



Reporting Period: 1 - 31 August 2020

West and Central Africa Region

COVID-19 Situation Report No. 7

United Nations Population Fund



Regional Highlights

- The total number of COVID-19 positive cases has reached over 216,970 in all 23 countries in West and Central Africa, four months after the first case was reported in Nigeria. By the end of August, there were 3,388 deaths, a mortality rate of about 1.6%. About 15.2% of patients were still under treatment, while 84.2% had recovered.
- The pandemic continues to spread. Five countries with highest confirmed caseloads include: Nigeria (55,160), Ghana (44,777), Cameroon (19,848), Côte d'Ivoire (18,701) and Senegal (13,987).
- Ghana and Sao Tome and Principe have the highest percentage of recovery, 97.5% and 95.4% respectively, while Chad and Liberia have the highest case fatality rates, 7.6% and 6.3%.
- Health worker infections continue to increase gradually with 8,042 infections reported in 22 WCA countries since the beginning of the outbreak. Ghana remains the most affected, with 2,065 health workers infected, followed by Nigeria (2,025), Cameroon (803), Equatorial Guinea (429), Senegal (349), Guinea-Bissau (268) and Guinea (244).
- UNFPA supports continuity of SRH and GBV services with 16,458 safe deliveries recorded in UNFPA-supported facilities in Benin, Togo, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. Over 111,964 women and youth utilised integrated SRH services in UNFPA-supported facilities in the region; 2,960 contact-tracers were trained and deployed; 2,254 women and girls subjected to violence, including those with disabilities, accessed essential services (health, social, police and justice).

Situation in Numbers

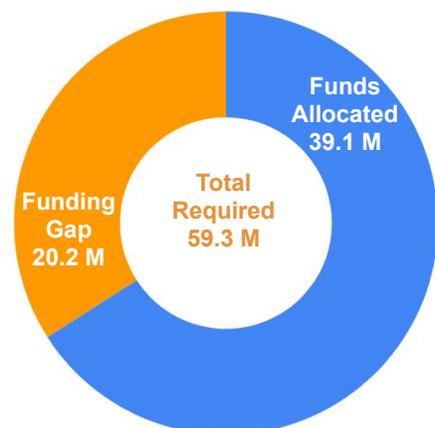


Source: WHO 8 September 2020

Key Population Groups



Funding Status for Region (US\$)



Regional Response Summary

Regional coordination and partnerships

UNFPA's 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](#).

UNFPA continues to participate in weekly meetings of the Regional UN Sustainable Development Group for West and Central Africa, attended by Regional Directors, to coordinate the UN response to the pandemic. The health, humanitarian and socio-economic challenges brought about by the pandemic require solidarity for a global response. There are three critical and complementary components of UN efforts to save lives, protect people and rebuild better:

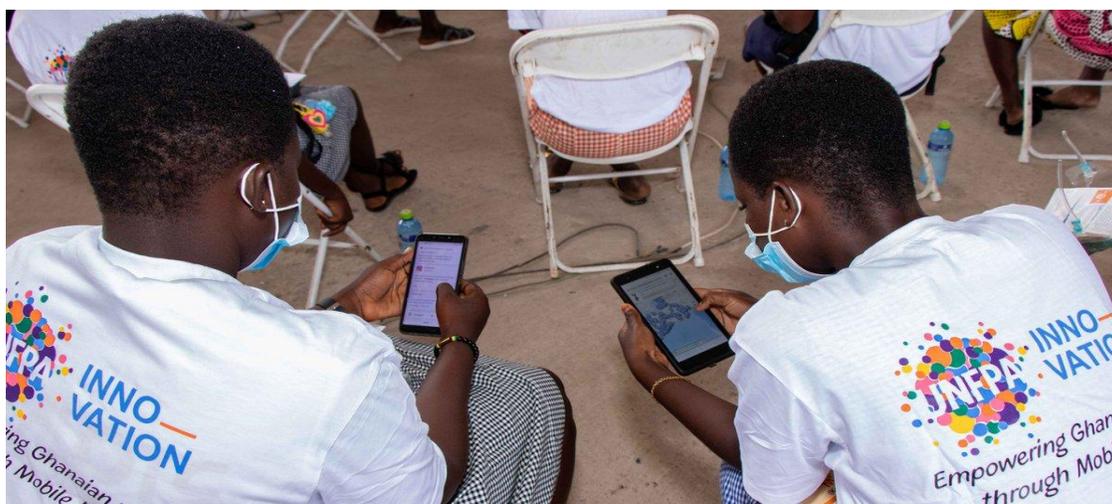
- The humanitarian response, as detailed in the OCHA-led COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, responding to immediate health and multi-sectoral humanitarian needs in particularly vulnerable countries.
- The health response, led by WHO and detailed in the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP), to support public health measures to stop the transmission of the virus and care for those affected. The adapted SPRP in the region has six pillars of the public health response: 1) Country-level coordination, planning and monitoring; 2) Risk communication and community engagement; 3) Surveillance, laboratories and points of entry; 4) Rapid response teams; 5) Infection prevention and control and case management; and 6) Operational support and logistics.
- The UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, to mitigate the social and economic impacts of COVID-19, focuses on supporting governments and communities through five work streams: 1) Protecting health services and systems; 2) Social protection and basic services; 3) Protecting jobs and small- and medium-sized enterprises; 4) Macroeconomic choices and international cooperation and multilateralism; and 5) Social cohesion and community resilience.
- The strategic partnership with Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited was officially kicked off in August 2020. The project entitled "Ensuring Access to Quality Maternal and Newborn Healthcare during the COVID-19 Pandemic" aims to ensure the continued provision of life-saving maternal and newborn health services to at least 350,000 women and newborns in Benin, Guinea and Togo, including 17,600 women facing life-threatening complications during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Cabo Verde joint Country Office celebrated the International Youth Day on August 12 under the theme, "Youth Engagement for Global Action", with a live broadcast reaching about 17,538 people, including on digital platforms. Celebrations included an open dialogue with youths under the theme "The Impact of COVID-19 & Perspectives on the Cape Verdean Youth"; a debate between youth as protagonists of change and creators of innovative solutions in the prevention of COVID-19; and a dialogue between the Prime Minister and the Cape Verdean Youth under the theme "The youth in the future of Cape Verde and the World we want". The purpose of this dialogue was to foster dialogue, engagement and participation of young people in the preparation of public policies for Cape Verdean youth. Technical support was provided to the organisation of the National Strategic Debate "Youth and the Future of Cape Verde" for the Ambition 2030.

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

- In 17 countries in the region, UNFPA is leading life-saving SRH services through the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in emergencies.
- 111,964 women and youth utilised integrated SRH services in UNFPA-supported facilities in Liberia (62,800), Senegal (42,832), Sierra Leone (3,189), Guinea-Bissau (2,002), and Benin (1,141).
- In 11 countries, there is functional emergency obstetric and newborn care coverage, per international recommended minimum standards (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal and Togo).
- In seven countries, UNFPA is leading national contact-tracing and case monitoring (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Senegal).
- At least 16,458 safe deliveries were facilitated in UNFPA-supported facilities in Benin (3,647), Guinea-Bissau (114), Senegal (7,779), Sierra Leone (2,330) and Togo (2,588).
- Some 2,960 contact-tracers were trained and deployed with UNFPA support in Burkina Faso (700), Cabo Verde (60), Liberia (447), Niger (92) and Senegal (1,661).
- 2,662 contacts were traced with UNFPA support in Gambia (789) and Liberia (1873).

Country examples:

- **Burkina Faso:** Strengthening the skills of 28 second-year midwifery students on emergency obstetric and neonatal care (SONU), prevention of obstetric fistula (OF) and female genital mutilation (FGM) in the context of COVID-19. Rehabilitation of the neonatology unit of the Regional Hospital of Tenkodogo, in the Center-East region was carried out, at a total value of 42,836,042 FCFA. Medico-technical equipment and ambulances for the benefit of the Ministry of Health were delivered, at a total cost of 252,251,500 FCFA.
- **Ghana:** Ghana Health Service and UNFPA Ghana reached out to 90 young people at Bortianor on teenage pregnancy prevention and how WawaAba can address their SRH needs. A Public Health Nurse of the Bortianor Polyclinic (resource person) expounded the causes and complications of teenage pregnancy and the importance for young people to have information to make informed decisions. The participants were also assisted on how to navigate WawaAba, a UNFPA web-based platform that directs users to the nearest health facilities to access healthcare, especially reproductive healthcare and information. UNFPA Ghana supported frontline health workers in the country with over 10,000 personal protective equipment (PPE). Items included surgical gloves, isolation gowns, FFP2/N95 face masks, panoramic goggles, face shields, hand sanitisers, shoe covers, and disposable aprons. In receiving the items, the Director-General of the Ghana Health Service, Dr. Patrick Kuma-Aboagye commended UNFPA Ghana for the continuous support to the Government of Ghana. UNFPA Ghana, in partnership with the Central Regional Office of the Department of Gender, of the Ministry of Gender, Social and Children Protection, held a training programme to empower 60 adolescent girls in the Ekumfi District on their reproductive and sexual health rights and impart information on COVID-19.



UNFPA Ghana. Wawa ABA, a web-based mapping solution, is helping adolescents easily locate nearby health facilities to access SRHR information and services.

1. Continuity of SRH services and interventions cont.

- **Liberia:** The Liberia CO continued in the month of August to provide logistical support to the Montserrado county health team contact-tracing and surveillance pillar through the availability of four 4x4 pickups and five motorcycles. The provision of maternal and newborn health services amidst COVID-19 continues through the support of Roving Midwives. These trained midwives from the Family Health division provide daily monitoring visits to the treatment centers and the precautionary observation centers.
- **Mali:** A joint UNFPA, WFP, IOM and UNICEF proposal under the leadership of UNFPA, "Supporting Malian social and health services in reducing COVID-19 negative impacts on vulnerable populations" was developed and submitted on 31 August 2020.
- **Niger:** For the continuity of services, particularly in maternity services, UNFPA supported 53 health centres with equipment to protect against COVID-19. In addition, UNFPA provided two midwives and a doctor to the UN clinic to integrate SRH services into the clinic's activities. In addition, UNFPA Niger provided the two centres for the management of patients with COVID-19 with materials and equipment to ensure the protection of staff.
- **Sierra Leone:** As part of its focus on improving quality of SRH services, the UNFPA Sierra Leone country office is managing the refurbishing and construction of triage centres at three hospitals and community healthcare centres in Freetown.
- **Senegal:** Celebration of International Youth Day under the theme "Youth engagement for global action: Senegalese youth engaged in the fight against COVID-19". On this occasion, the National Youth Council of Senegal (CNJS), in partnership with the Minister of Youth, Mr. Alassane Diallo, and UNFPA, launched a distribution campaign of 25,000 masks. Some 120 student leaders and teachers from Tambacounda, Kolda and Dakar (FassE project) were trained on COVID-19 prevention, sexual and reproductive health and rights, with the NGO GEEP. 20 young girls from Tambacounda were trained on menstrual hygiene management and the design of reusable sanitary napkins by the NGO CLVF. The capacities of 30 members of Kolda Girls' Clubs and peer educators on nutrition and iron / folic acid supplementation were strengthened by Kolda Health District with the support of UNFPA and Nutrition International.
- **Togo:** On 21 August 2020, UNFPA Togo, together with its youth networks, wrapped up the digital campaign "Youth Against COVID-19", a campaign animated by young people and for young people in order to sensitise them on their role in the fight against COVID-19. The "Bridge of Generations" initiative, the symbolic ceremony for the symbolic presentation of checks and professional tool kits and the webinar on youth engagement were the activities marking the celebration of the 2020 edition of the International Youth Day (IYD) in Togo.

2. Addressing Gender-Based Violence

- In 16 countries, UNFPA is leading GBV prevention and response coordination mechanisms.
- In 13 countries, there is an alert mechanism in place to identify and report cases of GBV.
- Some 2,254 women and girls subjected to violence, including those with disabilities, have accessed essential services (health, social, police and justice) in Burkina Faso (117), Cabo Verde (58), Cameroon (217), Chad (1326), Congo Republic (103) and Togo (433).

Country examples:

- **Burkina Faso:** Ongoing support to GBV survivors through mapping of referral networks, reporting of cases and supporting survivors. Coordination of the GBV sub-cluster (within the protection cluster) and the SRH sub-group. Training of 50 journalists and communicators to promote the elimination of child marriage.

2. Addressing Gender-Based Violence *cont.*

- **Ghana:** UNFPA Ghana has supported 50 personnel of the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) case docket management. The personnel were schooled on topics such as Building and Labelling of SGBV Exhibits, Scene Management, Techniques in Investigations, Interview and Interrogation Techniques in handling SGBV cases. UNFPA Ghana joined the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in an emergency stakeholders consultations meeting to find lasting solutions to end SGBV and all harmful traditional practices in the country. This followed the lynching of a 90-year old woman at Kafaba in the East Gonja Municipality of the Savannah Region. The meeting on the theme, "Protect Vulnerable Women, Their Lives Matter", was attended by Ministers of State, traditional leaders, religious leaders, civil society organisations, non-governmental organizations, the media, and development partners including the National Peace Council. UNFPA Ghana, in partnership with the DOVVSU, the Multi-Party Trust Fund (MPTF) Secretariat and the Canadian Government, organised a 3-day basic crisis intervention and helpline operation training for 22 SGBV Response Officers and Managers in Accra. This formed part of activities to end SGBV during the COVID-19 pandemic. UNFPA Ghana provided data management training for 35 officers of the DOVVSU in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region, to equip the officers with appropriate knowledge and skills in the collection and recording of data on SGBV onto the DOVVSU Online Data Management Tool (DODMAS).
- **Mali:** A sensitisation and psychosocial support session for displaced people and COVID-19 patients was held. Awareness-raising sessions on COVID-19 and the impact of COVID-19 on GBV in different regions of Mali were organised under the lead of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women. Finalisation of the consolidation of the various studies on the impact of COVID-19 on girls and women, with UN Women, Care and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), took place, for the production of a Mali country reference document and advocacy tool.
- **Niger:** Confinement measures, restrictions on movement and their dramatic consequences on economic activities have led to an upsurge in GBV, particularly domestic violence and cases of rape. Under the leadership of UNFPA, messages centred on the fight against GBV have been developed and are broadcast through community radio stations and also through sensitisation by traditional chiefs. UNFPA has strengthened its mechanism for identifying cases through community actors and the strengthening of health, security and judicial care centres. The strengthening of partnerships with frontline actors was highlighted and materialised by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the police, the gendarmerie and traditional chiefs.
- **Senegal:** Some 30 students and teachers from Matam were trained on how to prevent and respond to GBV in the context of COVID-19 with the NGO GEEP.
- **Sierra Leone:** UNFPA continues to support and equip the one-stop GBV center in the King Harman Maternal and Child Health hospital in Freetown with the generous support of Irish Aid and the Government of China. UNFPA has also supported five regional one-stop centres in five districts with medications and supplies for survivors of GBV. UNFPA continued to ensure the availability of free counselling and clinical services to GBV survivors through our implementing partner Rainbo Initiative at the one-stop centres in Bo and Freetown, as well as continuing the support to the 116 GBV survivors call-line. UNFPA Sierra Leone is continuing to support the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to air life-skills sessions on the Radio Teaching Programme, based on the national life-skills manual "I am somebody". The programme, aired three to five days per week, aims at reaching both in- and out-of-school adolescents.
- **Togo:** AKOFA in Mina, a local language of Togo, which means "Consolation" was thought of during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a virtual assistant that serves as an early warning system for GBV cases in Togo and is a joint project of the Groupe de Réflexion Femme Démocratie et Développement (GF2D) and the Ministry of Social Action, Women's Promotion and Literacy, supported by UNFPA Togo. The Virtual Assistant is an automated service from WhatsApp that allows organisations to schedule interactive services with their beneficiaries. Linked to a database, the system is an automated information resource, which also enables online assistance and the collection of all beneficiary data. This system responds to the needs of the population in general and women and girls in particular in this period of COVID-19. Two months after its launch, the requests included denunciations of economic, physical and sexual violence, information on listening centers and financial assistance. 528 people consulted the chat box and 24 cases were reported.

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

- There is a significant risk of contraceptive stockouts in four countries (Cameroon, Gabon, Gambia, and Mauritania).
- A total of 645,930 couple-years of protection for contraceptives were procured by UNFPA, including condoms in Benin (41,152), Chad (203,583), Senegal (281,195) and Sierra Leone (120,000).

Country examples:

- **Mali:** Reception and distribution of RH emergency kits (without RH kit N °3) and COVID-19 PPE in all regions concerned. Support for the implementation of RH/family planning/GBV mobile teams in the northern and central regions. All one-stop centre teams have been reinforced in COVID-19 in PPE.
- **Niger:** SRH kits, including the supply of contraceptives, have been deployed in health centres. It is also important to note the high demand for post-rape kits, which UNFPA has solved by pre-positioning these kits throughout the country.
- **Sierra Leone:** On 20 August 2020, UNFPA Sierra Leone distributed a further 500 dignity kits to the World Food Programme, to be provided to vulnerable women and girls. These kits contain sanitisers and masks, in addition to the routine content of a UNFPA dignity kit. 490 Mama and Baby packs were distributed to encourage expectant mothers to deliver in facilities with skilled support. Each Mama-baby bag contains hygiene and essential products for new mothers including bathing soap, washing detergent, towels, sanitary pads, hand sanitizers, face masks and underwear, as well as items for baby including wipes, soap, diapers, blankets, towels, wrappers, baby clothes, socks and caps. These packs were distributed to seven hospital maternity wards around Sierra Leone.



#GEEP student leaders are committed to stopping the community progression of COVID-19 in Senegal.

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Media & Communications

UNFPA raises awareness, shares guidance and showcases achievements through media outreach.

The Regional Office continues to participate in the regional working group on Risk Communications and Community Engagement, with UNICEF as lead and WHO as co-lead. The group is running a media campaign to raise awareness on COVID-19 response through a multilingual website. The website includes some local languages mostly spoken by people across the region. It is also undertaking a social research aimed at generating quality information and insights into how risk communication and community engagement activities could be better framed, packaged and delivered to enhance the response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Country examples:

- **Burkina Faso:**
 - [Promotion de l'élimination des Mutilations Génitales Féminines \(MGF\) au Burkina Faso : Le Président du Faso transmet le flambeau de la lutte à la nouvelle génération](#)
 - [Production](#) de contenu sur les innovations au Burkina Faso dans le cadre de ma la COVID-19 dans le Numéro 5 du Mensuel QGJEUNE MAG <https://www.qgjeune.org/magazine-n5/>
 - [Diffusion de messages de sensibilisation sur la COVID-19 dans les émissions radio Allo les jeunes: https://www.qgjeune.org/radios/#1585946421736-4](#)
- **Cabo Verde:**
 - <https://www.facebook.com/labirintodegenero/>
- **Gambia:**
 - [Country Representative shares UNFPA's support to the National COVID-19 Response](#)
 - [UNFPA and Office of the Vice President engage the media on World Population Day 2020](#)
 - [Effective GBV case management to ease access to emergency care services for victims and survivors](#)
 - [National Psychosocial Support Services Referral Pathway to advance mental health and wellness during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
 - [Helping women say "My body, my choice!" in the face of COVID-19](#)
 - [Everyone should smile: Ensuring safe pregnancies and motherhood amidst COVID-19](#)
- **Ghana:**
 - [Amplifying Issues of Women and Girls on GTV's 'Talking Point'](#)
 - [2020 State of World Population report launched in Ghana](#)
 - [The Gender Agenda Amplified at the 2020 Virtual SHE Summit](#)
 - [Ghana's Vice President applauds female front-line workers](#)
 - [BOAME Project, Expression of Interest](#)
 - [The Prudential Life Insurance Ghana assists UNFPA to cater for the needs of the vulnerable during COVID 19 pandemic](#)
 - [Ghana Marks World Population Day in Accra](#)
 - <https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/unfpa-donates-ppes-to-tamale-central-hospital/>
 - [Ecobank partners UNFPA and Tobinco to support Tetteh Ocloo State School for the Deaf](#)
 - <https://youtu.be/H1HIWoQmEnk>
- **Niger:**
 - https://drive.google.com/a/unfpa.org/uc?id=1lhVpmWz5bnMscrLMb4BfX_iE_-A1YG2p&export=download
- **Sierra Leone:**
 - [UNFPA Sierra Leone Covid-19 Situation Report May-June 2020](#)
 - [UNFPA donates five \(5\) motorbikes to Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, one \(1\) vehicle to Ministry of Health and Sanitation](#)
 - [UNFPA distributes mama-baby bags to encourage use of health services by pregnant women](#)

Country examples:

- **Senegal:**

- [Ralentir la propagation de la COVID-19 : comment protéger la santé et les droits des femmes et des filles à l'heure actuelle](#)
- <https://santelab.org/journee-mondiale-de-la-population-ralentir-la-propagation-de-la-covid-19-comment-protoger-la-sante-et-les-droits-des-femmes-et-des-filles-a-lheure-actuelle/>
- [Senegal COVID-19 situation report #3](#)
- <https://web.facebook.com/unfpasenegal/videos/729444871220800>
- [Lutte contre Covid-19 à Tamba : Le GEEP sensibilise les élèves sur le respect des mesures préventives](#)

- **Togo:**

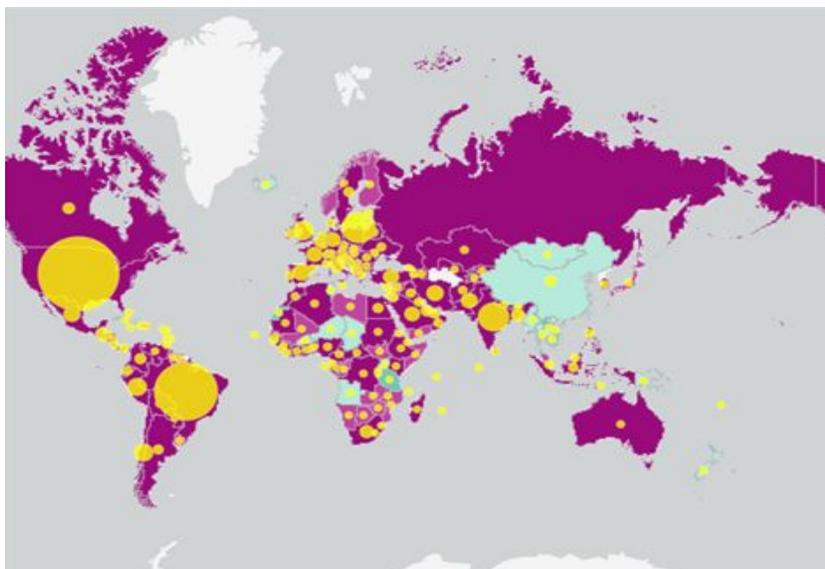
- <https://www.facebook.com/442639269226373/posts/1703318796491741/>
- [UNFPA Togo - JEUNES CONTRE LA COVID 19 Bon début de...](#)
- <https://www.facebook.com/442639269226373/posts/1724168664406754/>
- [LE GOUVERNEMENT TOGOLAIS ET UNFPA TOGO CELEBRENT LA SEMAINE DE LA POPULATION](#)
- [UNFPA TOGO, GHANA ET BENIN, amplifient la voix des jeunes dans la lutte contre la COVID – 19](#)
- [Semaine de la population: Le Gouvernement et l'UNFPA Togo redynamisent leur engagement en faveur de la femme et de la jeune fille](#)
- [JMP : L'UNFPA appelle les nations à protéger la santé et les droits des femmes et des filles en cette période de COVID-19](#)
- [Les violences Basées sur le Genre : Une autre priorité pour l'UNFPA et ses partenaires en ces temps de Covid-19](#)
- [Togo/Société/UNFPA : Une semaine pour dynamiser les engagements en faveur de la femme et de la jeune fille togolaise - LA PREMIERE AGENCE DE PRESSE PRIVEE AU TOGO](#)
- [Dr Natalia Kanem : "L'UNFPA estime que la pandémie devrait réduire d'au moins un tiers les progrès internationaux menés pour mettre un terme à la violence basée sur le genre au cours de cette décennie" - LA PREMIERE AGENCE DE PRESSE PRIVEE AU TOGO](#)
- ["Chaque jour, des centaines de milliers de filles à travers le monde subissent des préjudices physiques ou psychologiques- ou les deux" \(UNFPA\) - LA PREMIERE AGENCE DE PRESSE PRIVEE AU TOGO](#)
- [Covid-19 : Quand la situation de la jeune fille devient alarmante](#)
- [Des jeunes s'engagent contre la violence faite aux femmes](#)
- [Dr Natalia Kanem appelle à la fin de la violence basée sur le genre - AFRICA RENDEZ VOUS - L'Afrique, par des Africains](#)



Kadijatu chose to give birth in a health facility because, "it is dangerous to give birth at home...there are potential serious complications if one chose to give birth at home. In some cases, this may lead to death or death of the newborn baby. © UNFPA Sierra Leone

Confirmed Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 8 September 2020

Country	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Benin	2,213	40
Burkina Faso	1,452	55
Cabo Verde	4,358	42
Cameroon	19,848	415
Central African Republic	4,729	62
Chad	1,040	79
Congo	4,891	114
Côte d'Ivoire	18,701	119
Equatorial Guinea	4,985	83
Gabon	8,608	53
Gambia	3,196	99
Ghana	44,777	283
Guinea	9,816	62
Guinea-Bissau	2,245	38
Liberia	1,311	82
Mali	2,870	127
Mauritania	7,164	160
Niger	1,178	69
Nigeria	55,160	1,061
Sao Tome and Principe	898	15
Senegal	13,987	290
Sierra Leone	2,055	71
Togo	1,488	32
Total number of cases	216,970	3,451



See UNFPA's [COVID-19 Population Vulnerability Dashboard](#) for real-time updates