



Water for
Guinea

Water for Guinea: Impact of COVID-19

OVERVIEW

Children are the hidden victims of COVID-19. Hundreds of millions of children have had their learning interrupted because of school closures. Families who have lost their livelihoods are struggling to make ends meet. As the pandemic spreads, children around the world will likely face increasing threats to their safety and well-being – including mistreatment, gender-based violence, exploitation, social exclusion and separation from caregivers – because of actions taken to contain the disease. It is critical that children's access to learning, health, nutrition and protection services is not affected.

In Guinea, the virus is spreading at an exponential rate. As of April 26, more than 1,000 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the country. With the government bracing for the unfolding health emergency, UNICEF is now focusing on how COVID-19 will impact its current and future programs in-country.

COVID-19 IMPACT ON WATER FOR GUINEA

Water for Guinea activities are being implemented in two regions: N'Zerekore and Labe. While N'Zerekore has not been affected by the virus to date, a person from one village in Labe has tested positive.

UNICEF still expects to complete 40 manual boreholes as planned in 2020; however, these boreholes will be completed only in N'Zerekore, with no work to take place in Labe. Because of this, the geophysical studies that were scheduled for Labe during the first half of this year will be postponed to the last quarter in the best case scenario, or even to 2021.

The five solar powered water systems that were to be completed in 2020 will be started, but UNICEF expects to only complete three. The other two systems are expected to be completed either in late December or next year. In addition, the retrofitting of existing boreholes with solar powered water systems may be postponed to 2021. UNICEF does, however, expect to conduct feasibility studies and contracting for the retrofitting in 2020.

To ensure the health and safety of project communities, hygiene promotion activities will be adjusted for the new COVID-19 context, with the size of trainings and gatherings reduced to limit the number of people in close proximity.