



West and Central Africa Region

COVID-19 Situation Report No. 3

United Nations Population Fund



Reporting Period: 1 - 13 May 2020

Regional Highlights

- After 78 days following confirmation of the first case of COVID-19 in Nigeria on 27 February 2020, the West and Central Africa region has witnessed a dramatic increase in confirmed cases and deaths. As of 15 May 2020, all 23 countries in the region had recorded over 28,000 confirmed cases, a rise of 122 percent from two weeks ago. There are 690 deaths, representing 2.5 percent of total cases.
- The main challenge remains the growing number of active cases (66.5% of total) with people in need of medical services. With the increasing new cases, there is a growing concern over community spread; the past week has registered a daily average of 1,218 new cases. The progression of confirmed cases has doubled in two weeks, particularly in Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Guinea, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. In Guinea-Bissau, the number of cases increased by almost 17 times from 50 to 836 cases in 4 last weeks, which shows exponential increase beyond control.
- Governments in the region are beginning to ease lockdown measures while ordering implementation of preventive measures. Burkina Faso, Benin and Senegal have followed Ghana and Nigeria to ease lockdowns.
- Increasing numbers, 576, of health-care workers are being infected by COVID-19 including in Niger (126), Côte d'Ivoire (86), Gabon (57), and Cameroon (40). It is urgent to reinforce their skills in infection prevention and control and ensure sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) supply.
- Coordinating with governments and partners, UNFPA is leading life-saving work on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights, addressing gender-based violence (GBV), providing health supplies including PPE, and demonstrating leadership on population data in the context of COVID-19.

Situation in Numbers

 **28,049** Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

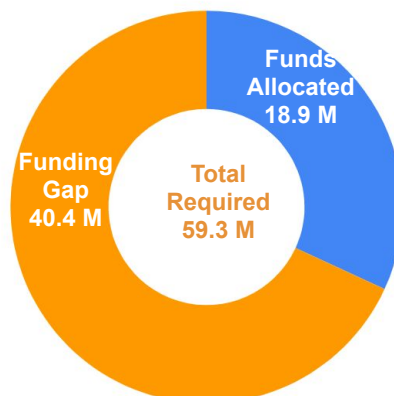
 **690** COVID-19 Deaths

Source: WHO May 15, 2020

Key Population Groups

-  **13 M** Pregnant Women
-  **108 M** Women of Reproductive Age
-  **148 M** Young People (age 10-24)
-  **13 M** Older Persons (age 65+)

Funding Status for Region (US\$)



Regional Response Summary

Regional coordination and partnerships

The UNFPA response in the region aligns with the [2030 Agenda](#), [WHO global strategic preparedness and response plan](#), [UN-coordinated global humanitarian response plan](#), the [UN framework for socio-economic response to COVID-19](#), and the [UNFPA COVID-19 global response plan](#).

As Chair of the Regional UN Sustainable Development Group for West and Central Africa, UNFPA chairs weekly meetings of the Regional Directors Group to maintain a coordinated and coherent response to the pandemic. The health, humanitarian and economic challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic require solidarity for a global response at a magnitude never seen before. There are three critical and complementary components of the UN's efforts to save lives, protect people, and rebuild better:

- **Humanitarian response:** As detailed in the OCHA-led COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, UNFPA is supporting the main objective to respond to immediate health and multi-sectoral humanitarian needs in especially vulnerable countries, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health services, GBV prevention and response, and protection of health workers.
- **Health response:** Led by the WHO and detailed in the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, UNFPA supports the main objective to support public health measures to stop transmission of the virus and care for those affected. The Plan was adapted in the region with six pillars:
 - Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring
 - Risk communication and community engagement
 - Surveillance, laboratories and Points of entry
 - Rapid response teams
 - Infection prevention and control
 - Case management
 - Operational support and logistics
- **UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19:** UNFPA supports the main objective to mitigate the social and economic impact of COVID-19 and is engaged in socio-economic assessments and analysis. The framework focuses on supporting governments and communities on five work streams:
 - Protecting health services and systems
 - Social protection and basic services
 - Protecting jobs and small and medium-sized enterprises
 - Macroeconomic choices and international cooperation and multilateralism
 - Social cohesion and community resilience.

UNFPA leadership on data and evidence for better informed decisions

- UNFPA regional and country offices are showing leadership on population data in the context of COVID-19. This will bring together data from different countries, using official statistics provided daily by the countries and WHO, to develop inform how people are potentially both affected by the impact of and part of the response to COVID-19. In the context of this unprecedented health crisis, an important objective is to be able to monitor the development of the pandemic.
- Many countries in the region are making available daily counts of confirmed cases of COVID-19. To better inform decision-making, UNFPA regional office plans to use demographic tools and methods to disaggregate coverage and make comparability of data across countries for accurate trend analysis.

Regional Response Summary (3 strategic priorities)

1. Continuity of SRH services and interventions, including protection of the health workforce

In **17 countries**, UNFPA is leading life-saving SRH services through the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in emergencies.

Country examples:

- **Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Togo:** UNFPA supports the availability of services and monitors the functionality of maternity wards. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, UNFPA supports SRH and rights interventions at national level. UNFPA has encouraged the development of service protocols in the context of COVID19 and will support the Ministries in training staff and distributing the protocols.
- **Benin:** PPE has been donated to 30 maternities through the ministry of health, and 100 hand washing kits to the national confederation of handicraft with whom UNFPA is working to implement comprehensive sexual education (CSE) for out of school adolescents. Virtual sessions were organised for teachers who are implementing CSE to sensitize both on preventing COVID-19 and unwanted pregnancies particularly as schools were still closed.
- **Guinea Bissau:** UNFPA and its partners ADPP and CCCoroa celebrated the International Midwives Day on Tuesday 5 May 2020 at the Maternity of Simao Mendes National Hospital, under the theme: "*Midwives beside Women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilize and unite - our time is NOW!*". The ceremony focused on maternity health care continuity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. A package of PPE was symbolically distributed to 20 midwives. Other PPE kits (face masks, visors and others) came from the private sector in Portugal and will cover up to 200 maternity health care providers. 2 tents were distributed to the two maternities of Simao Mendes National Hospital and the Military Hospital to facilitate social distancing and eventually contribute to COVID19 patients' isolation and treatment in maternity settings. 2 more tents were donated to the UN Medical Clinic. UNFPA created COVID-19 awareness to over 900 men and women, using an integrated approach (SRH/Family Planning, HIV-STI and GBV/FGM prevention) in various areas. About 5,100 condoms were distributed to volunteers.
- **45,198 women and youth who have utilized integrated SRHR services in UNFPA-supported facilities** in Benin (1,141 in April) and Senegal (42,832).
- In **9 countries**, there is a functional emergency obstetric and newborn care coverage, per international recommended minimum standards (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo).
- **11,540 safe deliveries were made in UNFPA-supported facilities** in Benin (3,647), Guinea Bissau (114), Senegal (7,779).
- **2,176 contact-tracers were trained and deployed with UNFPA support** in Cabo Verde (60), Liberia (455) and Senegal (1,661).
- **1,704 contacts were traced in the country with UNFPA support** in The Gambia (74) and Liberia (9).

Country examples:

- **Central African Republic:** A project is being developed for the community follow-up of COVID-19 cases.
- **Benin:** A national strategy for COVID19 treatment for pregnant women has been developed with the support of UNFPA. Fund-raising activities for implementation are progressing, UNFPA supports the monitoring and laboratory commission which is setting up community networks with the support of the World Bank.
- **Burkina Faso:** UNFPA contributes to research and monitoring for women and girls.
- **Central African Republic:** A project is being developed for community-based case monitoring.

Regional Response Summary (3 strategic priorities)

2. Addressing Gender-Based Violence

In **16 countries**, UNFPA is leading Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response coordination.

- In **Benin**, UNFPA is preparing to fund a study on the extent of GBV in the context of COVID19.
- In **Ghana**, UNFPA is working closely with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, The Office of the First Lady, The Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service and The Coalition of Persons against Sexual & Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Harmful Practices (CoPASH) - a collaborative effort with the Wife of the Vice President of Ghana; among other partners.
- In **Sierra Leone**, UNFPA is the lead UN agency supporting the government-led Psychosocial and Protection Pillar.

In **9 countries**, there is an alert mechanism to identify and report cases of Gender-Based Violence

- In **Benin**, there is a reporting platform within the Ministry and the centres for social promotion that collects reports. In Cabo Verde, there is an information channel using SMS, phone, email and social network.
- In **Mali**, UNFPA is conducting a Study on the impact of COVID-19 on Gender-Based Violence which was presented and shared with MINUSMA, UNCT and the COVID19 crisis committee.
- In **Senegal**, there is a toll-free number on GBV with the Association of Senegalese Lawyers.
- In **Sierra Leone**, there is a toll-free hotline for GBV survivors.

982 women and girls, including those with disabilities, subjected to violence have accessed essential gender-based violence services (health, social services, police and justice) in Burkina Faso (117), Cabo Verde (58), Cameroon (217) and Chad (590).

3. Ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities

In **4 countries**, there is currently or is there a significant risk of a contraceptive stockouts in Cameroon, Gabon, Gambia and Mauritania.

- In **Cabo Verde**, there are no contraceptives stockout. But the risk exists for Depoprovera and Jadelle - stock until June 2020. There could be stock out if additional supplies are not received within the next three months in Gambia.
- In **Sierra Leone**, Contraceptives and lifesaving maternal health medicines are being pre-positioned in all districts to ensure a minimum of six months' supply. The priority is to prevent stockouts that may arise as a result of restricted inter-district movements and deviation of resources to the pandemic response. The distribution covers all 16 districts and 24 hospitals in the country.

645,930 couple-years of protection for contraceptives procured by UNFPA, including condoms in Benin (41,152), Chad (203,583), Senegal (281,195) and Sierra Leone (120,000)



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A newly delivered baby being handed to the mother by a midwife at the Ridge Hospital.

UNFPA Ghana

UNFPA WCARO released a publication entitled: "Reproductive, maternal, neonatal and adolescent health during pandemics: lessons learned and practical guidance". It is a unique review of lessons learned from major past epidemics, with a focus on how to ensure continuity of reproductive, maternal, infant and adolescent health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. A webinar was held on Friday, 15 May 2020 to present the findings of the review to the press. For more information, see the [Media Advisory online](#).

The UN Youth Group in Ghana launched a series of e- "Youth Impact Series," to provide information on a variety of issues and build capacity of young people during and post COVID-19, to make them agents of change and prepare them for a world of post COVID-19. The launch of the series took place on 7 May 2020.

Benin

- [Coronavirus hors de ce monde!!](#)
- [Le Bénin mobilise un réseau de 100 acteurs de l'innovation et entrepreneurs pour renforcer la lutte contre la pandémie de COVID-19](#)
- <https://coronavirus.mysemecity.com/taskforce/>
- <https://smcity.typeform.com/to/vGk6ZE>

Burkina Faso

- [Covid-19-situation-report-01](#)
- [Covid-19 special programme "Allô les jeunes" aimed at young people and teenagers. broadcast live from radio Ouaga FM. available online at qgieune.org <https://www.qgieune.org/radios>](#)

Cameroon

- [UNFPA PARTNERING WITH HEALTH CENTERS TO ENSURE SAFE BIRTH AMIDST CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC](#)
- [JOURNEE MONDIALE DE LA SAGE-FEMME : Une Héroïne de la Santé Maternelle](#)

Côte d'Ivoire: [UNFPA accompagne une campagne de communication des jeunes contre le covid-19 en Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Congo: [Coronavirus: UNFPA gives 10 million CFA Francs for midwifery protection equipment in Congo](#)

Ghana

- [UNFPA interacts with COVID-19 patients at the Pentecost Convention Centre. Gomoa-Fetteh](#)
- [In every rule, there is an exception...](#)
- [Fight-against-corona-virus-individual-responsibility](#)

Guinea-Bissau

- [UNFPA and Ubuntu Guinea-Bissau Academy launch remote awareness campaign via telephone against COVID-19](#)
- [UNFPA supports Guinea-Bissau's response to COVID-19](#)

Liberia

- [UNFPA Donates US\\$400K Assorted Medical Supplies and Equipment to Liberian Government](#)
- [Epi-surveillance and contact tracing key to breaking COVID-19 transmission in Liberia](#)

Mali

- [COVID-19 ET VIOLENCES CONJUGALES](#)
- [BULLETIN UNIS DANS L'ACTION SPÉCIAL COVID-19](#)

Niger

- [Riposte contre COVID-19 - UNFPA Niger](#)
- [Production de Bavette ou cache-nez made in Niger](#)

Nigeria

- [Implementing planned activities during COVID-19](#)
- [I am staying home for you. Are you doing the same? – Covid19 is real and the best prevention is to stay at home.](#)

Senegal

- [USD 745.000 de FAO, ONUFEMMES et UNFPA pour soutenir l'initiative conjointe « le panier de la ménagère »](#)
- [Les jeunes filles installent des points de lavage dans les villages pour lutter contre le COVID 19](#)

Sierra Leone

- [UNFPA Sierra Leone celebrates midwives on the International Day of the Midwife](#)
- [UNFPA supports the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to preposition contraceptives & life-saving maternal health medicines](#)

Togo: [eConvivial : Une Application sponsorisée par UNFPA Togo dans la lutte contre le COVID-19 au Togo](#)

Confirmed Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 15 May 2020

Country	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Benin	339	2
Burkina Faso	773	51
Cameroon	2,954	139
Cabo Verde	315	2
Central African Republic	221	0
Chad	399	46
Congo Republic	391	15
Côte d'Ivoire	1,971	24
Equatorial Guinea	594	7
Gabon	1,104	10
Gambia	23	1
Ghana	5,530	24
Guinea	2,473	14
Guinea-Bissau	913	3
Liberia	215	20
Mali	779	46
Mauritania	16	2
Niger	876	50
Nigeria	5,162	167
Sao Tome and Principe	166	7
Senegal	2,189	23
Sierra Leone	408	26
Togo	238	11
Total number of cases	28,049	690

Confirmed Cases by Country and Region

Region ● Arab States ● Asia and the Pacific ● East and Southern Africa ● Eastern Europe and Central Asia ● Latin America and the Caribbean ● West and Central Africa

