

Situation in Numbers

(as of 26th August 2020)

43,717 confirmed COVID-19 cases

270 Deaths

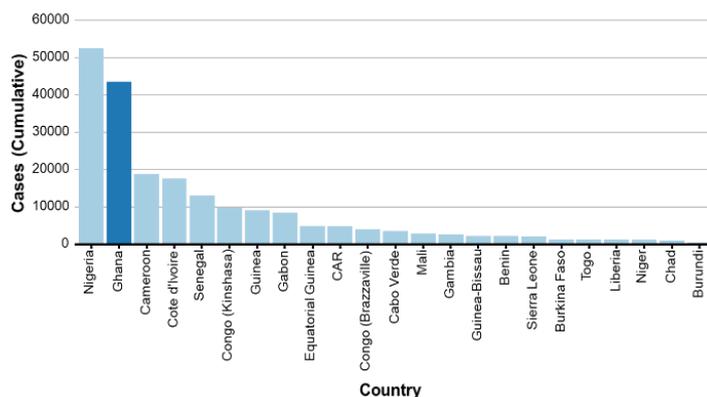
Approximately **8.2 million** Children affected by COVID-19 school closures

US\$ 5.8 million funding required

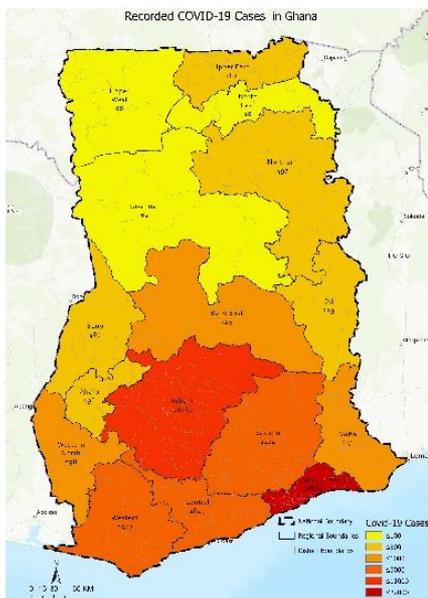


Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of 26th August, Ghana remained the second most impacted country in the West and Central African region after Nigeria, ranking fifth in the number of cumulative cases in the WHO Africa region, following South Africa, Egypt, Morocco and Nigeria. The cumulative number of people confirmed to have contracted the coronavirus in Ghana now stands at 43,717. Active cases stand at 1,325, while the case fatality rate stands at 0.61 percent, with 270 deaths.



Graph illustrating the number of people who have contracted COVID-19 across West and Central Africa Region – 2020



The regions most affected are Greater Accra (21,794 cumulative cases) and Ashanti (10,794 cumulative cases).

In his 15th address to the nation on Sunday 16th August, H.E. the President of the Republic of Ghana continued to ease COVID-19 restrictions, removing the limit on the number of people that may attend conferences and workshops. President Akufo-Addo also indicated that airports may re-open for international passengers' travel early September.

The President of the Republic of Ghana instructed the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to provide one hot meal a day to final-year Junior High School students and staff.

UNICEF's COVID-19 response

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

The UN has developed a COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) to which UNICEF is actively contributing. It comprises five pillars: 1) protecting health services and systems during the crisis; 2) protecting people; 3) economic response and recovery; 4) the macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration and 5) social cohesion and community resilience.

Health

With the support of UNICEF, the Ghana Health Service organized sensitization meetings across all of the 16 regions on quality maternal newborn and child health services in the context of COVID-19. UNICEF joined a field monitoring team that conducted a needs assessment of the nationwide Emergency Obstetrics and Newborn Care. The three days' field monitoring took place in the Volta region where health services providers across the nine districts that were visited received technical support.

During this reporting period, UNICEF also supplied maternal and newborn care equipment to the Greater Accra Health Directorate, including oxygen concentrators, continuous positive airway pressure machines, anaesthesia machine, delivery beds and phototherapy machines.



The UNICEF Representative in Ghana officially hands over maternal and newborn care equipment to the Greater Accra Health Directorate on 17 August 2020. ©UNICEF/UN8253302/ANNANKRA

The equipment will be used to support the establishment of three newborn care facilities across the Greater Accra region, and will strengthen routine maternal and newborn care health services.

Preparations are also underway with the Ghana Health Service and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative team based in Ghana for the imminent resumption of the immunization campaign against the circulating Polio type 2 outbreak (cVDPV2).

Nutrition

Advancing the regional nutrition initiatives 'Stronger with Breastmilk Only' and 'First Foods' campaigns, UNICEF and WHO collaborated with the Ghana Health Service to launch the year-long campaign entitled '*Start Right, Feed Right - from birth to two years*'.



Staff of UNICEF, WHO, the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service during the launch of the Start Right Feed Right campaign on 6 August 2020. ©UNICEF/UN229001/PAPPOE

The national campaign was officially launched by Her Excellency the First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, Madam Rebecca Akufo-Addo and the Ministry of Health, and will be rolled out across 16 regions. It seeks to improve breastfeeding and complementary feeding in Ghana through community mobilization, skilled nutrition counselling support, and advocacy.

Businesses, media and the policy makers will be engaged to ensure relevant policies are established while prohibiting aggressive marketing of breastmilk substitutes.

To ensure the continuity of essential nutrition services, UNICEF also supported the Ghana Health Service to deliver Iron-Folate tablets to school-age girls through health facilities. A cumulative total of 300,000 girls have received the anaemia preventing Iron-Folate tablets since the beginning of the year.

Water Sanitation & Hygiene



A pedal-operated handwashing facility manufactured with UNICEF support. ©UNICEF/UN258001/BUTA

UNICEF continues to support enhanced hygiene monitoring and risk communication in the locations registering the most cases of COVID-19 in Ghana: Greater Obuasi, Accra and Kumasi metropolitan areas. During the reporting period, UNICEF and the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources commenced plans to expand the activities to the Central and Eastern Regions – areas with the second highest number of COVID-19 cases. This is in addition to the five northern regions (Savannah, Northern, North-East, Upper East and Upper West), which have been identified as particularly vulnerable areas in relation to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF continues to procure and provide personal protective equipment, handwashing facilities and other supplies. From the 1st to the 26th of August, 100 Veronica buckets were distributed in public spaces in the five northern regions (Savannah, Northern, North-East, Upper West and Upper East), targeting about 10,000 people in marketplaces, traditional chiefs' palaces and public transport parks. Funding support was also provided to the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources to procure soap, heavy & light PPEs, hand sanitizers, bleach and disinfectant, to complement ongoing activities in Greater Accra, Ashanti and Northern Regions.

Communication

UNICEF supported four civil society organizations (Dawah Academy, Behasun, RISE Ghana and the Ghana Red Cross) to hold 34 sessions of advocacy meetings with 686 community and religious leaders across 12 regions of Ghana. These meetings sought to inform and guide the leaders in relation to the dissemination of COVID-19 information during their engagement with their respective communities.

The CSOs were also able to reach 829 communities with mobile van announcements and some community education and demonstration of the construction of Tippy-Taps, as well as the correct practice of handwashing with soap under running water. An estimated 916,410 people gained new knowledge during this campaign. Another 13,355 people were reached in 22 markets of the Northern, Upper East and Central regions during education sessions with megaphones, along with amidst handwashing and face mask wearing demonstration.

The Agoos Interactive Voice Response (IVR) platform received 61,536 calls on COVID related topics from 7,557 people with 102 callers accessing the Savana Signatures reproductive health education platform for counselling on their concerns and questions.

UNICEF continues to support the government in relation to behaviour change, to prepare for the upcoming resumption of the Polio vaccination campaign (cVDPV2) in eight regions of Ghana.

To mark World Breastfeeding Day, U-Reporters were quizzed on the topic of the safety of breastfeeding during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eighty-six percent of respondents deemed it safe for a mother to breastfeed during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, 56 percent of respondents believed a mother should not breastfeed if she has or thinks she has contracted the virus.

The results helped raise awareness on the ability of mothers to breastfeed even during the pandemic on social media, in addition to other messages announcing the start of the "Start Right, Feed Right" campaign.

To mark International Youth Day, UNICEF profiled on various young people making efforts to contribute to the achievement to the SDG Global Goals. This included the first graduates from the UNICEF StartUp Lab.



UNICEF Ghana
August 12 at 4:58 PM · 🌐

Meet Akosua.
She's a software engineer and a graduate of the UNICEF Startup Lab. She has created [Medoc](#), a platform that connects patients with medical professionals around the country to help promote quality and accessible healthcare for all.
We're supporting [#YouthAction](#) to achieve the [#GlobalGoals](#).
[#YouthDay](#)
[MEST Africa African Health Innovation Centre Unicef Startup Lab](#)



Through its social media platforms, UNICEF highlighted the importance of wearing masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19 during [#WorldMaskWeek](#). This included congratulating final-year students who wore their masks as they headed to school to write their examinations.

During this reporting period, 2,577,105 people were reached with COVID-19 messages via UNICEF social platforms, of which 568, 139 people engaged with the messages through comments and reactions.

UNICEF also supported the launch a rap competition on Ghana Community Radio Network. This initiative sought to connect more than 1,000 young people across 21 community radio stations nationwide. The results from the competition will be adapted in jingles of COVID-19 targeting young people and adolescents.

Education

UNICEF's support to the Ghana Education Service (GES) to expand the content and coverage of the radio learning programme includes a range from core subjects for Kindergarten (KG) level to Junior High School (JHS) learners. Forty (40) scriptwriters have completed about 350 different

scripts, which are still being reviewed. Selected teachers who wrote scripts were identified to engage and interact effectively with learners through the radio programmes.

The play-based learning programming approach to improve early childhood education, which includes providing training and support to volunteer mothers, has been adapted to deliver parenting and gender socialization activities via weekly radio broadcasts, with UNICEF support.

This is being rolled out in two northern districts (Garu and Tolon) and complements other distance learning initiatives by the Ghana Education Service. It creates a supportive home-learning environment and provides a vehicle to communicate key messages on health and wellbeing.

The initial report of the Rapid Risk Assessment (RRA) has been completed and presented to stakeholders for their inputs. It is informing their plans in alignment with government's continued response to COVID-19 and other emergencies for collective and continuous impact in learning.



Final-year students in junior high school return to class to prepare for their final examinations.
©UNICEF/UN263880/BUTA

UNICEF has collaborated with the Guidance and Counselling (G&C) Unit of the Ghana Education Service to mobilize 20 G&C experts within academia, health, and education sectors to support the contextualization of the global Safe Schools Guidelines. Key messages are being developed on mental health and psychosocial support targeting teachers, learners, caregivers, and education administrators.

This is part of the larger preparations for school reopening and ensuring teachers teach and children learn in an environment devoid of fear. The guidelines and messages, when finalized, will be disseminated through capacity building initiatives, community sensitization, and social and traditional media.

The draft digital literacy package for pre-tertiary (KG through Senior High School) is ongoing. To ensure its user-friendliness, the content, package appearance, and language are being field tested across the Northern, Central and Southern Belts of the country, with a focus on the end-users, including teachers, head teachers, learners, caregivers and education administrators.

The development of the digital literacy package is part of the government's efforts to ensure learners are safe in the online space as well as empower caregivers on the need to support learners stay safe online, especially in times of COVID-19 where distance learning has become the norm.

As a follow-up to the two-day virtual national stakeholder engagement conference in August 2020, the Minister of Education and his Deputy established a technical working group to discuss school reopening and report by the end of September. Members include the Director-General of Ghana Education Service and his two Deputies, the Director of Pre-tertiary, Chairman of the Ghana Education Service Council, a parent, a member of the national PTA Council, Director of Schools and instructions-Ghana Education Service and a UNICEF Education Specialist. When completed, the report will serve as a guide for district level engagements to respond to their specific needs.

Child Protection

UNICEF continues to support the Ghanaians Against Child Abuse (GACA) campaign to disseminate prevention message on COVID-19 and child protection related topics.

The movement, which has been supported by H.E. the Second Lady of the Republic of Ghana, has reached a total of 1,270,956 people through social media. The number of followers has also increased from 31,898 to 33,665.

Region to children in staying safe and observing all protocols as directed by the Ghana Health Service. Let's Keep staying Safe and protect our children from the Corona Virus.
 KOICA Ghana Office UNICEF Ghana Ministry of Health, Ghana Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Ministry of Information - Ghana
 #GACA #Covid19 #StaySafe #ChildProtection #EmergencyContactLines #Ghana



For the sake of our Children and for their wellbeing, I have accepted to be a Royal GACA Champion! ... Thank You.

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM

Awareness of COVID-19 message from Nana Odamu Gyamfi, Paramount Chief of Akroso Asukawkaw Oti Region [Learn More](#)

85,164 People reached 6,263 Engagements [Boost again](#)

GACA Staff, Nana Aodamu Gymafi III, Paramount Chief of Akroso Asukawkaw in the Oti Region, recording and disseminating messages on COVID-19 and Child Protection for TV broadcasting.

During the reporting period, UNICEF cooperated with traditional and religious leaders to record six messages on COVID-19 and child protection in English and local language. These are being shown on Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) channels and Pan African TV and posted on all GACA social media channels.

GACA
 Published by Ro Law [?] · 12 August · 🌐

During this time of crisis, children are particularly vulnerable Parents, Caregivers, Religious and Traditional leaders in communities have an important role to play. Religious and Traditional leaders through the GACA Campaign, have come together to increase their actions in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children in their communities. Let's Keep staying Safe and protect our children from the Corona Virus. - The video shows a message from Mamaga Adzesu, Sokpoe Paramount Queen of Sokpoe Traditional Area to Children, Caregivers, and Parents #GACA #Covid19 #StaySafe #ChildProtection #EmergencyContactLines #Ghana



Wear a face mask in public and remember to observe Social Distancing especially among your friends

Mamaga Adzesu, Sokpoe Paramount Queenmother, Traditional leader, sharing messages on COVID-19 and Child Protection for TV broadcast

UNICEF also supported the Government and NGO partners to engage a total of 29,664 people (7,160 girls, 5,805 boys, 8,962 women and 7,737 men) on COVID-19 prevention and child protection issues. Cumulatively, 538,355 people were reached in over 600 communities across the country. This was achieved through mass media channels such as community information centers, radio stations, information vans and megaphones in markets as well as schools, home visits, and small group meetings - while observing social distancing protocols and other COVID-19 preventive measures.



Our children need protection now more than ever before. As parents, caregivers, Religious & Traditional leaders, we have an extra responsibility to protect our children from abuse, exploitation and neglect. - A Message from the President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission of Ghana



These sessions have been very helpful in providing community members with vital information on COVID 19 Prevention and helped to clear doubts and myths of the COVID 19 disease from the minds of community members. It encouraged them to observe the protocols to keep safe and not stigmatize COVID-19 patients.

UNICEF also supported staff social welfare and community development from selected MMDAs to handle cases of 84 children including 20 children to be placed in foster families. In order to strengthen the delivery of integrated social services, UNICEF supported training of 95 staff from Nineteen (19) Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), NHIS and GHS in the Northern Sector (Northern, North East, Savannah, Upper West and Upper East Regions).

On 20-21 August, UNICEF supported the training of 20 ICT staff at the Judicial Training Institute. The participants were selected from 10 regions across

the country. They gained new knowledge and skills to use and maintain the CCTV system within the Child-friendly Gender Based Violence court. The equipment installed in the child testifying rooms and the court aids the adjudication of justice, particularly when child victims of sexual violence cases are before the court. Two-way CCTV cameras transmit images into the court room, headphones are connected to the speakers, and a recording system captures the proceedings. ICT Staff also joined a practical session on how to keep the equipment sanitized after each use and control of the court as part of adherence to COVID-19 measures. Due to rising number of cases being recorded during the pandemic, the equipment in the courts require regular maintenance.

Policy & Evidence

UNICEF is partnering with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and the Social Policy Research Institute (SPRI) to undertake a country-wide assessment (both institutional and qualitative analysis) of the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19 on caregivers and children. The assessment is focusing on health, nutrition, education and WASH sectors and seeks to analyse the budget and financial resources available for other services crucial for promoting children's rights and development (e.g. child protection services, social protection). UNICEF has supported the development of a concept note and research instrument to support this assessment. NDPC will collect primary data using questionnaires and interviews while SPRI will analyze the data.

Social Protection

As part of ongoing feedback on the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) emergency payment, a UNICEF-supported civil society organization monitoring report was drafted and shared with the LEAP programme, based on information gathered in 32 communities in 16 districts in the 16 regions across the country.

The LEAP Unit of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and UNICEF are also beginning preparation for a second round of U-report monitoring with beneficiaries, community focal points and district social welfare officers.

Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

Since the first two cases of coronavirus were confirmed in Ghana on 12 March 2020, UNICEF has, in coordination with national platforms and the UN System in Ghana, accelerated its Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to stem community transmissions and to mitigate the spread of infection. UNICEF has focused on the promotion of Infection Prevention and Control, disease surveillance, continued health and nutrition services, provision of supplies and logistics, the development of learning tools in the context of remote/distance learning and support for the most vulnerable through social protection programmes.



UNICEF also supports the national WASH response through coordination, preparedness, prevention and rapid response. Jointly with the MoH and GHS, UNICEF has been supporting efforts to strengthen the cold chain and provided technical advice to prepare for the resumption of polio immunization campaigns. In all areas, COVID-19 interventions are being adapted to ongoing UNICEF programmes.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF continues to coordinate closely with the UN Country Team in Ghana on joint planning and programme 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, as well as the protection of children and families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to the support of development partners and private donors such as World Bank (PEF), DFID, USAID, the Government of Japan, Standard Chartered and Mastercard Foundation, to date UNICEF has received US\$ 9.7 million. Other development cooperation agencies and partners such as Global Affairs Canada and the China International Development and Cooperation Agency 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 continuing gaps in ensuring a comprehensive and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic, for vulnerable children, young people and families in Ghana.

External Media (Links)

[GHS, partners launch breastfeeding campaign](#) - 17th August 2020

[UNICEF donates to health institutions in Accra](#), - 18th August 2020

[Education Minister inaugurates Committee to advise on reopening of schools](#) - 20th August 2020

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
Tel: +233 24 433 4996
Email: eewart@unicef.org

Annex A- Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	2020 target	Total results
Risk Communication and Community Engagement		
RCCE Indicator 1: Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services.	26,000,000	28,105,546
RCCE Indicator 2: Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions.	1,800,000	2,299,884
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	167,863
WASH and IPC		
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
Health		
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
Nutrition		
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	87,149
Education		
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
Child Protection and GBV		
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	243 (113 girls, 130 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	538,355 (121,616 girls, 105,954 boys, 163,546 women, 147,239 men)
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	95
Social Protection		
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	
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:	Responses:
(a) Health services access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing number of healthcare workers diagnosed with COVID-19 2. Mid-year review of health service data showing reduction in coverage for several immunisation antigens and other child health interventions 3. Delays in laboratory results continue to be a challenge
(b) Nutrition services (management of wasting/SAM; nutrition supplements, other services)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reports of increased number of children with severe acute malnutrition in Greater Accra 2. Lack of supplies for management of severe acute malnutrition 3. Reports of reduced uptake of child welfare clinic services
(c) Access to food	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reports of reduced household food consumption 2. Increased food prices
(d) Water Sanitation & Hygiene	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compliance with pandemic protocols has reduced, which is a high risk in public places such as markets 2. Reopening of schools requires special attention in relation to COVID-19, incl. hand-washing facilities, and additional manpower
(e) Education services including continuation of learning options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement of key GES/MoE partners in monitoring on-going final year SHS examination and schools' adherence to the COVID-19 protocols is contributing to delayed planning for some COVID-19 response initiatives. 2. Inadequate capacity of parent and learners on digital literacy for improved protection when learning on-line. 3. Limited coverage of learners on the radio platform due to limited scope-currently for KG-Prim 3.
(f) Child protection related services	<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 the birth certificates especially in Greater Accra and Kumasi regions.</p>