



**Save the
Children**

GLOBAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1

4 MAY 2020

Situation Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic poses immediate and long-lasting risks to children's rights including the disruption of access to education; potential for reduced access to primary and secondary health services and increased vulnerability to protection risks. Save the Children (SC) is scaling up preparedness and response interventions in all areas of operation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key areas of intervention in this phase of the response include scaling-up Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE); providing support to nationally-led responses to ensure that children can continue to access learning; training healthcare workers on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and treatment protocols in line with WHO guidance. In addition, SC is providing support to national response partners by providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), IPC materials and supporting the refurbishment of facilities to support an expansion of treatment capability in preparation for a potential increase in the number of people that require medical care in hospital facilities. Across regions, we have also engaged in advocacy based on our [Global Agenda for Action](#) to ensure that children are at the centre of the response.

National restrictions on movement are in place in nearly all countries of operation as part of government-led efforts to contain the outbreak. In some countries, this has led to a temporary cessation of key programme interventions including education and child protection. Country offices have adapted existing programmes and partnered with national authorities and response actors to ensure continuity of education services through distance learning and ensuring that distribution of aid is undertaken with strict adherence to social distancing policy.

Response highlights

- SC **Ethiopia** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, the Islamic Affairs

Supreme Council, and the Mekane Yesus Church to disseminate COVID-19 prevention and sensitization messages via existing public announcement systems of all churches and mosques in 325,000 places of worship.

- In **Nepal**, SC is partnering with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and the Child Protection Cluster to produce Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on child protection risks. To date, the joint communication initiative on education and child protection has been aired by over 30 local radio stations in the east and far-western region and Radio Kantipur for nation-wide coverage.
- In **Lebanon**, SC and partners are refurbishing nine abandoned buildings for use as isolation centres before handing them over to the Ministry of Health who will use them as temporary health facilities that can treat up to 1,000 patients. SC Lebanon is also turning empty tents in refugee settlements in the Bekaa Valley into isolation units so that patients can self-isolate within the camps.
- SC **Sudan** is supporting the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) to establish isolation centres in Khartoum and at state level. SC is providing technical backstopping and supplies including the provision of 1,500 PPE.
- In **Yemen**, SC has commenced training of community health workers on IPC, Triage and case definition has commenced in over 180 health facilities supported by SC and more than 100 healthcare workers have been trained to date. In addition, SC has provided PPE and IPC materials to more than 150 health facilities.
- Children between 10 and 18 years old from **nine countries across Latin America** have shared their opinions, comments and proposals on the COVID-19 outbreak. SC is working with Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Committee of the Rights of Child to ensure their concerns and recommendations are fed into national COVID-19 response frameworks.

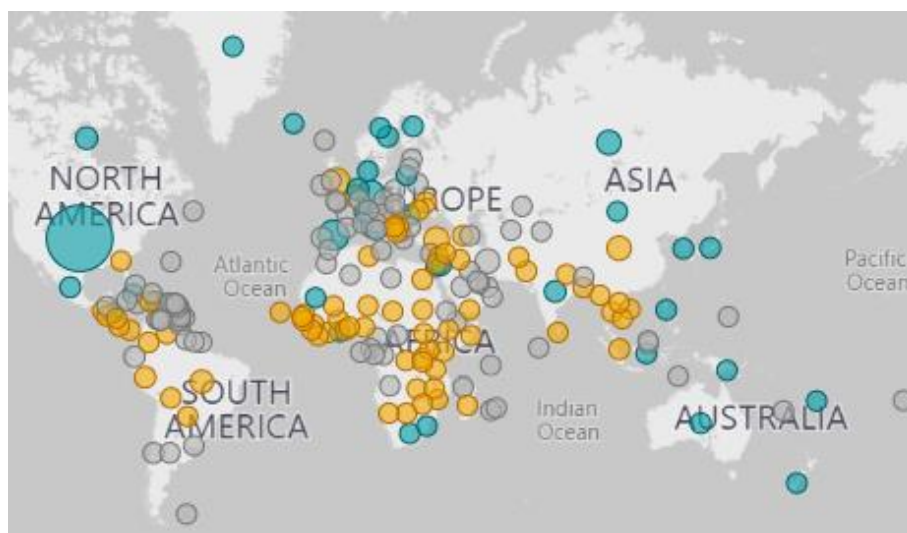
Global Programmes and Operations Update

In January 2020, SC initiated preparedness planning for COVID-19 in countries of operation and provided initial funding to kick-start preparedness activities in high-risk countries. The focus of global programme support to country offices has been to support the rapid adaptation of programmes in response to COVID-19 including minimising the risk of transmission in existing programme sites through IPC and training of all staff on risks and mitigations. SC has issued a revised version of the COVID-19 [Programme Framework and Guidance](#) to support country offices to navigate programme adaption in all sectors according to the phase of the pandemic wave in each country of operation. In addition, further programme guidance has been issued on coordination; conflict sensitivity, gender equality and partnership with local and national responders to support country offices to take critical response enablers into account when planning the next phase of the response.

At global level, SC has accelerated the operationalisation of the internal Localisation Policy for COVID-19 by allocating up to 10% additional funding to support local partners to access funding for indirect support costs. In addition, SC has partnered with the Humanitarian Leadership Academy (HLA) to rapidly develop the [Online COVID-19 Learning Pathway](#) for NGO and LNNGO responders. The learning pathway includes technical capacity strengthening programmes to support response covering a range of topics including Public Health, Child Protection and Gender Equality and online soft skills and remote working resources. To date, over 4,000 individuals have accessed the COVID-19 Learning Pathway.

In order to support country offices to rapidly adapt ongoing programmes and scale-up preparedness activities in high-risk countries, SC has established an internal fund to disburse flexible funding. To date, USD\$3.6 million has been allocated to 28 countries to support programme adaptation.

Global map of COVID-19 cases across SCI countries of operation (using data from the [World Health Organisation](#))



Blue: Member office, **Yellow:** SCI Country office, **Grey:** confirmed cases/ No Save the Children presence.

Global Advocacy and Campaign Update

Global and national advocacy and campaigning is a core pillar of our response. Save the Children teams are scaling up advocacy based on our [Global Agenda for Action](#) to ensure that governments and international actors #ProtectAGeneration and put children's rights at the centre of the immediate response and in efforts to create sustainable solutions and build back better, focusing on:

- Preventing and managing the spread of the pandemic;
- Helping children learn, stay safe and return to school;
- Providing safety nets for families in need; and
- Keeping children, families and communities safe

As part of these four asks, we are advocating for global financing to be available now and for the recovery, including through [debt relief](#) and aid to be protected and increased, to ensure that the poorest countries have the necessary funding to respond to the pandemic.

We are supporting children to share their views and recommendations and influence change using different tools and platforms adapted to COVID-19 realities. We are putting the Sustainable Development Goals and child rights at the centre of our response, and speaking out against child rights violations.. In partnership with a range of different civil society actors, we have put a spotlight on the [impact on child rights, violence against children](#), and the impact on [education](#). We are calling for increased transparency and participation, and support the [United Nations Secretary General's call for a global ceasefire and a ceasefire against gender based violence](#).

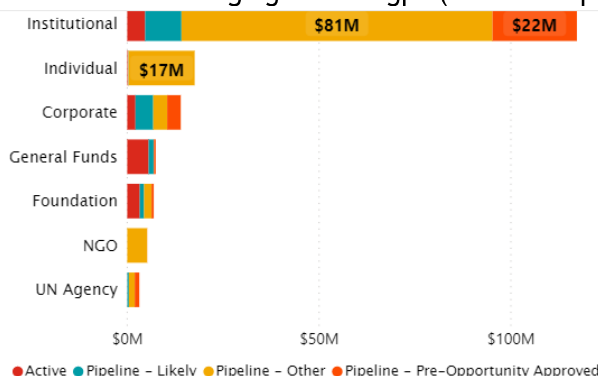
COVID-19 Response Funding

SC has allocated USD3.6 million from internal flexible pooled fund for COVID-19 to support rapid programme adaptation in 28 countries. The internal flexible pooled includes a mix of flexibly granted funding to Save the Children Association (SCA) and public funding. Decision-making on the allocation of funding is determined by risk and vulnerability analysis and impact of the proposed intervention on children.

The below table details the total funding allocated per region or Save the Children Member:

Total Allocations							
Region	Members	WCA	ESA	LAC	Asia	MEEE	Total
Total allocation	\$199,285	\$652,000	\$700,000	\$503,443	\$800,000	\$750,000	\$3,604,728
# of proposals	2	7	11	7	11	9	47
# of allocations	2	5	5	4	7	5	28

The below graph shows the total amount of funding by Donor type (active and pipeline):



Regional response overview - Asia

Bangladesh

At national level, SC Bangladesh is liaising with the Reaching Out of School Children Unit (ROSCU), Department of Primary Education (DPE) and education partners and supported the development of four distance learning education platforms for students (radio, TV, mobile and ICT). Over 15,000 people including 8,600 children have been reached via online, IEC materials, community-based child protection groups and individual telephone calls as part of a nationwide awareness-raising campaign on the risk of COVID-19 and mitigation measures. The country office, with the support of volunteers, has conducted hygiene promotion and awareness raising in the Dhaka and Savar area and trained 80 Urban Community Volunteers (UCVs) on community sensitization measures. In Cox's Bazaar, SC Bangladesh is continuing awareness campaigns on COVID-19 prevention and stepping up hygiene promotion in Cox's Bazaar. To date, SC has reached over 27,000 children and adults with hygiene promotion and WASH messaging. Five isolation units are ready in SC's Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) in Cox's Bazaar. SC's response team is providing double distributions of therapeutic feeding (RUTF) to children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and supplementary food for children and other beneficiaries to reduce the risk of close contact between beneficiaries during distribution rounds.



Laos

SC Laos developed distance learning materials approved by the Ministry of Education (MoE) for distribution online and in hard copy in areas with limited or no network access for use in SC's areas of operation. In addition, SC Laos is supporting the national hotline for COVID-19 response with training, resources and staff. The country office has distributed Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) materials to NGOs and private sector including information to prevent COVID-19 transmission.



Myanmar

SC Myanmar is supporting the MoE to prepare for the potential delay to re-opening of schools by developing adapted distance learning professional development materials for teachers and education officials and distance learning materials and self-study materials for students. SC distributed PPE to state and township health departments in Kayin, Rakhine and Yangon with forthcoming distributions planned for Chin, Magway and Rakhine State. In addition, the country office conducted pilot testing of the first wave of IEC materials approved by the Ministry of Health (MoH). SC conducted two months of food distributions covering April and May earlier this month.



Nepal

SC is supporting the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Education Cluster to produce radio and television public service announcements in order to communicate with children about COVID-19 and produce child-friendly guidance for adult caregivers on how to create an enabling environment for learning during the period of lockdown. In addition, SC is partnering with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and the Child Protection Cluster to produce Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on child protection risks. To date, the joint communication initiative on education and child protection has been aired by over 30 local radio stations in the east and far-western region and Radio Kantipur for nation-wide coverage. The MoHP approved the release of a child-friendly video on COVID-19 highlighting signs and symptoms which has been rolled out at national level. SC Nepal has scaled up distribution of PPE to health facilities around the country including the distribution of PPE to 10 rural municipalities and allocated internal PPE to the Provincial Health Directorate of Karnali province to strengthen health services in the provincial hospitals. In addition, SC has provided basic medical and non-medical supplies to rural municipalities of Tilagupha, Khadachakra, Bhari, Kuse, Chhadagad, Chammunda, Aathbis, Bhariganga and Gurbhakot and supported 13 quarantine centres and 23 health facilities in 12 municipalities of Saptari, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Udaypur.



Pakistan

SC Pakistan deployed a technical team of two public health experts and a research specialist to support the Command and Control Centre at the National Institute of Health (NIH). The country office is supporting health officials to migrate COVID-19 surveillance forms to electronic version using the Kobo application and field-testing the Kobo surveillance form. SC Pakistan is supporting nation-wide RCCE efforts by developing child-friendly materials including animation videos and has secured TV and radio slots for wide coverage of child-friendly messaging. SC Pakistan is coordinating with the MoE on the development and roll-out of distance-learning curriculum.



Thailand

SC Thailand is coordinating with NGOs and UNHCR for the COVID-19 response in refugee camps which host over 93,000 verified refugees including approximately 37,000 children and is leading the Education pillar of the response. Education partners are working on the translation and printing of hygiene promotion information in local languages for target populations to complement home and the provision of home-based learning kits for primary-aged children in refugee camps. In addition, the country office is supporting the RCCE pillar of the response in refugee camps by conducting RCCE in nine refugee camps on the border with Myanmar to train community healthcare workers, teachers and camp committees on community engagement for IEC dissemination. SC Thailand is partnering with the creative agency Why Not and local youth groups from the Deep South Journalism school to develop further risk communication materials that is relevant to the local context and translated to Melayu, Karen, Pattani-Malayu language for dissemination in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat in collaboration with key local influencers and religious leader to curb risk behaviours in the Deep South. In addition, SC is exploring options for translation of materials to braille and sign language to reach children with special needs.



Regional response overview – East and Southern Africa

Ethiopia

SC Ethiopia has secured the free use of eight TV channels until the end of the year and is working together with UNICEF and the MoE to develop distance learning content. The country office is expanding the focus on RCCE through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, the Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, and the Mekane Yesus Church to disseminate COVID-19 prevention and sensitization messages via existing public announcement systems of all churches and mosques in 325,000 places of worship. In addition, SC and the Ethiopian Red Cross are partnering to conduct community sensitization across the country. SC has initiated the procurement of handwashing materials for distribution to refugee camps and has distributed IEC materials for offices, field sites and camp locations to promote good hygiene practices. SC is working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to procure IPC materials for staff working in isolation and treatment facilities and supporting the MoH on logistics support. In addition, the country office is working with private sector actors to identify telecommunications support to the MoH and humanitarian actors to facilitate coordination between field and main office sites.



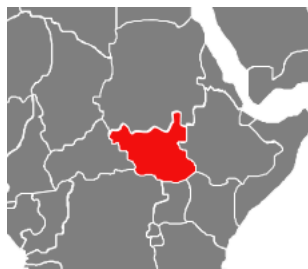
Kenya

At national level, SC Kenya is participating in national coordination structures and is providing input on preparedness and technical advice to the MoH at national and country level. The country office has printed 2,000 handwashing posters and distribute 50% to the MoH for use in national health facilities. At county level, the response team has supported health facilities with soap and sanitizers and conducted Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training in Turkana and Bungoma county. The county office has commissioned the development of radio jingles to support RCCE activities at national level and has rolled out child-friendly messaging on COVID-19 through radio for child refugees in Dadaab.



South Sudan

SC South Sudan is a member of the national task force on COVID-19 and providing technical input on Community Case Management (CCM), Epidemiology and RCCE. All staff in field sites have been working with partners, ministries and beneficiaries to assess and reinforce IPC as part of country and state-level preparedness plans. SC is supporting the Education Cluster and Ministry of Education (MoE) on guidelines for teacher engagement in RCCE activities and identifying alternative options for education.



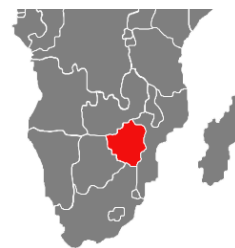
Sudan

SC Sudan is supporting the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) to establish isolation centres in Khartoum and at state level. SC is providing technical backstopping and supplies including the provision of 1,500 PPEs; eight suction machines and two monitors along with 100 hospital bed and supported the rehabilitation of water system, electricity and partitions installation. The country office is scaling up RCCE activities in all areas of operation. To date, SC Sudan has reached 3.5 million people in Khartoum, Blue Nile and Red Sea states with SMS COVID-19-awareness raising campaign and distributed 15,000 information pamphlets to communities. The country office is setting up an opinion poll to receive feedback from communities on the SMS awareness raising campaign. Field teams in Red Sea, North Darfur, Central and West Darfur and Greater Darfur are conducting awareness raising campaigns using vehicles and drama teams to promote COVID-19 prevention measures among the community. The country office has provided 30 microphones, leaflets and IEC material for awareness raising campaign run by the FMoH in the Red Sea targeting over 1.5 million people. SC has stepped up RCCE via community health workers who are engaging with individual households while maintaining appropriate social distancing measures. SC has delivered 5,000 face masks and 500 litres of hand sanitizer to health facilities in SC's areas of operation in seven states.



Zimbabwe

SC co-leads the Education Cluster in Zimbabwe and finalised the education response plan in coordination with cluster partners. IEC materials are being developed by cluster partners and the MoE is leading on adapted learning materials and curriculum delivery. SC Zimbabwe supported the MoH with logistical support for a two-day training of community healthcare workers on COVID-19 prevention and response and programmatic support to train village health workers in Binga. In Chipinge, SC has provided PPE and washing powder for health workers in the District Hospital as part of national response plan to support frontline health workers in hospitals and health facilities with appropriate PPE to conduct their work safely. SC is partnering with No Strings International to develop a child-friendly video and song to promote COVID-19 awareness raising which will be released in English, Shona and Ndebele.



Somalia

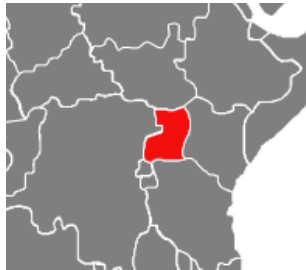
SC Somalia is the co-coordinator of the Health Cluster and is supporting COVID-19 preparation and response planning. SC Somalia is working with the MoH in Puntland, Somaliland and the Federal Government to support training of frontline healthcare workers including lab technicians, medical doctors and nurses and conclude the first round of training of health and nutrition workers in SC supported health facilities on WHO's COVID-19 technical guidelines. SC is providing technical support to establish isolation centres in Dohbley and Garowe including the provision of PPE and IPC materials. SC is working with 200 community volunteers in Mogadishu to start COVID-19-awareness raising and sensitization measures. In addition, SC is partnering with the Response Innovation Lab (RIL) to develop and translate WHO guidelines to Somali to support nation-wide RCCE efforts. SC is supporting the MoE and the Education Cluster on the education response plan which focuses on the continuity of education, improvement of wash facilities in schools and dissemination of child-friendly COVID-19 awareness raising messages. In Puntland, SC is supporting the MoE to establish an online-learning programme for primary school children including creating online application; hiring teachers to



record lessons and provide distance learning classes to children.

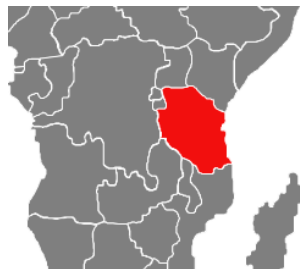
Uganda

SC Uganda is a member of the national COVID-19 Taskforce and is contributing to the national education response plan and the RCCE pillar chaired by UNICEF and the MoH. The country office has piloted a national learning programme on NBS TV which combines interactive classes by teachers and health and protection messages from SC staff. To date, SC Uganda has organized talk-shows and discussions on local radio in 22 districts in coordination with MoH officials and district officials from local governments. In locations with limited network or access to television and radio, SC is using public address systems to share awareness-raising and prevention messages. The health team has trained 300 health workers on IPC and COVID-19 guidelines at health facilities in northern and western Uganda in coordination with district health offices.



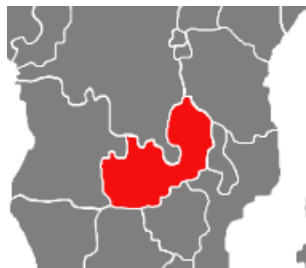
Tanzania

SC Tanzania is a member of the RCCE pillar co-chaired by UNICEF and the MoH and is actively supporting the message and content development and providing input on child-friendly COVID-19 awareness raising messaging. SC Tanzania has commissioned radio-spots and jingles for COVID-19 awareness raising messaging and will translate child-friendly messages into Kirundi and French for Burundian refugee community. In line with technical guidance and WHO recommendations on the importance of IYCF practices in the context of COVID-19, SC conducted a media briefing for national journalists on IYCF.



Zambia

SC Zambia is supporting the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development with the procurement and distribution of IPC supplies including hand sanitizer; soap and handwashing facilities and developing IEC messages for children on the move who have been relocated to safer accommodation. The country office conducted a planning meeting with the MoH to support training of 90 healthcare workers on intensive care case



management and incorporated child protection issues and approaches to support the MoH response. SC Zambia is stepping up RCCE activities including coordination with the National Information Service (ZANIS) and district health offices in Lufwanyama districts to sensitise communities on COVID-19 and where to seek health services in case one had signs and symptoms of COVID-19. This is being done largely through mobile public address systems. At national level, SC Zambia is working with the National Broadcasting Corporation on mass radio campaigns to sensitise communities on COVID-19, Child Protection and Child Safeguarding issues.



Bola, 28, and her son Khalid*, 5, wash their hands as part of a COVID-19 prevention initiative in Somalia.*

Regional Response Overview - Middle East and Eastern Europe

Egypt

The country office initiated a rapid needs assessment with children and communities through existing projects.



Refugee families outlined that they need cash and food assistance as many of them have lost their jobs. Many families cannot pay their home rental fees or for urgent medicines. Families expressed a need for e-learning tools to support children to learn at home. In addition, there is also a need for cleaning materials as households cannot afford to purchase at market. The country office has developed RCCE messages in Arabic and English and targeted outreach via phone to existing programme beneficiaries. In addition, the CO initiated the procurement process for hygiene and distance learning

materials for 400,000 families in response to needs expressed by beneficiaries through the rapid needs assessment exercise.

Iraq

The country office remains operational with permits granted for the movement of staff in and out of Erbil but are adapting programme and operational responses. Staff are focusing on expanding RCCE and Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) interventions targeting communities in camps and distributing child-friendly materials and information targeting mothers. Planning is ongoing to partner with WHO to support capacity-building of healthcare workers on detection and response including case management, IPC and special care for infants and pregnant and lactating mothers.



Lebanon

SC and partners are refurbishing nine abandoned buildings for use as isolation centres before handing them over to the MoH who will use them as temporary health facilities that can treat up to 1,000 patients. SC Lebanon is also turning empty tents in refugee settlements in the Bekaa Valley into isolation units so that patients can self-isolate within the camps. The country office remains operational but is undertaking a re-alignment of programming and operations. Some key interventions for children – specifically education and programmes that require large numbers including awareness-raising sessions and community aid distribution – were initially impacted but SC continues to provide essential services. Initial field assessments indicated that many people do have access to information on COVID-19 including preventative measures and symptoms which has led to a substantial focus on RCCE in this phase of the response. Key interventions in the initial phase of the response include the integration of RCCE into ongoing programming with Palestinian and Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities. The country office has also developed guidelines for alternative care for children but to date no cases have been identified that require action or referral.



oPt

SC co-leads the Education Cluster in Iraq and will provide key support to three areas of intervention identified by the Education Cluster including distance learning; water and sanitation programmes; improvement of schools' infrastructure and providing mental health support services for children. The initial response has been prepared and includes RCCE, expansion of the cash transfer platform capacity in Gaza and extension to the West Bank.



Yemen

The CO has commenced training of community health workers on IPC, Triage and case definition has commenced in over 180 health facilities supported by SC and more than 100 healthcare workers have been trained to date. In addition, SC has provided PPE and IPC materials to more than 150 health facilities. SC has established an emergency task force in coordination with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to respond to education needs of children during COVID-19 including identifying and implementing alternative options for children. RCCE activities have commenced with community awareness messaging scheduled for broadcast via radio stations.



Save the Children's emergency response team in the North has delivered Covid-19 disinfection kits to 170 households in Akkar, North Lebanon.

Regional response overview – Latin America and the Caribbean

Colombia

Due to national quarantine measures, SC Colombia has temporarily suspended programmes with the exception of critical emergency activities in health, WASH, cash, and protection. In other sectors, SC Colombia is working with partners to implement remote solutions to continue to reach vulnerable children and families while many face-to-face activities are temporarily suspended. For programs that remain operational, SC is implementing measures recommended by health authorities including social distancing; limitations on attendance and IPC measures. SC Colombia's response team in La Guajira is implementing IPC in accordance with guidelines from WHO and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to ensure that communities can still access healthcare including sexual and reproductive health. In line with the request from the Government of Colombia, SC is continuing livelihood support, including cash transfers, to migrant families in Arauca, La Guajira, Valle del Cauca, and Bogota. RCCE activities have been scaled up targeting existing beneficiaries and youth leaders from the migrant community. Following the closure of schools, the education team is adapting programming to support children to learn at home and field teams are working with communities to underline the importance of studying at home to ensure that children do not lose out on education.



Guatemala

SC Guatemala is the co-lead for the Education Cluster with UNICEF. The country office is supporting the MoE to roll-out the remote distance learning programme including adapted education tools for children to access learning at home via radio and newspapers with all materials translated into local Mayan languages. While all schools are closed, SC received approval from the MoE to distribute take-home rations to families who are part of the school feeding component of the ongoing education project in Guatemala. Over 36,500 children

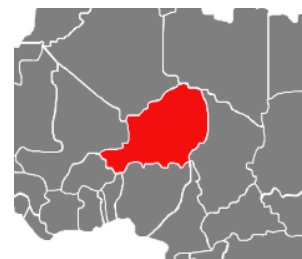


in 250 schools in six municipalities were reached through this intervention and SC will distribute the take-home rations on a monthly basis. In addition, SC Guatemala is using radio spots in local Mayan languages to share information about COVID-19 prevention and supporting the 'stay at home' campaign. In addition, SC Guatemala is using social networks to disseminate key messages about the outbreak, handwashing and other hygiene practices, child protection, psychosocial support, and advice for parents and caregivers' positive behaviours.

Regional response overview – West and Central Africa

Niger

SC Niger developed communication materials, including poster and audio messages for dissemination in our areas of intervention in the regions of Niamey and Tillabery. 35 local radio stations in Zinder and Diffa are airing messages in local languages prepared by SC and endorsed by the MoH. The country office has donated handwashing and hygiene products for use in health centres in Diffa and Zinder. In Maradi region, SC Niger is conducting awareness raising activities for 80 community actors including Girl Mentors, Volunteers, Peer Educators, Preacher and Village Chief.



Mali

SC Mali is raising awareness among communities in collaboration with the Center Technical Directors (DTC) and Community Health Agents (ASC). SC Mali developed communication materials to raise awareness amongst students, security staff and at health facilities and hand-washing points, around the threat of infection. They also disseminated messages on three local radio stations in the Niafounké area and on a programme in local languages on ways that individuals can protect themselves from COVID-19. SC Mali is participating in local committees on an action plan in the health district of Yélimané in the area of Kayes. SC Mali is distributing hygiene kits, which include hand sanitiser, liquid soap, gloves, infrared thermometers and masks to both staff and their families.

