

# NIGER: COVID-19 Situation Report #11

23 August to 22 September 2020

unicef   
for every child

## Situation in Numbers



1,193 COVID-19 confirmed cases

69 deaths

5,78% Lethality rate

(Ministère de la Santé Publique, 22 September 2020)



3,800,000 Children affected by COVID-19 school reopening



US\$ 25.8 M funding required



## Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of the end of the reporting period, Niger registered 1,193 cases of COVID-19, 1,104 patients healed, 20 patients currently under treatment, 69 deaths, with the last fatality on 2 July. 6 out of 8 regions didn't report any cases for at least 2 weeks, with Niamey remaining the epicentre of the outbreak. On the other hand, in the last four days (19-22 September), the country has noted an upsurge of cases with 10 new detected cases, among departing and returning travellers, as well as within the community. UNICEF works closely with the Government and its partners to respond to the ongoing outbreak in the country, which is already facing the consequences of multiple crisis (nutrition, conflicts, natural disasters). UNICEF assists particularly the Ministry of Health (MoH), in the field of risk communication/community engagement (RCCE), infection prevention and control (IPC), supply and logistics, epidemiological surveillance and healthcare provision and it is co-leading 3 of the 8 sub-committees established by the MoH (RCCE, IPC and logistics) at central and sub-national level. As part of the national COVID-19 response plan, UNICEF continues to provide technical and financial support to the government of Niger to ensure the continuity of access to social services as education, child protection, nutrition and to scale-up the national safety net program to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the most vulnerable population, with a special focus on children and women needs. UNICEF is also participating to the UN COVID-19 crisis group and has been appointed UN supply and procurement coordinator for COVID-19 pandemic.

## UNICEF's COVID-19 response

### Health

UNICEF supported the Government in the process of the decentralized screening through the supply of a batch of 5,000 XPRESS, SARS-COV-2 tests for Genexpert and 10,000 swabs for nasopharyngeal samples to laboratories. In order to improve the protection of health workers, UNICEF has provided 10 hospitals in the 08 regions with 21,000 protective masks (FFP2 N95).

### WASH

In order to strengthen the capacity of frontline actors on the COVID-19, UNICEF continued to support the health ministry in providing personal protection equipment for 380 health workers and hygienists, 500 handwashing devices, soap, hydro-alcoholic gel and 30 buckets of calcium hypochlorite (25Kg). UNICEF also provided healthcare facilities with waste management items.

During the reporting period, a total of 34,745 persons benefited from awareness raising activities on the COVID-19 pandemic and the prevention measures in Agadez, Diffa, and Zinder regions with UNICEF support through its partners (Nigerien Red Cross and regional directorates of public health).

At subnational level, UNICEF in close collaboration with regional directorates of hydraulic and sanitation, supported the provision of handwashing devices and soap to 108,515 pupils and students in Tillaberi region.

### Nutrition

As of end of August (week 35), 242,216 under-five children suffering from SAM (representing 61.1% of the annual target), were admitted for treatment, including 26,762 cases with medical complications. UNICEF continues to mobilize additional funds to procure more nutrition supplies to ensure an uninterrupted pipeline of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and other critical supplies. During the reporting period, UNICEF

supported the Regional Directorates of Public Health of Niamey and Zinder (most affected by COVID-19) to develop an integrated response plan for Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) activities in the COVID-19 context. UNICEF also recruited a consultant and supported the training of data collection teams for the national nutrition survey using the SMART methodology.

## **Education**

The start of the school year has been postponed from 1 to 15 October (two weeks) as some schools are being used as shelter for households affected by floods.

UNICEF set up a multisectoral committee (C4D, Communication, Child Protection, WASH and Education) to support preparations for the beginning of the school year in the context of the pandemic. The objective is to identify and implement all actions likely to create a safe, healthy and protective school environment. With technical support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Education is working closely with the “behavior change” subcommittee, chaired by the Ministry of Health, to finalize and validate diversified communication tools. These tools will allow to reach children from all backgrounds (rural / urban), social strata and levels of education (including out-of-school children). This package includes innovative short videos on COVID-19 pandemic (transmitted via WhatsApp), posters, leaflets, radio and television broadcasts, along with Government guidelines for school opening in the context of the pandemic. At the same time, the regions are preparing awareness-raising and social mobilization campaigns targeting all communities, including displaced populations in order to encourage them to enroll their children in school and to raise awareness on the protection and barrier measures.

In terms of supplies, 175,264 masks for 87,632 teachers (2 masks per teacher), 12,101 hand washing devices and 12,101 boxes of soap were procured to equip 2,421 primary and secondary schools in order to promote school hygiene. In the Tillaberi region, in collaboration with the NGO COOPI, 230 teachers were trained in the creation and management of health and hygiene clubs in 116 schools and 350 teachers were trained in psychosocial support and referral to specialized structures.

The Ministry of Secondary Education, with UNICEF support, has established a teaching team which is developing a teacher training module on COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Child protection**

UNICEF continues to provide technical support and guidance to the Regional Directorates for child protection and to the local NGOs to respond to the pandemic, and to advocate for the involvement of child protection actors in the response for vulnerable children, including talibés children living in the streets and children on the move.

Through UNICEF national NGO partners, 1,011 sensibilisation sessions took place in 112 koranic schools and in 85 places in the cities of Dosso and Niamey. The activities reached 8,099 persons including 2,197 street children (387 girls) and 4,920 talibés children (131 of them living with disabilities).

**Maradi and Zinder:** 255 talibés children were identified by the Regional Directorate for Child Protection in both regions. They were sensitized on the COVID-19 pandemic measures, and they received hygiene kits, food and health checks. They returned to their villages, with the technical and financial support of UNICEF.

**Diffa:** 1,296 children (654 girls), including 08 children (5 girls) whose parents were tested positive to COVID-19 virus, and 789 parents (440 women) benefitted from psychosocial support and sensitization in child friendly spaces, community mechanism approaches and in the communities by social workers from the Regional Direction of Child Protection and from local NGO WARAKA with UNICEF technical and financial support.

## **Others**

Strategically, UNICEF also focuses its efforts on strengthening national social protection systems and expanding the reach of these systems to previously non-targeted populations affected by the COVID-19 and other crises. As part of the national COVID-19 response plan, UNICEF has provided technical support to the government of Niger for the scale-up of the national safety net program to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the most vulnerable population, with particular focus on enhancing the shock-responsiveness, as well as nutrition and child-sensitivity of targeting criteria. The national COVID-19 safety net programme targets a total 455,984 households across rural and urban areas in all 8 regions of Niger and will be delivered through the government’s system (Wadata Talaka – PFS programme). UNICEF also supports the Government of Niger to model a productive safety net to address structural economic determinants of vulnerability as part of the country’s post-COVID-19 recovery plans.

## Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government of Niger and partners to ensure the continuation of essential nutrition services at health facility and community level, while respecting measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Directorate of Nutrition and partners, is supporting the development of a national strategy to scale up the mother/family-MUAC<sup>1</sup> approach, which is recommended for acute malnutrition screening at community level in the context of COVID-19. Sensitization on adequate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices is ongoing at community level while respecting social distancing and IPC measures. The dissemination of specific IYCF messages in the context of COVID-19 is also ongoing through community radios.

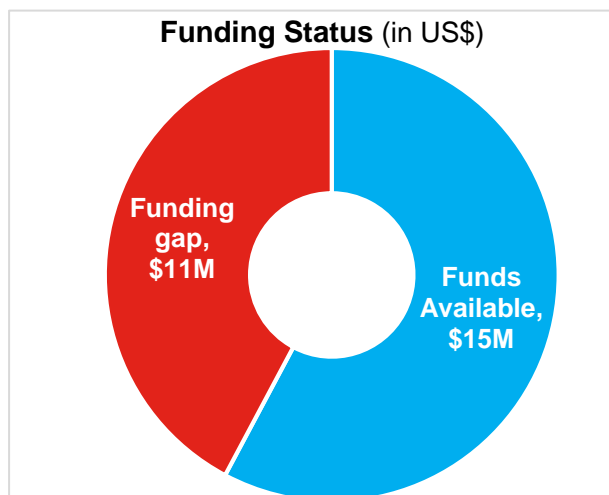
UNICEF, as technical coordinator of the RRM, contributed to the revision of the COVID-19 SOP in order to adapt the way to deliver the response to the new epidemiological context: the updated version was presented during the meeting of the RRM Strategical Group held on 17 September.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

Resource mobilization for the COVID-19 response plan is ongoing, a funding gap of 42% remaining. Nevertheless, the tendency is positive with a firm pledge from the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration to contribute about USD 1.4 million to UNICEF's prevention activities with a focus on populations in displacement. This contribution, once confirmed, will reduce the funding gap by more than 5% to 37% (equalling US\$ 9.4 million).

On behalf of the children of Niger, UNICEF thanks the Education Cannot Wait fund for continuously supporting Education in Emergencies programmes, including in the context of COVID. Furthermore, UNICEF thanks the UN CERF fund for its contributions to emerging and underfunded emergencies.

However, UNICEF Niger's HAC COVID-19 remains underfunded by nearly US\$ 11 million, with the most significant funding gaps touching upon the areas of WASH/IPC (25%), Nutrition (79%), and Child Protection (84%).



## External Media

A number of multi-media assets have been produced and disseminated, generating discussion and feedback from audiences, while traditional media has been engaged to showcase UNICEF's work around COVID-19 during the reporting period.

- **Le Monde - Media pitch** – A « l'hôtel Quarantaine » de Niamey, les humanitaires se réinventent face au Covid-19 : [https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2020/09/11/a-l-hotel-quarantaine-de-niamey-les-humanitaires-se-reinventent-face-au-covid-19\\_6051855\\_3212.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2020/09/11/a-l-hotel-quarantaine-de-niamey-les-humanitaires-se-reinventent-face-au-covid-19_6051855_3212.html)
- **Multimedia story** – Responding to the seasonal peak of malnutrition in Niger. (ECHO support) : <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/responding-seasonal-peak-malnutrition-niger>
- **Video series - On-going (Episode 5)** - Global amplification of "Coping with covid-19: through a girl's eyes series": <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/pandemic-through-girls-eyes>
- **El País - Media article** - La pandemia a través de los ojos de las niñas adolescentes. : [https://elpais.com/elpais/2020/09/01/planeta\\_futuro/1598973106\\_842144.html](https://elpais.com/elpais/2020/09/01/planeta_futuro/1598973106_842144.html)

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<sup>1</sup> Mid-Upper Arm Circumference

## Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2020 target	Total results
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</b>		
# of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	20,000,000	15,228,114
# of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions	5,000,000	4,171,763
# of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through establishes feedback mechanisms.	1,000,000	1,213,422
<b>WASH and IPC</b>		
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	300,000	323,380
# of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	2,500	1,867
# of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	1,500	1,164
<b>Health</b>		
# of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases	2000	1,750
# of coordination meetings held with the support of UNICEF (technical and / or financial);	39	2
# of health centres equipped as triage centres	39	5
<b>Nutrition</b>		
# of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	396,539	242,216
<b>Education</b>		
# of schools implementing SAFE SCHOOL PROTOCOLS (COVID-19 prevention and control).	10,000	841
<b>Child Protection and GBV</b>		
# of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	21,000	7,800
<b>Social Protection</b>		
# of households receiving HUMANITARIAN CASH TRANSFERS through UNICEF response to COVID-19	25,000	0
# of households benefitting from new or additional SOCIAL ASSISTANCE MEASURES provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	5,000	0

## Annex B

### Funding Status

Sector	Funding requirements	Funds available	Funding gap \$	Gap %
C4D / RCCE	3,000,000	2,634,773	365,227	12%
WASH & IPC	4,000,000	3,008,110	991,890	25%
Nutrition	1,400,000	300,000	1,100,000	79%
Health	3,000,000	3,094,375	0	0%
Child Protection	1,638,257	259,851	1,378,406	84%
Education	8,000,000	5,105,528	2,894,472	36%
Social Protection	4,000,000	0	4,000,000	100%
Social Research	200,000	0	200,000	100%
Coordination and support capacity	550,000	500,157	49,843	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,788,257</b>	<b>14,902,794</b>	<b>10,885,463</b>	<b>42%</b>