




Situation in Numbers

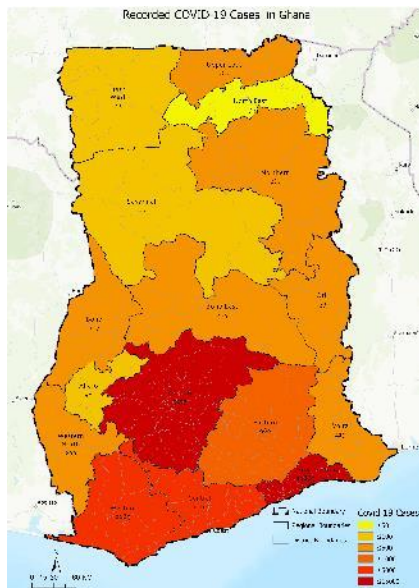
 35,501 confirmed COVID-19 cases  
182 Deaths  
32,096 Recoveries

 Approximately 8.2 Million Children affected by COVID-19 school closures

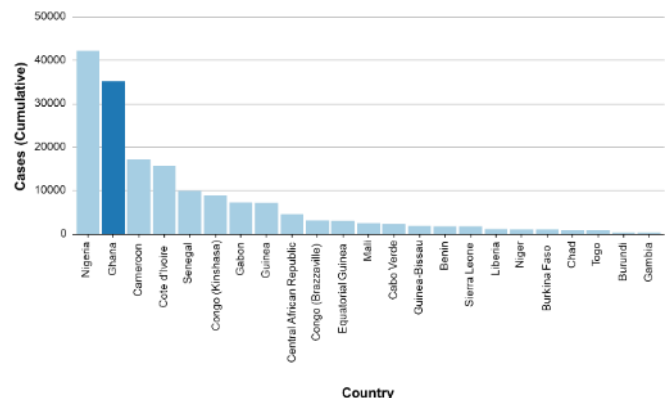
 US\$ 5.8 million funding required

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Ghana continues to rank second amongst countries in the West and Central Africa region most impacted by the COVID-19. In the number of cumulative cases in the WHO Africa region, Ghana is number three.



Three regions have maintained their position as having the highest number of COVID-19 cases in Ghana – Greater Accra, Ashanti and Western Regions.



As of the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, the number of confirmed cases stands at 35,501, over 10,000 new cases from the previous fortnight report. There are 3,223 active cases, and 182 people have died from COVID-19.

As of July 20<sup>th</sup>, over 1,186 children (under 18 years) were affected by the virus (51 per cent female). Among them, 10.5 per cent were children under five.

The President of the Republic of Ghana, in his 14<sup>th</sup> Update on measures taken against the spread of COVID-19, announced further easing of restrictions, including in relation to public transport, churches, mosques and other public sites. Incentives of free water and electricity have been extended. Over 375,000 students have started writing the West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

## UNICEF's COVID-19 response

In support of the Government of Ghana's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF coordinates with the United Nations Country Team, including the UNRCO and WHO, Development Partners, INGOs and civil society organizations, to protect children and their families from exposure to the virus, minimize mortality and support the continuity of services across all social sectors.

### Health

UNICEF supported the Ghana Health Service to train additional 1,000 frontline health service providers in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in the Western North and Western regions during the reporting period, bringing the total number of health workers trained in IPC to 10,300.

UNICEF continued to provide technical support in collaboration with the GPEI country team and the EPI to prepare for the resumption of immunisation campaigns against the outbreak of the Polio Virus Type 2. As part of efforts to strengthen the immunisation cold chain system, through the Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform (CCEOP), GAVI / UNICEF provided technical assistance and procured supplies.



UNICEF Representative in Ghana, Government Officials from the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service and Staff from DENG Ltd, handing over GAVI-supported cold chain equipment, 23 July 2020 - ©UNICEF Ghana / 2020 / Kokroko

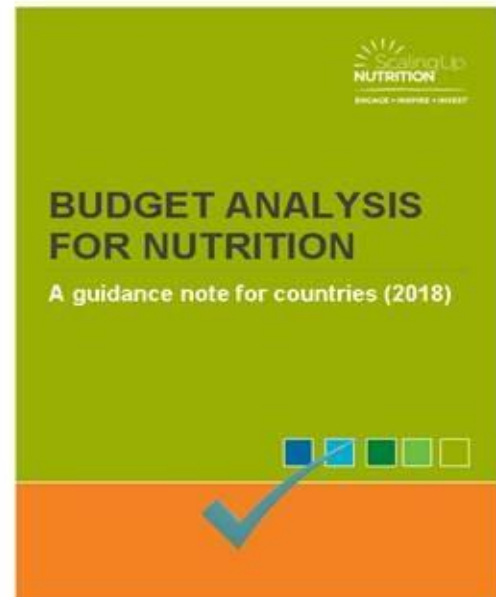


With funds from GAVI and the Government of Ghana, over 2,343 pieces of immunisation cold chain equipment were handed over for installation under the CCEOP project.

### Nutrition

UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, is supporting the Ghana Health Service to launch a one-year campaign to improve breastfeeding and quality of diets of young children in Ghana during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. The campaign dubbed "Start Right. Feed Right – from birth to two years" will be launched by H.E the First Lady of Ghana on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, during the World Breastfeeding Week.

A total of 32 health workers were trained by the Ghana Health Service, using the Combined WHO/UNICEF Infant and Young Child (IYCF) Course aimed at improving the knowledge, skills and competencies of key service providers in the context of COVID-19.



The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Guidance serves as resource material for the budget tracking exercise.

In order to generate evidence to support advocacy for additional domestic resources to nutrition, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) commenced a nutrition budget tracking exercise. UNICEF and other partners are providing technical support.



## Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

Enhanced risk communication, disinfection, inspection and monitoring for compliance of the Government's COVID-19 measures in public spaces was sustained in the outbreak epicentres of Accra, Tema, Obuasi and Kumasi. The initiative also continues to target the most vulnerable groups and influencers.

Within the reporting period, environmental health staff reached an additional 36,200 people through this campaign mainly focusing on handwashing, social distancing, technical assistance for effective disinfection of areas, as well as coughing and sneezing etiquette.

Under the on-going collaboration with the National Board for Small Scale Business and Industry (NBSSI) to build technical and business skills of MSMEs in soap-making and the fabrication handwashing facilities, the enrolment of the first batch of candidates is in progress. The initiative is designed to support the scaling up of infection prevention and control across the country.



*Fuseini in Taha, Tamale Metropolis, using a pedal handwashing facility provided by UNICEF ©UNICEFGhana/2020/Buta*

## Education

UNICEF's support to the Ghana Education Service has ensured the completion of the initial development of the radio programme scripts for all the levels. The process was collaborative to ensure linkages between the different levels from KG to JHS3, which is critical for smooth transitioning.

The mainstreaming of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in the distance learning



*Mr. Yakubu Nabdow, Ghana Education Service Circuit Supervisor and his colleague planning for the next stage of radio discussions in Kunguri, Tolon District © UNICEFGhana /2020/ Buta*

programme, to support of children with special needs, including those with disabilities, is ongoing. As part of these efforts, key technical officials across the country discussed gaps for the integration of the content.

The field work for the rapid risk assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on the education system and learners was completed. According to the research team, responses have been positive and will enrich the analysis, to inform strategies and programmes.

A 25-member Technical Working Group across Government and non-Government entities has been mobilized to review the draft digital Literacy package, which seeks to address the challenges learners face on-line as they learn via distance means. Technical inputs are being incorporated into the package for field testing (testing usability, comprehension, appearance, relevance, age appropriateness etc.) on the end users, including learners (KG-SHS), caregivers/parents, teachers and educational administrators at the national and sub-national levels. The package, when completed, will complement the pre-tertiary ICT curriculum to address all gaps mapped as part of the development process.

## Child Protection

The Ghanaians Against Child Abuse (GACA) campaign continues to reach out to people with messages on COVID-19, child protection and good parenting, including messages from traditional and religious leaders. The movement reached a total of 329,446 people through GACA social media platforms (an increase of 301,113 from the last

reporting period). The number of followers has also increased from 31,011 to 31,898.



Child protection monitoring by the regional team. Members observed #COVID19 protocols during a visit to the Chief's palace at Appiatse in Prestea Huni-Valley of the Western Region. The chief discussed the positive impacts of the community sensitization to the people of Appiatse.



Government and NGO partners across the country also engaged various communities with messages on COVID-19. A total of 26,652 people (5,042 girls, 3,298 boys, 9,903 women and 8,409 men) received information on COVID-19 prevention and responsible parenting with emphasis on child online safety, good and bad behaviours, child labour, adolescent pregnancy, sexual and gender based violence, and community-based psychosocial support services.



*The Community in the Wa Municipality receives information on COVID-19 ©UNICEFGhana/2020/UNICEF.*

Cumulatively, UNICEF and its partners reached a total of 508,691 people in over 500 communities across 51 districts in 15 regions. These sessions have been very useful in providing community members with vital information on COVID-19 prevention and helped clear doubts and myths pertaining to the virus. Beneficiaries of these interventions have been encouraged to observe the protocols to keep safe and not stigmatize COVID-19 patients. Tools used to engage community members included COVID-19

prevention and mitigation posters and child protection community facilitation toolkits.

The teams encountered some child protection related cases and referred them to appropriate agencies for necessary remedial actions. During this period, more cases were also reported to the Department of Social Welfare in UNICEF-supported districts, due to the relaxation of restrictions. A total of 155 cases were recorded, including five child trafficking cases, 20 children placed in family-based care, and juveniles in contact with the law.

### Social Protection

UNICEF continues to work with the national Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) cash transfer programme to obtain feedback on the extraordinary payments and the COVID-adapted delivery modalities. UNICEF supported the LEAP Unit and National Civil Society Organization Platform on Social Protection to conduct independent monitoring across the country. Between 7 - 17 July 2020, members of the Platform visited 32 communities in 16 districts in the 16 regions to collect more in-depth qualitative information on the payments from participants, communities and district staff.



*Anita Ammadi, 26, blind LEAP beneficiary talks about her experiences with the LEAP payments - ©UNICEFGhana/2020/Anankra*

UNICEF, along with other development partners, has also been supporting the LEAP Unit to prepare for the second payment with adapted delivery in the context of COVID-19. This payment, which began the last week of July, is expected to reach 322,000 households, with social distancing and health safety measures in place.



## Social Policy

UNICEF and the World Bank joined the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) to launch a new report on the impact of COVID-19 on households and children. This survey is based on phone interviews with 3,000 households and 2,000 caregivers. According to the report, more than half of households interviewed reduced their food consumptions to cope with COVID-19. Twenty seven percent of children missed scheduled vaccinations as a result of mobility restrictions. One out of five households admitted increased physical punishments against children and more than 29 per cent of households felt more irritated with children after the occurrence of COVID-19. Subsequently, several thematic reports will be produced based on the data from this first round of the survey. The GSS will start the next round of data collection in early August.

UNICEF and SEND Ghana successfully advocated that the Ministry of Finance maintain the social spending for essential services, especially health and education and increase the coverage of social protection during the mid-year budget review. The press release on the statement was well covered by the media and social media.

## Communication

Newspaper features profiling the work of Environmental health workers with communities to keep their environments open defecation free were published reaching over 100,000 people. The articles shared how these unsung heroes were bringing skills learned from UNICEF to make communities safe from COVID-19. In the junior issue of the paper, children shared their experiences on the importance of handwashing. The focus of these profile stories was to show how children are aware of the COVID 19 protocols and how they comply with them after activities such as playing.

For World Youth Skills Day, U-report focused on understanding the skills that young people need to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. It also focused on the impact of the pandemic on young people, such as increased unemployment – especially for young people graduating this year – and a widening of the digital access gap. Thirty-seven percent of young people polled admitted to lacking digital skills, while 42% have no knowledge of skills

and capacity building programmes and opportunities in Ghana.

UNICEF highlighted the inspiring initiatives of young people during this pandemic to mark World



Youth Skills Day on social media. These ranged from young entrepreneurs addressing environmental pollution and climate change, to producing reusable sanitary materials for adolescent girls. UNICEF continued to highlight key messages on birth registration for the #NoNameCampaign and misinformation for the #PAUSE campaign across platforms. All these messages reached over 2.3 million people on all platforms.



## Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

UNICEF and partners have been focusing on data collection and analysis, the promotion of Infection Prevention and Control, disease surveillance, WASH in health facilities and schools, ending open defecation, and promoting adequate nutrition. With support from GAVI, preparations are on-going to resume the polio immunization campaign in the context of COVID-19 (planned in September).

UNICEF has also built on its existing programmes to support continued access to basic services, including through the development of innovative learning tools in the context of remote/distance learning, as well as prevention of abuse, violence and exploitation, and child protection system strengthening. UNICEF also worked with key partners such as the MoGCSP, the World Bank and DFID to promote social protection for the most vulnerable (e.g. through advance LEAP payments).

In all areas, COVID-19 interventions are being adapted to ongoing UNICEF programmes, in line with the humanitarian – development nexus. In addition, UNICEF continues to lead the UN Country Team Programme Criticality Assessments, which identify life-saving interventions and precautions to be taken.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF continues to coordinate closely with the UN Country Team in Ghana on joint programme planning and implementation. SDG and World Bank (PEF) funds were received to support the COVID-19 response. As part of the Global UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), UNICEF in Ghana appealed for US\$ 18.2 million to facilitate continued access to essential, quality and inclusive social services and the protection of children and families affected by the pandemic.



To date, thanks to the support of development partners and private donors such as DFID, USAID, the Government of Japan, China International Development and Cooperation Agency, Standard Chartered and Mastercard Foundation, UNICEF received US\$ 12.3 million. Other development cooperation agencies and partners such as the Netherlands, Global Affairs Canada and KOICA have expressed solidarity to support the delivery of results for children across the country. A total of US\$ 5.8 Million are still required to fill the remaining gap (32 per cent) in ensuring a comprehensive and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic, for vulnerable children, young people and families in Ghana.

### External Media (Links)

<https://www.graphic.com.gh/junior-graphic/junior-news/importance-handwashing-ii.html>

<https://www.graphic.com.gh/features/features/ghana-news-no-more-open-defecation-at-dodome-teleafenu-community-embraces-community-led-total-sanitation-clts.html>

### For more information contact:

**Anne-Claire Dufay**

UNICEF Representative, Ghana  
Tel: +233 55 675 1722  
Email: adufay@unicef.org

**Fiachra McAsey**

UNICEF Deputy Representative, Ghana  
Tel: +233 55 255 8218  
Email: fmcasey@unicef.org

**Eulette Ewart**

UNICEF Communication Manager, Ghana  
Tel: +233 24 433 4998  
Email: eewart@unicef.org

## Annex A - Summary of Programme Results

### UNICEF in Ghana

Quantitative Indicators Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2020 target	Total results
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</b>		
RCCE Indicator 1: Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services.	8,000,000	24,597,990
RCCE Indicator 2: Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions.	1,800,000	1,731,745
RCCE Indicator 3: Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms.	200,000	159,204
<b>WASH and IPC</b>		
IPC Indicator 1: Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services.	200,000	308,722
IPC Indicator 2: Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).	2,512	6,031
IPC Indicator 3: Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).	8,800	9,300
<b>Health</b>		
Continuity of Health Care Indicator 1: Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women.	10,000	1,500
Continuity of Health Care Indicator 2: Number of children & women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal, postnatal, HIV & GBV* care in UNICEF supported facilities.	403,420	521,709
<b>Nutrition</b>		
Continuity of Health Care Indicator 3: Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms.	300,000	85,708
<b>Education</b>		
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services Indicator 1: Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning.	9,177,934	6,590,201
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services Indicator 2: Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control).	42,180	0
<b>Child Protection and GBV</b>		
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services Indicator 3: Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements.	200	44 (28 girls and 16 boys)
Access to Continuous Education, Child Protection and GBV Services Indicator 4: Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support.	260,000	482,039 (Girls-109,104, Boys-96,851, Women-144,681, Men-131,093)
Access to Continuous Education, CP & GBV Services Indicator 5: Number of UNICEF personnel & partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation & referrals for survivors, including for PSEA*.	100	75
<b>Social Protection</b>		
Social Protection Indicator 1: Number of households (affected by COVID-19) receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grant for basic needs.	300,000	322,000

Qualitative Indicators	
<p>In the last reporting period, what are the top (up to 3) access issues/constraints due to COVID-19 and related response measures, as identified in feedback mechanisms from affected populations, for each of these service areas:</p>	<p><b>Responses:</b></p>
<p>(a) Health services access</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increasing number of healthcare workers diagnosed with COVID-19</li> <li>2. Mid-year review of health service data showing reduction in coverage for several immunisation antigens and other child health interventions</li> <li>3. Delays in laboratory results continue to be a challenge</li> </ol>
<p>(b) Nutrition services: (management of wasting/SAM; nutrition supplements, other services)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reports of increased number of children with severe acute malnutrition in Greater Accra</li> <li>2. Lack of supplies for management of severe acute malnutrition</li> <li>3. Reports of reduced uptake of child welfare clinic services</li> </ol>
<p>(c) Access to food</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reports of reduced household food consumption</li> <li>2. Increased food prices</li> </ol>
<p>(d) WASH</p>	<p>Government-led procurement is still constrained. UNICEF Supply team now providing leadership in procurement of high-volume supplies for PPEs and hygiene consumables.</p>
<p>(e) Education services including continuation of learning options</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Challenges in effectively engaging learners with special learning needs with the distance learning initiatives;</li> <li>2. Limited capacity at the regional and district levels within the education sector to initiate and sustain distance learning initiatives;</li> <li>3. Inadequate capacity of parent and learners on digital literacy for improved protection when learning on-line;</li> </ol>
<p>(f) Child protection related services</p>	<p>While birth registration services are being offered by Births and Deaths Registry, there appears to be a drop in the number of people bringing their children to get birth certificates especially in Greater Accra and Kumasi regions.</p>