

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Reported COVID-19 cases increased by 1,356 within the reporting period. As of 8 May, there are 3,526 recorded cases of COVID-19 across the country. Lagos, Kano, Federal Capital Territory, Borno, Gombe, Katsina and Bauchi recorded the highest number of cases new cases within the period under review and are responsible for 75 per cent of confirmed cases in the country. Of the total admitted, 601 cases have been discharged and 107 deaths have been recorded. 23,835 tests have been carried out across the country with 34 states and the Federal capital Territory (FCT) having reported at least one confirmed case.

The easing of a federal lockdown on Federal Capital Territory, Lagos and Ogun states commenced 4 May. The reopening of the economy will span over a six-week period; however, the first two weeks will determine whether the process will be continued or reversed. Some key guidelines were issued with respect to public places, these include mandatory wearing of face masks, adherence to temperature checks, strict handwashing and use of sanitizers, observance of physical distancing and ban on public gathering. Passenger flights (both national and international) and interstate travels also remained banned.

Reports of protests in some parts of the country over lockdown measures and treatment centres. Arrests were recorded for violations of social distancing measures and not wearing masks in public. The Nigerian government proposed an Infectious Diseases Act which outlines regulations on quarantining, vaccination and other preventative measures for COVID-19 however civil society groups are concerned it infringes on human rights.

UNICEF's COVID-19 response

RCCE/C4D

UNICEF support focused on the capacity building of the state facilitators in 17 States. This activity will cascade down to local government facilitators, voluntary community mobilizers (VCMs) to enhance their knowledge and skills on risk communication and community engagement activities for COVID-19 preparedness and response. Airing of jingles is ongoing on radio and television including the dissemination of messages on COVID-19. In conjunction with Bayero University and Kano FM Radio Station, UNICEF has produced an additional four radio jingles targeting social distancing recommendations especially during the month of the Ramadan.

UNICEF supported the formal take-off of the use of public information vans to broadcast COVID-19 information in selected communities and neighbourhoods. In Kano State, the health editors and health correspondents were engaged on correct and appropriate coverage of health issues, with focus on COVID-19. Digital platforms such as WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook continue to promote messages through short videos, dramatized skits and infographics on essential practices such as stigma reduction, physical and social distancing, staying at home and handwashing with soap.

North-east C4D response

UNICEF produced audio materials for use on the radio; jingles were played at 42 key times airing on BRTV and Peace FM in Hausa and Kanuri in Borno and through mobile announcements which can move freely every Monday and Thursday in 10 LGAs of Borno. 3,439 Volunteer Community Mobilisers (VCMs) in Borno and Yobe are making wider use of the telephone tree in order to maintain contact with their community families and providing key messaging on COVID-19, social distancing and staying at home. Religious leaders in Borno and Yobe are actively engaged in the COVID-19 response, with over 3,300 Imams and Pastors in Borno and Yobe states sensitised on signs and symptoms as well as prevention.

Health

UNICEF continues to provide technical support to the Presidential Task Force and the NCDC. Support is being provided to develop a concept note for the Islamic Development Bank for support towards strengthening Nigeria's response to COVID-19. Priority areas for investment include strengthening surveillance and testing capacity, risk communication and infection prevention and control measures at facility and community levels.

Situation in Numbers



3,526 COVID-19 confirmed cases (8 May)

107 deaths



46,000,000 Children affected by COVID-19



US\$ 65 M funding required

UNICEF is also supporting in the development of:

- Training materials for capacity building activities enlisted in NCDC's Incident Action Plan;
- Recruitment of surge staff/volunteers to support the daily monitoring of returning Nigerians expected to arrive in Lagos from Dubai, UK and New York;
- Scaling-up of testing capacities across the country. Currently 21 labs are functional, with a capacity of over 3000 tests per day; and
- Technical support in drafting the SOP for GeneXpert machines to be used to increase testing capacity.

On case management, UNICEF supported the development of an interim guideline for home care for confirmed COVID-19 cases. The process of creating an inventory of PPEs in the Federal Tertiary Health Institutions is ongoing to ascertain the need/gaps for restock of PPEs for case management. UNICEF is supporting ongoing efforts to digitalize trainings on case management for healthcare workers to facilitate virtual trainings.

In response to the surge in positive cases in Kano, UNICEF is supporting the state in the overall response including conducting intense IPC trainings for health care workers. In Ondo and Oyo state, UNICEF supported surveillance activities through training of State and LGA Surveillance officers and engagement of community leaders and other stakeholders in border communities to support surveillance measures.

North-east Health response

In Adamawa State, UNICEF coordinated an intensive training on IPC in four supported IDP Camp clinics. 57 health workers and attendants were trained on key infection, prevention and control measures to be put in place at health facilities in camps. In Borno State, 37 health workers were trained on case identification, referral and Infection Prevention and Control. 358 PHC clients were sensitized on mode of transmission of COVID-19, common signs and symptoms, and preventive measures.

Nutrition

A total of 379 health facilities (Anambra, Bayelsa, Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Jigawa, Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Kebbi, Ondo, Osun, Nasarawa, Niger Sokoto, Zamfara) are offering community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) services with modifications in the context of COVID-19. The modifications include limited client flow, sitting arrangements to respect physical distancing at the health facilities during nutrition services, expansion of clinic time to stagger caregivers and provision of two weekly supply of ready to use therapeutic foods (RUTF). Daily remote monitoring of activities has been on-going at facilities using telephone calls and WhatsApp.

25,086 children 6-59 months were admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Anambra, Bayelsa, Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Jigawa, Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Kebbi, Ondo, Osun, Nasarawa, Niger, Sokoto and Zamfara in March and April. While 69,234 caregivers of children aged 0-23 months were reached with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) messages aiming to protect the practice of breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 through national communication campaigns.

In Enugu, Benue, Rivers, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Niger and Nassarawa UNICEF developed IYCF messages as jingles, video skits, picture cards, posters. Jigawa state has adapted inter-active radio and TV programmes by incorporating necessary Infection Prevention and Control measures in COVID-19 context to the airing of jingles on recommended breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices. Current transportation challenges faced by mother and caregivers due to high costs is being discussed with National Union of Road Transportation workers (NUTRW). UNICEF supported the government and partners to develop a COVID-19 Food and Nutrition Response Plan. The plan was released last week and is being adapted by some states - Delta, Enugu, Ebonyi and Rivers with UNICEF field office support

North-east Nutrition response

UNICEF provided 278 health facilities with integrated nutrition services in Borno and Yobe and reached 30,738 SAM children 6 – 59 months with CMAM since March out of which 5,840 SAM children were treated in April. 170 health workers and 243,243 community nutrition mobilizers were trained by nutrition sector partners in Borno State on Mother/Family MUAC and on COVID-19 IPC strategies. Orientation on mother MUAC screening approach was provided to 9,418 caregivers (M: 992 and F: 8,426) in Borno and Yobe.

56,569 caregivers received infant young child feeding (IYCF) counselling since March out of which 10,004 caregivers were reached in April and 6,946 children received micro-nutrient powder (MNP) in the month of April 2020.

WASH

Hygiene Promotion and Distribution of IEC materials

IEC materials (including 87,216 COVID-19 prevention posters and two billboards) in multiple languages for risk communication on COVID-19 were distributed across several Local Government Areas (LGA) in Rivers, Bauchi, Plateau, Kaduna, Kebbi, Zamfara and Sokoto states and were placed in critical places such as hospitals, markets, public offices and other public places. The distributions and placements were carried out through the respective state Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agencies (RUWASSAs), LGAs WASH units and rapid response teams.

In Rivers, Plateau and Ekiti states, handwashing sensitization campaigns were carried out through small group discussions, house to house visits and the use of town announcers with motorized public address units while observing appropriate safe distances and other COVID-19 prevention recommended best practices, reaching at least 250,000 persons.

Jingles on COVID-19 awareness and prevention developed in collaboration with C4D continue to be aired daily in English, Pidgin, Hausa, Igbo, Kanuri and Yoruba languages by various radio stations across 16 states¹.

Provision of WASH Services

In Plateau state, 19,500 persons were provided with access to safe water through the provision of 39 water facilities in communities in Kanke, Riyom and Shendam LGAs. In collaboration with RUWASSA, 130 Handwashing stations with soap were provided in public places in Kaduna state to enable 1,300 people practice proper hand hygiene.

Coordination and Technical Support to Government

UNICEF provided technical support to the Kaduna state RUWASSA in conducting WASH assessments in COVID-19 isolation centres, while in Sokoto state, continuous advocacy with the government resulted in the release of funds to provide 710 handwashing stations in public places in Sokoto town and other LGAs.

North-east WASH response

131 Hygiene Promotion volunteers working with two partners reached 14,221 people with key messages on COVID-19 prevention and control in Gwoza LGA (6,713), Dikwa LGA (858), Jere LGA (4,479), Konduga LGA (853) and Maiduguri Metropolitan City (MMC) (1,318), while supporting handwashing campaigns at border points of entry and check points in Yola North LGA in Adamawa state.

UNICEF provided IEC materials of about 175 posters to RUWASSA and distributed to two LGAs in Adamawa state (80) and Gwoza LGA in Borno state (95). In collaboration with the IPC pillar team, UNICEF supported in training health workers in IDP camps in Fufere LGA on COVID-19 prevention through proper hand hygiene practices.

Education

UNICEF is providing continued technical assistance to Federal Ministry of Education and State Governments of Education in delivery of alternate home-based learning through radio, television, online and take-home learning resources.

A systematic schedule featuring all the core subjects was developed and materials were mapped and contextualized for radio and television programmes. Thus far, with technical support from UNICEF, nearly 9.3 million children in 22 states (Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Borno, Yobe, Kaduna, Niger, Nasarawa, Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba, Zamfara, Sokoto, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ekiti, Ondo, Edo, Enugu and Bayelsa) are engaged in learning and other academic activities through radio, television and individual learning resources. Small scale assessment tools are being developed to measure the progress in learning to ensure continuity of learning and skill acquisition of children. Remote monitoring tool such as google forms are operational to monitor and measure the progress COVID-19 education response plan.

Support was provided in development of communication and education materials such as leaflets, audio and visual materials, KIDS books, to be disseminated to over 10 million children across 36 states and FCT for prevention and containment of COVID-19 pandemic.

North-east Education response

Technical support was provided to states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa on the finalisation of Education Sector COVID-19 contingency plan. In coherence with the education sector contingency plan, states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, are delivering radio learning programmes reaching out over 1.9 million children including children from IDP and host communities.

Child Protection

The number of *Almajiri* children (all boys) placed in temporary shelters, as part of state governments' COVID-19 risk mitigating measures, continues to rise to 852 (including 631 in Kaduna, 180 in Gombe, 221 in Yobe). Of the 631 *Almajiri* children at the Kaduna shelter, 55 children tested positive for COVID-19 while results for another 22 are pending. So far, all children are responding well to treatment, with two discharged. 31 *Almajiri* children who were screened at the Gombe shelter tested negative to COVID-19. While under the 14-day mandatory quarantine period, children are provided with essential supplies including food and non-food items by the states. UNICEF continues to support the training of states and partners training of social workers to document the children using mobile CPIMS and other tools for comprehensive case management including FTR and PSS support.

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA), with technical support from UNICEF, is coordinating the implementation of the Technical Notes on COVID-19 and children deprived of their liberty and the Presidential

1 Edo, Ekiti, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Bauchi, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Ebonyi, Anambra, Cross River, Borno, Yobe

directives on Decongestion of Correctional facilities in Nigeria. To date, 57 children (53 boys, 4 girls) have been released and documented in Ogun, Benue, Cross River and Adamawa states. Over 1,000 children are estimated to be deprived of their liberty in various correctional facilities including borstals, remand and correctional homes.

UNICEF continues to provide services to prevent and respond to child victims of violence. In Lagos, 18 cases of violence were reported this week (10 abandoned children placed in alternative care homes, four cases of physical abuse and four cases of sexual abuse). In Sokoto, as most cases of sexual abuse are being handled by the Sokoto State Hisbah Commission (an Islamic-based law enforcement service) due to their efficiency and the trust that local communities place in them, UNICEF facilitated a virtual training for 10 members focusing on child protection and case management in the COVID-19 context. The training improved their knowledge and skills on child-sensitive standards for handling and documenting cases involving children to enhance their response to incidences of abuse as well as to increase collaboration with other service providers.

National Orientation Agency (NOA) community mobilization officers (COMOs) were sensitized and trained across four LGAs of Ebonyi State on integrated child protection focusing on ending violence against children, FGM, promoting birth registration and information on COVID-19 prevention and risk mitigation. Trained and equipped COMOs will conduct community sensitization and awareness campaigns in line with COVID-19 preventive measures.

North-east Child Protection response

84 children (49 girls, 35 boys) in alternative care arrangements; 3,154 children (1,495 girls, 1,659 boys); 575 community members (349 women, 226 men) and three GBV survivors (all girls) were reached with MHPSS and sensitized on COVID-19 preventive measures. Handwashing demonstrations occurred across child friendly spaces (CFS) and communities in Bama, Konduga, Biu, Hawul and Mafa LGAs.

Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

UNICEF continues to support the federal and state governments in the delivery of essential services. Vaccines have been received in the country facilitated through the UNICEF Supply Division. UNICEF is supporting the government in the development of a national measles plan for 2021 and forecasting vaccines and immunization supplies for the next year. Within the ongoing CARAMAL project, funds being repurposed for procurement of PPEs for community health workers. UNICEF is providing technical inputs to national primary health care development agency (NPHCDA) in the development of ICCM guidelines in the context of COVID-19, that will be incorporated in the training of community resource persons.

UNICEF is working closely with State Governments to conduct virtual coordination meetings to review vaccine stock, uptake of immunization and other MNCH services and strategize on proffering solutions to identified challenges during PHC service delivery. Akure FO supported the Ondo State Ministry of Health to conduct the April data validation exercise to collate and validate service data from primary and secondary health facilities in the State, while maintaining proper hygiene measures and physical distancing.

275 parents (168 women, 107 men) and 398 children (184 girls, 214 boys) accessing 11 UNICEF-supported CFS centres within MMC and Jere were reached with hygiene promotion and life skills sessions including practical demonstration of hand-handwashing and social distancing. 41 staff from four UNICEF implementing partners were trained on GBV prevention, risk mitigation and case management, simplified guidelines and referral pathways. 23 victims of GBV (8 girls, 15 women) were reached with support services including referrals for healthcare, counselling, family mediation and COVID-19 preventive measures.

A total of 31,693 persons (559 boys, 631 girls, 10,919 women, 15,483 men, and 4,102 who indicated neither their age nor gender) in Nigeria were reached with PSEA messages through the U-Report platform and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) posters on how to access safe and secure reporting channels for allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. Of this total, 15,649 persons were from conflict affected Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, while the remaining were reached across the nation. In addition, the PSEA reporting channels received 33 calls and 12 messages from the dedicated phone line and 11 email communications from the dedicated email account from Adamawa, Bauchi, Zamfara, Yobe, Delta, Benue and Borno states. Most of the callers sought for more information about PSEA, while a few reported cases of VAC and GBV and were referred to relevant services, while others called regarding accessing humanitarian aid.

Supply

On IPC supplies, the following commodities have been delivered to NCDC: 29,000 hand sanitizers, 25,400 biohazard bags, 50 colour coded waste bins, 30 mopping buckets with sticks, 40 packs of detergent, 30 backpack sprayers (each with a capacity 12 litres), 44 pairs of rubber boots, 50 (10 litre) buckets with tap, 2000 bottles of liquid soap (1 litre each) and 250 Hypochlorite. 2300 containers of chlorine (HTH, 70%, 1 litre each) are ready for delivery to NCDC and 23,500 additional hand sanitizers are in transit for delivery to NCDC. Procurement of other PPE items in ongoing.

Akure FO also supported the State Nutrition Officers on guidelines for counselling in the context of COVID-19. Health facilities are now providing caregivers with two-weekly supply of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF) for treating severe acute malnutrition to reduce frequency of visits to the facilities during the pandemic.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The Nigeria CO has developed an updated response plan outlining gaps and needs, COVID-19 proofing measures and response activities across all sections. USD 65 million is requested to support the government to respond to COVID-19 and reach an estimated 20 million Nigerians. ECHO Nigeria has provided UNICEF with 1.2 million Euros to support in risk communication and life-saving health and WASH supplies.

External Communication

UNICEF has aligned with global campaigns on COVID-19 and has been disseminating information through its social media network ([Twitter](#): [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)).

- A story highlighting the lifesaving work of health workers in saving newborns in hard-to-reach areas was published for International Day of the Midwife. The story was featured on UNICEF global channels as part of the “Every Child Alive” campaign.
- Social media posts this week focused on eliminating stigma for COVID-19, the importance of children continuing education and how parents can help to create a sense of normalcy for children.
- A press release highlighting the risks faced by displaced children in the COVID-19 crisis was issued to media and received widespread media coverage, including a television interview by the UNICEF Nigeria Rep on TVC.
- A social media pack was created for the NCDC to assist in NCDC amplification of child rights messaging in its communications.

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Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2020 target	Total results ²
Risk Communication and Community Engagement		
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	22,000,000	17,595,190
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	22,000	18,855
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/ clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms ³	22,000,000	601,586
WASH and IPC		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	1,340,782	223,384
Health		
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential new-born care, immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses and HIV care in UNICEF supported facilities.	6,061,266	1,543,758
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	780,586	7,905
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	20,000	18,136
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases	8,548	13,690
Nutrition		
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM).	68,009	-
Number of caregivers of children aged 0-23 months reached with messages aiming to protect breastfeeding in the context of COVID through national communication campaigns.	656,000	135,818
Education		
Number of children supported with distance/homebased learning	17,500,000	9,300,000
Number of children reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	20,000,000	10,000,000
Child Protection and GBV		
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	29,500	715
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support ³	605,000	3,749
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	498,067	31,693
Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on VAC/HP/GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors ⁴	1091	41
Social Protection		
Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs	120,000	-

² Results are cumulative from March 2020

³ Indicator broken down to 5,000 CP and 2,000,000 Education and 100,000 CP and 500,000 Education (NE)

⁴ Indicator broken down to 250 CP and 500 Education and 221 CP and 150 Education (NE)