end line survey are planned for the next steps, as part of the integration into the global Community Rapid Assessment initiative. In the same line, the first behavioural and communication report, in collaboration with CAPSULE Agency, is also available. There is expected to be a monthly report of this qualitative survey until February 2021. Considering the evidence of these study results and also taking into account the compiled results of the information watch, the COVID-19 messages bank will be updated.

To date, UNICEF has covered the 22 regions to support media and mass communication and is specifically supporting 9 most affected regions in terms of communication and community engagement (Analamanga, Atsinanana, Haute Matsiatra, Boeny, Anosy, Analanjirofo, SAVA, Androy, and Ihorombe). In these regions, group animation sessions (at health centres, churches, mosques, schools, transport cooperatives and Fokontany level), collective listening groups, work with "Loharano" (source) committees, and community dialogues began to gain momentum with the progressive loosening of lockdown restrictions. In the last 3 weeks, 3,286 community relays have been mobilized; 4,076 awareness sessions were conducted; and 85 local media produced and broadcast 7,272 spots, 202 interactive programs covering various topics (wearing of masks, non-stigma, living with COVID-19, prevention measures, surveillance and community watch, use of services, WASH, education, health, nutrition, etc.). The production and dissemination of locally adapted communication media also continued (posters, billboards, flyers, songs, short films, stickers, spots, kabary...).

Besides, communication support for the Education programme is marked by the back-to-school campaign in partnership with the Ministry of Education. In this context, in addition to the planned community activities, 3 posters and 4 spots were produced to reassure parents about COVID-19 and to highlight the enthusiasm of children, and the implementation of prevention measures by schools, teachers and children. About WASH, communication support has been focused within the framework of the Avotr'aina Project at national and regional levels. In relation to Child Protection, support was provided for the production audio-visual materials with Young Reporter Club and Centre Vonjy, as well as the reporting on violence in the context of COVID-19. For the Social Protection component, support to the Cash Working Group's Communications team was delivered: coordination of weekly meetings, update of communication media for the second phase of the "Tosika Fameno" (filling the gap), including videos, and the update and monitoring of the implementation of the communication plan for the second phase.

Strengthening public health response to COVID-19, improving Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and providing critical medical and WASH supplies

Health

A public-private partnership between UNICEF and the national Order of Medical Doctors in Madagascar proved very effective as 146,288 consultations have been monitored in over 151 private health facilities. As seen in Figure 3, this partnership supported the identification of 8,878 suspected COVID-19 cases, the treatment of 7011 Cases and the referral of 1671 COVID-19 cases to intensive care centres (Source: <https://bit.ly/36rbHJS>).

Between 10 and 30 September, 1,344 patients have benefitted from specialized care, using 2,899 cylinders of oxygen (Table1) in intensive care centers. Oxygen supply has also been ensured in all regions affected by COVID-19 thanks to the contract UNICEF signed with private oxygen (O2) providers. Evidence from treatment centres show a decrease in the O2 consumption by the moderate, severe and critical cases, being the tip of the iceberg, which goes along the lines of the decreased number of cases.

Though the incidence rate of COVID-19 is decreasing, the human resource gap required to meet the needs for testing, surveillance, treatment and care is still high. MoH data shows that up to 193 medical doctors, 44 reanimators, 388 paramedical staff, 244 technical staff (nurses, laboratory technicians etc) are still needed.

UNICEF has embarked on training additional human resources to strengthen the capacity of the MoH to respond to new clusters of COVID-19. To Date, 378 hygienists and 40 anaesthesiologists have been trained. The training of an additional 311 private medical doctors and about 250 hygienists is planned for the month of October.

Figure 3: Consultations and COVID Case Management by Private Health facilities

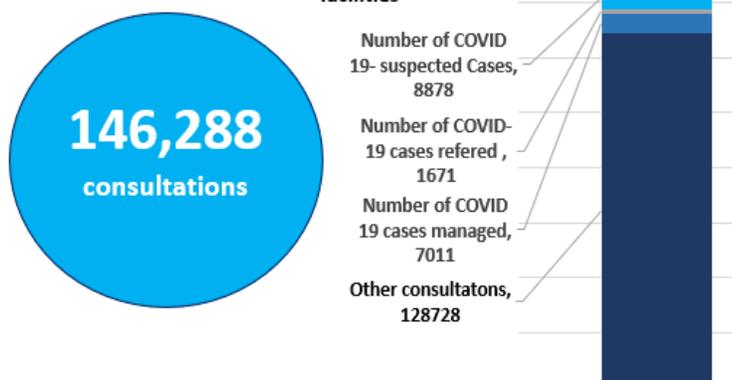


Figure 4: Human Resources Needs by type of HR (Source: CNOSSSE 29 sept. 2020)

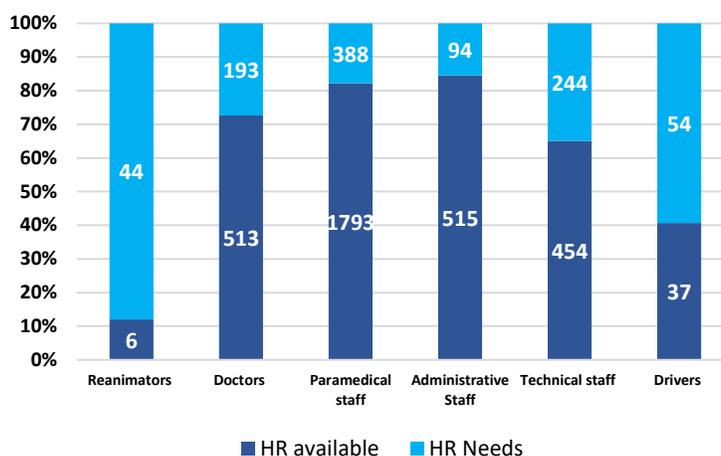


Table1: COVID-19 Case management	
Severe symptomatic form with comorbidity	318
Moderate Symptomatic forms with comorbidity	455
Moderate Symptomatic form without comorbidity	193
Severe form with comorbidity	45
Severe form without comorbidity	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,344</b>

Tool developed by UNICEF CO for monitoring O2 consumption: Source: <https://bit.ly/32ixd0R>

## WASH

The month of September was marked by official examinations in primary and secondary schools. Disinfection of examination rooms was assigned to the WASH Cluster. In Analamanga region, more than 31 schools have been disinfected thanks to the support of UNICEF and the leadership of the Ministry of Water which involved several actors in this operation.

Since the city of Toamasina was declared to be no longer a source of the virus, we continue to carry out COVID-19 response activities such as the daily disinfection of 5 bus stations and all schools for the Toamasina 1 District, the strengthening of the application of IPC measures with training for 96 hygienists, which was accompanied by the provision of disinfection equipment at the level of 266 public facilities including health facilities on the surrounding area the city as well as private health centre and penitentiary establishments.

As a provisional assessment, nearly 33,000 people have benefited from access to subsidized water, the price of which has been halved thanks to the support of UNICEF, with more than 11,500 vulnerable people having received soap and 138 fokontany identified with public standpipes equipped with hand washing devices.



At the end of the three-month project with the Municipality of Antananarivo, the partner's yearly assessment reported an increase of 260 per cent in the number of families having drawn water from public standpipes or the price of water was subsidized and halved. Indeed, the average number of families per standpipe went from 30 before the crisis to 110 during the crisis. However, the volume of water consumed only increased slightly by 10m<sup>3</sup> with an average monthly consumption from 436m<sup>3</sup> in June to 446m<sup>3</sup> in August. According to the fountains, this translates into a rather limited budget at the level of each household because of the crisis. Also, thanks to this campaign, nearly 32,160 vulnerable families benefited from the distribution of soap, and the daily disinfection of more than 14,200 buses and taxis was ensured.

Since the beginning of the epidemic more than 1.1 million people were reached by UNICEF with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services out of a total of 2.8 million reached by the WASH Cluster partners and over 3.5 million people were reached with COVID-19 RCCE (out of 19.2 million reached by WASH Cluster Partners) since March 2020. Results can be found on the following [website: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/madagascar/water-sanitation-hygiene](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/madagascar/water-sanitation-hygiene).

## Continuity of health, education, nutrition and protection services

### Health

UNICEF is leveraging other funding sources such as CERF and ECHO to ensure continuity of health services by strengthening the availability of integrated package of family health services across 114 districts, building on the work of the maternal and

child health weeks that were previously organized. In addition to the 1,792,998 children under 5 years and 537,900 pregnant women targeted by the “Family Health Strengthening” initiative, this integrated package of services will reach 35,000 pregnant women and over 70,000 children 0-5 years. Intensified outreach services using mobile clinics will be provided in 8 high risk districts.

## Education

The education system is preparing to gradually return to on-site delivery. UNICEF is supporting this process. Approximately 70 per cent of the disinfection of schools in the 22 regions of the country has been covered by UNICEF. A total of 132,400 classrooms have been disinfected in approximately 30,000 schools. In some schools, classrooms have been disinfected a second time in preparation for the 3, 7 and Terminal examinations. Meanwhile, the distribution of self-study guides has continued and 436,000 have been delivered to children and 136,000 are in route.

Examinations of CEPE (Elementary Primary Education Certificate) were administered on 1 and 8 September 2020, BEPC (First Cycle Elementary Certificate) from 21 to 24 September and the BAC has been announced for 19 to 29 October 2020. Preliminary results of the CEPE for six of the seven regions where UNICEF operates can be seen below:

Region	Number of pupils registered for the test	Percentage of absent pupils on the day of the test	Percentage of pupils with a passing mark
ANDROY	8,205	12%	72%
ATSIMO ANDREF	19,617	10%	61%
V7V	27,822	10%	64%
ANOSY	7,905	9%	62%
ATSIMO ANTSINANANA	18,123	9%	57%
BOENY	14,473	8%	64%
ANALANJIROFO	31,373	13%	62%
	127,518	10%	63%

The rate of absentees on the day of the examination is 4 per cent higher than in 2019 and the percentage of pupils passing the test is 2 per cent lower than in 2019. However, in absolute terms, there were more pupils present to take their examinations in 2020 than in 2019.

In preparation to the new school cycle, UNICEF is also supporting the catch-up courses. In previous years UNICEF has supported these programmes in seven regions (Analanjirofo, Androy, Anosy, Atsimo Andrefana, Atsimo Atsinanana, Boeny, Vatovavy Fitovinany). This year, UNICEF will support the catch-up programme in the 22 regions of the country to foster continuity. Currently preparations are being made to commence roll-out and distribution of masks and basic education materials.

## Nutrition

Under the leadership of the National Nutrition Office and based on activities and results achieved during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government is preparing a nutrition post-COVID-19 plan. This plan is focussing on continued nutrition services in COVID-19 affected areas while resuming and strengthening other essential activities nationwide. In a perspective of doing better and reimagine, a specific attention is given to community level implementation for increased results to be implemented by all nutrition stakeholders.

Regular nutrition activities are resuming while the concern shifts from COVID-19 to the high food insecurity and early seasonal increase in acute malnutrition in Southern Madagascar.

## Child Protection, Gender

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During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to support stakeholders (public services, social and para-social workers, child protection networks, civil society organizations) to implement responses in intervention regions affected by the COVID-19: psychosocial support for children and families affected including children and families in the street situation, adequate care for children without parental care, and children who have experienced violence or exploitation as a result of the epidemic; 46 children in conflict with the law (including 16 indirect support cases) benefited from alternative measures to detention and returned to family life. Apart from that, 962,201 children, parents and primary caregivers benefited from support through, among other things, home visits by social workers, messages sent through various channels such as radio broadcasts, food distributions, calls to the LV147 toll-free number or awareness sessions in schools.

## Social Policy and Social Protection

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In the continuity of Cash Working Group's efforts initiated in response to COVID-19 pandemic, the cash transfer programme TOSIKA FAMENO (filling the gap) is continuing its geographic expansion reaching now 10 urban and peri-urban areas in 9 regions out of 23 targeting a total of about 350,000 beneficiary households. A geographic expansion in new locations is planned for October, the exact number of additional beneficiaries is under discussion. Each household is entitled to US\$ 26 paid twice. So far about 295,805 households have received the first payment and 284,609 households have already received the second and last payment for this emergency phase. For the remaining households, payments will be completed in the coming weeks. The Cash Working Group is finalizing a strategy to continue the cash transfer for the coming six months with revised parameters. Some funds will be provided by the World Bank for the socio-economic recovery response, while UNICEF and other partners are seeking additional resources from donors. The recovery phase will initially prioritize Antananarivo, Toamasina and Fianarantsoa and will be structured around a cash transfer component and a Cash for Work component. Number of beneficiaries for each component is still under discussion. The CWG is finalizing the methodology to assess the eligibility of households for each component.

## Communication

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### Social Media

#### FACEBOOK:

- [Fandio Tsotra campaign on the use of non-contact handwashing devices](#)
- [People with disabilities receive Tosika Fameno the social protection in response to COVID-19](#)
- [Raising awareness against the stigmatization of COVID-19 patients](#)

#### TWITTER:

- [UNICEF actions against severe acute malnutrition in the South during COVID-19](#)
- [Continuity of community sanitation and hygiene programs in the regions](#)

### Contact for further information

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## Annex A

 SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS<sup>1</sup>

Indicator		UNICEF		Sector/Cluster	
		UNICEF Target	Total	Cluster Target	Total
			Results as of 22 September		Results
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)</b>					
Wash: Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions (Hand Washing)		2,000,000	5,933,000	19,716,000	16,000,000
C4D	Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services.	8,636,309	13,092,000		
	Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanism.	250,000	More than 390,000		
<b>Improve Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) and provide critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies</b>					
WASH: Number of people reached with critical wash supplies (including hygiene items) and services		1,000,000	1,103,000	4,177,000	2,750,000
HEALTH	Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with personal protective equipment (PPE).	50,000	More than 3,100		14,000
	Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC).	10,806	6,498	5,600 (cluster WASH target)	More than 1,000
	Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases.	10,806	More than 2700		
<b>Support the provision of continued access to essential health and nutrition services for women, children and vulnerable communities, including case management</b>					
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services in UNICEF supported facilities		2,173,034	700,000		
Number of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19		3,500,000	More than 1,775,000		
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)		16,000	24,7600		
<b>Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services</b>					
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning		600,000	Radio and tv programming made available to 600,000 pupils. Materials distributed to 436,000 pupils.		
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control).		0	30,000 schools (132 400 classrooms) have been disinfected.		
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements		300	256 (126 girls,130 boys)*		

Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support.	700	963,000 (including 4800 pupils, 2256 girls and 1561 boys, 959291 adults superior 18 years)*		
Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on gbv risk mitigation & referrals for survivors.	1,000	391		
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse.	500,000			
<b>Support access to continuous education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services</b>				
Number of households benefitting from new or additional SOCIAL ASSISTANCE MEASURES provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	7,500	8,500	189,400 (new cluster target 345,000)	295,805 (Sept30th)

\*new calculation after according alignment by the guide after decision with ESARO

## FUNDING

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal 28 September 2020)						
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over (re-programmation)	Total	\$	%
Nutrition	700,000	-	34,015	34,015	665,985	95%
Health	1,300,000	1,033,496	558,002	1,591,498	-	0%
WASH	1,000,000	1,422,055	725,642	2,147,697	-	0%
Education	1,200,000	533,002	1,149,552	1,682,554	-	0%
Child Protection	300,000	20,000	-	20,000	280,000	93%
Communication for Development	1,500,000	295,069	234,333	529,402	970,598	65%
Cash-based transfers	1,000,000	-	-	-	1,000,000	100%
Cross sectoral / Cluster coordination	-	62,100	-	62,100	-	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,000,000</b>	<b>3,365,721</b>	<b>2,701,543</b>	<b>6,067,264</b>	<b>2,916,584</b>	<b>42%</b>