



Students at a UNICEF-supported primary school in Mamou wear masks and respect the distance required for a safe reopening of schools.

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Humanitarian Action for Children

Guinea

HIGHLIGHTS

- The situation in Guinea remains fragile for millions of children due to high rates of poverty and the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Guinea is also facing the recurrent threat of epidemics, high rates of acute malnutrition, cyclical natural disasters (floods) and socio-political unrest.
- Against the backdrop of a health system that is struggling to recover from the 2014–2016 Ebola epidemic, the emergence of COVID-19 has led to a 19 per cent drop in pentavalent 3 vaccine coverage rates,¹ a 20 per cent increase in early marriage and violence (including sexual violence),² a weakened water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) system, and the closure of schools, which has affected nearly 3 million students.³
- UNICEF requires US\$11.8 million to help control the spread of the epidemics, lay the foundation for uninterrupted service provision and protect women and children from violence.

IN NEED

7.7 million
people⁴

6.6 million
children⁵

TO BE REACHED

4.7 million
people⁶

3.7 million
children⁷

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



1.5 million

primary caregivers
receiving infant and young
child feeding counselling



1.7 million

children vaccinated against
measles



100,000

people accessing a
sufficient quantity of safe
water



200,000

women and children
accessing gender-based
violence risk
mitigation/prevention/response

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 11.8
million

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing humanitarian needs in Guinea. The virus has spread to the most vulnerable regions in the country, including those prone to natural disasters and other epidemics.

Following the 2014–2016 Ebola outbreak, Guinea's health system remains fragile, with inadequate facilities, limited capacities and low immunization coverage.⁸ These challenges, and decreased health service utilization due to COVID-19, have fuelled ongoing measles and polio outbreaks. In total, nearly 1.7 million and 1.2 million children under 5 years require measles and polio vaccination, respectively.⁹

Efforts to control COVID-19 transmission have been jeopardized by the lack of adequate WASH services in health facilities, schools and communities, and the fact that development partners are focusing primarily on Conakry, the pandemic epicentre. Twenty-one per cent of households, 69 per cent of health facilities and 64 per cent of schools lack access to safe water.¹⁰

The closure of schools due to COVID-19 in March 2020 has deprived 2.9 million students of their educations, and worsened school exclusion in a context where 41 per cent of school-aged children are already out of school.¹¹ School closures may disproportionately affect girls and exacerbate gender inequities, with an increased likelihood of early and/or forced marriage, child labour, sexual exploitation and abuse and adolescent pregnancies, particularly for those living in poverty.

The nutritional situation of children aged 6 to 59 months is under threat due to COVID-19 and persistent food insecurity.¹² In 2020, UNICEF estimates that the cumulative impacts of both COVID-19 and food insecurity could increase the number of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) from 210,000 to 248,000 nationwide.

Violence against women and children has increased by 20 per cent due to the pandemic,¹³ exacerbating an already alarming situation in a country where violence – including sexual violence – is widespread. Gender-based violence is a major concern: 55 per cent of women are victims of physical violence and 29 per cent are victims of sexual violence.¹⁴

In addition, Guinea is facing the ongoing impacts of flooding¹⁵ and heightened risk of post-election violence. These crises, coupled with weak governance in some sectors, will negatively impact children's health, education, nutrition, protection and access to water in 2021. The situation may further deteriorate if conflicts in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire and Mali spill over and necessitate rapid investments in emergency preparedness.

SECTOR NEEDS



Nutrition

1.2 million children under 5 year need nutrition services¹⁶



Health

1.7 million children aged 9 to 59 months need immunization¹⁷



Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

385,000 people are at higher risk of gender-based violence^{18,19}



Education

2.9 million children are at risk of learning interruption²⁰

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Women attend a routine vaccination session at the Ley Sare Health Center in the commune of Labe. UNICEF is working with local communities to ensure service continuity during the pandemic.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In 2021, UNICEF will respond to the triple health crises of COVID-19 and the resurgence of measles and poliovirus by intensifying its cross-sectoral support for the continuity of essential health and social services, while simultaneously strengthening emergency preparedness. UNICEF's strong field presence and technical capacity facilitate the rapid deployment of emergency responses in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, and strong linkages with longer-term development actions. UNICEF interventions will aim to halt the spread of overlapping measles and polio epidemics, as well as COVID-19, and mitigate their impacts on essential health and social services for children.

UNICEF's health strategy aims to support the continuity of health and immunization services through risk communication and community engagement activities, surveillance, vaccination, free case management, and support for mobile clinics in remote areas. Health facility staff and community health workers will be equipped with personal protection kits and trained in infection prevention and control to boost the continuity of services. This will include support for WASH services in health centres and the provision of timely and quality emergency supplies, consumables and contingency stocks for the COVID-19 response.

In education, UNICEF will focus on supporting the continuity of learning in safe environments; facilitating access to learning materials; and providing WASH services and quality emergency supplies and consumables in schools and early learning centres.

To address the emergency nutrition needs of children in Guinea, UNICEF will focus its action in four regions that face high malnutrition rates and significant humanitarian needs.²¹ UNICEF technical and operational support to health system and community platforms will facilitate early detection and adequate care for children with SAM. Infant and young child feeding counselling will be employed in the context of the COVID-19 response to change behaviours and strengthen skills at the community level. Given that micronutrient deficiencies, particularly anaemia among children under 5 years, is a silent emergency in Guinea, UNICEF will support home-based fortification of complementary food with multiple micronutrient powders.

To respond to the critical protection challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF will support violence prevention services for children and women, focusing on gender-based violence and the empowerment of women and adolescents.

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **58,489** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **1,539,189** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **1,231,352** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders



Health

- **1,663,795** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles
- **1,193,577** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio
- **2,260** health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control



Water, sanitation and hygiene²²

- **100,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **50,000** children accessing appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces
- **50,000** people accessing water, sanitation and hygiene services in health centres



Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **20,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **200,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **4,400,000** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse



Education

- **1,447,915** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **40,000** children receiving individual learning materials²³



C4D, community engagement and AAP

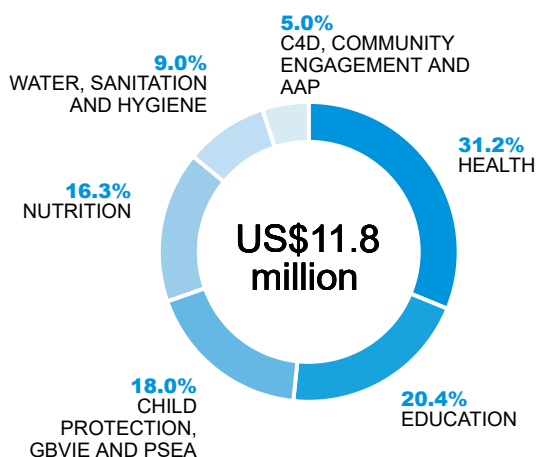
- **500,000** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change
- **3,117,022** people reached through messaging on access to nutrition, immunization and education

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF requires US\$11.8 million to save lives and alleviate the suffering of children, adolescents and women in Guinea in 2021, in line with its traditional areas of accountability and complementing government efforts to control the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

The sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and its multidimensional impact, coupled with uncertainties on vaccine availability and effective treatment, disrupted all traditional patterns of service delivery and communication in Guinea. This has made it harder to reach remote areas and vulnerable groups, such women and children. The paradigm shifts in intervention strategies due to COVID-19, and the need to reach vulnerable people, including children with disabilities, require additional financial resources to support the continuity of health, education, protection, nutrition and WASH services.

UNICEF remains the organization of last resort for the most deprived and vulnerable children in Guinea and is committed to intervening where other partners cannot. Without adequate funding, UNICEF will be unable to reach affected children with vital life-saving support.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	1,929,000
Health	3,681,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1,063,000
Child Protection, GBVIE and PSEA	2,124,000 ²⁴
Education	2,413,000
C4D, community engagement and AAP	590,000
Total	11,800,000

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ENDNOTES

1. Guinea District Vaccination Data - Management Tool.
2. United Nations Children's Fund, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme and Guinea Ministry of Economic and Finance, 'Economic Impact of COVID-19 Study in Guinea', June 2020.
3. Guinea Ministry of Education, '2018-2019 Primary Education Statistical Yearbook', November 2019.
4. National Institute of Statistics projections for 2021.
5. Ibid.
6. This includes the highest coverage target of 1,663,795 children under 5 years to be reached with measles vaccination; 1,447,915 children aged 5 to 17 years to be reached with formal or non-formal education; and 1.6 million people over 18 years to be reached with mental health and psychosocial support. This includes 52 per cent girls/women and 48 per cent boys/men. The total includes 1.5 per cent people with disabilities. The remaining caseload will be covered by other partners. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
7. This includes the highest coverage target of 1,663,795 children under 5 years to be reached with measles vaccination, 1,447,915 children aged 5 to 17 years to be reached with formal or non-formal education, and 20 per cent (to avoid double counting) of 2.8 million children aged 3 to 17 years to be reached with mental health and psychosocial support. This includes 52 per cent girls and 48 per cent boys. The total includes 1.5 per cent children with disabilities.
8. Coverage of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine is 45 per cent and for the measles-containing-vaccine first-dose is 48 per cent.
9. Calculated based on projections made in the 2014 National Census.
10. National Institute of Statistics, Guinea 2016 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2017.
11. Guinea Ministry of Education, Ten-Year Programme of Education in Guinea (ProDEG in French) 2020–2029', October 2019.
12. According to the latest Cadre Harmonisé (March 2020), almost 268,000 persons were food insecure during the lean season in 2020, an increase of 18 per cent compared with the average of the past five years.
13. United Nations Children's Fund and United Nations Development Programme, 'Peacebuilding Fund Project Baseline Study', August 2020.
14. Guinea Ministry of Social Affairs, Women's Promotion and Child Protection and United Nations Population Fund, 'National Survey on Gender-Based Violence in Guinea – preliminary report', December 2016.
15. Over 2,500 children were affected by floods in 2019 in the two most impacted regions – Kindia and N'Zerekore. Guinean Red Cross, Rapid Response Survey, 2019.
16. Estimates based on the results of a joint exercise conducted by UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) in May 2020.
17. Calculated based on projections made in the 2014 National Census.
18. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
19. Estimates based on 'Economic Impact of COVID-19 Study in Guinea' and 'National Survey on Gender-Based Violence in Guinea – preliminary report'.
20. Guinea Ministry of Education, '2018-2019 Primary Education Statistical Yearbook', November 2019.
21. The four regions are Boke, Conakry, N'zerekore and Kankan. Kankan region is also at risk due to possible spillover of the crisis in Mali and N'zérékoré region is at risk of population displacement from Côte d'Ivoire.
22. The proposed action focuses on the special zone of Conakry, the capital, which continues to remain the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic in Guinea. Water needs in the target area will be covered by the Société des Eaux de Guinée, which is supported by the World Bank. UNICEF's water intervention will target poor peri-urban areas not served by the Société des Eaux de Guinée, focusing on health facilities and schools.
23. UNICEF estimates of children enrolled in school in the municipalities most affected by floods and poverty.
24. This includes US\$900,000 for gender-based violence in emergencies interventions; US\$500,000 for child protection interventions; and US\$724,000 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.