



## Situation in Numbers



1,036 COVID-19 confirmed cases

67 deaths

6,47% Lethality rate

(Ministère de la Santé Publique, June 21, 2020)



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



US\$ 17.4 M funding required

## Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of the end of the reporting period, Niger registered 1,036 cases of COVID-19, 911 patients healed, 67 deaths and a total of 6,170 patients tested for the virus. The number of confirmed cases among health care providers was 184. Since June 16<sup>th</sup> (29 active cases), an increase in the daily growth rate of COVID-19 cases was observed. Those cases were mainly imported from neighbouring countries. An updated version of the Global Response Plan to Coronavirus Pandemic of the Government of Niger was released at the end of May, with a reinforced multisectoral approach, and specific sectorial plans (resilience of education system, revised plan to support populations affected by nutritional and food insecurity, analysis and proposed measures to address socio-economic impacts of the disease). UNICEF continues to work 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. UNICEF is co-leading 3 of the 8 sub-committees established by the MoH (RCCE, IPC and logistics) at central and sub-national level and is an active member of the others. 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

In Diffa region, training activities were carried out with UNICEF support: training of 112 health providers on the surveillance and management of suspected cases of COVID-19 and 65 health providers on psychosocial support. 64 health providers joining the front-line teams of the case management of affected patients were also trained on psychosocial support. In addition, UNICEF supported the strengthening of care in the triage centers of two hospitals (Amirou Aboubacar National Hospital in Niamey and Centre hospitalier régional de Niamey).

### WASH

In order to improve the respect of the infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in healthcare facilities, UNICEF supported the preparation of a survey on the respect of the IPC measures in 84 healthcare facilities of Niamey, including the development of the survey tools and the training of the surveyors.

At subnational level, UNICEF supported the provision of 526 handwashing devices in Maradi and Tahoua regions. This provision will benefit to 70 healthcare facilities, 22 markets, 28 bus stations, 5 mosques and 401 households.

In addition, a total of 234,257 people in Tahoua and Maradi regions were reached by awareness raising on the COVID-19 and prevention measures thanks to the DFID-funded Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All (ASWA II) program partners and UNICEF support.

### RCCE/C4D

In terms of **Coordination**, UNICEF supported the regional responses with the supervisions of the implementation of activities in Health Districts in Maradi, Zinder and Diffa.

To support **Community Dialogue**, 127 actors (traditional and religious leaders) and community representatives were gathered with UNICEF support, to talk about community actions to be done against the pandemic. Community Workers delivered messages to groups in Zinder and Tahoua, reaching around 29,741

persons. 153 radio animators aired spots and programmes on barrier measures in local languages for 11,329,328 persons in 2 weeks.

In terms of **Partnerships**, Search for Common Ground (SFCG) in Diffa acquired 38 units of integrated karaoke speakers with the support of UNICEF, for animations to be realized in 38 public places located in 12 municipalities of the region. 300 Community workers of Niger Red-Cross continued to do home visits in the region of Diffa, reaching a total of 39,515 persons with COVID-19 keys messages.

In terms of **Proximity Communication**, a new approach based on women's role communities, named "Tabeyara" and led by 25 women leaders of Agadez, allowed for home visits to talk with women about the pandemic, reached 8,002 women of whom 775 were not believing in the existence of the COVID-19 virus.

## **Nutrition**

As of the end of May, 132,909 under-five children suffering from SAM (34% of the annual target) were admitted for treatment, including 13,962 cases with medical complications. In anticipation of a possible surge in admissions for SAM in the context of COVID-19, UNICEF took steps to procure more nutrition supplies to ensure an uninterrupted pipeline of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and other critical supplies. To replenish the stock and avoid stock-out, UNICEF has included essential SAM treatment products (milk and medicine) in a chartered cargo ship for COVID-19 products.

## **Education**

The government decided to reopen all schools bar preschool classes on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June for a period of 45 days. To ensure a safer reopening and return to school, UNICEF continued to support the ministries of education with both material and technical support. As the rainy season approaches, UNICEF supplied the ministries with 2,000 tarpaulins to secure temporary classrooms, providing continued education access for almost 35,000 children. More are being procured to meet the need.

At the district and local level, UNICEF is accompanying school inspectors and local officials to visit and monitor schools, reinforce on COVID-19 messaging and check on compliance. School absenteeism is being followed up to identify cases of child rights abuse for further referral to child protection mechanisms. In the regions, with the support of UNICEF staff and child protection actors, an operation of data collection has started in order to identify needs and take appropriate actions regarding cases of dropout, cases of abuse (child marriage), etc. This rapid data collection tools will support analysis of the back to school success, identify children at risk, and inform good practices for the September back to school campaign.

UNICEF continues to provide technical support to government institutions at the national and the sub-national level, as well as material support. In particular, UNICEF is supporting the integration of health pandemics such as COVID19 into the National Risk and Vulnerability Reduction Strategy for the education sector, which was presented for finalization at the annual review at the end of June.

As part of the new Education Cannot Wait (Emergency Response Fund) Phase 4 allocation, a selection process for implementing partners has been launched for a total amount of USD 4 million. These funds will mainly address emergency education needs in emergency areas and new needs resulting from COVID-19 pandemic, in particularly for pre-school and secondary education. UNICEF will focus its share of these funds in Diffa and Maradi, with particular attention to children with disabilities.

In terms of coordination, the Education cluster continued to hold regular back-to-school follow-up meetings. Around 95% of students have been reported as having returned back to school following the reopening. A significant gap in terms of number of school materials (hygiene and protection materials, etc..) remains UNICEF and partners continue to analyze the situation in line with the COVID19 response plan to ensure a safe learning environment.

## **Child protection**

UNICEF continues to provide technical support and guidance to the Regional Directorates for child protection 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.

**Maradi:** In the last two weeks, 14 talibés children returning from Nigeria, were reunified with their families thanks to the support of Child Protection actors. A UNICEF partner identified, with the support of child protection village committees, 162 girls not returning to school due to various reasons, including neglect from parents, child labor in commercial activities, moving to other villages, etc. Follow-up actions are ongoing to discuss with the parents and advocate for a return to school.

**Zinder:** During the reporting period, 474 talibés children returning from Nigeria were transferred to communities with the technical support of the Regional Directorate of Child Protection (DRPE) of Zinder and the financial support of UNICEF.

**Diffa:** Child protection actors offered psychosocial support through family visits in the city of Diffa to 398 children (153 girls), with UNICEF technical and financial support. 98 children as well as 14 social workers from the DRPE benefitted from COVID-19 hygiene kits; 45 households were visited and sensitized on child protection against abuse, exploitation and violence in the households; 209 adults were sensitized on protection measures against COVID-19.

## **Others**

As lead Agency of Education and WASH Cluster, Child Protection SC and Nutrition Cluster / Sector, UNICEF is actively contributing to the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan review process and to the GHRP update.

Within the Multisectoral Cash Working Group, UNICEF contributed to the review and update of the existing guidance note on the implementation of cash transfer activities in the context of COVID-19, also by including donor guidance.

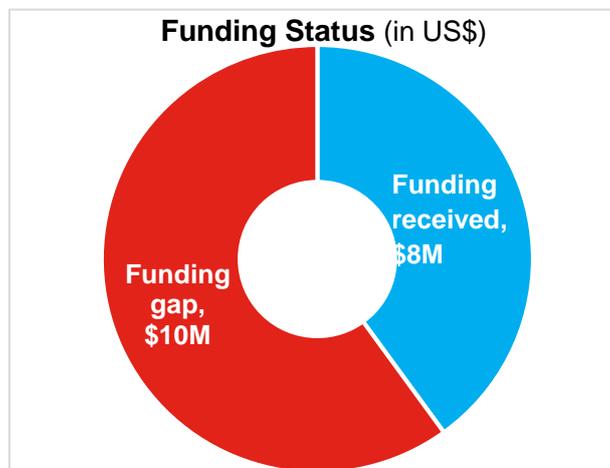
## Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

UNICEF is working with the Government of Niger and partners on the implementation of adapted modalities to ensure the continuation of essential nutrition services at health facility and community level. UNICEF is supporting the roll-out of an adapted communication strategy with COVID-19 specific Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) messages. These messages are disseminated through social media and local radio channels. UNICEF continued to lead the technical preparation of the upcoming national nutrition survey using the SMART methodology. The survey is planned to be carried out from August to September 2020. A specific guideline on the implementation of this survey in the context of Covid-19 has been developed with UNICEF support, with an emphasis on IPC measures during the different stages of the survey. Furthermore, UNICEF and other partners are working with the Ministry of Public Health to respond to the Polio and Measles epidemics in the context of COVID 19.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

The UNICEF Response Plan for COVID-19 amounts to 17,419,599 USD. Funding received so far amounts to about 8 M USD, leaving a funding gap for the Niger COVID-19 response of 60 % at the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2020.

Since the start of the crisis, UNICEF has used its own resources to support the government in its first steps. This is an opportunity to thank the donors and partners of UNICEF who have mobilized flexible funds for the children's agenda in Niger. Subsequently, UNICEF was able to count on the commitment of partners such as the Education Cannot Wait fund, the Global Partnership for Education, USAID, the CERF, the World Bank, the Netherlands and German cooperation (BMZ).



## External Media

UNICEF carried out a series of communication initiatives that highlight UNICEF support over the reporting period.

- **Virtual field trip with donors in coordination with PFP:** <https://weshare.unicef.org/Folder/2AM408P7F37P>
- **The Guardian Newspaper:** Photographing the pandemic: Discretion saves lives: quick cleans and 'Hotel' : [https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/jun/19/discretion-saves-lives-quick-cleans-and-hotel-quarantine-in-niamey?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb&fbclid=IwAR0H4r94NoplajNug7ZcY35kQ7rXHNqybuJU2XZurGQPtPL\\_7kAF-KJlvCY](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/jun/19/discretion-saves-lives-quick-cleans-and-hotel-quarantine-in-niamey?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR0H4r94NoplajNug7ZcY35kQ7rXHNqybuJU2XZurGQPtPL_7kAF-KJlvCY)
- **Publication of a photo essay on migrant children in time of Covid-19 on UNICEF global channel:** <https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/niger-returning-home-isnt-option>
- **Public advocacy around children in conflict with the law:** Children behind bars: protecting children in conflict with the law: <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/children-behind-bars-0>

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## Annex A

### 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	15,120,480
# of people who participate in COVID-19 engagement actions	17,156	9,710
# of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through establishes feedback mechanisms.	1,000,000	137,000
<b>WASH and IPC</b>		
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	300,000	59,988
# of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	2,500	-
# of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	1,500	650
<b>Health</b>		
# of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases	200	76
<b>Nutrition</b>		
# of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	396,539	132,909
<b>Education</b>		
# of children supported with distance/home-based learning	1,000,000	-
<b>Child Protection and GBV</b>		
# of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	21,000	1,608
<b>Social Protection</b>		
# of households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	-	-

## Annex B

### Funding Status

Sector	Funding requirements	Funds available	Funding gap \$	Gap %
C4D / RCCE	2,500,000	1,496,678	1,003,322	40%
WASH & IPC	4,000,000	1,299,920	2,700,080	68%
Nutrition	1,400,000	300,000	1,100,000	79%
Health <sup>1</sup>	2,636,672	3,854,716	0	0%
Child Protection	1,852,000	-	1,852,000	100%
Education	4,080,927	1,209,577	2,871,350	70%
Social Protection	200,000	-	200,000	100%
Social Research	200,000	-	200,000	100%
Coordination and support capacity	550,000	27,889	522,111	95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,419,599</b>	<b>8,188,780</b>	<b>10,448,863</b>	<b>60%</b>

<sup>1</sup> The UNICEF Response Plan for NIGER will be also updated; for instance, the overall funding requirements for health has to be updated.